

Life Group Sermon Discussion Notes 5/26/2024  
Charlie Temple Memorial Day Sunday

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[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](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time to question—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.**

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Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that arose during Charlie Temple's message this week, 5/26. 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 full armor of God and praying with all prayer in the Spirit.](#)
2. [On unexpected answers to prayer...and vigilant perseverance.](#)

\*\*\***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. \*\*\*

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Charlie Temple began with a moment of silence to remember fallen warriors. Do you have a story or a testimony, a memory to share from Memorial Days past or present?

Look at 1 Thessalonians 5: *1Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. 2For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

1. What do you see?
2. Why does Paul not need to write concerning times and seasons?
3. Of what are the Thessalonians already convinced?
4. How does a thief in the night come?
5. Describe the deception of that day.
6. If you have been pregnant, describe the difference between the days before labor begins, and the moments where the pain begins.,
7. What can we be absolutely sure of?
8. What can we not be sure of?
9. Who is coming back? Who is He? Can you describe Him?

Now look at 1 Thessalonians 5: [14](#)And we urge you, brothers, to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone. [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. [18](#)Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [19](#)Do not extinguish 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.

1. What do you see?
2. Describe what Paul is doing here. Are these impossible decrees?
3. Can you do this? Do you? Do you have a testimony?
4. How does one "Rejoice at all times?" Review again James 1: [2](#)Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, [3](#)because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4](#)Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
5. Look at Philippians 1: [27](#)Nevertheless, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending side by side for the faith of the gospel, [28](#)without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a clear sign of their destruction but of your salvation, and it is from God. What is the fruit of our rejoicing at all times? Who gets jealous?
6. What are practical steps we can take, or ways we can think to buttress our own joy?
7. Look at verse 18. Do we give thanks FOR every circumstance?
8. What is the difference between giving thanks for every circumstance, and giving thanks in every circumstance?
9. What are we giving thanks for? Make a list.
10. Look again at the list Paul gives the Thessalonians above, vv. 14-22. Take a minute to discuss each exhortation. How well do you follow these ideas? Which is more difficult?

Charlie says, "Rejoicing is constant thanksgiving. But it's better to define it by what it is not. Rejoicing is NOT constant complaining."

1. What is the impact on the ambiance of a gathering when complaining begins? Do you have a testimony?
2. What is the impact on the ambiance of a gathering when thanksgiving is heard?
3. What is the impact of your words on a crowd?
4. Look up Proverbs 18: [20](#)From the fruit of his mouth a man's belly is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. [21](#)Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. How important are your own words?
5. Charlie says, "There are some people in church who do not rejoice a lot, but they do not hesitate to complain." Without naming any names, have you seen this? Have you ever participated? What were the results?
6. Look again at Paul's exhortations to the Thessalonians and to the Philippians. From your experience, what was missing when the complaining was prevalent?

Charlie says, "Rejoicing is the expression of pure joy in your salvation. It's not a "good feeling"...but it's a spiritual way of life. Not a feeling."

1. Explain.

2. How does a sense of humor differ from a mood? Which is more variable and therefore less reliable?
3. Look up Philippians 4: *4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is at hand. 6Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* What do you see?
4. Why does Paul repeat himself so often to the Philippians? Is it easy to remember to rejoice?
5. Where does gentleness come in? Where does anxiety come in?
6. Review what Paul told the Philippians in the first chapter ([from above](#))? What impact does our peace have on those who oppose us?
7. Look closely again at verse 5, What reason does Paul give for rejoicing?
8. Look up Psalm 16:11 *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* If the Lord is at hand (near) what excuse do we have for not rejoicing?
9. If we do not perceive Him as near, what is our first step?
10. How do you seek God?
11. Discuss this: What is prayer? What is petition? Is there a difference?
12. What is the difference between prayer with thanksgiving, and prayer without thanksgiving?
13. What does it mean for the peace of God to surpass understanding? Do you have a testimony?
14. If your heart and your mind are anchored on Christ Jesus, what is the result?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing."

1. Explain.
2. Have you ever?
3. Do you know how to?

Charlie says, "That's a lot of prayer...but really it comes down to a pattern and rhythm in your daily life of praying. Especially praying for others...praying for healing...praying for salvation. Just plain praying."

