

## 2 Peter 3:18 (grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ)

**Q -** Did this happen for you at camp this year. (this is the goal regardless of camp.)  
 Is this happening now in your life? (if you didn't go to camp)  
 What is holding that up?                      What needs to change?

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### **Q - How was camp? What do you remember? What stood out?**

What did God teach you? What are you still holding on to?  
 What are you still trying to wrap your mind around?  
 What was the highlight of camp?  
 What was a low point of camp?

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There's a fire in my soul – how do we deal with reality after camp?

What is the reality? a typical week is not filled with quiet times, we're not surrounded by adults who are helping us continually. Each night is not spent in worship through music and the spoken word. A typical week does look different. That's the reality.

Because at some point we must go back into the world. or else we'd start some village up in South Dakota and live our nice life free of sin, darkness, trials, suffering, and issues. Truth be known, that place doesn't exist because sin exists. So we engage the world with the Gospel....all the while constantly being fueled the Spirit, the Word, fellowship with other believers, accountability.

We Shine bright....but the only way for something to shine is for it to be ignited (lit), or hooked to some source of power. (have a lamp on stage)

So what my job is, and really your job to each other, is to help you keep that flame going. In 2 Tim. Paul encouraged Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God.

**What is the gift?** (salvation, purpose, talent, a voice)

The gift is your privilege to be an ambassador of Jesus, telling of His goodness, his gospel.

The reason we shine so bright coming home from camp is that we've been constantly connected with this power source.

So how can I make sure Matthew 5:13-16 is true about me and that I've up to walk faithfully in grace, with the Gospel?

### **So big question –**

#### **Q - how do I stay connected?**

How do I make sure that when I reenter the world, reengage to a culture that is sometimes dark, nasty, and in need of salt and light, how do I stay focused on Christ?

How do I keep my joy focused on what I know rather than how I'm feeling or based on things around me?

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So basically we need to know this. Camp is great...but it is not the same as living our everyday life. It's meant to be an intense week to where we charged, we're disciplined, and we're growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. It's our time at church on steroids. But then there's life.

We're filled to be emptied but then we pick up habits and disciplines that we put in our lives. Our joy is based on the fact that Jesus has come, died for the sins of all mankind, was buried and raised from the dead and now in Him we can have life and life abundantly. We look towards heaven and eternity with Christ but we then live each day here on earth for God's glory.

Our joy is not based on emotions, camp week or the low points of life. It's based on Christ defeating death, hell and sin. We are more than conquerors IN HIM. Our joy is based on His love.

So we stay connected to Him – He is the vine, we stay connected.

**So maybe end your time tonight talking about your plans.**

**Q -** How do you plan to stay connected to Him?

Is this a desire, to stay close to Him. Is there a determination to walk right, with Him?

Is there a drive to work hard at this walk with God?

Is there anything preventing this or causing you to surrender everything?