Series: Starting Strong January 20, 2013

Message: Supercharged Life: The Holy Spirit in Your Life

Living a Supercharged Life

The <u>Strain</u> of the "Wilderness" <u>Drains</u> us: Between Egypt and the Promised Land things get tough. Numbers 11

We feel dead.

We feel shorted.

We feel burnt out.

The Ultimate Source of <u>ReNEWable</u> Energy: The <u>Holy Spirit</u> desires to be a <u>consistent charge</u> to our lives daily.

Where the Spirit is there is illumination. Gal. 5:16-26; 1 Cor. 1:10-12

Where the Spirit is there is movement. Ezek. 37

Where the Spirit is there is power. Rom. 8:1-2, 11; 2 Cor 3:16-18

<u>Tap</u> into the <u>Spirit</u>: In order to experience the <u>surging power</u> of God in our lives—we must <u>plug</u> ourselves into the Lord. Exodus 34

Make the <u>Call</u>—<u>Ask</u> and it will be <u>given</u>. Luke 11:11-13

Know your Plug—Learn how God speaks to you.

Know your <u>Provider</u>—Get to <u>know</u> the <u>voice</u> of the Spirit John 10:1-21

Food For thought:

When was the last time you asked the Spirit of God to dwell deep within your life? When was the last time you prayed to the Holy Spirit, seeking God's guidance, direction, and movement? When was the last time you prayed that the Holy Spirit might fill you with his resurrecting power and life? It seems that many of us consider the Holy Spirit as more of a divine helper than one of the Holy Trinity. Why is it so easy to leave the Holy Spirit out of the God equation? How might you begin to engage the Holy Spirit more definitely in your life?

It is not uncommon for Christian's to come to a point in their walk where it seems as though they wouldn't be able to decipher the voice of God from the burrito they ate last break. Set aside about fifteen minutes, remove yourself from the craze and noise of life and plan to discover your plug (or your "Godversation" space). In what context do you hear God's voice most clearly? While running? While practicing silence? While praying out loud in the dark? While listening to Podcasts? While carefully reading the Bible? Once you discover your "God-versation space, write out a plan to make that meeting place a consistent part of your weekly routine.

Other Resources to Help You Tap in to the Power:

The Daily Audio Bible Podcast

I work early and have a hard time getting up early enough to start my day off right—in the pages of the Holy Scripture. Lately, I have started listening to the Daily Audio Bible Podcast, which for me, has proven to be very helpful in getting me more consistently in the word. Every day, Brian Harden, the Podcast "DJ," starts off his morning by reading the assigned "Bible-In-A-Year" passages, commenting some, to the Daily Audio Bible Community. I have downloaded the last two months worth of posts and have been working my way through the Scripture, verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter. It's a simple and easy way to dig into the word—especially if you have a job where you can listen to your Ipod!

Never Alone: Practicing the Presence of God (Paraphrase) by Tim Green

In the hustle and bustle of life, we often feel as though we have little to no time to spend any sort of time with the Lord. This ultimately inhibits us from being able to "retreat to the mountain" with the Lord and additionally, adhere to and grow accustom to the sound of God's voice. A Carmelite monk called Brother Lawrence (1605-1691) wrote about this in his classic, *The Practice of the Presence of God.* In it, Lawrence explores how Christian's might practically observe the Apostle Paul's challenge to pray continuously (or stay "plugged in" all day, every day). Barefoot Ministries came out with a paraphrase of his book called, *Never Alone: Practicing the Presence of God.* It helps frame prayer in such a way that it becomes more than something you do at church and at the dinner table, but rather becomes an active expression of life. It's interactive, only 79 pages and nine dollars on Amazon! What are you waiting for?

A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God: Devotional

My all time favorite devotional books is, Upper Room Books', *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God.* There are a number of great things about this devotional. First of all, it follows the Lectionary, which are biblical readings that follow the Christian calendar. The beautiful thing about this is that as you read, you know that Churches and Christian Communities everywhere are reading the very same passages that you are all throughout the world. The second part that I love about it is you get a taste of a wide variety of Scripture every day. Thirdly, within it are a number of "Readings for Reflection" that are written by not only great heroes of our faith of old but contemporary ones as well. And lastly, you can read it year, after year, after year, because like the Lectionary, it follows a three-year cycle. Highly recommend it. Prices vary on Amazon!

The Expansion Project: