

## **Week 6 - Relying on Spirit (5/18)**

Being Salt and Light requires us to rely upon God and the Holy Spirit in several different ways. We must rely upon the Spirit in our own lives to help us grow in our faith, to help us conquer sin and to direct our decisions in life according to God's use of our lives. We also must assume that Spirit is at work in the lives of others, even non-Christians as their hearts soften toward God. If God, through his spirit is at work in the lives of people around us, then we need to pay attention to the opportunities that emerge around us. On any given day there may be Ethiopians who the Spirit will lead us as Philip's to their chariot. Or perhaps we need to trust that God will help us. We need to learn to listen to God more than our own anxieties.

**Living expectant days** We don't always know what plans God has for us but we can be assured that God is interested and active in our lives. We need to be ever aware of the opportunities set before us. We believe in an active and loving God. If we don't believe in prayer then why pray?

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH ACTS 8:26-39 THE CENTURION ACTS 10:1-48, 11:14

1Corinthians 3:6-8 "6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor."

God working in people's lives: Acts 16:14 "14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."

**Noticing People** When we see people, we see their incredible value. We recognize that they have a soul and are loved by God. We are compelled by love to reach out to them and treat them with respect. God knows us and loves us greatly Matthew 10:30 "30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." God wants all to be saved: 2Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2Corinthians 5:16 "16 So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is the difference between a Godly point of view and a worldly point of view? What can help make us more sensitive to people?

**Changing Schedules** God does things at the right time and we need to be ready for His leading: Romans 5:6 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

Col 3:5-7 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived." We changed and others can change also.

We need to look for and be sensitive to the opportunities that God places before us. Gal 6:9-10 "9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Col 4:5-6 "Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

***The place of prayer: We should ever be praying that God will make us sensitive to those around us and the opportunities that He gives us.***