

*Gospel*  
**INFLUENCE 2.0**  
ASKING INTENTIONAL QUESTIONS





Did you know technology was used in the first century church? It was called pen and paper or papyrus.

Paul had a messages that he wanted to get out to all the local churches, and he used technology to get the message out.

Today we're still using technology to get the same message out.

The video screen is the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of the 1<sup>st</sup> century letter or scroll...

Some of you may be new to our church family, and you've never really heard of Gospel Influence.

Others of you were here last fall but may have forgotten all about Gospel Influence.

So please allow me to give you a brief overview...

## WHY Gospel INfluence?

- We ALL have a story.
- Every one of them is broken.
- We are in desperate need of a better story.
- God's story is the BEST story.



## WHAT is Gospel INfluence?

- Connecting the everyday brokenness of our stories and others' stories to the Good News (Gospel) of God's story.

*God's Story*

OUR STORY



CREATION

*Identity*



FALL

*Problem*



REDEMPTION

*Solution*



RESTORATION

*Hope*

*God's Story*

OUR STORY

?

Be sure to review God's story and our story in the Guidebooks, pages 4-5.

## WHO is Gospel INfluence for?

- Those far from Jesus (evangelism)
- Those following Jesus (discipleship)



We never leave behind Jesus and His good news for our life after we have believed, confessed, and surrendered ourselves to Him.

Rather we return often to the cross in brokenness, repentance and surrender, seeking to grow and mature into the very likeness of Christ.

## HOW do we Gospel INfluence?

- Prayerful INTentionality
- Redemptive Curiosity
- Loving Compassion
- Grounded in God's Story
- Keep in step with Holy Spirit







Now that we've covered The Who, what, why, and How of Gospel Influence, May I have your attention please?

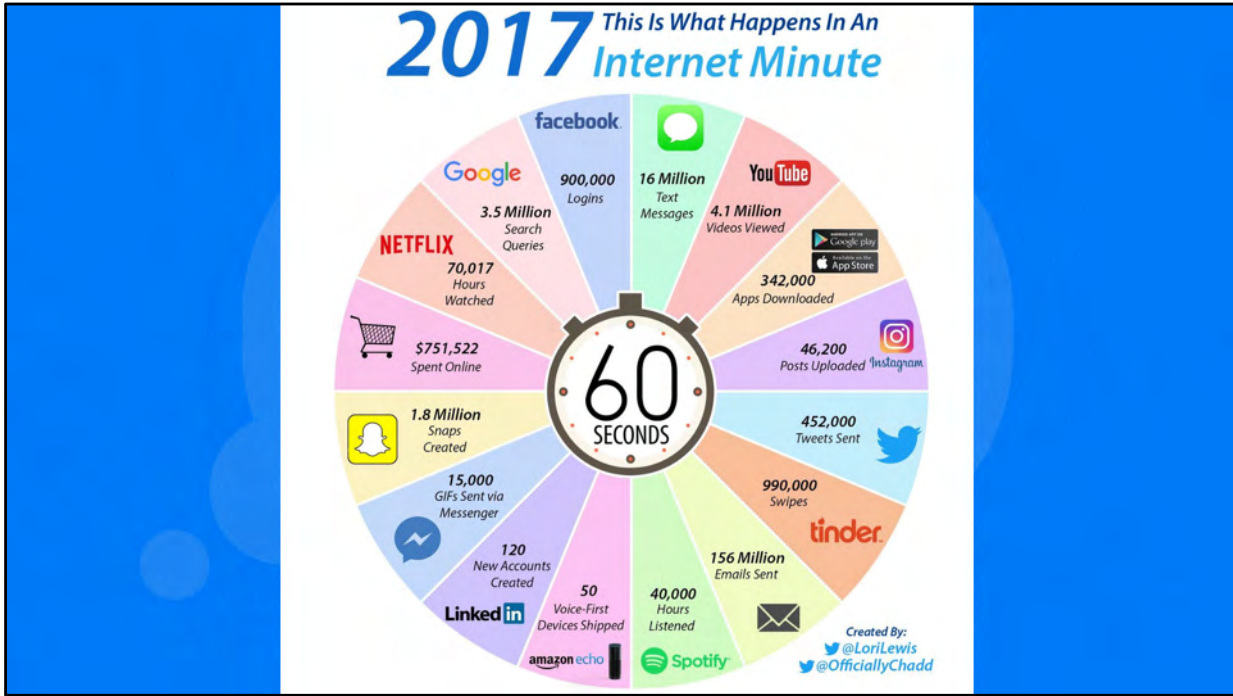
Did you know that Attention, your attention, is the most sought after commodity in the world, which is competitively bought, sold, and traded by the largest tech companies in the world?

