

Life Group Notes 10/6/2024

Pastor Mark Warren Grounded Week 3 The Holy Spirit

[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, 10/6. 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 the Holy Spirit, common-sense cautions.](#)
2. [On reading someone's mail and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.](#)
3. [On the baseline: the fruit of the spirit vs. the gifts of the spirit.](#)
4. [On the postman and the gifts he delivers.](#)

*****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. ***

Pastor Mark began his message by telling us how to vote. He told us to take notes, so I did. Here are his instructions:

1. You're going to read your Bible.
2. You're going to discover which candidates best align with scripture and the views contained in scripture.
3. You're going to pray.
4. You're going to seek the wisdom of God as to how you're going to vote in a little over three weeks.
5. Today we get grounded in the Holy Spirit, so you're going to have learned to trust the Holy Spirit to guide you.

He says, "That's how you're going to vote." Any questions? Do you have any added steps? He continues, "If we have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, and we stay grounded, we can face whatever comes our way in terms of trial, challenge, loss or storms that lie ahead, that threaten our coasts."

With that Mark reviewed the past two weeks. Do you remember? We had to be

- Grounded in the Word of God. Jesus is the Word, and our relationship with Him and our ability to hear directly from Him depends upon our relationship with the Word.
 - Grounded in prayer. Time is the practical offering of sacrifice we can give to deepen our own walk. Communication is key. Learning to listen is the goal.
1. What do you remember from the last two weeks?
 2. Has anything changed?
 3. Do you have a testimony?

Take a moment to share with each other of what you know of the Holy Spirit.

1. What is your background?
2. What have you seen?
3. What have you not seen that made you wonder?
4. What have you been taught?
5. What do you want to see?

Pastor listed several views that are very current in the church. Here are a few he mentioned:

1. The Holy Spirit has been given to us, and having received Jesus He indwells us.
2. The miracles and prophecies of scripture are not for today. Or are they?
3. What does that even mean?
4. There is a second filling, a baptism of the Spirit. (What does that mean, and what is invoked by this message?)
5. There is a difference between the Holy Spirit of the Old Testament and the Holy Spirit Who comes to us in the New Testament. (And what does that mean?)

Pastor reviewed his own testimony, how he had only just prayed that God would affirm His claims, and prove that what Mark was hearing was true, and his brother came home very really changed. A friend of his brother's began to "read Mark's mail," telling him things of his past that no one else knew, and things of what lay in Mark's future that highlighted Mark's own longing. Mark's response, if you remember, is key to understanding how this works: The Word was accompanied by repentance on Mark's part, and making amends. God put it on Mark's heart to make things right. Scripture became central.

1. Do you have a similar testimony you could share?
2. Have you ever seen this?
3. What was your response to Mark's testimony.

Look up John 13: [34](#)A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another.[35](#)By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

1. What do you see?
2. Look at the chapter: Did Jesus wash Judas' feet?
3. Did the new commandment come before or after Judas left?

4. Try to explain why this matters? What do you learn here from Jesus' example? What did Judas lack?
5. Mark asks what this new commandment has to do with the Holy Spirit?
6. What will the world see, if we obey this one new commandment?
7. Which is easier to obey: the Ten Commandments or this One New Commandment? Explain.
8. Explain this: Why is it that the world doesn't know us by the supernatural miracles we do, but by the love we exhibit? (Hint: Review Matthew 7: [21](#)*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. [22](#)Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' [23](#)Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!')* What matters more? Fruit or gifts?
9. Now, review the parable of the sheep and the goats, Mt 25:31-46. Did Jesus know the sheep, his disciples, by the miracles they did or by the service they offered to their neighbor?
10. What reveals the authenticity of true disciples in the parable?
11. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I **never** knew you," in Matthew 7 above?
12. Were the miracles they performed legitimate? Who benefitted from those miracles? (See [footnote 4 below.](#))

Pastor says, "We have to begin at this baseline, and I want make a case that the fruit of the Spirit is greater than the gifts of the Spirit.

1. Look at the claim. What do you think? Do you agree?
2. What makes anything greater?
3. Can you have the Fruit of the spirit without the gifts of the Spirit?
4. Look up Romans 5: [3](#)*Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;*[4](#)*perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5](#)And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.* What do you see?
5. Is there any evidence of the gifts of the Spirit in these verses? How much of the fruit can you identify? (See [footnote 3 below.](#)) How do patience and hope produce love?

Review the fruit of the Spirit that Paul mentions to the Galatians in chapter 5: [22](#)*But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#)gentleness, and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.*

1. What do you see? What limits should we impose in manifesting any of this fruit?
2. Is it possible to have too much of the fruit of the Spirit? What would "too much" look like?
3. Pastor says, "These are the qualities of Christ's character that He is looking to see as evidence in our life, but this is what Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit. This is what the Spirit brings with Him, the evidence of His presence." Mark says, "These are

opposed to our natural bent, that Paul calls the 'work of the flesh' in the same chapter." Explain the contrast.

