



# Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

May 1, 2022

## Moving from Worldly to Spiritual

Article by Tim Tripp

Life is a journey in which we are all taking part. There is no arriving to a final destination. As long as we're living, we're moving. There are just many stops along the way. Those stops can be a largely random collection of good and bad experiences that don't particularly add up to anything or they can be carefully selected and planned for as a journey to something more meaningful and satisfying; each stop being a goal that moves us closer to what we are trying to achieve. Many wander through life aimlessly seeking only to validate the Freudian "pleasure principle"; embrace pleasure and avoid pain. Immediate gratification of wants and desires is the driving force for choices and those things that provide it are crowded in our society. Because of it, we are fat, we are bored, we are anxious, we are unsatisfied and we are hurting. Like Solomon we learn that when all of the thrill seeking is done, it has all been meaningless, like chasing after the wind.

The Bible sets the goal for Christians as being people who are transformed into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). God does the transforming but we submit to his will and allow it. That goal puts us on a collision course with the "pleasure principle." Jesus insists on disciples who are willing to daily "take up their cross and follow him." That means self-sacrifice, self-discipline, self-denial and being constantly open to change.

Part of what has to change for a lot of us is getting off of the fence between the world and the Kingdom of God. We have a natural desire to want the best of both worlds. We want the benefits of the Kingdom of God. We accept his mercy and grace and love that is abundant and free. We avoid the "big sins" whatever that might mean to any of us and we rest in the security of going to heaven when this life is over. However, we also want to enjoy the benefits of the world. We want approval. We want to pursue the worldly pleasures and we want friends with whom to pursue those. We want things and to pursue the dream of riches and happiness. Much of that can only come with compromise to God's will. "Friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God," (James 4:4 NLT).

Moving toward the spiritual, the journey takes us away from worldly things. We remain constantly open to change and attend to the Holy Spirit within us. We pray that he will show us our defects and help us to correct them so that we can make pleasing God our highest desire and plea.

God wants to use spiritual, transformed people to change the world. They are the lights that Jesus spoke of that will drive back the darkness and take this world in the name of Jesus. Those who want to be a part of that will need to get off of the fence and land once and for all on the side of the spiritual. Turning from the world they embrace the ways of the Father.

As Christians move from worldly to spiritual the church will be seen differently in this world. That difference is crucial. It creates a tension in the world that no one can ignore. Some may scorn it and turn away but others will be intrigued and want to know more. With those who draw near, there will be opportunities.

## ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

[westsidear.org/connect](http://westsidear.org/connect)



### Last Week:

Sunday Class & Conversation - 96  
Worship -222  
Giving - \$8,754  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study -87

## Prayer Requests

Billy Hunter is recovering at home following open heart surgery last week. Please continue to pray for a rapid and complete recovery.

Dick French is doing well following recent surgery. Please pray for continued improvement allowing him to be restored to full health soon.

George Reed is scheduled for cataract surgery on Monday May, 2nd. Please pray for simple successful surgery with desired results.

### Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Bill Irving and family in the recent loss of Eloise. Please keep them in your prayers for peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Congratulations to Jed Holloway who was baptized Sunday morning! We look forward to walking with you on your Christian journey Jed! Welcome to the family!

## National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5th, is the National Day of Prayer.

West Side will participate again this year offering "Drive-Thru prayer on the Main Street parking lot from 8am-6pm. Volunteers needed in 1 hour increments for holding signs as well as praying with participants throughout the day. Please sign the list in the lobby, or you can sign up online at the link provided on West Side Friends and Family facebook page.

Thank you West Side!

### Save the Date for

### VBS

**July 11-15th  
ages 1yr-5th grade**

Volunteer/ helper sign up forms will be sent out soon.