



Word Notes: Sunday 21st October 2018

Functional Faith: Personal growth.

- Take some time as a group to reflect and share on the questions “who are you?” and “who do you want to be?”

As Christians, we can answer the first question with “A child of God” “Righteous”. This is our official status as one who has been justified through Jesus’ death and resurrection. As for “who do you want to be?”, having received our status by faith alone, we are now called to become more like Jesus in our character (a process called sanctification). This process is a co-operation between us and God. It’s not about us simply trying harder, but neither is it about us sitting back whilst God transforms us.

Let perseverance finish its work

- Read James 1: 1-7.
- What does “let perseverance finish its work” mean to you? (v4) What does that look like in real life?
- What do you think is the difference between believing and doubting when we ask God for wisdom? (v6)

Personal growth isn’t personal

- Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
- Based on this passage, how would you describe the process of a believer becoming mature? What are the essential ingredients? (dig deep – there is lots to find in this passage!)

Mirrors not magnifying glasses

- Read James 1:22-25
- Our human temptation is to use God’s word as a magnifying glass to identify flaws in other people or the world around us. We should be using God’s word as a mirror to gain an honest reflection of ourselves. On Sunday, we took some time to ponder our own reflection in the mirror, inviting God to show us where we need to grow or change. Take some time now to ponder where God is calling you to grow or change. Make a commitment to cooperate with him in transforming this aspect of your character. Remember as you do this that you are already a much-loved child of God and nothing you see in the mirror changes that!