

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Following Jesus in his way of being human means learning to live dependent on the Spirit like Jesus was dependent on the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:29-34, Acts 10:37-38, John 14:16-17, Galatians 5:25

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. The Gospels are a specific kind of literature. They are a form of ancient biography written about a recent real person for the purpose of emulating that person's life. The Gospels were explicitly written to hold up Jesus as a model for us to live our lives. So while we confess that Jesus is God, we also see the Gospel writers and later authors saying that Jesus didn't use that status as a way to skip being human. Therefore, we can look upon Jesus as our Lord, Savior, and genuine picture of what it means to be human.
2. When you ask about hearing from the Holy Spirit, some people may think they've heard from God but not be entirely sure they have, so they may not share. Set the bar low by asking, "Has there ever been a time when you think you heard from God," rather than "When have you heard from God." Even when we are confident we are hearing from God, it is best to say, "I believe what God might be saying is . . ." This posture is about humility, not a lack of faith. We want to be gentle, humble, and encouraging when we think we hear from God, especially if we feel led to share with someone else.
3. Many of us spend our lives going at full tilt and may not practice moments of silence and stillness. These are times when we can be honest with ourselves about the thoughts and feelings we've had during the day or week. It is also a time when we can ask God to speak into our situation or moment. If you think about the Holy Spirit as a person standing in a circle of friends having a conversation, whenever we pray "Come, Holy Spirit," it's like we are turning our attention to the Spirit and saying, "What do you think?" and then giving time to listen. This may feel awkward at first or like an inefficient use of time. Resist the urge to move on to the next thing right away. Practice listening for 30 seconds and keep track on a watch or clock to help. The pause in your day will be life-giving to you, and when God does speak to you, those few words are worth more than a thousand words we might speak or hear from someone else. They are worth the wait.