



#7 Reliance upon God

Consider...

You're probably aware by now that we expect rather a lot from our Gospel Communities. The vision is that they'll be places where people are to openly share their lives with all kinds of people they might not normally associate with. In addition they're places where people are to remain Gospel focussed and engage in mission together. Having discovered all this, you could be forgiven for feeling a little overwhelmed.

Perhaps you're starting to wonder, how is all of this humanly possible?

Well the reality is that it's not...but that's ok. The reason it's ok is because we have *God*, the creator of the universe, at work among us in all kinds of ways and he is more than capable of transforming our GCs into the type of communities he wants them to be!

Read...

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How does this passage describe the Bible? What is the Bible able to do for us?

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 and Galatians 5:22-26. Who is at work in us in each passage? What do they do?

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What does God do among his people in these verse? What should we do if we want to benefit from this?

4. Read Philippians 1:9-11 and Colossians 1:9-12.

a) What does Paul do in these verses to help Christians grow in their faith? Why do you think he does this?

b) What does he pray for them in these verses?

Think...

How do the above passages shape a person's response to the following thoughts / temptations?

'Bible study can be a bit awkward and boring, can't we just chat about our lives when we meet up and support each other?'

'I don't really like prayer, it feels pointless. I especially don't like praying with other people!'

'With my schedule, there's no way I have time to read the bible and pray.'

'This whole Gospel Community idea is just too idealistic. There's no way it will ever work.'

'That man is just a lost cause. He'll never change so what's the point in trying to minister to him?'

'I think we should *just* pray about things like sickness, work, family.'

'Being a Christian is way too frustrating. I'm not making any progress, I just can't get it together no matter how hard I try!'