

12. Led to Witness

Opening question

Would you say that you feel consciously led by the Spirit to live in Edinburgh, or is it just where you happen to be?

Fact-check: the Spirit leads us in our witnessing

Acts shows us that the Spirit will lead people directly, particularly when He's wanting them to do a new thing. Read these passages:

- Acts 10:19-20
- Acts 13:2-4
- Acts 16:6-10

These moments were hugely significant in the life of the early church, expanding its missionary horizons so that they were the same as Jesus's: all peoples and the ends of the earth. Most of us require His prompting to keep looking beyond our own situation: He can do this through speaking directly to us, or through His Word or His people.

Acts also describes and implies the Spirit's work in the daily life of the believers: they were witnesses for Jesus wherever they were and people were added to the church because of this.

Discussion

In what ways have you experienced the Spirit's leading you to tell people about Jesus? In "big" ways, such as a location move, and "small" ways, such as Him suggesting you talk to someone?

Does anyone here feel that the Spirit has called them to be part of a "big" move sometime in the future, such as a church plant? How are you preparing yourself for this?

What can all of us do to make ourselves continually open to the Spirit's leading?

Do it: 10 Simple Ways To Be Missional

The following suggestions by Tim Chester don't require us to move location, but they encourage us to move our mindset, increasing our expectation that the Spirit will lead us every day.

1. Eat with other people. We all eat 3 meals a day. That's 21 opportunities for church and mission each week without adding anything new to your schedule. And meals are a powerful expression of welcome and community.
2. Work in public places. Hold meetings, prepare talks, read in public spaces like cafes, pubs and parks. It will naturally help you engage with the culture as work or play. For example, whose questions do you want to address in your Bible studies – those of professional exegetes or those of the culture?
3. Be a regular. Adopt a local café, pub, park and shops so you regularly visit and become known as a local. Imagine if everyone in your gospel community did this!

4. Join in with what's going on. Churches often start their own thing like a coffee shop or homeless program. Instead, join existing initiatives – you don't have the burden of running it and you get opportunities with co-workers.
5. Leave the house in the evenings. It's so easy after a long day on a dark evening to slump in front of the television or surf the internet. Get out! Visit a friend. Take a cake to a neighbour. Attend a local group. Go to the cinema. Hang out in a café. Go for a walk with a friend. It doesn't matter where as long as you go with gospel intentionality.
6. Serve your neighbours. Weed a neighbour's garden. Help someone move. Put up a shelf. Volunteer with a local group. It could be one evening a week or one day a month. Try to do it with other members of your gospel community so it becomes a common project. Then people will see your love for one another and it will be easier to talk about Jesus.
7. Share your passion. What do you enjoy? Find a local group that shares your passion. Be missional and have fun at the same time!
8. Hang out with your work colleagues. Spend your lunch break with colleagues. Go for a drink after work. Share the journey to work.
9. Walk. Walking enables you to engage with your neighbourhood at street level. You notice things you don't in a car. You are seen and known in the neighbourhood.
10. Prayer walk. Walk around your neighbourhood using what you see as fuel for prayer. Pray for people, homes, businesses, community groups and community needs. Ask God to open your eyes to where He is at work and to fill your heart with love for your neighbourhood.

Discussion

Which of these particularly appeal to you? Which would involve fresh faith? What other things like this have you done which have been effective?

Which of these could you do as a small group? Can you think of other ways you could be more Spirit-led missional as a group?

Wrapping up

This is the final part of our small group series on the Holy Spirit. It feels like we've covered a lot of ground, and also only scratched the surface of what God wants to do in us and through us by His Holy Spirit.

Discussion

What do you feel God has been saying to you or wanting to change in you through this series? How have you begun to work this out?

How can you as individuals and a group make sure that you continue to be filled with the Spirit and led by Him?

Prayer

Pray for each other for another fresh filling, for establishing what He has begun during this series, and for ongoing openness to Him. It would be great to pray the promise Jesus makes in Acts 1:8 for each and all of you too.