

Awakening: Total Life Challenge
Creating Space for God
Pastor Stovall Weems
January 24, 2010
Message Text: Mat 6:3-6, 17-18

I. Launch Questions

1. How did Christ create a “space” for God to work in the lives of men?
2. What can God do in our lives when we create a space for *Him*?

II. Questions for Discussion

The life of the believer can often just as filled with the time-consuming obligations and distractions as that of the nonbeliever. We attempt to fill every void with our own plans, worries, concerns, and strategies. But a life that leaves no room for God is the life incapable of expanding, growing, and multiplying. And it is a life into which God cannot insert Himself and His purposes. There are three powerful areas of our journey of faith that God is asking us to “make room” for Him to move. Read today’s message text (Mat 6:3-6, 17-18) and consider the following:

1. *“When you give...”* Read verses 3 and 4. What does the word “secret” mean here? Why does God want us to create space in our finances? What does He promise to do at the end of verse 4 if we are faithful to make room for Him in our giving?
2. *“When you pray...”* Again we encounter this reference to the “secret place.” What does the secret place represent in our prayer lives? What is the significance for creating a space for God there? What kind of prayer life do we attempt to fill the space God wants to fill? What does that look like?

3. *“When you fast...”* Consider verses 17 and 18. What does it mean to create space for God in a fast? Is it possible to fast with a closed frame of mind? How can God fill an open space while we are fasting?

II. Personal Application

Pastor Stovall compared this “secret place” location with God to the “upper room” during Pentecost, where the disciples encountered the “filling” of the Holy Spirit – God’s manifest presence in a powerful way (Read Acts 2:1-13). The apostles abandoned their own plans, simply created a “space” for God to work, and He showed up in a big way.

Where in your own life do you need to create an upper room for God? Where are you striving under your own strategies and plans? Prayerfully consider where you can open a space and trust God to fill it.

III. Questions for Further Study

It’s never too late to step into a season of prayer, fasting, and giving. If you haven’t already, consider prayerfully making the commitment below.

I commit to creating a space for God in my life and in my finances. How can you walk this out in 2010? Where do you need to “give generously” to God this year?