



## Rhythms of Grace

### Live it Out 2

#### 1) Yield to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Spend an extended time in prayer this week, specifically asking for the Spirit to begin working in your life in a new and powerful way. Remember, you are seeking God. Make no demands; have great expectations. Your only task is to surrender yourself to God, to open the door so the Spirit can come in and begin changing the way you think and live. This may lead to a time of confession.

#### 2) Discover your Spiritual gifts

Spend time reading and praying through the Spiritual gifts again (1 Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-13). Explore these gifts through prayer, asking God to guide you to a gift (or perhaps more than one) that may be neglected and needs to be stirred up in your life or the life of your church fellowship (1 Timothy 4:14). Eagerly desire this gift in prayer.

#### 3) Read the Scriptures with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit opens our minds when we read the Bible, making us receptive to its message. More specifically, the Spirit helps us understand what the text is saying to us personally and applies its message to our particular situation. Select a passage from the Bible to reflect on. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to highlight

a specific verse or word that is specifically meant for you to hear. When you have discovered what God wants you to hear, spend 10 to 15 mins reflecting on why it has impressed you and what lesson you need to learn from it.

#### 4) Listen for the Spirit's promptings throughout the day.

As you go about your daily business constantly pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you and prompt you. If you feel God leading you to talk to particular people or say or do particular things, then follow the Spirit's lead and see what happens. The pastor of the largest church in the world, Paul Yonggi Cho, before he gets out of bed each morning, prays 'Good morning Holy Spirit. What shall we do together today?' Why don't you follow his example and pray that each morning this week?

#### 5) Listen to the Advocate when making decisions.

One of the most important and basic ministries of the Holy Spirit is to provide guidance (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:25). Do you need to make an important decision? Seek the Spirit - your Advocate - to help you. Take your concern to God in prayer. Ask God to give you direction, insight, leading. It may be an intuitive sense; it may be a friend's advice that you sense comes from God; or it may be a door of opportunity opening or closing. In all decisions, test the Spirit by examining the Scriptures. The Spirit of God will never lead you into a decision that is contrary to the principles and commandments found in the Bible.