It's foundation-ally more valuable to marketers and brands than your time, money, relationship, experience, skill, or any other resource.

Hijacking and keeping your attention for the longest duration possible is the name of the game, and at every turn companies employ an armada of techniques to do this, because it means big money for every second you give them of your attention.

If we are using a technology service for free, we need to realize that we are very likely the product being sold.

So, what are you giving your attention to most these days?



I found this graphic recently, which tells of what happened in an average internet minute last year.

...and I'm not sure whether this is just in the United States or beyond.

Attention is focused mental engagement on a particular item or person, but it often can engage our hearts as well.

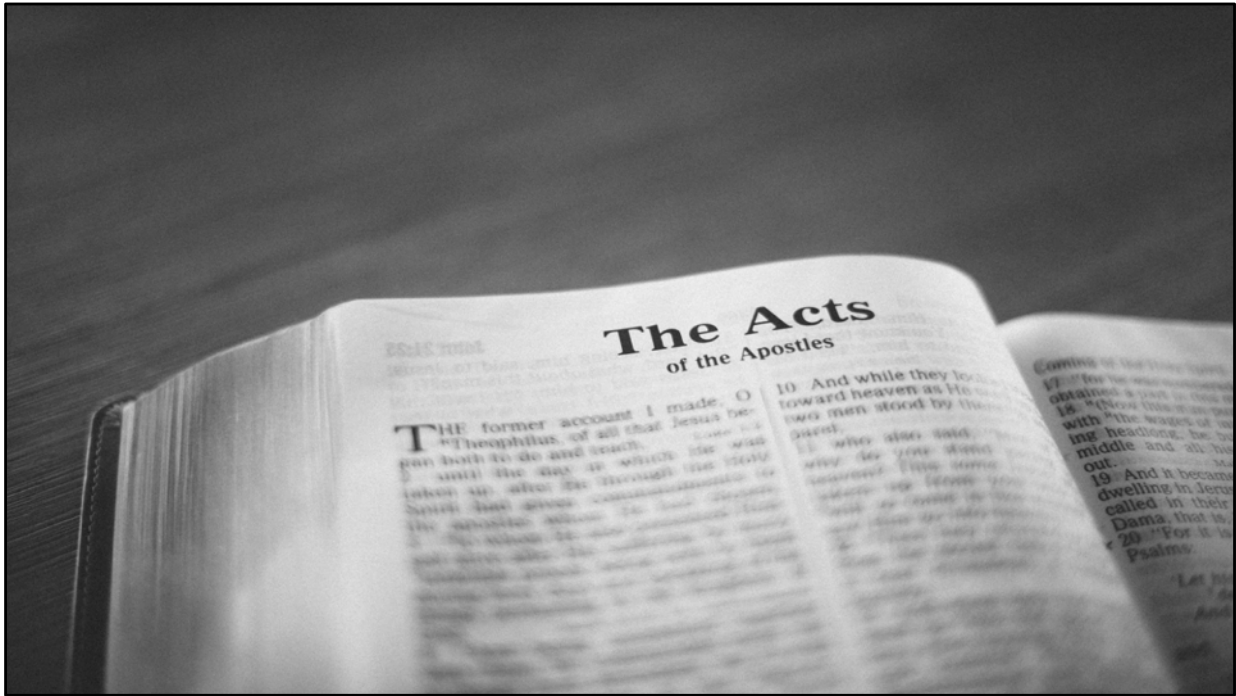
Our stories are very much shaped by what we're giving our attention to and how we understand it. Whether it's fake news on Facebook or a powerful video on YouTube that pulls our heartstrings or a talk personality that persuades us with "the facts" or a story we're following on Instagram or a streak you're keeping on Snapchat with friends.

