

Sacred Rhythms

Week 5 - Father Knows Best

John 10:27 & 28 - Abounding vs. Abiding

To **ABOUND** is to fully engage in His work. We are to be **BUSY** with the work! (***Bodily Condition - 1 Corinthians 15:58***)

To **ABIDE** is to be free from relational hurry with Him. We are to ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives. (***Soul Condition - John 15:4 – 8***)

There is a **TENSION** that exists between these two states that is seemingly impossible to eliminate. (***Managed Condition – Mark 1:9 – 34***)

How did Jesus manage the tension? (***Mark 1:35*** – Note His Intentionality)

Does the Tension ever cease? NO! What to do? Re-Prioritize the Rhythm of our lives.

Our Problem is that God's Voice is NOT the only one Speaking. There is an enemy who wants us to be **DECEIVED** and **DESTROYED**! (***2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5; John 10:10***) We must Listen to and Obey His voice. (***Zechariah 7:11 – 13***)

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in hearing from God

TEACH us and **REMIND** us of all things (***John 14:6***)

TESTIFY about Jesus (***John 15:26***)

GUIDE us into all truth and **TELL** us what is yet to come (***John 16:13***)

How I KNOW I am Hearing from God

Does it **AGREE** with the Bible? (***Luke 21:33; Psalm 19:7 – 11***)

Does it make me more like **CHRIST**? (***Philippians 2:2 – 5***)

Does my Church Family **CONFIRM IT**? (***Proverbs 15:22; Ephesians 3:10***)

Is it consistent with God's **DESIGN** for me (***Ephesians 2:10***)

Is it within my **SPHERE** of **INFLUENCE**? (***Romans 14:12***)

Does it bring **CONVICTION** or **CONDEMNATION**? (***1 John 1:9; Revelation 12:10***)

Does God's **PEACE** come with it? (***1 Corinthians 14:33***)

Is He repeating His **ADMONITIONS**? (***1 Samuel 3***)

Our Marching Orders – (***Mark 1:38***)

Executive Pastor Dave Wickstrom
Auburn Grace Community Church – June 16th 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 16, 2024

John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

DISCOVER

1. Discuss some of the ways we hear God speaking to us. Describe a time when God clearly and unmistakably spoke to you. What qualities in His “voice” do you remember?
2. Identify the different voices we listen to that influence our thinking and, therefore, our words and behavior. What problems arise when Bible-reading Christians are too quick to heed their own voices? After all, aren't they trained-up in the Scriptures?
3. Describe a time when you completed a ministry season and moved on to another ministry endeavor. How finished was the older ministry? Were there loose ends? How did you know it was time to stop and move on? Did you have any regrets?
4. Define “abiding in Christ.” How does what we do with our Bibles affect our relationship with Jesus? Do you linger with Jesus or are you frequently rushed? What is the role of grace as we abide in Him?

EXPLORE

1. Abounding means “to have something in sufficiency or abundance.” (see Romans 5:20) How does this definition fit into the mandate of I Corinthians 15:58? What distinctions can you draw from working for the Lord as opposed to laboring for the Lord? Make a list of the fruit of being fully immersed in Kingdom work.
2. Must abiding always precede abounding? Explain.
3. Read John 10:27-28. What difference does it make that Jesus is God and not just a man? Would the promise of verse 28 mean much otherwise? How so?
4. Pastor Dave shared that there is always a tension between abiding in Christ and abounding in His work. Why is that? How did Jesus manage this tension? (see Mark 1:35) How does seclusion and prayer with God work to ease this tension? Are there other methods we can use to assuage the tension?
5. In John 15:9, Jesus says, “Abide in my love.” What are the implications of this in a true believer's life? How are you doing at laying down your life? (see John 15:13)

EXPERIENCE

1. What is the cause of being in relational hurry with God? Are you also rushed in other relationships? What strategy might you have to ruthlessly eliminate the hurry you have in your relationship with God? What else must God do to get you to be still, to cease striving with Him? Will you submit to God's pruning away all disloyalty and what is otherwise unimportant?
2. How has your God-ordained sphere-of-influence changed over time? Have you adapted or been transformed as a result? What sacrifices have you made in the process?
3. Do you wholeheartedly believe that the Cross of Christ was sufficient for you to have the closest-ever relationship with God, a relationship that supernaturally surpasses any earthly relationship, even with your most cherished and beloved?
4. Will you practice abiding this week? In what specific ways can your Life Group help?

PRAY

Pray...Thank You, Father, that You give us victory in every way through Your Son, Lord Jesus. Give us Your strength to be steadfast and immovable in our Kingdom labors. Thank You that You remember our work and our love towards Your great Name. Amen.