



To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
To Jesus Christ

SERMON STUDY NOTES

6th June 2021

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Religion or Reality

1. What do you think are the main reasons why people go to church?
2. Name some times and ways from church history when churches have departed from their true purpose.
3. Share a personal experience that you have encountered with a church in the past that you found disturbing... (No need to name and shame).
4. The word of the Lord was rare in the time of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1). The priests did wrong and created barriers to people coming to God. Today, some people may view the church as a barrier, rather than a bridge to God.
Discuss
5. Samuel's breakthrough came, when he learned to hear God's voice for himself. 1 Samuel 3:10. Share a situation where you felt that you clearly heard the voice of God.
6. In Ezeik 37:14. God promised to revive Israel & fill them with his Spirit: *God said "And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live"*. Ezeik 36:26-27 *I will give you a*

new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you, your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Have you received a new heart and a new spirit? Tell us about it and how it changed you.

7. Relationships are a lot more than a list of do's and don'ts. We can get so caught up in a "divine to-do list"...that we forget to breathe in the HS & build a relationship with God. Discuss
8. Try talking to the Holy Spirit: ask Him questions: *What do I do? Where do I go from here?* Jeremiah 33:3 '*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*' How do you feel about your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
9. Peter was broken by his failure when he denied Jesus. The other disciples deserted Him. Throughout the Book of Acts, ordinary, imperfect people were used for God's purposes...
The Holy Spirit desires to meet Christ-followers who are aware of their limitations, & weaknesses so that He can empower and use them. Discuss.
10. As Christ-followers, we are living temples & receive His divine love & presence. God desires to hear our prayers, dreams, confessions, & worship...& through us He intends to make His presence known to the world.
Pray for and encourage each other.