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bigIdea small group discussion



A lot of people stall out or quit their faith journey because they get discouraged. Some just grow disillusioned because as hard as they try to get close to God, they still don't feel connected. Isn't it true that the more you grow in your faith, the more you'll feel God's presence? But what if your spiritual connection isn't always reflected in your emotional condition?

BIG IDEA: You can't equate your emotional condition with your spiritual connection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you have made a decision to follow Jesus, think back to your assumptions about Christianity at the time you decided to follow Christ. Did you think that becoming a Christian would result in your life getting easier? Why or why not?
2. In what ways do we live in an 'emotional age?' How would you say your emotions impact your decisions?
3. Look at Paul's story as relayed in 2 Timothy 4:9-18. Imagine being him. How would you feel? What would your emotional condition be?
4. In the message, Chris said that we should never confuse our emotional condition with our spiritual connection. Has this ever happened to you? How did it impact your faith?
5. Paul still seems confident in his spiritual connection. Read verses 16-18 again. How do you think Paul maintained his confidence in Christ when everything seemed to be going against him? What parts of your emotional condition right now might make you feel like you are spiritually disconnected? In what ways does this passage help you see things differently?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, take the time to write out two or three bible verses that show the promises of God (Stuck? Go to some favorites like Psalm 23, or John 14. Or look at some lesser known passages like Deuteronomy 31:6, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, or Hebrews 13:5-6). Put them in a place where you will be reminded that God is faithful to you and to His word no matter how you might be feeling in any given moment. Put your confidence in Him, not in your emotions.



CHANGING YOUR MIND

"But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear" 2 Timothy 4:17

