

# Theological Preliminaries

- Conversion: what does it mean to become Christian?
- Ecclesiology: what does it mean to be a part of the church?
- Grace: who gives and who receives?

# Receiving from God

# The Loss of Capacity to Receive

## How children receive

With rejoicing, whole body involved in receiving  
Excitement, anticipation, purity of joy  
Lack of self consciousness

## How adults receive

With anxiety  
Obligation to respond in kind  
Fear of manipulation  
Sense of unworthiness  
Resistance to receiving  
Giving provides sense of control, receiving weakness

# Backwards Spirituality (I give, God receives)

Performance-oriented spirituality

Behavioral focus

Affective focus

Cognitive focus

# Performance-based spirituality gone bad

Spiritual/Religious Addiction

Spiritual anorexia

# Spiritual Anorexia

# Metaphors to help understand the experience of anorexia

- Happy Baby
- King Baby
- Anorexic Baby

## Characteristics of Spiritual Anorexia

- Resistance to spiritual nurture
- Distorted self-concept
- Control issues

# What Doesn't Help

- Forced feeding.
- Binging
- Shame

## What Might Help

- Tell the truth
- Accept the problem as your own problem
- Take baby steps

# Biblical Perspectives On Receiving

Creator gives life  
creatures receive life

# Biblical Perspectives: Abraham

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land."

Genesis 12:7

# Biblical Perspectives: Sacrificial giving?

Nevertheless, you may slaughter your animals in any of your towns and eat as much of the meat as you want, as if it were gazelle or deer, according to the blessing the LORD your God gives you. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it.

But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water. You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.

Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns—and you are to rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you put your hand to.

Deuteronomy 12:15-18

# Biblical Perspectives: Gideon

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her,

Judges 7:2

# Biblical Perspectives: Jesus

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matt 11:29

Son 1: “I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.” Luke 15:19

Son 2: “But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you. . . “Luke 15:29

# Biblical Perspectives: Paul

## Doxology

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!  
"Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?"  
"Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay him?"  
For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

# Biblical Perspectives: Revelations

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!"  
Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift  
of the water of life.

Revelation 22:17

# Biblical Perspectives: Living in relationship with a God who Loves to Feed Us

Manna

Loaves and fishes

Messianic Feast

Communion: God feeding us with spiritual food