

[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 Charlie Temple has raised this week, 12/29. 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 footnote includes:

1. [On trees clapping their hands.](#)

*****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. ***

To begin with, Charlie prayed, "Holy Spirit you are welcome here. Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere. Your glory, Lord, is what our hearts long for, to be overcome by your presence, Lord."

1. What is the purpose of a prayer like that?
2. What is the result of a prayer like that?
3. What happens when we step back and allow the Spirit to take control?
4. Can you pray this for your group before you begin?
5. Do you have a testimony?

Charlie said, "Don't take the gifts of the worship team for granted. You don't always walk into a church where the musicians take you directly up to His presence."

1. Do you agree?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Look up Psalm 34: ***1*** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. ***2*** My soul boasts in the LORD; let the oppressed hear and rejoice. ***3*** Magnify the LORD with me; let us exalt His name together. ***4*** I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. ***5*** Those who look to Him are radiant with joy; their faces shall never be ashamed. ***6*** This poor man called out, and the LORD heard him; He saved him from all his troubles. ***7*** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and he delivers them. ***8*** Taste and see that the LORD is

good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! What comes with worship and praise?

4. Have you acknowledged the presence of the Angel of the Lord? Do you have a testimony? (Did you realize this was true?)
5. Have you thanked worship team members recently?

Look up Psalm 98: *Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done wonders; His right hand and holy arm have gained Him the victory. 2The LORD has proclaimed His salvation and revealed His righteousness to the nations. 3He has remembered His love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth—let your cry ring out, and sing praises! 5Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, in melodious song with the harp. 6With trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn shout for joy before the LORD, the King. 7Let the sea resound, and all that fills it, the world, and all who dwell in it. 8Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.*

1. What do you see?
2. How does one “sing a new song?”
3. List the inventory of God’s works that the psalmist sings about.
4. Look at verse four. Whom is the psalmist addressing? Who is supposed to make a joyful noise?
5. Look at verse seven: Who else is supposed to make a joyful noise?
6. Look at verse eight: Who else? What do you expect to see when you sing this psalm?
7. Now look at Psalm 100. *1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. 2Serve the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with joyful songs. 3Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. 4Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and bless His name. 5For the LORD is good, and His loving devotion endures forever; His faithfulness continues to all generations.* What do you see?
8. Whom is the psalmist addressing this time?
9. Look at Luke 19: *39But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!” 40“I tell you,” He answered, “if they remain silent, the very stones will cry out.” 41As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it.* What happens if we remain silent?
10. What did the psalmist see that we do not understand?

Charlie says, “All of us should count the worship we have as the ultimate blessing.”

1. Explain.
 2. What happens when we are in harmony with “...all the earth, the seas, and the mountains?”
- Charlie had the worship team sing “The Blessing.”

1. Do you remember? What do the lyrics say?
2. What happens when you hear the lyrics.
3. What happens when you sing “Amen?”
4. Explain how that song becomes Charlie’s “first blessing of 2024.”
5. What does it bring with it?
6. Do you remember what Charlie’s second blessing of 2024 was?

7. How was the Word of God that we heard this year the second blessing?
8. From whom did that word come? Do you have a testimony?
9. What have you learned that is new and fresh from this year?

Look up Charlie's favorite verse, Galatians 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. [24](#)Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25](#)Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit. [26](#)Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.

1. Look closely at verses 24 and 25. Do you notice anything different?
2. How has Paul given us a standard whereby we can test ourselves in the Spirit?
3. Do you find yourself more in verse 25 or in verse 26?
4. Where do you want to be found? How does one get there?
5. Charlie points out that Jesus, Who sent Pastor Mark and all those who speak from the platform at Grace, have this in common. They haven't come to condemn, but to serve. Do you get that sense?
6. They offer grace, and mercy and love. Have you noticed this?
7. How does one "...walk in step with the Spirit?"
8. Charlie says, "Here is how you know that a message is rooted in the ultimate power of God. He testifies about Jesus." How does that make a difference?
9. Look up Revelation 19: [9](#)*Then the angel told me to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."* [10](#)*So I fell at his feet to worship him. But he told me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who rely on the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* What is the impact of faithful testimony?
10. Knowing you're invited, that these are the true words of God, what is your response?

Charlie says, "Pastor Mark also brings us testimonies of others, in what they are doing around the world. And we know what those testimonies do."

1. Do we? What do they do?
2. Look up Revelation 12: [10](#)*And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. [11](#)They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death. What does our testimony do?"*
3. What happens when our testimony and the testimony of Jesus is the same? Who wins?
4. Who loses?
5. Charlie says, "You get fed that, every Sunday." What is the supernatural promise, if that is true?
6. What are your expectations?
7. Charlie adds, when Mark includes steps to apply the word, "...he's turning you to the face of God." What happens when you are not just a hearer only, but a doer of the word?
8. How does the application demonstrate your own faith?
9. Charlie says, "When he speaks, eternal life comes through these doors. Eternal life is found in Christ Jesus our Lord." What perspective does this add?

10. What does an encounter with eternity look like?

Charlie rolls into 2025 and his own resolutions.

1. He asks, "Can't we just rejoice in 2025?" Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:15 *Make sure that no one repays evil for evil. Always pursue what is good for one another and for all people.* 16 *Rejoice at all times.* 17 *Pray without ceasing.* Can this be done? (See also Philippians 4:7 *Rejoice in the Lord always, and I'll say it again. Rejoice.*) (Review James 1:1 *Count it all joy when you go through trials of all kinds...*) Answer Charlie's plea.
2. He suggests, "Try exercising humility." Examine the call to humility, 2 Chronicles 7:14 *and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.* Who is called to humility? What is required to be heard? What will heal this land? Who goes first? Who humbles himself first?
 - A. To what degree does any government have to be the first? Or, one of the parties?
 - B. Look at Isaiah 9: 6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* 7 ***Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.*** If, as it is written, HIS government is still increasing, where is there cause for discomfort, anxiety or worry?
 - C. Now, look at Philippians 1: 2 *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.* 3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.* 4 *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* What is required? Make a plan.
3. He adds, "Look to the God Who performs real and present miracles." Look up Psalm 77. Take a moment to read the distress of the psalmist. Now look at verse 14 *You are the God who works wonders; You display Your strength among the peoples.* How does your perspective change when you consider what happens when God comes on the scene?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Decide to make your weekly encounter become your own daily encounter. List the steps. Use these notes throughout the week on a daily basis.
3. Choose joy in 2025. Pursue for what is good for one another and for all people.
4. Exercise humility. Deliberately put others first.
5. Look to the God Who performs miracles. Write what you anticipate.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On trees clapping their hands**—The primary meaning of the Hebrew word for to clap, מָחָה, (Strong's 422, *macha*) is "To wipe, blot out, obliterate." It

comes to mean to rub or strike the hands together, as when the trees of the field clap their hands. But the concept is not that of “applause.” It’s a bookkeeping term that signifies the wiping out of all record of debt by blotting it out. It’s a gesture of absolute triumph, not of appreciation, as when the victorious team salutes one another with a high five. Now, imagine the entire earth celebrating the absolute victory in this manner. Imagine the tumult as the mountains and trees give each other a high five, and you approach the psalmist’s meaning.

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: Psalm 34:1-8
Tuesday: Psalm 98
Wednesday: Psalm 100
Thursday: Luke 19:39-41
Friday: Galatians 5:22-24,25,26
Saturday: Revelation 19:9-10
Sunday: Revelation 12:10-11

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.