

#### **E. Relationships:**

**God is a relational God and He has designed us as relational beings.**

**Our souls were made for relationships and will starve without them.**

**Our souls were designed to know and be known, to love and be loved, to understand and be understood.**

#### **IV. What impact does a prospering soul have on our lives both inside and out?**

- We are able to see and behold the work of God and become partakers in it**
- We become life-giving people to those around us.**
- We are increasingly at peace with who we are and the life we live**
- We increasingly experience the reality of God working our lives.**

#### **V. Resources**

- Dare To Journey With Henri Nouwen – Charles Ringma**
- Soul Keeping – John Ortberg**
- The Divine Conspiracy – Dallas Willard**
- Eat This Book – Eugene Peterson**

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**Message: “Matters of the Soul”**

**August 30, 2015**

**Psalm 107:9/III John 1:2**

#### **I. Introduction:**

**Your soul is the real you! It is the core of your being where you think, feel and decide.**

**Every soul is unique.**

**The soul is the place where God uniquely works in us.**

**The Bible has much to say about the capacities of the soul.**

**There is a problem: We live in a culture that drains the life out of our souls.**

**Ultimately, the life we live on the inside defines the life we live on the outside.**

#### **II. Two Concepts We Need To Understand:**

**A. Only God can fill the longings of your soul – Psalm 107:9**  
**Just as the Israelites had trouble believing God could meet their physical needs, we have trouble believing God can meet the needs of our souls.**

**B. The prosperity of your soul is the priority - III John 1:2**  
**Left to our own devices we focus on our outer life first. That is backwards. It leads to frustration, confusion and misery.**

### **III. Engaging The Life Of The Soul:**

**We are often guilty of believing a half-gospel that leaves us basically on our own until heaven. The result is very little life change because we neglect the health of our souls. We must engage the life of the soul. Who do we do that? Here are just 5 ways we can engage:**

#### **A. Read your Bible: Wow, what a surprise! The Scriptures are water for the soul. Psalm 1**

**Are you a cottonwood tree in the desert by a stream of water lush, green and able to give shade? Or are you a Palo Verde tree in the desert not near a stream of water with little to give and only built to survive?**

#### **B. Pray: Let the Psalms be your guide. Begin with you! Engage God directly about both your inner world and your outer world. Let prayer lead you into God's infinite resources.**

#### **C. Worship: Worship is simply an expression of honor, praise and thanksgiving to the God Who Is.**

##### **1. Start by giving thanks. I Corinthians 4:7**

**Arrogance and ingratitude are inseparable just as worship and gratitude are inseparable. Dependent people are thankful people.**

#### **2. Sing His praises – Psalm 96**

**When we sing someone's praises, we are expressing love and admiration for who they are and what they do. It is done publicly.**

**When we refuse to sing God's praises in a public setting, we have to think about what are saying and the witness we are giving about ourselves and God.**

**Worship feeds our souls!**

#### **D. Open Your eyes: Ephesians 1:18**

**There is a difference between seeing and beholding (Zac!)**

##### **1. God's works – Psalm 33**

**God is always working and all His work is done in faithfulness. It encourages us in the midst of a fallen world.**

##### **2. God's earth**

**Adam and Eve's perfect world was in a garden. God's beautiful creation is designed to nourish our souls. Find ways to engage it.**