



Rhythms (Habits the Change You and the World)

Sunday, September 6, 2020

The first step in developing a healthy spiritual rhythm is asking the Holy Spirit to lead and direct. What is He saying, and how should you respond?

Setting the Scene

The reason some people don't recognize opportunity is that it often comes disguised as hard work. – Author unknown

¹⁸ When people do not accept **divine guidance**, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful. Proverbs 29:18

¹⁸ A nation's well-being depends on obedience to divine revelation. This popular verse refers to two forms of **divine revelation**, vision, and law. The first line is worded negatively—if there is “no revelation” or “vision” (*ḥāzōn*), the people “throw off restraint” (*yippāra* ‘). The word *ḥāzōn* refers to divine communication to prophets (as in 1 Sam 3:1) and not to individual goals that are formed.¹

חֲזוֹן *ḥāzōn* 35× vision, revelation, a message from God, with a possible focus on the visual aspects of the message [2377]²

The Leading and Direction from the Holy Spirit

1. Trust in the Message

¹⁸ When they arrived, he declared, “You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now ¹⁹I have **done the Lord's work humbly** and with **many tears**. I have **endured the trials** that came to me from the plots of the Jews. ²⁰**I never shrank back** from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. ²¹I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:18-21

- Is the message biblical?
- Is it worth suffering for?
- Is it worth stepping out in faith?
- Has it been confirmed by other believers?

2. Listen Carefully to the Spirit.

²² “And now I am **bound** by **the Spirit** to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, ²³except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. Acts 20:22-23

²¹ Afterward, Paul felt **compelled** by the Spirit^[a] to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. “And after that,” he said, “I must go on to Rome!” Acts 19:21

Bound: Deo- Acts 20:22; in NT to pronounce or declare to be binding or obligatory, or, to declare to be prohibited and unlawful, Mt. 16:19; 18:18 [1210] **compelled.**³

Spirit: *pneuma*—Spirit, current of air, a breeze of the Spirit.

- This is not Paul's idea, but a call from God. (Spirit Driven Resolve)

3. Be Okay with Not Knowing

I don't know what awaits me ahead. Acts 20:22b

¹ Ross, A. P. (1991). *Proverbs*. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Vol. 5, p. 1116). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² Mounce, W. D. (2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (p. 932). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

³ Mounce, W. D. (2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (p. 1118). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- Be okay with not knowing all the details. Trust Jesus to figure that out. Sometimes we are paralyzed in stepping out in faith because we do not know what is going to happen.
- If you would have known in advance all the struggles and challenges beforehand, would you still follow through?
- God will not call us into something if he does not know or believe we can handle what is coming.
- Take the first step and do worry about the second step.

4. Recognize the Need for Endurance

²³ *except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and **suffering lie ahead**.* Acts 20:23

- Jesus does not promise an easy road; however, he does promise to be with us.
- The call of Jesus is worth suffering for.

¹⁶ *That is why **we never give up**. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.* ¹⁷ *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!* ¹⁸ *So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.* 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

² *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.* ³ *Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.* Hebrews 12:2-3

- Suffering for a cause inspires people around you.

²⁴ *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.* Acts 20:24

5. Live with No Regrets.

²⁷ *for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to **know**.* (Purpose) Acts 20:27

Acts 20:27: The Greek noun **boulē** can mean counsel, will, plan, or purpose and can mean to will, purpose, plan, or come to a decision. In Greek religion, the term *boulē* often referred to the will or plan of the gods. God's purpose cannot be thwarted. The result of the determination.

- Decide to follow through in advance.

Next Steps:

- Go on a prayer walk in your neighborhood or community. A prayer walk will enable you to develop a vision for your neighborhood.
- Ask people who come into your path this week this question, "How can I pray for you?"
- Our goal for the month of September is to pray for 1000 homes. Are you up for this challenge?
- Register at Blesseveryhome.com or construct a map of your neighborhood that includes names.
- Email Pastor Matt, matt@bmmchurch.org, and share a little about your experience.