

## 1 **Walking in the Spirit**

- The GPS for our Souls

## 2 **Introduction**

- Someone once said, the line between crazy and brilliant is often a thin one. Very, very thin.
- In fact there is a website called Bored Panda that is dedicated to showcasing the world's most creative artworks, offbeat products and everything that's really weird or wonderful.
- For the next few slides, let us look at some of the top 30 inventions of 2014 and ask ourselves is this crazy or is this brilliant.

## 3 **Baby Mop**

- A set of mop heads is attached to a full-body baby outfit, so that as a child crawls around on the floor she or he cleans it!
- Is this crazy or is this brilliant?

## 4 **Pizza Scissors**

- A combination spatula and pair of scissors that makes it simple to cut and scoop up a slice of pizza.
- Is this crazy or is this brilliant?

## 5 **The Weight Watch Belt**

- A belt with inch marks on it, so that you can see -- as you are getting dressed -- whether you are gaining or losing weight. You put this on right after using the pizza scissors.
- Is this crazy or is this brilliant?

## 6 **LED Slippers**

- These comfortable bedroom slippers have bright LED headlights on the front, to make it easy to navigate in a dark house.
- Is this crazy or is this brilliant?

## 7 **Misc. Inventions**

### 8 **No Place Like Home - Shoes**

- Here's another one: No Place Like Home.
- This is the name of a pair of leather shoes embedded with a GPS.
- You put on the shoes, let them know where you want to go, and then red blinking lights will direct you turn by turn as you take a walk.
- Now you can forget about looking at your phone's GPS -- these shoes will tell you where you want go.

### 9 **God Shoes**

- Some are calling these GPS shoes “God Shoes,” as they symbolically and metaphorically remind us of the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- For left to our own devices, we are often tempted to walk not after the Spirit but after the flesh—that is those base human instincts that often cause us to act in selfish, fractious, autonomous, and self-centered way.

#### 10 **Attitudes of the Flesh**

- Biblical studies professor Richard Carlson, compares . . .
  - Self-centered, with our own desires at the heart of our decision-making.
  - Self-serving, rather than neighbor-serving or God-serving.
  - Fractious, meaning irritable and quarrelsome.
  - Autonomous—acting independently, without regard for the body of Christ.

#### 11 **Flesh**

- Living according to the flesh is more than simply giving in to our natural desires. It means looking out for our own interests and constantly asking the question, “What’s in it for me?”
- Unfortunately, such a path is going to lead us into dangerous and even deadly places.
- Not even a pair of LED slippers will be a match for the darkness we'll encounter, if we head down that road.
- Paul speaks plainly: “Dude, if you live according to the flesh, you're gonna die" (Romans 8:13).
- In other words, if we live according to the flesh and give in to self-centered, self-serving, fractious and an autonomous life, we will spiritually die!

#### 12 **God Shoes**

- It’s better for us to put on the God Shoes -- which is another way of saying, “Better to be filled with the Spirit.”
- The Holy Spirit guides and move us toward life instead of death. It's like wearing a pair of GPS shoes that show us the right way—that is if we are listening.
- As Marilyn Monroe, movie starlet and cultural anthropologist of the '60s, once said, "Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world."

#### 13 **God Shoes**

- That's exactly what the God Shoes do. All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God, says Paul (Romans 8:14).
- The leading of the Holy Spirit is God's greatest invention, one that meets our needs at the most critical times, helping to lead us through the many twists and turns that lie before us.
- So then what does this guidance look like?

#### 14 **Spirit of Sonship**

- We begin to find our way when we realize that we've been adopted by God -- which means being given the chance to step into God's Shoes!
- For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Rom 8:15–16 NIV)

## 15 **The Role of the Spirit**

- So then as children of God how does the Spirit help us?
  - But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13 NIV)
  - In other words, when the Holy Spirit comes to us as redeemed believers in Christ, He also helps us to discern God's good and perfect will. (Rom. 12:1-2)
  - Then with this knowledge we can keep ourselves in God's love where His grace is abundantly poured out in our lives so that we overflow with blessing for others.
  - In other words, in God's New Covenant, the Spirit writes God's law on our hearts and when we listen to our conscience and follow our heart we are in fact walking in the Spirit.

## 16 **Children with Rights**

- As adopted children, we have rights. Paul says that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).
- As heirs, we can expect to receive the grace and love and guidance from God's Spirit.
- As members of God's family, we are given the right and the privilege to step into God's Shoes and walk in his ways.

## 17 **Children with Responsibilities**

- But adopted children have responsibilities as well as rights.
- We may be heirs of God and joint heirs with our brother Jesus Christ, but along with this we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him (Romans 8:17).
- There's a certain amount of pain that comes from walking in the Spirit, because the path we walk is the way of the cross.
- It is other-centered, other-serving, reconciling and interdependent lifestyle.

## 18 **Definitions**

- Other-centered, with the desires of others at the heart of our decision-making.
- Other-serving, rather than self-serving.
- Reconciling, meaning focused on the healing of broken relationships.
- Interdependent. That's acting in concert with the people around us.

## 19 The Path

- Such a path isn't easy to walk, but it is a walk that is also grounded in hope.
- Hope is what keeps us walking forward, what motivates us to listen to our spiritual GPS when we're faced with fear and sufferings.
- Hope sets us free to throw away our old shoes of death and decay and put on God's shoes and follow the Spirit's leading.
- We have this hope because we know the Lord is our Shepherd and His aim is to lead us through dark valleys to green pastures and quiet waters.

## 20 Suffering

- So then, when times get tough and the dark valleys seem awful long, we know that there is an age to come that even creation is longing for—a time when the curse will be lifted from this world.
- Paul writes, I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:18-19).
- When we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, listening to our conscience, and walking in the way of Jesus, we can be confident that we are playing a part in the plan that God has for the redemption of the entire world.
- In time, says Paul, the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Romans 8:21).

## 21 Keep Walking . . .

- Until then, we keep walking.
- We'll all have good days and bad, successes and failures.
- Sometimes our struggles will feel as painful as childbirth, but even then we realize that such agony is natural.
- After all, says Paul, We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:22-23).

## 22 Good News

- You can be confident that God will direct you every step of the way -- sometimes through suffering and adversity -- knowing that we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:37).
- Nothing in life or in death or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).
- Not if we walk in the Spirit, wearing our God Shoes and allowing Him to direct us down the path to the Promised Land.

## 23 Lead on, O Savior!

- If we did not have your leading, we would not know which way to go. Before we knew you, we stumbled about, wandering aimlessly, searching for something we could never find.
- Then, you found us. You picked us up from our life-less trek and set us on the path that leads to life.
- We long for the day when you will guide us home forever. But until then, we will follow you. Even when other ways seem clearer, we trust your leading above all.
- Lead on, O Savior. Lead on . . . Amen.