

Chapter 2: What Are You Afraid Of?

Forgotten God, Session 2

“I know that by writing a book about the Holy Spirit, I will be labeled. The irony is that I don’t even know how to label myself. I was saved in a Baptist church, attended a charismatic Bible study, went to a conservative seminary while working at seeker-driven churches, partnered with Pentecostal movements, and have spoken at a wide variety of denominational conferences. I’m not even sure how to label my current church. All I know is that we definitely believe in the Holy Spirit and hope to experience more of Him every minute” (57).

Exegesis vs. Eisegesis

eis—

ex—

Have you seen any examples of “eisegesis” (“to import a subjective, preconceived meaning into the text”)? If so, give one example.

Forgotten God: Week 2 Video (notes)

Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me

Can we understand why someone wouldn’t want to know the truth if it is too much to handle?

What excuse is preserved by not knowing God’s will or awareness of one’s own spiritual gifts?

“The truth is that the Spirit of the living God is guaranteed to ask you to go somewhere or do something you wouldn’t normally want or choose to do. The Spirit will lead you to the way of the cross, and that is definitely not a safe or pretty or comfortable place to be. The Holy Spirit of God will mold you into the person you were made to be. This often incredibly painful process strips you of selfishness, pride, and fear” (50).

Wonderfully Different

Our goal for our faithful living is that to be both _____ and _____.

“There is a sense in which this kingdom of God is still future (Zech 14:9; Acts 1:6-7), there is also a sense in which it is here now (Matthew 6:10; 12:28). As citizens of this kingdom, we are called to live in a way that reflects the reality of the kingdom of God” (54). So what exactly is the kingdom?

Don't Quench the Spirit

The verb (sbennumi) “to quench” means to “extinguish” or “put out” a fire. What else is quenched (or not) in Scripture?

Mt 12:20

Mt 25:8

Mark 9:48

Eph 6:16

Heb 11:34

“Another valid test for prophecy is the standard of _____” (56)

“Some conservatives may quench the Spirit by ignoring His working, but surely putting unbiblical words into the mouth of God is a form of quenching the Spirit as well. We need the Spirit in order to live faithfully. But we also need one another as we work out our faith” (56).

Discussion Questions:

What if God does show up and then asks you to go somewhere or do something that's really uncomfortable? Does He ask us to do uncomfortable things? Do you obey or not?

Read Luke 18:18-30. Who do you identify with in this situation – the rich, young ruler or the disciples, or maybe, the crowd? Why?

Would you be willing to follow the Lord, no matter how risky it would be, or is there a level at which you would cut off your willingness to risk it?