

Weekly Follow-Up

Last week we walked away desiring to get real with God in our prayers. Did you make any changes this week? What was the outcome? How will you continue this?

Acts 13:1-4 *Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.*

Prep-Time

1. When you consider your prayer and devotional time with God, how are you “set-up” to hear from Him? What types of elements (location, setting, time of day, etc) are typical of an environment where you prepare to communicate with God?
2. In Acts 13 we read how the Apostles were worshipping the Lord and fasting. It was during this time that the Holy Spirit spoke. What steps do you take to prepare yourself to hear from God? When do you find that you hear from Him the most? Is this limited to an allotted time you’ve devoted to prayer, or are do you always place yourself in a situation to hear God speak throughout the day?
3. Is it possible that there’s something you need to change in order to place yourself in a better opportunity to hear from God?
4. No one holds a bat in their hand for the first time and hits a home-run. In what ways are you growing, learning, and understanding how to better enhance your pray life with God?

Hearing

1. Has God ever spoken to you? Can you describe this experience?
2. How often would you say that you hear from God? Could the answer to this question be affected by your prep-time, as mentioned above?
3. If you feel that you hear from God on a regular basis, how does He speak to you? Is it through movements, feelings, thoughts, or a direct voice like we read in verse 2?
4. While you may devote a certain time to pray to God, do you communicate with Him throughout your day? How? In the same way, do you ever feel God speaking to you even though it may be “outside” of the time that you thought you allotted?
5. If you haven’t heard or felt a movement from God, why do you think this may be? What’s the root of the issue?

Discerning and Going

1. Have you ever thought you heard from God but it turned out to be the extra coffee or Mexican food from lunch? Have there been times where you thought you had heard from God but He actually wasn’t speaking? Can you describe this experience?
2. What steps do you take to discern whether God is truly speaking into your life? When He has spoken, how did it align with Scripture and principles that have been established since your acceptance of Christ? Did the coffee or Mexican food’s ideas align with God’s Word?
3. Are you reading God’s Word enough to be able to discern what is truly God and what may be something else? What principles from Scripture do you use discern what you think you may be hearing?
4. The Holy Spirit’s instruction was, “I have special work I’ve called them to”. How do you draw the line between discerning and doing / going? Do you ever get caught up in trying to understand all the details before you act? Has God ever called you to something without giving you the entire game plan – like in Acts 13? Is He calling you to something now?

Prayer Focus

- For guidance from the Spirit to always have ourselves in a position to hear from God
- For the ability to hear and discern what God is desiring to say and do through us
- For hearts willing to respond to God's calling in our lives

Weekly Walk Away

Currently at Hope Church we are working through “random acts of kindness” with the cards that have been handed out at service. Spend time prepping yourself, listening to God, discerning what He maybe calling you to do, and GO! Challenge everyone in your group to commit to performing at least one random act – praying that the Lord will use this opportunity as a building block to hearing and discerning His will in your life. How might the Holy Spirit be asking you to “go” or “act” in different areas of your life?