

Life Group Notes 10/13/2024

Pastor Victoria Adewumi Grounded Week 4: Missions

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 4/7. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On receiving power.](#)
2. [On being a "new creation."](#)
3. [On apostolic ministry.](#)
4. [On reconciliation.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Victoria began the message with essential declarations concerning the truth of the Word of God, that it is living and active. In another translation it is quick and powerful. It is effective to accomplish the task for which and over which it was spoken. She asks, "What does that mean?"

1. Answer her.
2. Review again Hebrews 4: **12***For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* **13***Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* What do you see?
3. What do you say to someone who believes that soul and spirit are the same thing?
4. How was the world created? Whose word was it?
5. Think of this: Who knows better how to fix a vehicle? The one who reads the owner's manual, or the one who wrote it after assembling its parts, overseeing the manual's accuracy according to the original design?

6. What does the designer know that even the best mechanic does not?

She reviewed Pastor Mark's message last week on the Holy Spirit, highlighting the awe that the Holy Spirit inspires when "...He inhabits each one of us, His inward residence. And we want Him reigning over our lives, empowering us in ways that can only be accounted for by the supernatural." She says, "That extraordinary gift, allowing us to yield to Him, to put Him in charge and in control of our lives is the runway for the message I have to deliver today from the Lord."

1. What did you learn last week? Do you have a testimony?

2. What new thing did you hear from Victoria this week?

Turn to Acts 1: [6](#) So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7](#) Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. [8](#) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1. What do you see?

2. When do times and the seasons become clear?

3. What do you know about the "restoration of the Kingdom to Israel?"

4. Who controls times and season?

5. Whose Kingdom did Jesus come to restore?

6. If it's not "time" to know about the restoration of the Kingdom, what time is it?

7. According to Jesus' words here, what is inappropriate behavior? What is appropriate?

8. What does it mean to receive power? (See [footnote 1 below](#).) What is included?

Victoria asks, "What are we being asked to do? You know that a witness is someone who has seen or experienced an event. If we are to be good witnesses we are required to have seen or experienced something that would allow us the credibility to then declare that experience with others."

1. What can we rightly expect to see?

2. Use your own words. What does it mean to be a witness?

3. List the order of experience for a witness: What is the first requirement of a true witness? What parts of the body function first to be a witness? Eyes and ears or mouth and hands? Explain. (If a witness has never seen anything, how effective a witness is he?)

4. What comes next? What does the witness testify to?

5. Which is more effective, first-hand testimony, or hearsay testimony? Explain?

6. What did Jesus promise we would have, first-hand testimony? Or hearsay?

7. Victoria says, "This promise does not say we will "DO" anything." She adds, "When the Holy Spirit comes, we will be His witnesses. It is what we become as we see Him move. We will be a witness of and then to the goodness and the greatness of His power." Explain.

8. She continues, "Everywhere we go, to the supermarket or the gym, to the workplace or the school, wherever you go you will be a witness to what God is doing, to what He has done and to what He desires to do."

Look up 2 Corinthians 5: [13](#) If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. [14](#) For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died

for all, therefore all died. **15**And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. **16**So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!

1. What do you see?
2. Before Paul met Jesus on the road, how did he look at Him?
3. What changed, and how?
4. Look at what Paul told the Corinthians in his first letter to them, chapter 2: **1**When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. **2**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. **3**I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. **4**My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, **5**so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. What had Paul seen, to which he gave testimony when he first met them?
5. What did the Corinthians witness as a result?
6. Here, Paul merely recalls to their mind what they had seen on his arrival. How useful and effective is it to use the memory of miraculous events?
7. Notice how Jesus' promise in [Acts 1 quoted above](#), comes alive in Paul's testimony from his first days in Corinth. What did the power do in the Corinthians behalf? What did Paul witness, that he gave testimony to?
8. What role does your foresight play in your testimony (v. 16)? Do you foresee everyone you speak to as a new creature before you begin?
9. Is there anyone you know for whom Jesus did not die (v. 14)?
10. Does anything change in your conversation with your friend if you apply this principle: God was in Christ Jesus reconciling this friend to Him? Do you have a testimony?

Look at what follows in 2 Corinthians 5: **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God. **21**God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. What do you see here?
2. See [footnote 1 below](#). What power does an ambassador carry? From whom?
3. Who in the church has been given the message of reconciliation?
4. Who in your circle has been given that message? Who speaks through you?
5. How do we absolutely know God is still speaking today? (Is reconciliation for today?)
6. Victoria says by these verses, that we have been sent as missionaries. Do you recognize that you have been sent on a mission?

