

The last 3 weeks, we've talked about how we have been troubled
We feel it in our bodies—whether sick or things just feel off
We recognized that while it presents as political, it is actually spiritual
And that evil has been given a new permission to make chaos in our world
While we know that Light overcomes the darkness—we recognize that we need “flashlights”
Tools that help us navigate in the darkness

- Tell the truth
- We are enough
- Fear Not!
- Wear the protection of God
- Say a Holy No! to that which is unholy
- Pray the fullness and power of the Spirit into the situation

Some tools are fairly simple and easily overlooked as significant—yet they are so important

Pay attention to the God movement

Notice where God is present and active in our world

Name it and call attention to it

The darker it gets—the more important this is to do

Truth is that when the darkness closes in, my nature is to put my head down and plod on

The darker it gets, the less likely I am to see and be aware of the God movement

Noticing is like lighting a match—it gives off a little light

But I need to keep noticing because the light of a match or candle doesn't last long

It can be a daily discipline—a noticing at the end of the day—where did I notice God?

At the beginning of the day—ask God to show you what God wants you to notice

Make yourself available to pay attention

But be specific that it is those things that God would have you see

Follow the nudges—we talk about this a lot and it seems ho-hum

But this is really significant and particularly important in the darkness

When you can't see, you have to rely on something or some One else

The little things can make a huge difference

5 degrees—in 5 ft, one is off by 5 inches, but in 100 ft, we are off by 9 ft

The important thing is to follow the Leadings—even the little nudges

Practice goodness—we get out of practice at doing good all the time

No wonder when hard times come, our first thoughts often turn to complaining

Let goodness be your habit

The fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, etc.

Again, this doesn't seem like that big of a deal

But think about forgiving people—if that is your first motion about little things

When something big happens, you are already well practiced at forgiving

But more than all of that—goodness overcomes evil—every time we do good, we ding evil

A bazillion acts of goodness will make a significant dent in evil

Like rain—a bazillion drops of water makes this earth grow

But this goodness must be gathered in order to make a force of goodness

As we join together to practice goodness, it isn't just isolated and lost—it builds up

The work of the church is to be gathered together to meet the challenge of the assault of evil on our world

What we have been sensing and noticing is a spiritual assault of evil

Therefore, the church must meet this assault

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

...an infinite ocean of light and love... flowed over the ocean of darkness. George Fox

This is work we must do together for it to have a greater impact

Too often we have let the world “speak” for us

We carry labels given to us—judgmental, irrelevant, homophobic, hate

We are criticized as white evangelicals that swung the vote

We have an inner push back that says it isn't true—not for North Seattle Friends

But a part of being gathered to meet this assault of evil is to find our voice

What is our message to the world?

How are we gathered together to meet the challenge of the assault?

Where are we called to say our Holy No!?

This is where it can get tricky—because we are often tempted to get on the political band wagon

And make political statements

Personally, we may be called to do that—and that's a good thing

We support the work of FCNL who is doing good work to bring about political change

We take voting seriously

If Led to run for office, we do that and support each other in doing so

But the work of the church is spiritual

The spiritual work of the church is to meet the challenge of the assault of evil on our world

It is important that we speak to issues around who God/Jesus is

The church is being branded with a God/Jesus that I don't know

We must re-brand ourselves with the God/Jesus that we know and love...

God is love—1 John 4:16

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart

And the second is to love your neighbor as yourself—Matthew 22:36-40

He defined a neighbor as the Good Samaritan

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

We must find our voice to declare the truth of the God/Jesus we know

Torture is not Christian

National supremacy is not Jesus

Racism is not the spirit of Christ

This is work we can't do alone—we must gather together and Listen for Leadings

We need to season the Leadings and find our words

We need to speak boldly the truths that we are given