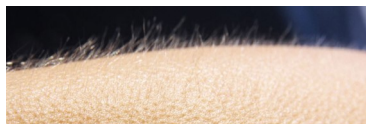


**I WANT TO
BELIEVE, BUT ...**

**JUNE 3rd & 4th 2017
Craig Groeschel
LIFECHURCH**



GOOSEBUMP GOD HOW DO YOU KNOW?

IF YOU DON'T ALWAYS _____ GOD'S PRESENCE,
YOU'RE NOT _____.

Psalms 88:13-14 O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me?

"... A door slammed in my face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence..."

"There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once... Why is God so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?" - C.S. Lewis

WHY DON'T WE ALWAYS FEEL GOD?

1. Maybe you are _____ sensationalizing it.

John 6:30-31 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?

2. Maybe your heart has _____.

Matthew 13:14-15 ... For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. ...

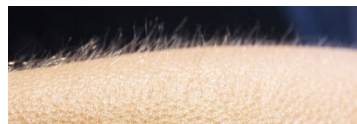
3. Maybe God wants to _____ you closer.

Acts 17:26-27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

BLANKS: FEEL, ALONE, OVER, HARDENED, DRAW

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vision
TEACHING NOTES

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TEACHING NOTES



in a nutshell

1. DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

...Seems weird to say about God, but for some reason in the Christian culture, you may run into people who really “hype” Him as they describe their relationship with Him as always being intensely emotional and a goosebump experience. And we therefore begin to wonder why it isn’t that way for us. What’s wrong with us? It’s perfectly real and normal to be a solid follower of God and have a very, very close relationship with Him and KNOW He’s real, faithful and loving, but not always (often not) obvious or overtly demonstrative.

2. WATCH OUT ABOUT SIGN SEEKING (DEMANDING)

This can be a situation where we may try to corner God. We try to force Him to make decisions and we provide Him with the multiple choice answers. We may set up a scenario and say, “If the light turns green before I reach the intersection, Your answer is yes.” This can really get us in trouble. Sometimes I remind people that they aren’t Moses. God gave him a burning bush and spoke to him audibly. So sometimes we may think that everything God did with his chosen prophets and leaders, He should do for us. You’re not Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Jesus or Paul. Yes, God spoke to them and showed them signs, but it doesn’t mean He will interact with every person that way. Don’t assume you can “put out a fleece” and see God work with you like he did with Gideon. (Judges 6)



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