

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

- ALWAYS ALERT -

"Miracles Can Happen"

Luke 7:11-17

FOCUS FOR THE DAY... "Being alert to God's voice like Jesus was"

A valuable lesson on staying alert to God's voice even when tired.

Luke 7:11-12 "Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her."

1. KEEPING ALERT KEEPS YOU IN THE ACTION.

- Jesus met a funeral procession after a long, tiring journey.
- Above everything else, Jesus valued doing His Father's will the most.

John 5:19 "I tell you the truth, the Son can do **nothing by himself**. He does **only** what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does." NLT

Luke 7:13-15 "When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with **compassion**. 'Don't cry!' he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. 'Young man,' he said, 'I tell you, get up.' Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother." NLT

- What would have been missed if Jesus wouldn't have been alert to His Father's gentle voice?
- What would have happened if He wouldn't have valued His relationship with His Heavenly Father enough to sacrifice early morning hours developing his relationship with His father?
- The dividends of having a strong passion for relationship with God and knowing His voice will give you a far more energized, joy-filled life than you can ever dream!

2. WHAT MOTIVATED THIS MIRACLE?

- Jesus was moved out of "compassion", [Other translations say, "*His heart went out to her*" or "*He felt sorry for her*"]
- Jesus felt sympathetic, but this was a divine virtue called compassion, **NOT** a human sympathy. Divine compassion feels similar to sympathy, except it comes from something much deeper within.

• “Human sympathy” is wonderful, **BUT** it can get in the way of “divine compassion” if we are not careful!

• A well-meaning, sympathetic person can short circuit God’s plan for a person’s good and relieve their pain -- which only prolongs their spiritual agony!

• The only way to know that difference ~ between sympathy coming out of our emotions and compassion coming from our spirit ~ is to come to know God’s voice well enough to hear Him.

3. WHAT’S THE FRUIT OF WORKING WITH GOD?

• Notice how the crowd responded after this phenomenal miracle.

Luke 7:16 “Great **fear** swept the crowd, and they **praised God**, saying, ‘A mighty prophet has risen among us,’ and ‘God has visited his people today.’” NLT

• The presence of the Holy Spirit will create a fear of God and an attitude that glorifies God -- not man!

Authentic fear of God inspires life change, a change from superficial religious words to a passion for God alone.

John 3:30 “Jesus must become **more** important, while **I** become **less** important.” CEV

• A sign of working with God is that people fear and praise God, while the person used becomes less and less important.

• God expects us to have a sincere passion to improve our “batting average” in hearing His voice ~ that passion is more important to Him than our perfect performance.

• Your sensitivity [alertness] to His voice will be proportionately increased as you intensify your commitment to seek to know His ways more fully.

Exodus 33:13 “If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor.” NLT

Begin today to...

- **Honestly evaluate** your level of passion to know God’s ways. **Make a firm determination** to seek to know them more fully. [Get involved with a Spiritual Life Coach – a person of the same gender who also wants to know God’s ways and hear His voice.]
- **Read God’s Word** to discover His ways, being alert to whatever His gentle voice may prompt you to do -- and act on it as quickly as possible.
- **Evaluate what type** of fruit comes from your efforts to hear and obey God’s voice.

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 10, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: How were most you challenged this week about staying alert, even after hard work, or high stress or being overly tired?

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Think about [tell about] a time when you traveled a great distance or worked a long hard day or week and were extremely tired. What did you feel like doing? How did it affect your responses and alertness to others? ... to God?

During these types of situations, what do you seem to hear the clearest, and what screams the loudest -- your spirit or your soul/flesh?

2. Jesus gave us a great example of hearing God’s voice during a time of physical weariness in Luke 7:11-17. What are some insights we can learn from Jesus on how we should, and can, respond and be used by God when tired?

GETTING THE POINT

1. When you experience situations that tax your physical, mental and emotional strength to the extreme, do you have the right not to be alert to what God is saying to you and doing what He wants you to do? [2 Timothy 4:2; Philippians 2:4-5; Romans 13:11-14]

2. How does what we consider important and value the most help us as we seek to be alert to the voice of God in our lives? In what ways can this affect whether we are listening more to our spirit or to our soul/flesh? [John 3:30; 5:19; 13:35; 15:14; 17:13-18; Hosea 6:6LB]

3. Describe a time when you sensed you responded out of divine compassion rather than human sympathy.

A LOOK INSIDE

1. What are you doing to make sure that you are staying alert to the voice of God -- regardless of how weary you may get, or what obstacles come into your life that can cloud your perspective or distract you from what you know is right?

2. What are some ways and areas that you will work on to improve your alertness to God’s voice? [Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:15-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11]