

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
40 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING
DAY 34 – June 9, 2017

The Absurdity of Going Back

“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human efforts?” Galatians 3:3

On Thursday, August 1, 1985, a room full of America’s top intelligence officials was gathered outside the office of the director of the CIA for a farewell reception of a retiring colleague. However, the topic was not about the retiree. Whispers were flying around the room that the highest-ranking KGB agent, Vitally Sergeyeovich Yurchenko, had defected. He was most important because he was in charge of all KGB operations in the United States and Canada. Now, he would be able to provide extremely important information about Soviet spies in America.

After presenting himself to the American Embassy in Rome, he was quickly flown to the United States in a military plane. Once in the U.S., he was taken to a “safe house” in northern Virginia where he was interrogated for hours and provided very sensitive information. The most startling and amazing part of this story took place three months later on November 2nd. He had been spurned by a girlfriend in Canada and was growing impatient with his situation. During the evening he persuaded his assigned CIA agent to take him to Georgetown for dinner and a movie. During dinner he asked the agent “What would you do if I got up and walked off? Shoot me?” The agent replied, “We don’t shoot defectors.” Yurchenko countered, “I will be back in 15-20 minutes, if I am not, it is not your fault.” He walked out of the restaurant and presented himself to the Russian Embassy where he un-defected.

The world watched in amazement a few days later as he boarded a Russian jet and waved good-bye to freedom. He returned to the confines of Communism. Why, you ask. Yet that which amazes us in the political arena is met with welcome acceptance in the spiritual arena. Why, after tasting the freedom from the grace of God would anyone return to the confines of legalism regulating that relationship? What kind of relationship do you have with the God of grace?

Prayer Focus: Pray that we will continue to live our Christian lives in the Spirit and not by our own human effort. Ask the God of grace to help you deepen your relationship with Him, filling you daily with His Holy Spirit.