STAYING CURRENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lesson 1
The Unchanging God Of Seasons

Our God, the living God, is dynamic, active, and on the move! He is not dead. He is not stagnant. He is not lazy. If we are to walk with God, then we must keep up with Him. God does not change, but what He is emphasizing and focusing on does change. God moves in seasons. It is vitally critical that every Christian learn how to stay current with God if they hope to live a life of faith that is well pleasing unto the Father.

- **And of the children of Issachar, which were men <u>that had understanding of the times</u>, to know what Israel ought to do, 1 Chronicles 12:32a**

We must understand times and seasons if we are to stay current with what God is doing in these last days and know what to do in these seasons.

THE UNCHANGING GOD OF SEASONS
Though God does not change (**Malachi 3:6**), His creation operates in seasons. The Word clearly teaches that life (both natural and supernatural) seasonally ebbs and flows.

- **To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: [2]A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

- The stars are given for signs and for seasons (**Genesis 1:14**).
- Even stars and planets have cycles, seasons, and stages.
- Planets cycle the sun in seasons.
- The Bible speaks of night seasons, daytime and nighttime.
- The oceans have tides, controlled by the position of the moon.
- Weather is seasonal, even in the tropics.
- Animals have life cycles: birds molt, snakes shed, bears hibernate, butterflies transform from caterpillars, flies begin as maggots, some mammals have a rutting season, and some animals migrate in certain seasons.
- Many trees only grow and bear fruit seasonally.
- Male and female humans have hormonal seasons.
- A woman's ability to reproduce life is dictated by times and seasons: from puberty, to monthly ovulation, to menopause.
- Our natural and our Christian lives have seasons: infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age; babes in Christ, little children, young men and fathers (**1 John 2:13**).
- All creation groans and travails in pain together until now (**Romans 8:22**).

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Amazingly, God created life to grow in seasons and to keep growing, yet many Christians, filled with the very life of God Himself, stall out and stop growing. May we grow and increase with the increase of God (**Colossians 2:19**).

GOD MOVES IN SEASONS

As creation is a reflection of God's nature, we should expect to find that God Himself moves and reveals Himself in seasons. God is progressive and He is constantly revealing more of Himself to us through His Word and by His Spirit. If you want to please God, you must stay current with Him and with what He is emphasizing in that hour. Staying current with God will make you what you ought to be because God will be allowed to raise you to the occasion at hand. **Now** faith is . . . faith is not what God was doing yesterday.

EXAMPLES OF CHANGING SEASONS AND EMPHASES

- In Noah's day, God emphasized building an ark. Noah stayed current and became a master ark builder (**Genesis 6-9**).
- In Abraham's day, God emphasized living in tents and walking around the land of Israel. Abraham stayed current with God and became a wandering tent-dweller. He did not have Noah's ministry.
- In Joseph's day, God emphasized a famine and saving the nation of Egypt from destruction. Joseph stayed current with God, became the second in command of Egypt, and delivered both Egypt and Israel from starvation. He did not have Abraham's ministry.
- In Moses' day, God emphasized leaving Egypt to worship at Mt. Horeb. Moses stayed current and became a pastor/judge delivering Israel from Egypt to serve God, and he built the tabernacle. He did not have Joseph's ministry (**Exodus 3-19**).
- In Joshua's day, God emphasized taking the Promised Land one city at a time. Joshua stayed current with God and became a mighty military leader. He did not have Moses' ministry (**Joshua 1-12**).
- In Gideon's day, God emphasized destroying Baal worship and ridding Israel of the Midianites. Gideon stayed current with God and became a destroyer of altars and Midianites. He did not have Joshua's ministry (**Judges 6-8**).
- In King David's day, God emphasized overcoming enemies and establishing the kingdom of Israel. David stayed current with God and became a great military leader, worship leader, and revivalist. He did not have Gideon's ministry.
- In King Solomon's day, God emphasized the building of the Temple. Solomon stayed current with God and built a beautiful temple for the LORD God. He did not have David's ministry.
- Daniel understood that Israel was to be in a season of Babylonian captivity that was to last 70 years.
- In Zerubbabel's day, God emphasized rebuilding the Temple. Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem from Babylon and rebuilt the Temple. He did not have Solomon's ministry.

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- In Nehemiah's day (shortly after Zerubbabel), God emphasized building a wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah stayed current with God and became a master wall builder. He did not have Zerubbabel's ministry.
- In Ezra's day (during Nehemiah's day), God emphasized to him the reinstatement of the Mosaic Law. Ezra stayed current with God and became a great teacher and revivalist.
- "**But when the fullness of time was come**" God emphasized Jesus Christ and redeemed mankind (**Galatians 4:4**).