4. Paul lists the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8 *To one there is given through the Spirit the word [λόγος/Logos, word/message] of wisdom, to another the word/logos of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by that one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in various tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.* Mark spoke of Christian circles where emphasis is made on the gifts of the Spirit, and where the gifts are placed in focus almost exclusively. Do you have a testimony?
5. What fruit does unkind behavior engender, especially among those who call themselves Christian?
6. Review 1 Corinthians 13: *1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing.* Do the gifts of the Spirit vindicate or even benefit the one who delivers the gift to the needy (Again, see [footnote 4 below](#))? (If the healer heals the afflicted, who benefits? If the healer has no love, does he benefit at all?)
7. Mark says, "The Spirit is given to make us more Christlike." How is there greater benefit, then, in pursuing the fruit of the Spirit rather than the gifts? (Hint: When is the fruit needed? Who benefits from your love, your joy, your peace, etc.? If no one is sick, who benefits at all from the gift of healing?)
8. Notice again in Mt 7:23 above, Jesus actually calls those who worked miracles, "workers of lawlessness." Explain.
9. Is it possible that working with the gifts of the spirit can have an opposite effect than the one intended? Explain.
10. Pastor Mark says, "The best way we can show those with whom we disagree that we love them is to show that we love one another." How does that work?
11. Can kindness cure animosity? Do you have a testimony?

Look up Romans 8: *28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.*

1. What is the Holy Spirit's role in our lives? What has He predestined us to become?
2. What will that look like?
3. Describe the resemblance you can expect among siblings in a family, as Paul describes that resemblance to the firstborn here?

4. What does it mean that He has glorified you? What is He teaching you to expect?

Mark then took us to Judges 6:28 to look at Gideon getting “clothed” with the Holy Spirit. “But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.” In contrast, in Ephesians 6, Paul tells us “ **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

1. Contrast the two. What is the difference?
2. Who clothed Gideon in the Spirit? Who clothes us?
3. Is it better to have the Spirit “on us” or “in us?” Explain.
4. Look at what Jesus told the apostles in John 16: **7**But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. Explain in terms of what we just learned.
5. Which would you prefer at this moment as you read this, to be with the bearded and sandaled One? Or with the Holy Spirit? Explain.
6. How much did the disciples understand the night that Jesus said this?
7. When did it become clear to them? Did they understand everything on the Day of Pentecost, or was there even more to learn? Explain.

Examine this progress as highlighted by Luke in Acts 19, where Paul encounters disciples who had just become believers by Apollos, who had not yet been baptized in the Holy Spirit. **1**While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples **2**and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” “No,” they answered, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3**“Into what, then, were you baptized?” Paul asked. “The baptism of John,” they replied. **4**Paul explained: “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **6**And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **7**There were about twelve men in all.

1. Explain the process Luke demonstrates here.
2. If they are disciples, because Apollos brought them to know Jesus, what is lacking?
3. How are they “disciples” even if they haven’t been baptized in the Holy Spirit?
4. What do disciples do?
5. Have you even heard that there is a Holy Spirit?
6. Did you receive Him when you became a believer? How do you know?
7. Does Luke teach that the one automatically follows the other? What were the disciples missing?
8. What more information did Paul supply that Apollos could not?
9. Review Romans 10: **17**Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Explain how this applies to the disciples in Ephesus.
10. Look closely at what Luke says in verse 6. Who benefitted from the tongues and the prophecies? Was any prophecy recorded for us?

11. Is it important, in terms of our own expectations, that we know that this happened without knowing exactly what was spoken? Explain. (See [footnote 2 below](#).) How do our own expectations change, knowing that there is more to learn?
12. What are the dangers to “being a bunch of noise...” as Paul described the gifts without love in 1 Corinthians 13? What is the impact on our own ministry, when we lack love?
13. Mark says, “The Spirit comes on you to help you have discernment, to provide wisdom and supernatural knowledge and prophetic insight for the effective ministry of the gospel.”

Mark listed practical tips for yielding to the Holy Spirit, so that we take on Jesus’ thoughts and His character, as He empowers us to share the good news to the world.

- Spend time in the Word of God, because the Spirit speaks to us from the pages of the Word.
- Confess and surrender areas of sin in our life. Sin quenches the Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5: [19](#)Do not quench the Spirit. [20](#)Do not treat prophecies with contempt, [21](#)but test all things. Hold fast to what is good. [22](#)Abstain from every form of evil.)
- Walk in step with the Spirit. Allow ourselves to be led by Him. Gal 5: [16](#) So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- Desire the Fruit of the Spirit first.
- Be open to the gifts of the Spirit. He ministers this way through you for the benefit of your neighbors.
- Live in community with other believers. Hebrews 10: [24](#)And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. [25](#)Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Explain how the fellowship of believers is the best defense against excess...and the optimal opportunity to allow the gifts to be tested as we have been instructed to test them.

Pastor says, “Loving is not natural. We have to learn how to love as Christ loved us. Being patient is not natural. We have to learn to practice patience. We can only do that in community. We do that in our family. We do that with our life groups.”

