

MAKING THE INVISIBLE GOD VISIBLE

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God's Wild Strategy - Part 1

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

– *Colossians 1:15-20*

God's Wild Strategy - Part 2

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

– *1 Corinthians 12:27*

You are personally called to be the visible representative of God to the people you currently have relationships with.

Myths about Living Out God's Wild Strategy

Myth #1: Being spiritual is attending a weekend service.

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. – *1 Corinthians 12:1,7*

Mythbuster #1: Being spiritual is discovering and using your gifts to serve others.

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. – *1 Peter 4:7-11*

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Myth #2: I need to get my life together before I try to reach non-Christians.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – *Acts 1:8*

Mythbuster #2: You are a visible ambassador of Jesus to those you live around every day.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

– *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

God’s Wild Strategy for 2011: Make God visible this year.

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. – *Romans 12:1-2, 6*

Next Steps : Your 2011 New Year’s Actions

1. A commitment to read the Bible.
2. A commitment to discover and use your gifts and passions.
3. A commitment to be a visible ambassador where you live.
4. Write down your Wild Five, then pray, watch, love, and invite.

Small Group Questions



1. What’s the wildest thing you’ve ever done (that you can talk about at small group!)? Tell us about it.
2. Do you already know what your spiritual gifts are? Tell us.
3. Where are you using your gifts to serve others?
4. Are you actively praying for a person or persons who don’t know Christ? Who are they?
5. How can we pray for you?