

Suffering is an Icon of Inner Renewal

January 14, 2018

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 3:14-19

The Degenerative Process

- The _____ of degeneration is simple to understand.
- Degeneration is a slow process that often goes _____.
- Degeneration is an ongoing process that _____ the whole person.

Inner Renewal

- Inner renewal happens as we allow decline and suffering to move us closer to Christ.
- Inner renewal is _____ into the likeness of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:9-10)
- Inner renewal is a _____ known only through _____.

Enhancing Inner Renewal Through Intercession (Eph. 3:14-19)

- Intercession recognizes _____.
- Three _____ aid our inner renewal.
- We need to have an _____ of God's love and power.

Life Enrichment

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- How would you illustrate or describe the process of decay?
- How does Paul level the playing field with the Corinthians?
- Why is it important for all of us to recognize the process of degeneration in our own lives?
- How do degeneration and suffering help in our daily renewal?
- Why is faith necessary to participate in inner renewal? How does faith help us see others, especially those who suffer, differently?
- What is the source of power for inner renewal?
- When Paul prays for the Ephesians' inner renewal, what does he ask for?
- Why is a personal experience of God's love, presence, and power essential to the process of inner renewal?