

“Give Out—Take In”

2 Corinthians 4:15-16

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Legend of a thirsty man in the desert
- Last thing we want to hear when spiritually tired is that in order to be spiritually renewed we must “give it all away”.
- Natural tendency is to “save ourselves” rather than to “give out”.
 - Luke 9:23-24-- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”*

“Give Out—Take In!”

A. “Give Out”—“Other-centered”, not “Self-centered”

- 2 Corinthians 4:15-- *“For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.”*
1. **Life and ministry is for other’s benefit, not your own.**
 2. **Life and ministry is ultimately for God’s glory, not yours..**
 - a. Everything is to be done ultimately for God’s glory.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31-- *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God!”*
 - b. Cause of loss of spiritual passion—seeking our own glory.

B. “Take In”—Need for Daily, Spiritual Renewal

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-- *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”*
1. **We need Daily, Resupply of Strength**
 - a. Importance of a “good night sleep”
 - b. “Waiting upon the Lord” to renew strength
 - Isaiah 40:31-- *“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint”*
 - c. *How Prayer restores and maintains spiritual passion?*
 - 1) Means by which we exchange the PRESSURES of the “Daily Grind” for the PEACE of God—
 - Philippians 4:6-- *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*
 - 1 Peter 5:7-- *“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*
 - Philippians 4:7-- *“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*
 - 2) Means by which we exchange our WEAKNESSES for God’s STRENGTH.
 - 3) Means by which we focus on the GREATNESS of GOD!
 - Matthew 6:8-9,13c-- *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever”*

2. **We need Daily Renewal of our Minds**

- Romans 12:1-2-- *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

- a. **Constantly reaffirming our knowledge of God and His Word**
 - Colossians 3:10-- *"new self is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator."*

 - 1) The pressure to compromise and conform to this world

 - 2) Practical ways to daily reaffirm our beliefs
 - a) Daily Bible reading
 - b) Become a "self-feeder"

- b. **Constantly adjusting our Attitudes**
 - Ephesians 4:22-24-- *"put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

 - 1) Attitude is *"what we think or feel about what we know."*

 - 2) The devastating drain of a poor attitude.

 - 3) The positive impact of a good attitude
 - a) Seen in Paul's life
 - Philippians 1:15-16-- *"Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will. The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains."*
 - Philippians 1:18-- *"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice."*
 - Philippians 1:19-21-- *"For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*
 - b) Observed in life

3. **We need to "Make Time" for Personal, Daily, Spiritual Renewal**