

Faith Apps: The Killer App.

Reconnect – October 24, 2010



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re:connect
Barrhaven Community Church

Text: II Peter 1:8-13, I John 3:1-3

Key Thought: A life close to God lives in His sacrificial love, with no room for selfishness.

The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. They have already forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin. So, dear friends, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Doing this, you will never stumble or fall away. And God will open wide the gates of heaven for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I plan to keep on reminding you of these things – even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth. Yes, I believe I should keep on reminding you of these things as long as I live. II Peter 1:8-13

Pre-Intro: “Family” (video)



Intro: The Killer App - Angry Birds

- “The Killer App” – the idea that if you could come up with the right App, the one that everyone needs, that you would make your fortune
- It’s what keeps designers up at night and keeps Apple getting hundreds of submissions for apps each and every day
- One app for 99 cents, downloaded by a million people... well, you do the math
- Angry Birds is one of the very top money-making apps for smartphones
- Coming out of Finland, it has made buckets of cash at \$0.99 per download (I have the free version)
- The idea of the game is trajectory and physics – you have to catapult angry birds at evil pigs who have stolen their eggs – you try to make the buildings the pigs are hiding in collapse
- And it is incredibly addictive

- There's now a Halloween version, a reported movie script is being shopped around, youtube movies expand on the storyline, and even a brief news story a couple of days ago – a report that the small company that made an app called “Angry Birds” had sold for \$20 million to Electronic Arts
- Turned out EA had bought the publisher, not the developer – but no-one blinked at the \$20 million price tag – “Angry Birds” is that big

One App To Change Everything

- We've been talking in this series about what it might look like to live life with God at a whole new level – to take the advice of Jesus' friend Peter about what to do with our faith
- Peter, as we talked about two weeks ago, was a guy who knew what up and down was, good choices and bad when it came to his relationship with God
- And yet, he kept bouncing back from mistakes, being forgiven, moving forward – one of the many reasons why I identify with Peter – along with his need to be liked, his ability to say the wrong thing with the right heart... all that stuff
- At the end of his life he is sharing his secrets – and we pick up the section after he has talked about adding love to belief to make it life-changing

Read Text: II Peter 1:8-13

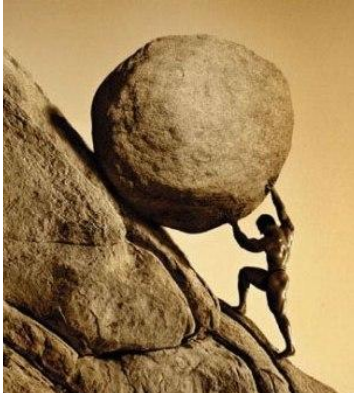
The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. They have already forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin.



- the more you grow like this - In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises, by adding to your belief a lifestyle of giving back, and to a lifestyle of giving back, knowhow, and to knowhow, a life under control, and to a life under control, stick-to-it-ness, and to stick-to-it-ness, gratitude, and to gratitude, taking one for the team, and to taking one for the team, a love that goes above and beyond. (II Peter 1:5-7)
- blind/shortsighted – the idea of intentionally shutting your eyes to what is very obvious – in denial, choosing not to see what's right in front of you – you're blind because you choose to be – **Mr. Magoo**
- forgotten – “chosen to forget” – put it out of their minds, tried not to think about it

- old life – what they were, what they had come from, the weight that Jesus had lifted when they had come and offered themselves to Him
- Love versus selfishness – love is “the killer app” – it overcomes our natural tendency to selfishness, to coping the best we can – climb the ladder, dog-eat-dog selfishness

So, dear friends, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Doing this, you will never stumble or fall away. And God will open wide the gates of heaven for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

