



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Foundation of Expectancy

Logan Holloman | NextGen Pastor | April 2, 2023

How expectant are you this morning?

"The first practice of resilient discipleship we uncovered in our research among exemplar, young adults (the group we labeled resilient disciples) is a transformational experience of Jesus. Most Americans say they are Christians, but few follow that up with deep, heart-level, life-directing commitments. This is true of all generations, and it remains true of young adults."

Faith for Exiles, David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock

The Holy Spirit sets.

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." **John 16:12-15 (NIV)**

"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us." **1 Corinthians 2:10b-12 (NIV)**

(Re)acquainted with his presence and power.

Dear Father, thank you for your love for me. I want to confess my sins to you. I am sorry for grieving you. I know I have hurt you by doing things that are wrong and that displease you. I thank you that through Jesus Christ I can now receive your forgiveness and cleansing. I want to yield every area of my life to your authority and will. Search my heart, my desires and plans. Reveal to me any area that I'm holding on to or have strayed from your will. I pray in the name of Jesus that you will fill me with your presence and power of the Holy Spirit, that you will enable me today to become more like Jesus and to do what will glorify you, touch lives, and bring people closer to you. I receive this gift right now.



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Together, let's cultivate Godward rhythms: spiritual habits and a heartfelt expectation that God will come and speak to us. We can trust that God speaks and that he often does so most clearly through the pages of the Bible. He also talks to us through the voice of the Holy Spirit in our thoughts and feelings and through the counsel of brothers and sisters in our lives. Hearing from God is not some spooky, transcendental thing in which our eyes glaze over and God takes over our bodies. The profile of resilient disciples shows us that it's much more natural; it's an everyday reliance on God and dependence on his presence. It's cultivating a soft heart to God's leading.

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"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?' 'John's baptism,' they replied. Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all."

Acts 19:1-7 (NIV)

In our qualitative interviews, we discovered that people don't learn to follow Jesus simply by having lots of great head knowledge about him (although having the right beliefs matter, as we'll see). Experiencing Jesus is found along a relational pathway with family, friends, and other people who love and experience Jesus. We are loved into loving Jesus.

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Reflection Questions:

- 1) Surveys have shown that the primary reason believers and nonbelievers come to church is to "meet with God and experience his presence." What is the primary reason you come to church?
- 2) Have you experienced the Holy Spirit? If so, how have you experienced him?
- 3) What is the foundation of your faith? How is that foundation? Is it rock solid? Shaky?