



2nd August 2015

Organic Faith

- œ Organic produce and other food items are becoming more popular
- œ Many are returning to the old school ways of growing from soil rich in nutrients and protected from artificial enhancements.
- œ If we want to be the healthiest Christians, we must also return to the simple and proven methods of growing into Christ.



Organic Faith

- œ Go back to the basic truth given by God to establish one's faith and live one's life.
- œ Expects life and lifestyle to flow naturally from the inside out ... a transformed fully alive follower of Jesus.
- œ Emulate (look like) and communicate Jesus Christ.



Organic Faith

œ Malachi - Background & Setting

œ The temple had been rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel (516 B.C.) and the sacrificial system renewed.

œ Ezra had returned in 458 B.C., followed by Nehemiah in 445 B.C.



Organic Faith

☞ After only a century, the ritual of the Jews' religious routine led to hard-heartedness toward God's great love for them.

☞ Malachi rebuked and condemned these abuses:

☞ Violation of His law

☞ Abuses in the temple and priesthood

☞ Unlawful divorce of their Jewish wives

☞ Withholding of tithes

☞ Social injustice



Organic Faith

œ Malachi 1

œ God reaffirmed HIS love for Israel (Jacob)

œ Doubts resulted in cynical questions from the people

œ Apparently the promises final deliverance from the Messiah made the people and their leaders more resolute in their complacency and mediocrity.



Organic Faith

1. Higher Cost

⌘ Don't give in to mediocrity and short-cuts

⌘ Go for "Excellent" – outstanding; exceptional, better;

⌘ The Scriptures teach us that excellence is something that honors God

⌘ Even when it costs more time and faith



Organic Faith

- œ Col. 3:23 – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart...”
- œ Ecc. 9:10 – “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”
- œ 1 Cor. 15:58b – “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord...”



Organic Faith

- œ Our “best” doesn’t mean perfection or superiority.
- œ Charles Swindoll: *“Excellence is a difficult concept to communicate because it can easily be misread as neurotic perfectionism or snooty sophistication. But it is neither. On the contrary, it is the stuff of which greatness is made. It is the difference between just getting by and soaring – that which sets apart the significant from the superficial, the lasting from the temporary.”*



Organic Faith

2. Pesticide-free

⌘ GMO, Faster production, Looks Nice.

⌘ Chemical, Harmful, Cheat.



Organic Faith

- œ The problems didn't occur overnight
- œ People believe it is actually ok to cheat God
- œ Looks good and not too bad!
- œ The Fall – Gen 3:6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.*



Organic Faith

☞ Let's look at what Malachi's concern:

- ☞ Violation of His law
- ☞ Abuses in the temple and priesthood
- ☞ Unlawful divorce of their Jewish wives
- ☞ Withholding of tithes
- ☞ Social injustice



Organic Faith

œ We don't offer animals sacrifice today but we offer ourselves as a sacrifice.

œ Rom 12:1 - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*



Organic Faith

3. Highly Sustainable

- œ Focus on sustaining a relationship with God apart from productivity, performance or results.
- œ That quality of faith will be strong and overflow from the inside



Organic Faith

œ Acts 2:41

œ They were Jews and many don't believe in Jesus

œ Is the power of God that change them not effort of human being?

œ Is God intervention. Is a privilege not because of the person who study the Bible with you.



Organic Faith

œ Acts 2:42-44

œ Not only did they believe (which is a big switch) but now to the apostle teaching

œ They change their behavior and practice right away

œ No NT yet. Peter, who use to be afraid of the Jews were preaching powerfully with expectation of a Christian living.



Organic Faith

œ Acts 2:45-46

œ Jews use to get together in Synagogue/ coming to meeting is a norm.

œ Giving to the community is normal.

œ They give because that is the priority.

œ Family/Church is a huge thing. Is more important that anything else.



Organic Faith

- œ Baptized not for personal salvation or personal gain
- œ If you read in context, salvation is mention as a blessing to a nation/church not so much personal.
- œ The 1st Century Christian live for the church and community not SELF!



Organic Faith

œ Acts 2:47

œ Imagine when everyone come together and give to the group.

œ Everyone ready to give their best. Not what I can get.

œ God will make it grow. Mission will be a norm.



Organic Faith

- ⌘ Externally we can do a lot of things (Worship Lighting – is helpful)
- ⌘ It will stop – it needs to come from within/inside/automatic
- ⌘ The praising the worship is a by product
- ⌘ Mission - do we need to do a workshop.... where is the source?
- ⌘ People love to bring family/friends. Is automatic



Organic Faith

- œ Devote to the right teaching.
- œ God will stir your heart.
- œ Let our deeds come from within.

