

Compass Bearing #17

Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

"The Snooze Button" by Pastor Jeremy Duncan

Thursday, April 30, 2020

If you are anything like me, you love the snooze button on your alarm. I feel like I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Lew Wallace, whose popular opinion says came up with the snooze button in 1847. Strangely enough, Lew hails from just up the road from us in Brookville, IN and is also the famous writer of Ben-Hur. Who knew?

Over the years, the snooze button and I have established a love-hate relationship. On good days, I somehow feel that I am pulling a fast one on life, getting a few extra minutes of sleep before I tackle the day's events. On bad days, I overuse it, sending me into this flight of the bumblebee tizzy to get ready on time. Am I the only one? Nonetheless, the snooze button is always there for me, a good friend who only lets me down when I accidentally hit the "off" button instead. Those are bad days.

The pandemic has given me the opportunity to use the snooze button more regularly than usual. I am only going into the office three days a week and even on those days, I am able to sleep in longer than usual. This morning, while Mr. Snooze and I were getting reacquainted, I thought to myself, "How many times in life have I hit the snooze button on something to which God has called me?"

Sometimes I think we treat the Holy Spirit like our snooze alarm. I know that I do. He comes our way to warn us of impending danger and we push Him away. He comes to steer us away from potential sin and we instead fall victim to our flesh. He comes to prompt us to care for, speak over, or pray for another, and we instead dismiss the notion as a fleeting thought. If we aren't careful, we can take this "eat the cake today and start the diet tomorrow" approach to His voice.

There is a war going on inside of each of our hearts and minds in this regard. The Holy Spirit is tugging at our inner beings to live a certain way and our flesh is pulling in the opposite direction. Christians, we are called to live differently. Paul states it this way in Galatians 5:16, *"But I say, walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit (responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit); then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh."*

Paul makes it very clear! Are you tired of falling victim to the cravings and desires of the flesh? Walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit.

Walking in the Holy Spirit means living a life in the continual presence of the spirit of God. Jesus says in John 15 that we need to abide in him. If we abide in Jesus, we make room, time, and margin for Him so that the Holy Spirit may work within us. I love to think of it as God consciousness. Chasing Him so hard that He is foremost in all of our affections.

Do you know what's really cool? When we do this, we are provided the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the qualities that God desires to bring out in each and every one of us. Why would we ever want to push the snooze button when it comes to developing these?

Application

Spend time today reflecting upon the times in your life when you may have hit the snooze button on the Holy Spirit.

What tangible steps can you take in your life to be more in tune with the Holy Spirit?

Scripture tells us that when we walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit, that we will not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh. When has this been true for you (either when you snoozed or were obedient the Holy Spirit's tug)?

Close in prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to move in your life in ways not seen before.