If you try to do something today that God was emphasizing yesterday, it will be nothing more than a dead religious work. Imagine Moses building an ark for animals or Solomon leaving the Temple to live like Abraham. We cannot go back. We must go forward. Faith goes forward.

- **Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39But we are not of them who draw back (*the timidity of one stealthily retreating, cowardice*) unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:38-39**

We don't draw back in God. We stay current and press forward. Elijah once tried to go back in time and find God on Moses' mountain. It did not work for him and it will not work for you. You must stay current with God.

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STAYING CURRENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lesson 2
Spiritual Seasons

- **To every thing there is a season (*appointed time*), and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Everything under Heaven operates in times and seasons. This is a spiritual law. Seasonal changes spice things up and keep things from becoming monotonous. Our God is not a monotonous God. Our Christian walk is very dynamic and multifaceted and can in no way become a stagnant, plain Jane, same-as-it-ever-was, lifestyle. As seasons change, so should we.

****In order to stay current with God, you must recognize what season you are in.****

SPIRITUAL SEASONS WE CAN EXPECT
Every season requires different skills and actions. If you can recognize the season you are in, you will be able to hear accurately from Heaven, stay current with God, know what scriptures to apply to the season at hand, and safely navigate through that season. Below is a list of some of the seasons the Bible promises we can expect to experience.

Seasons Of Worship

- **But <u>the hour cometh, and now is</u>, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. John 4:23**

Jesus stated that a new season began in His day: a season of worshipping the Father in spirit and truth. We still live in that season.

Seasons Of Purging And Pruning

- **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. John 15:2**

Jesus promised us that the Father would prune us so that we could bear more fruit. In the natural, fruit trees bear fruit for a season, then they are pruned for a season, then they bear fruit again. We should expect seasons where God deals with us about sin in our lives and unnecessary or hurtful friends, hobbies, actions, habits, etc. This is pruning.

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Seasons Of Temptations, Tests, And Trials

- **Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though <u>now for a season</u>, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: [7]That the trial of your faith, . . .**
  1 Peter 1:6-7a

- **But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that <u>ye have suffered a while</u>, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.** **1 Peter 5:10**

- **Fear none of those things <u>which thou shalt suffer</u>: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and <u>ye shall have tribulation ten days</u>: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**
  Revelation 2:10

- **If thou faint in the <u>day of adversity</u>, thy strength is small.**
  Proverbs 24:10

Based on these scriptures, every Christian can expect a season of heaviness through temptations and trials of their faith. We might call this the **season of faith testing**. God does not tempt us, but He will test us. Satan tempts us. Do not confuse the two.

In this season, God will speak to you about not quitting, not giving in to sin, not getting depressed, etc. In the natural everything gets tested. You'll never know what your faith is made of unless <u>*it*</u> is tested.

Scriptures**: Luke 4:1**; **Romans 5:3-5**; **2 Timothy 3:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:4**

Seasons Of Sowing

- **If ye walk in my statues, and keep my commandments, and do them; [4]Then I will give you <u>rain in due season</u>, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. [5]And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the <u>sowing time</u>: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.**
  Leviticus 26:3-5

- **. . . <u>a time to plant</u>, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;**
  Ecclesiastes 3:2b

There is a time to sow. In the natural this is a seasonal activity. The conditions must be right for sowing to be effective. We are to always sow the Word into our hearts, but there will be some seasons when we need to double up on the sowing, e.g., times of sickness,

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calamity, depression, attack, etc. We are to always sow finances, but there may be times when we need to step out in faith and really stretch our giving.

Seasons Of Reaping

- **And let us not be weary in well doing: for <u>in due season we shall reap</u>, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9**

Sowing and reaping is a seasonal process. Sowing takes one kind of work. Reaping takes another kind of work. Sowing is work to give out. Reaping is work to bring in. According to this verse, reaping is only seasonal, not continuous. You can expect some seasons of no reaping, and that's okay.

- Victor Plymire labored in Tibet sowing the Word for 17 years before he won his first convert to Christ.
- Christians sow the Word in their own life, often for years, before they get the victory (fruit) over sin in their life.
- In our local church, we sow the Word for a season, and then the Spirit of God moves mightily for a season.
- We constantly sow tithes and offerings, we have seasons of reaping large harvests (promotions, raises), and we have seasons of reaping little harvests (our substance lasts longer), but we don't stop sowing.