7. What is the message we are declaring to a lost and dying world?
8. Who is speaking through us? What can we expect to see?
9. Victoria says, "We cannot expect to declare this revelation unless we have seen it ourselves." Explain. Have you received it? (Take a moment to pray for each other.)
10. Is it possible to hang out with Christians and miss the goodness and grace of God? Explain. Is there a strategy to preventing this?
11. Look again at verse 19. In your own words, state what God did through Jesus?
12. How effective was God's action? Can it be effective even for your neighbor, your workmates and classmates?
13. Victoria described a very bad, terrible no good, awful day that could happen to anyone, and asked, "Do you ever wonder, when all this happens in one day, 'What did I do to deserve this?'" Answer her.
14. She then says, "Church...all punishment was taken away for your misdeeds at the cross. God is not punishing you for something that you did. That is the ministry of reconciliation. God is not counting our sins against us." Explain.
15. Look at verse 21. What do you see? (Use your own words.)
16. If we have become the righteousness of God in Him, what does that look like in practical terms in your own life? What does your family see? Your neighbors
17. With what do you need to clothe yourself? Look at what Paul tells the Colossians in chapter 3: **11***Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all and is in all. 12*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **13***Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* What do you see? How does this fit with what Paul told the Corinthians?
18. What does this new species look like? How is this different from what you were? Does the list Paul presents here define righteousness? When one puts on the whole armor of God from Ephesians 6, righteousness is the breastplate. Why?
19. Look at Ephesians 4: **21***Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him—in keeping with the truth that is in Jesus— 22*to put off your former way of life, your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23**to be renewed in the spirit of your minds; **24**and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. **25***Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one another.* What steps do we need to take?
20. Have you changed? What has passed away? What has become new?

21. Victoria spoke of the process. Look up Romans 4: [3](#)*For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* [4](#)*Now the wages of the worker are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation.* [5](#)*However, to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.* [6](#)*And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:* [7](#)*“Blessed are they whose lawless acts are forgiven, whose sins are covered.* [8](#)*Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”* Explain how this works.
22. Again, what does this new species look like? What does the message of reconciliation sound like?
23. Victoria highlights the difference between “consequence for your actions,” and “punishment for your sins.” Do you remember? (An incarcerated criminal finds the Lord in prison...and still serves out his sentence, though his sin has been forgiven. The hand that touches a hot stove will still bear the consequences of the accident.) If consequences do not always change, what does?

Victoria looked at the word Paul used for “reconciliation.” (See [footnote 4 below.](#)) She points out that it’s a financial term, akin to “balancing” the books.

1. When you know your checkbook is balanced, what are you able to do?
2. When you know your checkbook is not balanced...what is your frame of mind?
3. How does this change the way you look at reconciliation, knowing God’s ledger concerning you is now balanced?
4. She says, “God gave us the same value as He gave to Christ. He exchanged...a divine exchange.” Explain. How does this help you think?
5. She adds, “I don’t know about you, but I’m extremely conscious of how very UNLIKE Christ I am 99% of the time.” What about you?
6. How does practicing what Paul said in Colossians 3 and Ephesians 4 above become a practical step in reconciliation, and a method for carrying it out?
7. Once the books have been reconciled, what steps do you take to keep them balanced? What value do you now put on your neighbor? Your adversaries? On reconciling your books with others?

Victoria has us look at Leviticus 16: [29](#)*This is to be a permanent statute for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month, you shall humble yourselves and not do any work—whether the native or the foreigner who resides among you—* [30](#)*because on this day atonement will be made for you to cleanse you, and you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.* This is what was to happen in Israel on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, once a year.

1. What do you see?
2. What did reconciliation involve?
3. How complete was it? How permanent?
4. Why does this ceremony no longer take place? What has changed?

5. How much better is Jesus' sacrifice and gift to us?

She closed with the story of Balaam, commissioned to curse Israel by King Balak of Moab in Numbers 23. Examine these verses closely:

[19](#) God is not a man, that He should lie,
or a son of man, that He should repent.

Does He spoken and will it not come to pass?
Has He promised and shall it not be fulfilled?

[20](#) I have indeed received a command to bless;
He has blessed, and I cannot change it.

[21](#) He has not observed iniquity in Jacob,
Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.

The LORD their God is with them,
and the shout of the King is among them.

[22](#) God brought them out of Egypt
with strength like a wild ox.

[23](#) For there is no spell against Jacob
and no divination against Israel.

It will now be said of Jacob and Israel,
'What great things God has done!'