1. Explain.
2. Do you have a testimony? How has the community of believers benefitted you in your walk?

Pastor Mark told a story to close: He and his son were out looking at land, and as it was late, his son invited him to dinner. They went to a tavern in a small “hole in the wall,” and as they were leaving, he heard chatter behind him. “Hey! Are you guys in a relationship?” Pastor answered, “Yes. This is my son.” This intrusion ended up in a lengthy discussion about matters that really matter: Relationships. Christ’s call. What religion entails when it’s true. Pastor said, “A great compassion rose up in me, because I could see real life in these men. One said he grew up in a church. I could see their brokenness. I told them how much God loved them, and they just said, ‘No way. I’ve done disgusting things.’ I nodded and said, ‘Each one of us has done disgusting things.’ But as we were leaving, one of the men asked, ‘Did God send you to us?’” Pastor said, “I don’t know if He did or not.”

1. What do you think?
2. Do you have a testimony, where you were suddenly involved in a meaningful conversation with strangers that went the Spirit’s way, and not in the way one might expect?
3. Explain how God uses us when we least expect it, because it’s always “His goodness that leads us to repentance.” (Romans 2:4)

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to come fill you that you have more evidence of His fruit in your life. Write down what you notice as the week progresses.
3. Make a list of the changes the Holy Spirit is making in your own life and character. What will that look like? How soon can you expect others to see change?

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On the Holy Spirit and common-sense cautions**—Have you ever been in the room and heard someone talking about you out loud, so you could hear, but they did not know you were there? This is the lot of the Holy Spirit, ostensibly invisible, yet the very present manifestation of the Living God in our lives, Whose temple our body is. What do you do when someone else teaches you about the Holy Spirit, when John the Apostle says this of Him in 1 John 2:6 *I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27* [And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as His TRUE and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so remain in Him as you have been taught. 28](#) And now, little children, remain in Christ, so that when He appears, we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming. These words are the teacher's nightmare, and as a teacher, we are required to teach others these very words. This truth in the face of these words from Proverbs 30 is sobering: [5](#) Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. [6](#) Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar. Jesus told the apostles that it was to their advantage that He leave. The Holy Spirit was to come and complete the work He started. In every effort we make in our relationship to God, we must remember this word: we are better equipped in our relationship with the Father than even they were, thanks to the ever-presence of the Holy Spirit. This is our confidence: the Spirit still does what He sees the Father and the Son do, and He still says what He hears them say. The question only needs be asked, do we hear Him when He speaks? What is He saying to you?
2. **On reading someone's mail and the gifts of the Spirit**—One thing is obvious. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for effective, effectual ministry, not for self-aggrandizement. Pastor Mark's own testimony is an excellent example, both with the story with which he closed, and with the story with which he opened. A right word spoken in season unlocks the gift of life in the

Word. Revelation 19:10 makes it clear, “The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.” Not even the angel speaking to John accepted that John honor him. The angel only related to John what Jesus told him to say. John was to worship God. When Mark’s brother’s friend “...read Mark’s mail,” Jesus was able to speak to Mark directly through the friend. This was the power and purity of the ministry in the charismatic church at its peak, as the Holy Spirit was allowed to minister as Paul describes His ministry in 1 Corinthians 14.

3. **On the baseline: the fruit of the Spirit vs. the gifts of the Spirit—**

Anyone who has been a Christian for any length of time knows of what Paul calls the “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5: 22*But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.* He goes on to say, “24*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”* According to Paul the fruit is the natural manifestation of the Spirit’s presence and working in our daily lives...and a solid measure of proof that we are His. The question then arises, if Christians are recognized in this, is this not also the measure of our obedience to Jesus’ commandment in John 13? How do the commandment and the fruit relate to and buttress each other? Now look at the Paul’s list of the gifts of the Spirit from his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12: 7*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8***To one there is given through the Spirit the word** [λόγος/logos, word/message] **of wisdom, to another the word/logos of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by that one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in various tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11***All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who apportions them to each one as He determines.* How do the gifts differ from the fruit? How do they differ in purpose? Why is it vital to realize that the Same Spirit does both, is seen in both and manifests His will in each?

4. **On the postman and the gifts he delivers—**

The parable has been told of the postman delivering packages. He leaves in the morning with his truck filled with gifts, each having been addressed by the Giver specifically to its recipient. If the postman doesn’t deliver the package, what are the consequences? And, when the postman delivers the gift to its addressee, who benefits? Is there any honor at all to the postman, who returns to the post office with an empty truck? Who in their right mind would call the postman the hero, the one with The Gifts...when all he did was deliver the packages as he had been instructed? If Paul says, “11*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who apportions them to each one as He determines,*” how is it that we confuse the honor of the one to whom the gift is destined with the honor of the one who merely delivers the gift as instructed? Who is more blessed in the end, the one who laid his hands on the sick in obedience to Jesus’ Word, or the one who is healed from his infirmity?

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: 1 John 2:26-28
Tuesday: Proverbs 30:5-8
Wednesday: John 13:34-35
Thursday: Romans 5:3-5
Friday: Galatians 5:22-26
Saturday: Matthew 7:21-23
Sunday: Romans 8:28-30

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.