

"Overcoming Evil with Good" with Greg Boyd Session 1 - Hearing the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-14)

Introduction:

Can you feel someone nudge you at a crowded and noisy parade or concert? No, but you can feel someone nudge you as you quietly read a book at home. How does that relate to the Holy Spirit working in us?

1) Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit

- This is not just a doctrine in the New Testament, but is more of a living reality. For example, in Acts, the Holy Spirit led the early Church in what to do.
- Our human body is most effective when our body does what the head tells it to do. We are the Body of Christ and effective when the Body listens to the Head (Jesus) through the working of the Holy Spirit in us.

Questions to consider:

What does that mean to you? Can you think of other analogies related to us being members of the Body?

2) Life in Christ is lived moment by moment

- We pledge our life to follow Jesus Christ but that actually happens moment by moment because that is all we can live in...the moment now. For example, marriage is more than saying vows. Marriage is daily living and loving our spouse moment by moment because all we have together is this moment.

Questions to consider:

How does this analogy speak to you regarding being in the moment with the Holy Spirit?

3) Be aware of the Holy Spirit in daily life

- Go through life practicing the presence of God. Keep space in your heart and mind to be aware that the Holy Spirit is working in us and through us with others.
- God speaks to us through nudges and has not stopped speaking to us. We have stopped listening to Him. No matter where we are, the Holy Spirit is there. Our conscious self must stay attentive to nudges.
- Our brain can process in our conscious self 7-9 things a second. We must leave space and be attuned to listening and expecting the Holy Spirit to nudge us.

Questions to consider:

What does listening for God to nudge look like to you? Have you ever experienced this in your life? How important is it to be in community with other believers when we think the Holy Spirit nudges us?

4) Live life with open palms

- Make plans in pencil so the Holy Spirit can change them.
- One of the hardest places to hear the Holy Spirit nudge us is when we are teaching and preaching. We have to keep space in our heart and mind to go with the nudging of the Holy Spirit. It can be scary or uncomfortable but necessary as we serve in God's Kingdom.
- How do we know the Spirit is nudging us?
Is what we sense from God within the character and actions of Jesus?

Questions to consider:

Why does this seem scary or uncomfortable to us as Followers of Christ?

Steps to take:

- 1) Make heart and mind space to practice the presence of God daily
- 2) Re-read the book of Acts and identify every reference to the Holy Spirit. Study and see what was going on in each scenario.
- 3) Do not be afraid to read and examine how the Holy Spirit is working around the world (eg., Jesus appearing to Muslims in dreams and visions, especially during Ramadan).