Seasons Of Miracles

- **For an angel went down <u>at a certain season</u> into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. John 5:4**

Here, an angel only provided healing at a certain season. The angel was not continuously coming and going. This type of outpouring seems to be a seasonal occurrence, just as revivals are seasonal. Revivals come when things have died out and must be revived. A revival is a seasonal move of God. America experienced a healing revival 60 years ago. It lasted for a season and we have not seen one since. We have seen healings, but not on the magnitude that was witnessed in that season of miracles back in the 1940s and 50s. In-between seasons of revivals and miracles we stand in faith and stir ourselves up.

Seasons Of Prayers And Fasting

- **And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, [2]Being forty days tempted of the devil. And <u>in those days he did eat nothing</u>: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. Luke 4:1-2**

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- **And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? 35But <u>the days will come</u>, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days. Luke 5:34-35**

- **Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with <u>consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer</u>; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. 1 Corinthians 7:5**

Jesus said that His disciples wouldn't fast while He was with them, but that after He was taken from them, then the season of fasting would begin. There are seasons when you must pray and fast more than others. Your normal lifestyle must be put on hold, your natural appetites must be reined in through fasting and more time is spent in prayer. A greater level of Bible study would also accompany this season. This is a spiritual season that the Holy Spirit will lead you into in order to accomplish greater things.

Seasons Of Promotion

- **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may <u>exalt you in due time</u>: 1 Peter 5:6**

If you walk humbly with God, He will promote you. However, it is not reasonable to expect promotion every day. You had to earn the promotion and that time of earning is a season of being proved. Once you have been found faithful, you will find yourself in a season of promotion. The seasons of proving and promotion run in cycles. Don't faint; submit to God, and you will find yourself in a season of promotion.

Seasons Of Leanness

- **And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? <u>Is it a time</u> to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? 2 Kings 5:26**

The prophet Elisha was indicating to his servant that it was *not* the proper time to receive goods. Though there is nothing wrong with receiving gifts, it was not the proper season to do so at this point in Elisha and Gehazi's ministry. The mistiming caused Gehazi to become leprous.

Learn to recognize the season you are in so that you may cooperate with God and stay current with the Holy Spirit.

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STAYING CURRENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lesson 3
The Seasons Of Your Life

God is a God of seasons. Though life changes as it passes through seasons, it is still life. In the natural, creation adapts and flows with the season at hand. Birds migrate in the winter. Insects burrow. Flowers pollinate in the spring. Some animals gain or shed their fur depending on the season at hand. It seems as though every living thing knows how to recognize and adapt to its current season except for the Christian. We must no longer be ignorant of the spiritual seasons we find ourselves in if we are going to thrive in these last days.

- **And of the children of Issachar, which were men <u>that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do</u>; . . . 1 Chronicles 12:32a**

If you don't know the times, you won't know what to do.

SPIRITUAL SEASONS
Every Christian's life has many seasons. The Bible uses several different terms to spell out these different stages or seasons of a Christian's life. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to help us navigate those seasons and successfully pass on to the next phase of our Christian walk. You need to have an understanding of these seasons so you will know what to do while you are in them.

- **I write unto you, <u>fathers</u>, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, <u>young men</u>, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, <u>little children</u>, because ye have known the Father. 1 John 2:13**

- **And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto <u>babes</u> in Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:1**

- **Not a <u>novice</u> [*newly planted*], lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6**

In these few scriptures we see some terms that help us recognize the different seasons of a Christian's life:

1. **Babes:**
   - Require milk because they are unskillful (have no experience) in the Word of God (**Hebrews 5:13**)
   - Must be spoken to differently than mature believers (**1 Corinthians 3:1**)
   - Carnal, envious, strife-filled, divisive (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
   - Walk according to the ways of man and not God (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)

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- Given over to pride and prone to stumbling (**1 Timothy 3:6**)
- Also called a **novice** or newly-planted one (**1 Timothy 3:6**)

