

Devoted

Vision statement: (Common-unity)

Ground zero church is an Acts chapter two style of community of disciples who seek to reflect the character of Christ by cultivating friendships and embracing all believers as family.

Conduct:

Acts 2:42 “They **devoted** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

1. **Devoted to “the Word”** - The apostles were responsible for the majority of the new testament letters Paul, Matthew, John and Peter. Also Luke and John Mark were close followers of The apostles. Along with that, The apostles frequently referenced the old testament. When we read the scriptures today, We are reading their letters and the spirit is present in the revelation of his Word.

The scriptures are our highest authority

1 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(Remember our vision statement) “Ground Zero Church is an Acts chapter two style of community of disciples”

Merriam Webster definition of Disciple: “a person who is a pupil or an adherent of the doctrines of another”

Devotion to the Word is a part of discipleship.

2. Daily devotion-

(Disciple & Discipline)

notice that these words are very similar. A disciple must be disciplined. Devotion to reading and meditating on the scriptures is something that should be done frequently, not just on Sunday.

One of the reasons people find it difficult to start or to hold fast to this discipline is that the Bible is just hard to understand or interpret. This is true. The Bible is very deep and much of what Jesus taught was taught in parables and metaphors.

Mark 4:11-13- “He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that,

“they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,

and ever hearing but never understanding;

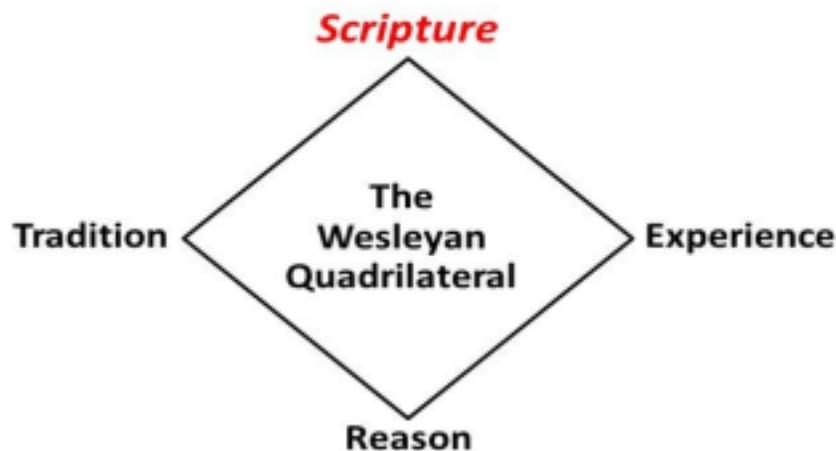
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable?”

How then will you understand any parable?

Jesus was not interested in followers as much as he was disciples. He wanted people who would seek him for understanding. When Jesus taught hard things, many people would brush him off and walk away but his disciples stayed and waited for him to teach them.

The “Wesleyan Quadrilateral”*



* - Term coined by *Albert C. Outler*, a 20th Century American Methodist Scholar, 1964, 1985

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3. Information vs transformation

Isaiah 55:11 “so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

The Scriptures are perfect in the sense that they will fulfill the

purpose for which they were intended. When we read and meditate on the scriptures, We are not seeking to be **informed** but to be **transformed**. We don't read, teach or preach for information but for transformation.

You are what you eat. The things you consume regularly will change you. If you eat unhealthy food and don't exercise, your body will become unhealthy as well in time. However if you eat healthy and exercise, your body will be healthy as well.

The same rules apply to how you feed your mind.

Negative brain food

Social media, drama, gossip, news media, vulgar music, pornography

Positive brain food

The scriptures, christian fellowship, wholesome music.

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 during baptism service.