

Personal story leading into LA

Luke's own heart check

*What is one thing you're bringing into this week that is attacking your heart and mind?
How could this prevent Christ from moving through you?*

It was in this moment God gently reminded me of one of my greatest privileges in life:

I GET to help provide opportunities for students to see the Spirit at work in and through them.

Life Hack: When we give God space to speak and move, He does. Our spiritual life is fueled by our personal moments with Him.

Check out Carter's story from our trip. [\(VIDEO\)](#)

Last summer, at a camp, Carter was called by God to go into the ministry. The enemy loves to come in and confuse and distort God's call... But on the trip God reminded Carter of the call on his life to pastor the next generation. Now he is walking with clarity and purpose.

When we give God the opportunity to speak, He speaks.

Check out Maddy's testimony from the trip. [\(VIDEO\)](#)

A student gives God a week of her life, raises money to go serve, is expecting God to simply just show her that He is real, and He does that and way more. Now, her entire future is changed simply because she gave God the opportunity to speak!!

Let me share one more. This is a written testimony from one of our students sharing about our time in Skid Row. We broke into groups of 3-4 and walked down the streets, she writes:

In my group we met a man named Thomas. We gave him the food we had to offer and then began talking. He shared with us he never intended to be in this situation for this long. He said he'd been living there for about a year. That it wasn't the place for him and he didn't belong there. That it was very unsafe. He told us his hopes for the future like becoming a realtor and breeding dogs. After he shared a little more of his story we asked if we could pray over him. He began to cry as well as all of us. Although we never got to see his ending I have trust in the Lord that he has better plans for Thomas.

At the end of our time in Skid Row, One of the leaders said something that stood out to me “The hopelessness people experience on skid row is the same hopelessness people in Beverly Hills experience; they just mask it better because of what they have. Who are we to judge people's faith because of their situation? Honestly some people living in these conditions might have better faith than you because Jesus is their only hope. He's all they have. They have to rely on him for their safety, their next meal, their future, everything. People here need Jesus just as much as people in Hollywood.”

Everyone needs God no matter what their outside life looks like. Everyone's fighting a battle whether it's internal or not and the only answer is God. He showed me on this trip that he works even when you don't see him. That if you seek him with all your heart you will find him and even in hopeless situations he can give hope.

Moments with God change everything.

Let's look to Scripture for some examples of this. First off, Psalms speaks of the importance of simply listening to God: (Psalms 81)

11 “But no, my people wouldn't listen.

Israel did not want me around.

12 So I let them follow their own stubborn desires,
living according to their own ideas.

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me!

Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!

14 How quickly I would then subdue their enemies!

How soon my hands would be upon their foes!

To begin his ministry, Jesus listened to the Spirit and spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting. (Luke 4)

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Spiritual fasting is to deny your body its physical needs in order to move the focus away from your body and toward your dependence on Jesus.

We know Jesus was tempted in the desert, yet he was able to overcome all the enemies temptations.. Why? Because he was zoned in on God - Jesus gave the Father 40 days of uninterrupted attention.. Time and moments with God fueled Jesus, so how much more do we need it?

Breakthrough moments vs. Daily moments.

Breakthrough moments - I like to think of these as a big step of faith, a large amount of time, a significant financial commitment. Breakthrough moments are indescribable moments with the Holy Spirit where heaven touches earth and our relationship with God is accelerated.

Breakthrough moments are truly amazing, but they don't sustain us. Our **Daily encounters** with the Holy Spirit is what will sustain us.

Daily moments are our daily personal times with God - through prayer, worship, the reading of His Word, and other methods that can build our faith daily.

In both our breakthrough and daily moments with God, I have found the following to be very helpful:

1. Come expectant for God to move.
2. Release your own agenda.
3. Be okay with the quiet.
 - a. Listen; trust that His voice will speak in the right time

So, I'm asking you today - I'm encouraging you - be intentional about having moments with God. Don't let too much time pass between your moments with Him - but be diligent to give Him opportunities to speak to you.