

4 RECOGNIZE & RESPOND TO HIS ___nudges_____

- This is supposed to be a normal part of life
John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
Rom 8:14 - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
- For help to discern if a thought is from God, see a list of questions at www.MyLifeWithGod.org.
- Groups could ask this question
What was your ... "That might have been ___God moment_____ last week?"

Find more resources about experiencing
God's Kingdom Presence at
www.MyLifeWithGod.org

SEEK FIRST

Matt 6:33 "Seek first the Kingdom of God"

Four ways to seek **KINGDOM PRESENCE** ...
...that just might bring breakthrough in 2018

1. GET A ___vision_____ FOR KINGDOM PRESENCE

- Kingdom presence is ... human flourishing that flows from
_____nearness_____ to God's _____presence &
_____power_____.
- Kingdom presence means we can...
 - regularly hear his ___voice_____
 - discern what ___He is doing _____ and join Him there.
 - sense God in the ___ordinary moments_____ of our everyday life.
- Get a concrete picture from these stories in the Bible
 - 1 Garden of Eden
 - 2 Life of Jesus
 - 3 Book of Acts
- Kingdom presence is about the quality of life that happens when you are near God's presence.

2 REFUSE TO SETTLE FOR _____status quo_____

- Two approaches to the problem that our lives may not experience much overlap in God's Kingdom presence.
 - 1 Figure out a way to call it _____normal_____
 - 2 Refuse to settle for status quo

Jesus teaches on the Kingdom

Luke 11

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your **kingdom come**.

Note: we are to pray that the Kingdom comes into our lives

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

⁵Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your **shameless audacity**, he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

Note: Jesus is teaching us to be persistent in asking - don't settle for status quo

⁹"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!"

Note: The primary way we experience the Kingdom presence is through the Holy Spirit, so when the Father gives us the Holy Spirit, he is giving us the way to experience Kingdom presence.

Luke 12

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ... ³¹**But seek his kingdom**, and these things will be given to you as well.

³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your **Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom**.

3 WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR ___emotions_____

- I could not relate to passages like these.
Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

- A few examples of God commanding emotions:
Ps 37:4, Ps 32:11, Phil 4:4, Dt 28:47-48

- Three things that might help

1 __Pray_____

2 Marinate your mind on the _attributes_of God

3 Use singing as your __tutor_____

- John Piper on emotions, from *Desiring God*

The Scriptures command joy, hope, fear, peace, grief, desire, tenderheartedness, brokenness and contrition, gratitude, lowliness, etc.

It is true that our hearts are often sluggish. We do not feel the depth or intensity of affections that are appropriate for God or His cause. It is true that at those times we must exert our wills and make decisions that we hope will rekindle our joy.

I am often asked what a Christian should do if the cheerfulness of obedience is not there. It's a good question. My answer is not simply to get on with our duty because feelings don't matter. They do! My answer has three steps. First, confess the sin of joylessness. ("My heart is faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I," Psalm 61:2.) Acknowledge the coldness of your heart. Don't say that it doesn't matter how you feel. Second, pray earnestly that God would restore the joy of obedience. ("I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart," Psalm 40:8.) Third, go ahead and do the outward dimension of your duty in the hope that the doing will rekindle the delight. This is very different from saying: "Do your duty because feelings don't count."