It all shapes your stories, your identity, what you believe is wrong with the world, what you think the solutions are, and what you ultimately hope things will look like for your future.

What are you paying attention to and how do you understand it?



This is basically Philip's question to an Ethiopian Eunuch over 2,000 years ago on a desert road to Gaza.



Turn with me in your Bibles to Acts, chapter 8, starting in verse 26.



### **Acts 8:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

### **Acts 8:30-33**

<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

## The **HOLY SPIRIT** is the **ULTIMATE...**

- **GUIDE**—Will you Notice, Go, Ask, and Listen?





**Acts 8:34-35**

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

## The **HOLY SPIRIT** is the **ULTIMATE...**

- **GUIDE**—Will you Notice, Go, Ask, and Listen?
- **DOOR-OPENER**—Will you Walk through and Open your Mouth?

### **Acts 8:36-40**

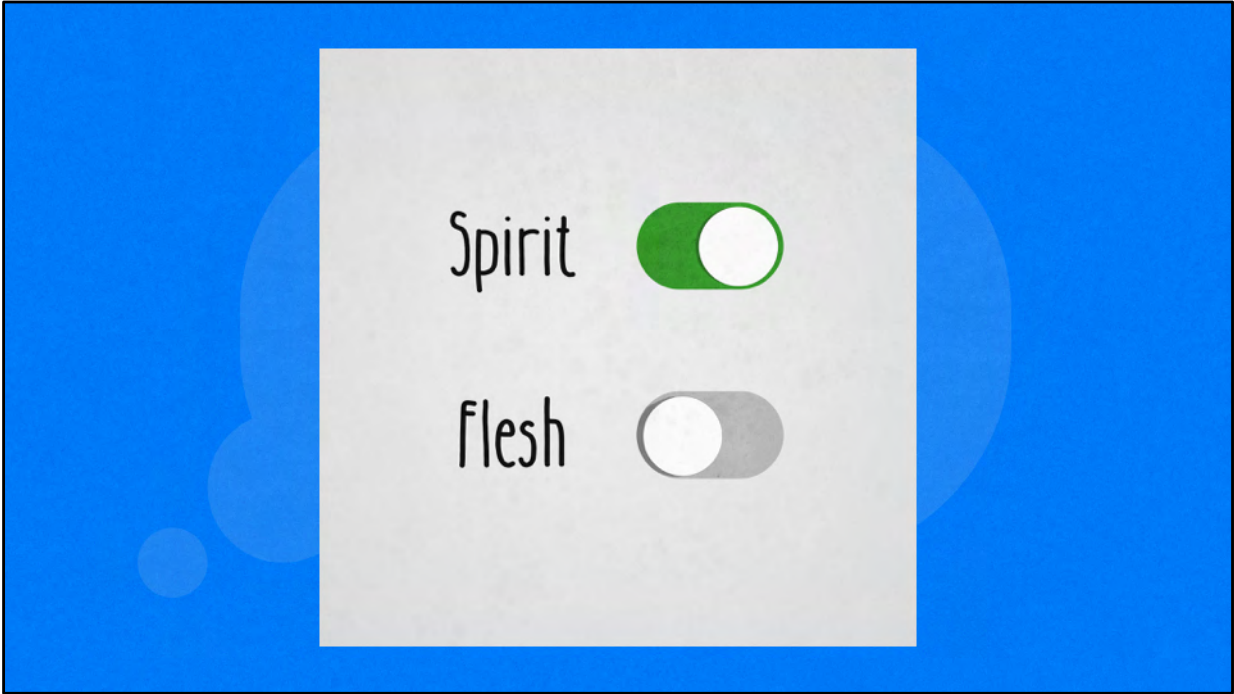
36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## The **HOLY SPIRIT** is the **ULTIMATE...**

- **GUIDE**—Will you Notice, Go, Ask, and Listen?
- **DOOR-OPENER**—Will you Walk through and Open your Mouth?
- **AGENT of INFLUENCE**—Will you leave it in God's hands, knowing its their choice and His Sovereign Change?







With **PRAYERFUL INTENTIONALITY**-

**LOOK** where they're looking.

**SEE** what they're seeing.

**UNDERSTAND** what they're understanding.

And then **POINT** to **JESUS!**

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