

Blackaby and King
Experiencing God –Guidance
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Sometimes we're so concerned about the personal nature of God's will that we forget about the corporate nature of God's will.

Blackaby: We do not find God's will, it is revealed to us.

We watch to see where God is at work.

We tend to seek God's blessing on human plans rather than what God is planning for us.

Short quip: Watch and pray; then obey.

Page 7...the whole issue of experience vs. doctrine

According to Blackaby: we should not contrast experience with doctrine, but with theory.

Doctrine should be a guide for experience, setting the parameters.

We need to believe as SDA that doctrine is not just cognitive, but it is a guide to life and experience.

Experience should not be contrasted with doctrine, but with theory.

Doctrine without the experience and life, it becomes theory. (introduction and chapter 1)

Real theology and the experience go together.

If you don't have the experience, you only have head theology

Page 50...we have the 7 realities to experiencing God.

- God is always at work around you
- God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal
- God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
- God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
- God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith action.
- You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
- You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

Page 73: Normally, a person will not know your spiritual giftedness without an assignment.

Rather than seeking the spiritual gifts, you first seek God's assignment and then you are employed.

God enables who He calls.

Usually, we say you have these gifts, look for your gifts and do the spiritual inventory.

Jon: the test may be helpful even if you already know the assignment.

If somebody doesn't know exactly what they're suppose to do, don't just sit and wait.

Student missionaries go on assignment sometime and come back a changed person.

All of this is driving us back to the spiritual foundation of spiritual disciplines.

Knowing God's will requires adjustments.

Jon: very often we do not take the time to lead people to certain core issues.

Spiritual formation is too often just one Bible study on salvation by grace and that's it.

If it is the absolute core issue in the church we need to have at least a series of studies before moving on.

Jon: He did 10 sermons on the grace of God as pastor there in Singapore. Felt after 7th or 8th week he sounded like a broken record.

Student finally came and admitted he had just caught it.

Student from Bangkok doing civil engineering at Walla Walla, sat with Jon for Bible study because girlfriend indicated he must believe the gospel and become SDA before their marriage.

My girlfriend told me all about what to eat, gone to worships, etc. but about the 8th or 9th week said, Terry, do you understand God's grace?

For most people it doesn't happen, this paradigm shift to core values, you cannot give two sermons on spiritual formation and expect the average person to get it.

It needs a least a 6-8 weeks' series.

When went back to Thailand in 1990, and discovered that these people are Adventist Buddhists.

Let's take a SS class and trade off teaching the same thing for one quarter.
It took two quarters and some folks were starting to come to an understanding.

How in the world will we ever get something for free?
Buddhists, for free, that violates everything.

Spirit of God touches the heart with the power of the gospel.

Good old Adoniram Judson kept preaching the gospel to the Burmese. A servant finally got it.

It's not a one-shot deal with what Blackaby's talking about.

Took me a year and half to get past the struggle of being a closet deist.

Paul stated that he determined to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Modeling grace yourself is so important and the testimony to other people will help this spiritual transformation to catch on.

Live it, talk it, breath it, and ooze it. When they cut you, you will bleed it.

Sometimes education is a barrier to this process of grace.

Take what we have talked about and do assessment number 6.

Take the 4 components of spiritual life factor do assessment number 6.

Responses to Assessment #6 Spiritual Components for Spiritual Formation

Jon: theology is autobiography

Jon: I have a real burden about "relationship with Christ." I bet a lot of people hear that term and have no idea what that relationship is.

Jon: I've been trying to break down "relationship with Christ" and flesh it out. Try to give an example and better understand what it means. We need to give an in-depth understanding of what that is all about.

This part concludes the person of the pastor.

Next week we'll talk more about theology and ministry.

You will find that the same underlying ideas however.

