



Experiencing God





7 Realities of Experiencing God

1. God is always at work.
2. God pursues a love relationship with me.
3. God invites me into His work.
4. God reveals Himself, His purpose, and His ways to me.
5. God's invitation will lead me to a crisis of belief.
6. I must make major adjustments to join God.
7. I will come to know God by experience as I obey him.



“If you have trouble hearing God speak, you are in trouble at the heart of your Christian experience”
Experiencing God, p.42

Today's Big Idea...

God has given us His Holy Spirit in order to experience God's direction in our daily life as we follow Jesus. Without it, we are completely lost.

John 14:25-26 - the Promise of the Spirit

Jesus is leaving, but he's promising more help

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 14:25-26 - the Promise of the Spirit

The Spirit of Truth (John 15:26)

Our Need for the Holy Spirit

“these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God...

Our Need for the Holy Spirit

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**"

- 1 Cor 2:10-14

The Role of the Holy Spirit - Reveal the Son!

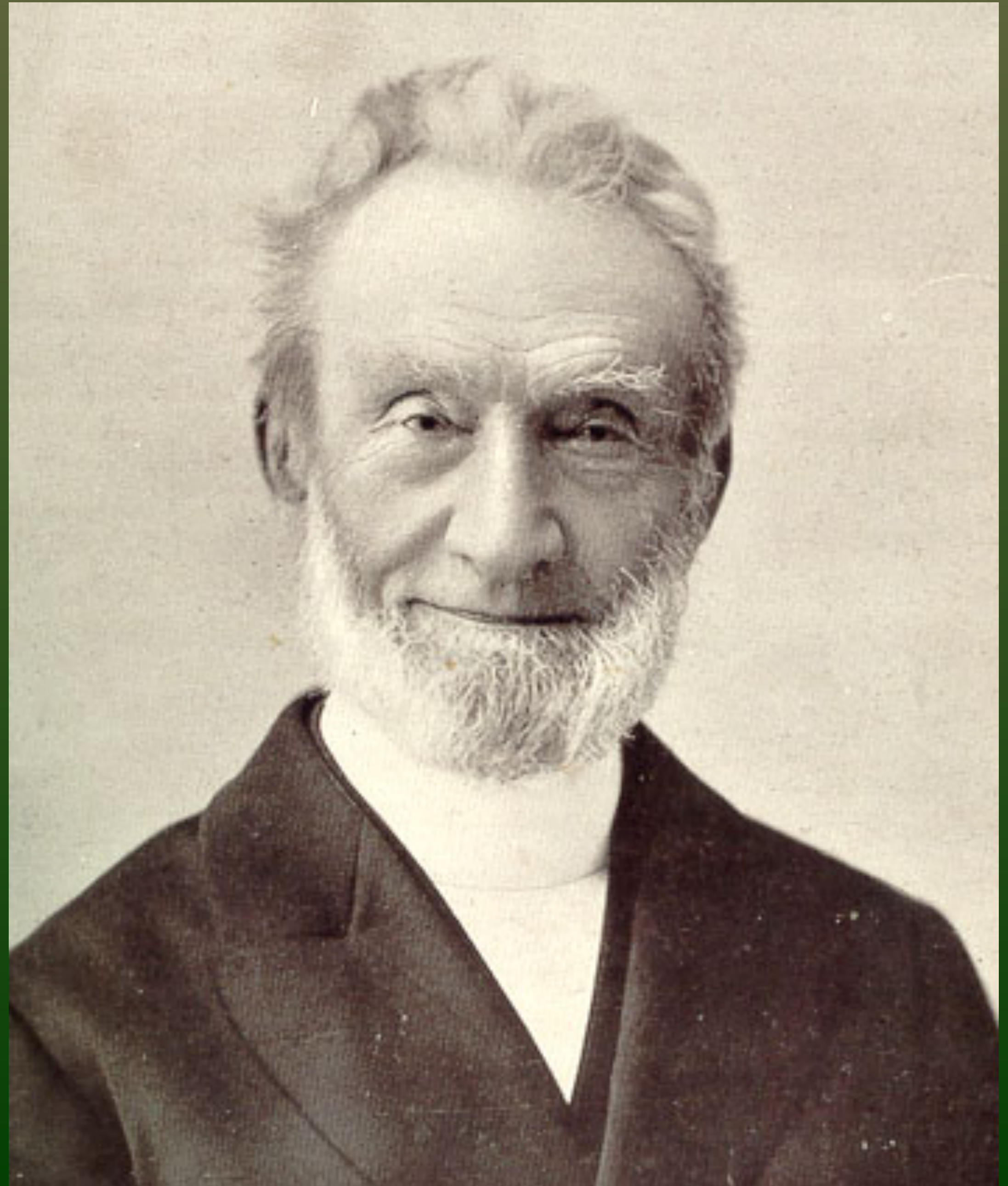
“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- John 16:12-15

“Freebie” Discipleship Cue....

As you cultivate and tune yourself in to the Holy Spirit and spiritual nature of God's truth, you will find that transmission become easier and more clearly

George Muller's Cues on Discerning God's Will...



How to Discern God's Will in a Situation...

1. Get your heart into a state where it has no will of its own
2. Commit to making the decision not based on feelings or a simple impression.
3. Seek the will of the Spirit through or in connection with the word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined.

How to Discern God's Will in a Situation...

4. Take into account providential circumstances (this is an early version of "where is God working around me?")
5. Ask God what to do in prayer. Specifically.
6. Taking prayer, the study of the Word, and reflection, come to a deliberate judgment to the best of your ability and knowledge. If your mind is in peace and continues to after two or three petitions, proceed accordingly.

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“Illumination”

The work of the Spirit in imparting this knowledge is called “illumination,” or enlightening. It is not a giving of new revelation, but a work within us that enables us to grasp and to love the revelation that is there before us in the biblical text as heard and read, and as explained by teachers and writers. Sin in our mental and moral system clouds our minds and wills so that we miss and resist the force of Scripture. God seems to us remote to the point of unreality, and in the face of God’s truth we are dull and apathetic. The Spirit, however, opens and unveils our minds and attunes our hearts so that we understand (Eph. 1:17-18; 3:18-19; 2 Cor. 3:14-16; 4:6). As by inspiration he provided Scripture truth for us, so now by illumination he interprets it to us. Illumination is thus the applying of God’s revealed truth to our hearts, so that we grasp as reality for ourselves what the sacred text sets forth. *(J.I. Packer)*



Discipleship Cues

1. If you aren't hearing his Word - have you made sure you have His Spirit? Make that decision today!
2. Do you practice the combination of the Word and Spirit, or has the process degenerated into self seeking or feelings based impressions? How do you practice that?
3. Which step in discerning God's will or direction do you need to address? What is one change you can make today to more clearly hear his voice?



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