2. **Little Children:**
   - Struggle with idols (**1 John 5:21**)
   - Easily wander away from Christ (**Galatians 4:19**)
   - Lack understanding (**1 Corinthians 14:20**)
   - Have immature thinking, reasoning, and speech (**1 Corinthians 13:11**)
   - Are tossed to and fro (**Ephesians 4:14**)
   - Chase every new kind of doctrine (**Ephesians 4:14**)
   - Struggle with condemning hearts (**1 John 3:20**)
   - Must be reminded of many things:
     - To not sin (**1 John 2:1**)
     - Their sins are forgiven (**1 John 2:12**)
     - It is the last times (**1 John 2:18**)
     - There are anti-christs (**1 John 2:18**)
     - To abide in Jesus (**1 John 2:28**)
     - Let no man deceive you (**1 John 3:7**)
     - Don't be a cheap talker (**1 John 3:18**)
     - You are of God (**1 John 4:4**)
     - You are an overcomer (**1 John 4:4**)
     - You have the greater one within (**1 John 4:4**)
3. **Young Men:**
   - Have overcome the wicked one (**1 John 2:13**)
   - Are strong (**1 John 2:14**)
   - Have the Word of God abiding in them (**1 John 2:14**)
   - Walk in understanding (**1 Corinthians 14:20**)
   - Are exercising their senses to discern good from evil (**Hebrew 5:14**)
4. **Fathers/Elders/Aged Women:**
   - Have known Him who is from the beginning (**1 John 2:13)**
   - Have exercised the senses to discern good from evil (**Hebrews 5:14**)
   - Produce believers through the gospel (**1 Corinthians 4:15**)
   - Are teachers of younger women (**Titus 2:3-5**)
   - Labor in word and doctrine (**1 Timothy 5:17**)

Be cautious: it is possible to regress back into previous stages of growth.

- **. . . and <u>are become</u> such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.**
  Hebrews 5:12c

- **But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and <u>hath forgotten</u> that he was purged from his old sins. 2 Peter 1:9**

We don't have to regress. We can advance.

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- **But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:39**

These four seasons of Christian growth are clearly spelled out in the scriptures and apply to both men and women. These seasons have nothing to do with your biological age or natural education. If you can determine which spiritual season you're in, it will greatly help you stay current with what God is doing in your life.

God deals differently with each of His children based on their maturity level. Knowing your spiritual maturity level will help you stay current with God and hear accurately from Him. God will never tell a little child to rebuke a father (**1 Timothy 5:1**), nor will He permit a father to live like a babe. Unfortunately, some Christians never advance and mature. They stay perpetual babies.

Scriptures**: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 14:20; Galatians 4:1, 3; Ephesians 4:14; 1 Timothy 5:1, 2, 17; Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 5:13; 1 Peter 2:2**

PAUL'S SEASONS
The life of the Apostle Paul teaches us about seasons. His life had several seasons. God was speaking, ministering, and emphasizing different things to Paul in each of these different seasons.

1. **<u>His pre-Christ life</u>** (approximate age: 0-30)—Including his training as a Pharisee and his promotion of the Church's persecution.
2. **<u>His days of revelation in Arabia</u>** (30-33) (**Babe-Little Child**)—From his Damascus Road experience until he returned to Damascus from Arabia. Paul spent three years receiving the revelation of the Gospel from Jesus Christ (**Galatians 1:11-12, 16-18**).
3. **<u>His days as a servant to the Churches</u>** (33-42) (**Little Child-Young Man**)—Paul served in Antioch, Tarsus, and Jerusalem. Approximately nine years. This was his season of training in the ministry of helps. He also taught and evangelized when he wasn't running errands for the Church fathers.
4. **<u>His days as a missionary and fledgling Apostle</u>** (42-50) (**Young Man**)—This time season included his two first missionary journeys and a trip to Jerusalem. This season lasted from about 44 A.D. until he begins writing his God-breathed epistles (54 A.D.).
5. **<u>His days as an epistle writer and Apostle</u>** (50-64) (**Father**)—It is in his epistles that he begins to really move the church doctrinally, move ministers geographically, and move Asia Minor and the world spiritually. This season began in about 54 A.D. and lasted until the time of his martyrdom in 68 A.D. This includes his last missionary journey and his prison time in Rome. His total fulltime ministry would have lasted about 22 to 25 years.

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PAUL IN EPHESUS

- **And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner <u>I have been with you at all seasons (*space of time*)</u>, Acts 20:18**

In this passage, Paul was addressing all the elders from Ephesus and he began talking about being with them at all seasons. Not weather seasons, but a space of time. His time in Ephesus would be considered a season. It differed from his seasons at Thessalonica, Rome, Antioch, etc.

These different seasons at Ephesus are listed in **Acts 20:19-22** and include: seasons of tears, seasons of temptations, ministering to the saints, ministering to the Greeks, ministering to the Jews, ministering publicly, ministering house to house, "**and now, behold I go unto Jerusalem . . .**" This was to be another season in his life.

All of our lives have seasons and seasonal changes. As we mature in Christ, we season. As we grow and season, God begins to deal with us differently as He is able to trust us. God's trust is a sacred thing. May we desire it, earn it, and grow through the seasons of our life.

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STAYING CURRENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lesson 4
Are You A Well-Rounded Christian?