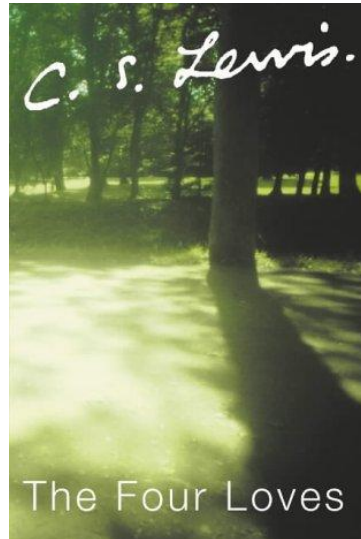


- “work hard” – what does that mean? Do we have to earn God’s love for us? No...
 - lots of work goes on in church, but we tend to confuse ways, means and ends – what we do things with how we do it with WHY we do things – and the why gets crowded out to the side with “we’ve always done it that way before” and “we do it every year”
 - **Inertia** – can keep things moving, but also makes starting something or moving it forward that much harder – organizational drag... **Sisyphus**, cursed to push a rock up a mountain every day, and the next day have it roll down again
 - **everything we do should have one of two outcomes: first**, either to introduce more people to the love of God through Jesus – to spread the word and show off what He does in a life – to share His love with those He loves, that haven’t yet responded, and **second**, to encourage those who are already His – to mobilize them towards option #1, to keep them “in”, help them in their way
 - Why do we go to church - it is to show the work of God in us, into others - to show my kid that people live for God
 - Why do I do this? John 4 the food to do the work of him who sent me and to finish his work - that's what **still** keeps me up at night - AND, we need your prayers as we consider our budgeting for the new year
 - It’s not about keeping busy but to bring people in to the love of God and encourage others to stay in it (ways and means)
- “make your calling and election sure” (NIV) – paradox of election and free will – chicken and egg – God chooses but the life we live demonstrates His choosing, His leading, our response – His invitation is open to all, but only a few take it

- “broad is the path that leads to destruction, but narrow is the way to life, and only a few find it” – Jesus
- the idea of doing what’s most important – prioritizing – Jesus could do it
 - John 4 – my food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work
 - to Mary/Martha – Mary has chosen the one thing that is better... Martha too much...

CS Lewis – The Four Loves – “gift love” and “need-love”

"Divine gift love in a man enables him to love what is not naturally lovable — lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior, and the sneering." (155)



- in his book the Four Loves, C.S. Lewis talks about “gift love” and “need love” – how as humans in God’s image, but broken, we have all kinds of “need love” for God – like a child loves their mother – and then we have “gift love”, that we can choose to show others – we get into trouble when we think that our own natural “gift love” can be shown to God, because we then think we don’t need Him – but then Lewis talks about the kind of love that only God can give to us, a supernatural “gift love” that lets us demonstrate his love to those we can’t naturally love ourselves

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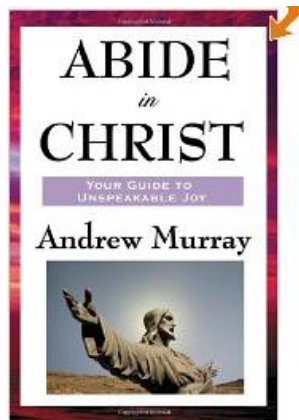
The Secret of the Killer App: “Abiding”



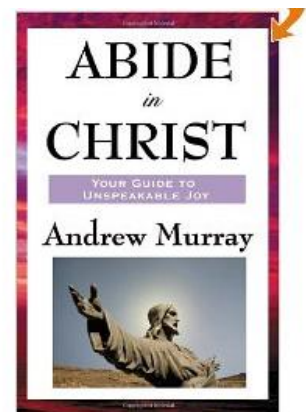
- Context, identity, presence – the components according to this diagram of “the killer app” – the one that people won’t be able to live without
- That’s true for us as well – it’s about “abiding” in Jesus

“This power [of Christ] flows into us as we abide in close union with Him. When the union is feeble, little valued or cultivated, the inflow of strength will be feeble. When the union with Christ is rejoiced in as our highest good, and everything sacrificed for the sake of maintaining it, the power will work: ‘His strength will be made perfect in our weakness’. Our one care must therefore be to abide in Christ as our strength. Our one duty is to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Let our faith cultivate large and clear apprehensions of the exceeding greatest of God’s power in them that believe, even that power of the risen and exalted Christ by which He triumphed over every enemy.” (Murray, Abide In Christ, 200)

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Key Thought:

A life close to God lives in His sacrificial love, with no room for selfishness.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:1-3, NLT

Conclusion: my life with this “ladder”

I plan to keep on reminding you of these things – even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth. Yes, I believe I should keep on reminding you of these things as long as I live.

- Michael Green (Tyndale commentary on II Peter): problems: grace of God being used as a cover for license, and knowledge being chosen over obedience – a reminder is needed, a constant call
- me at Bible College affected by this – the “charge” in my first year, the way that God moved my life forward... Talk about the impact of this on me at Bible College – the idea of living at a higher level (starting Bible College you think you will be among the saints, but then you find out that most of the people there are just like YOU – yikes! My first year there... losing my way... that kind of thing
- My desire – for each of them to serve God, to do what I can’t do and that is, reach the people in their circles, intentionally share with them the words and deeds of life

Response: When Loves Takes You In (Steven Curtis Chapman video)

Prayer