

Field Guide and Leader Guide 5.17.26

Better Than Okay

Synopsis

Jesus never described His mission as helping people barely survive. He spoke of abundant life - not just existing, not just coping, not just dragging ourselves through another week hoping things eventually improve. Somewhere along the way, many people settled into a smaller vision of life, convincing themselves that “okay” was enough. But Scripture keeps confronting that lie with something far deeper: renewal, freedom, transformation, resurrection life.

Pastor Donovan reminds us that abundant life is not produced by stronger willpower or better self-help techniques. It comes through surrender to the life and power of Christ within us. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in believers, yet many still live spiritually stranded - running on fumes instead of learning to raise the sails and move with the wind of the Holy Spirit.

Questions

1. **Where in your life have you quietly settled for “just okay” instead of believing God still brings transformation and abundance?**
 - What disappointment, fear, or exhaustion may have caused you to lower your expectations spiritually?
 - How would your mindset or prayers change if you truly believed God still wanted abundant life for you?
2. **Why do you think people often rely more on willpower than dependence on the Holy Spirit?**
 - In what ways can self-reliance look productive outwardly while still leaving us spiritually empty?
 - What’s the difference between discipline that flows from dependence on God and discipline driven only by human effort?
3. **What spiritual practices help you “hoist the sails” and become more aware of God’s power working within you?**
 - Which spiritual practices tend to refresh and reconnect your heart with God the most?
 - What practical step could you take this week to create more space for the Holy Spirit to work in your life?

Scripture References

John 10:10-11 | Romans 8:11 | Ephesians 1:15-21 | Ephesians 3:20-21

Conclusion

Most people know what it feels like to run on empty. We push harder, try harder, promise ourselves we'll do better next time - but eventually the motor sputters. Human strength has limits. Even at our best, we eventually discover we cannot manufacture resurrection life out of our own effort. That realization can feel discouraging... until we remember the Gospel was never about self-generated strength in the first place.

Jesus offers something radically different. The Shepherd laid down His life so His people could actually live. Not pretend to live. Not survive. Live abundantly. The Spirit of God is not distant or inactive; He is present, moving, filling, strengthening, awakening. The invitation is not to strive endlessly harder, but to lift the sails again - through prayer, worship, Sabbath, Scripture, contemplation, and community - and allow the wind of God to carry us into the deeper life Christ already purchased for us.