1. What do you see?
2. Knowing that the Israelites have just been plagued with serpents, and rescued miraculously by the fiery serpent Moses had made, what does this say about God's character, and His refusal to speak evil of His own?
3. Read verse 21 again. Is there sin in Israel?
4. How is it that God does not observe sin? How does the blood of Jesus cover all sin?
5. How faithful is God to keep His promise?
6. Victoria asks, "What if this is your mission...to see the reconciliation of your circle to this degree of mercy, faithfulness and forgiveness?" Answer her.

If you are asked to testify as to what you witnessed today in Victoria's message, what would your testimony sound like?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Take an inventory again this week. Have you been reconciled to God?
3. Who needs this message most? Jot down a plan...and a prayer.
4. Write down what the righteousness of God will look like? How will you clothe yourself?

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On receiving power**—There is more than one word for power that get used in the New Testament, and they are not interchangeable. It's important to have a grasp on this principle, because much misunderstanding can be avoided when careful discernment is used. The first word used 120 times is δύναμις, *dynamis*, It is frequently and rightly observed that the English word dynamite is derived from this word. Strong's defines it as (miraculous) power, might, strength. In usage it depicts either (a) physical power, force, might, ability, efficacy, energy, meaning or (b) especially in the plural: powerful deeds, deeds showing (physical) power, marvelous works, miracles. The second, ἐξουσία, *exousia*, is derived from *ek*, "out from," which intensifying Strong's #1510 /*eimí*, "to be, being as a right or privilege"), and it is defined as "authority, conferred power; delegated empowerment ('authorization'), operating in a **designated jurisdiction**." Where the former denotes the power to generate signs, wonders and miracles, the latter designates the rightful power to operate legally under another's delegated authority. In Acts 1, Jesus speaks of the former: We will receive *dynamis* after the Holy Spirit has come upon us. In Matthew 28, the passage often called the "Great Commission," could equally have been called the "Great Delegation." Jesus says, "All power/authority (*exousia*) has been given/delegated to me in heaven and on earth...therefore go."
2. **On being a new creation**—Victoria calls our attention to the Greek word Paul chose for "creation," κτίσις, *ktisis*, and highlights its meaning. She says, we are an entirely "new species." This is an astute choice for a definition. Strong's goes even further and says it describes "creation itself (the act or the product) **In usage it refers** often of the founding of a city; either (a) in abstract: creation, or (b) concretely: creation, creature, institution; it always speaks of Divine work, (c) an institution, ordinance: properly, creation (creature) **which is founded from nothing** (this is also the sense of this term from Homer on); creation out of nothing. In other words, we have become something that, prior to the resurrection of Jesus, did not exist, altogether new. *Emphasis added*.
3. **On apostolic ministry**—The Greek word for "apostle" is ἀπόστολος, *apostolos*, a product of the Greek verb ἀποστέλλω, *apostello*. Strong's defines the verb in these terms: "properly, send away, i.e. *commission*; (passive) 'sent on a defined mission by a superior.'" The English word has become exclusively a religious term, a transliteration of the original Greek word, and defined as such to point to the twelve Jesus chose and called "apostle," and the apostle Paul. In English usage, much to the detriment of our own call and commission, the actually meaning of the term is forgotten. Put simply, Jesus chose twelve *disciples*, students hand-picked to train them. He then *sent* (*apostello*) them, making them from that point on, apostles...the ones he sent. Later in Luke, he sends seventy more *apostles*, but we never

refer to them as such, because the church, bent on the hierarchy of “who’s the greatest,” forgot to teach us what the word means. Paul was chosen by the Holy Spirit to be sent to the Gentiles, at which point, he, too, with Barnabas, became the apostle Paul. Demystifying the term is essential to understand your call, and Victoria’s message today. A good translation for “apostle” today could be “missionary,” one sent with a mission. I think the very best translation for “apostle” is “envoy,” one who has been chosen and sent to represent another and to carry out his superior’s instructions in his name. Are there apostles today? Only if you understand that the Holy Spirit is still commissioning, equipping and sending His disciples to the lost with His authority to carry out His commandments on their behalf.

4. **On reconciliation**—Victoria looks at the Greek word for reconciliation that Paul chose to describe our ministry. It is καταλλάσσω, *katallasso*, properly, to change *decisively*, as when two parties *reconcile* when coming ("changing") to the *same* position. was originally used for the exchange of coins; "properly, *to change, exchange* (especially of money); hence, of persons, *to change* from enmity to friendship, *to reconcile*" She is correct to say this is a financial term related to accountants balancing/reconciling books.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Hebrews 4:12-13
Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 5:13-17
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-6
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
Friday: Colossians 3:11-13
Saturday: Romans 4:3-8
Sunday: Ephesians 4:21-25

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.