

November 27, 2018

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

I recently saw the following post on social media:

Twelve Signs of a Spiritual Awakening

1. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
2. Frequent attacks of smiling.
3. Feelings of being connected with others and nature.
4. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
5. A tendency to think/act spontaneously rather than from fears based on the past.
6. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
7. A loss of ability to worry.
8. A loss of interest in conflict.
9. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
10. A loss of interest in judging others.
11. A loss of interest in judging self.
12. Gaining the ability to love without expecting anything in return.

While I don't usually look for spiritual wisdom on Facebook or Twitter, there is something to this post, because when we feel God moving through our lives, we do see things differently, and we do act differently – our whole outlook and approach, to other people, to the world around us, and to life, changes.

Hundreds of years ago, Saint Paul made this very same point to the early Christians living in Galatia (what is now modern day Turkey), when he wrote about the “fruits of the Spirit,” which are:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

So, on Sunday, as we begin the season of Advent, a time when we are look for God's presence in our lives, are you noticing any of these signs or fruit in yourself?

See you in church,
Andrew