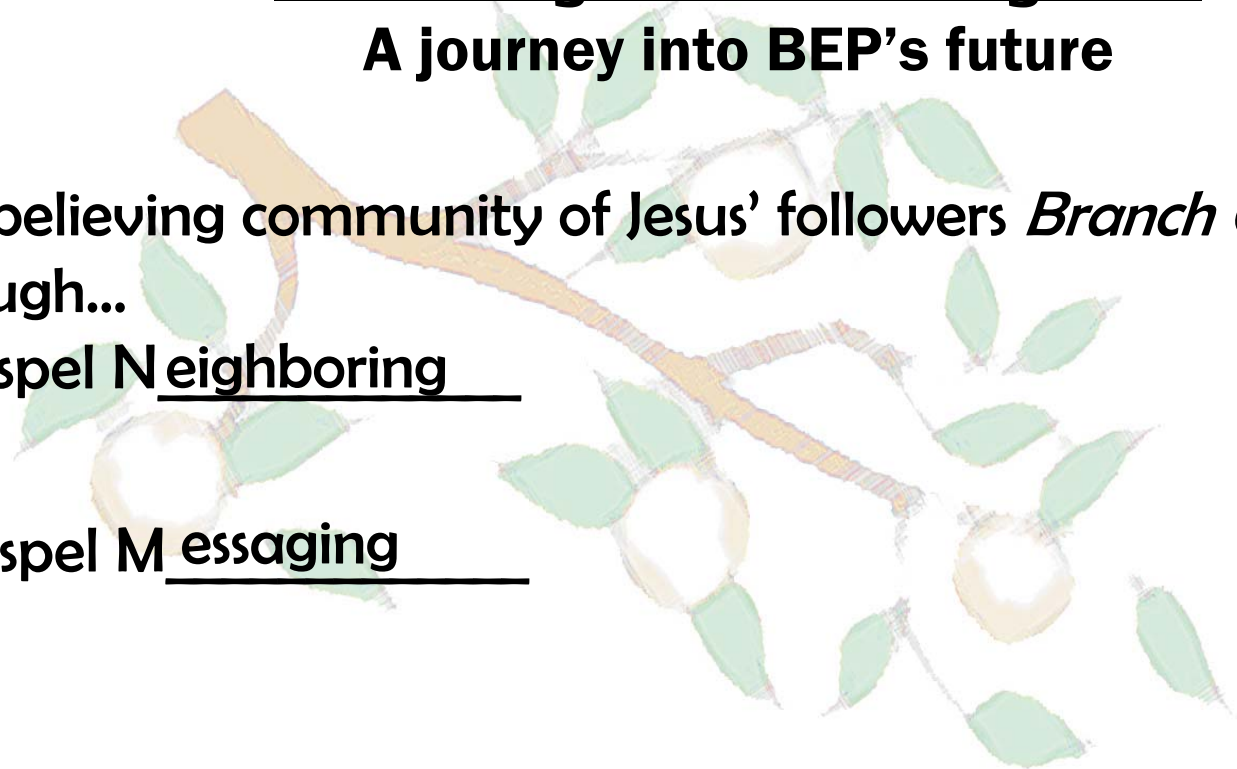


Branching Out.....Bearing Fruit

A journey into BEP's future

The believing community of Jesus' followers *Branch Out...Bear Fruit* through...

- Gospel Neighboring
- Gospel Messaging



Branching Out...Bearing Fruit



Struggles with Gospel Messaging

- Facing Your Fears
- Accepting Your Sense of Inadequacy

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Struggles with Gospel Messaging

Facing Your Fears (2:3)

The Apostle Paul understood fear

***Ephesians 6:19-20** Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Fear is a...

- Valuable emotion
- Appropriate emotion
- Enjoyable emotion
- Painful, haunting, paralyzing emotion

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Struggles with Gospel Messaging

Facing Your Fears

The nature of fear = “phobia”

- Obsessing over what could be
- Reverencing, honoring, exalting your view of the danger you believe is coming around the corner

The Apostle Paul knew fear...

*Acts 18:9-11 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: **“Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.”** So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.*

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Struggles with Gospel Messaging

What do you do with your fear??

- **Be honest with your fear before God**
- **Accept your fear as an opportunity**

Fear is an opportunity to refocus on what is real...

...to reverence, honor, exalt what you believe about God

No threat of human rejection can touch
the security of your approval by God

Fear & Courage always go together in following Jesus

Courage is having a confidence, a security that is more certain than the danger you might believe is coming around the corner

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Struggles with Gospel Messaging

Accepting Your Sense of Inadequacy

1 Cor. 2:3 I came to you in weakness (sense of inadequacy)

Paul's experience in Athens....Your experience today

"I feel so inadequate to persuasively argue my beliefs against what is commonly accepted as the wisdom of the day"

So what do you do??

- Don't focus on being competent...focus on the simple story of Jesus (2:1-2)
- RELAX, you don't convince, convict or convert anyone...
...God's power does that (2:4-5)

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What Am I Asking You to Take Home??

A Daily Prayer...

Heavenly Father, I pray that you would be preparing conversations for me where I can relate my story & Jesus' story to others. May I so love you and treasure Christ, that I love my neighbor with the treasure of Christ.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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