In these last days, it is now more critical than ever that we stay current with our God and Savior. Over the past 20 years many Christians have walked with God . . . and some still do. You must make sure that you stay right in step with God in everything He is doing in the earth. This curriculum has been designed to help you understand spiritual seasons and how you can keep your faith ever growing and as dynamic as God's Holy Spirit.

THE WELL-ROUNDED CHRISTIAN
One of the first keys that we must understand is that the Spirit of God never changes, but what He is emphasizing is always changing. If you walk with God and live a Spirit-filled life, He will always be shaping and molding you. He will emphasize different things in your life at different seasons. We can think of ourselves as rough stones that the LORD would like to polish into smooth spheres. A sphere must be polished on all its sides, not just one or two. Staying current with God will allow Him to work on all your sides. The Bible exhorts us to be well-rounded. Do not be a one flavor Christian.

- **That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; . . . 7So that ye come behind in no gift (*grace endowment*); waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:5, 7**

- **Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and in all knowledge, and diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also [financial giving]. 2 Corinthians 8:7**

- **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 2 Corinthians 9:8**

These verses exhort us to be well-rounded in our Christian walk. We are to not just emphasize one or two things in our life, but all things that pertain unto life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**). According to the aforementioned verses, some of the areas we should be abounding in include:

- **All utterance**—how you speak and communicate in a godly way
- **All knowledge—**your knowledge of God and His Word
- **Faith**—faith in God and His Word
- **All diligence**—a consistently pure Christian walk, no quitting
- **Financial giving**—tithes and offerings
- **Every good work**—evangelism, helps ministry, bearing one another's burdens

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KEYS TO BEING WELL-ROUNDED

Study The Bible

The Bible has much to say about many topics; it does not just emphasize one doctrine, one topic, or one facet of God. Any Christian that settles on only one biblical subject in his or her studies will become unbalanced in their Christian walk.

- **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4**

- **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 2 Peter 1:19**

Here we see "**great and precious promises**," plural. Not one promise, but many promises. It takes many promises to make us partakers of the divine nature. Any Christian that focuses only on one or two of the biblical promises will not be partaking of much of the divine nature. The more promises you study out and stand on by faith, the more you will partake of the divine nature.

Seek Correction

This can be done in prayer or by submitting to both natural and spiritual leadership.

- **And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth . . . 8But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Hebrews 12:5-6, 8**

Correction keeps you current. Nearly every Christian wants to hear from God. It has been my experience that the quickest way to do this is to ask the LORD to show you where you are wrong. Pray for correction. This kind of prayer is also called "self-judgment." This is the quickest way to hear from Heaven, a great way to stay current with the Holy Spirit, and a great way to get further rounded as a Christian. Furthermore, God expects us to judge and examine ourselves.

- **But let a man examine (*test, prove, scrutinize*) himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup . . . 31For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:28, 31**

Do not despise the chastisement of the LORD; rather, embrace it. Seek it. Crave it. It is for your good. It will keep you current with God. If God is able to correct you on a regular basis, He will correct you right back into His will and keep you in the move of His Spirit.

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Go To Church
You must remember that God moves in an orderly fashion and through His chain of command. His preachers are His top commanders. The local church is the main place His commanders preach and minister.

- **Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7**

God always speaks to His leaders first and then, if God's people will hearken unto their leaders, they will be blessed and protected.

- God spoke to Noah about a flood. Noah's family listened and was saved.
- God spoke to Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction. Abraham interceded and spared the obedient portion of Lot's family.
- God spoke to Moses about delivering Israel from Pharaoh. Israel listened and obeyed, resulting in their deliverance.
- God spoke to Jonah about Nineveh's impending judgment. Nineveh listened to Jonah and was spared.
- God spoke to Paul about the dangers of the ship he was on. The captain, the sailors, and the soldiers listened to him and they were saved.

Now, in the Church Age, God will speak to His servants, the preaching ministers. The minister is given to keep the Body of Christ current with God.

- **And they continued stedfastly in the <u>apostles' doctrine</u> and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42**

The early church fellowshipped around the local church and, in doing so, they were able to stay current with the new doctrine that was being established by the foundational Apostles. Those outside this fellowship would have had a different kind of doctrine or an out-of-date doctrine at best. Those outside the church would have not been current with what Jesus Christ was doing.

- **And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit <u>that there should be great dearth throughout all the world</u>: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Acts 11:27-28**

This would have been the wrong church service to skip. The minister spoke by the Spirit of God to get the church ready for a coming famine. This prophecy kept the church current with God. Those that missed that service may have not been prepared when the dearth hit. Church kept those early saints current, and it will keep you current today.

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So how do we stay current with the Holy Spirit? In short, pray, read your Bible, and go to church. Simple enough.

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