1. Does this explanation clarify Paul's statement?
2. How does prayer as a mindset change the way this verse appears?
3. Look up 1 Chronicles 16: *12In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady became increasingly severe. Yet even in his illness he did not seek the LORD, but only the physicians.* What are the benefits of prayer as the first resort compared to prayer as a last resort?

Now look up Ephesians 6: *18Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should.*

1. See the [footnote below](#) on the full armor of God. What do you see?
2. How does Paul describe a mindset of prayer?

3. Is there any type of prayer that is inappropriate?
4. Was Paul being selfish calling for prayer for his work? Was he recognizing his need of the prayers of others?
5. James says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." What do you think? Do you have a testimony?
6. Why is perseverance essential? What happens when you give up? (See [footnote 2 below.](#))
7. Charlie points out that this mindset includes: Rejoicing always. Praying continually. Praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. What is the result?

Charlie speaks of the YouTube video with Brandon Lake's live production of Talking to Jesus. <https://youtu.be/OXsww1fRHMA?si=UQxAUjgXtWaclIRJ>

1. If you watch this video, describe what you see.
2. How is prayer a conversation with Jesus?
3. How does prayer become contagious?
4. The song says in the end, "The darker the day, the brighter the light." Explain?
5. Why is a candle more visible at night?
6. How does the increased contrast between the light and darkness help understand the need for light?
7. Look up Matthew 11:28 [Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.](#) Who is calling us to talk to him? What is the promise?
8. What does that rest look like?
9. In Matthew's gospel and Luke's, Jesus says, "Knock (and keep on knocking) and the door will be opened." Who is supposed to knock? Who is calling us to knock?
10. In Revelation 3:20 [Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.](#) Who is knocking here? Who makes the first move?
11. What is your response to the One knocking at the door? What are you serving at the table for Jesus to eat?
12. What if we do not open? What if we do?
13. Look at James 4:8 [Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...](#) How does this fit?
14. Is there any wrong way to pray?
15. Charlie points out concerning the Pharisees of Jesus' day that they were masters of public prayer. What did Jesus call them? Why?
16. Review. Look up Ephesians 5:19 [Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, 20always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#) Why do you give thanks in all circumstances? What is the fruit of this mindset?
17. How did Charlie's message set the example speaking to us with psalms and hymns? How did that help? Did you check out the YouTube video?

18. Charlie prophesied to the room using a hymn, declaring, “Jesus wants you to know, ‘It is well with your soul.’” What does this mean? Is this true? How do you give thanks for that?
19. What do you give thanks for?
20. Is it hard to be thankful? What is a major impediment to thanksgiving?
21. How do you encourage thanksgiving?

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### **The Follow-up Application**

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. List the things you give thanks for despite the circumstances.

### **Take the time to pray.**

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#### **Scribe’s Notes:**

1. **On the full armor of God and praying with all prayer in the Spirit**—We often speak of the spiritual warfare that we face daily. It’s fully described in Ephesians 6. [10](#)Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. [11](#)Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b](#)wiles of the devil. [12](#)For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c](#)the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [13](#)Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14](#)Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15](#)and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16](#)above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [17](#)And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; [18](#) [Through/By means of] praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— [19](#)and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, [20](#)for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Paul admonishes us to “put on the full armor of God,” The warfare is important to consider, and the armor formidable, but verse 18 holds a key that is rarely noticed. In Greek, the verse begins with the Greek preposition *διά* (*dia*), which means “through” or “by the instrumentality of”/by means of. The armor of god is put on *by means of* praying always with all prayer in the spirit. None of the armor is applied without prayer in the spirit. Paul describes this prayer in his letter to Corinthians in chapter 14, where he prays “...with [his] spirit, and with [his] understanding.” Prayer in the spirit is prayer in a language known only to the Spirit and given as a gift for this purpose. Jude offers similar advice in his epistle: [20](#)But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith [*ἐν*—*en* (by)] praying in the Holy Spirit, [21](#)keep yourselves in the love of God as

*you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life. We have been given a means to pray constantly and in the Spirit.*

2. **On unexpected answers to prayer...and vigilant perseverance**—In the end of his epistle, James teaches on effective prayer using Elijah as an example. James 5: **16***Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail. 17Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.* The power of Elijah's prayers set the stage for greater understanding thanks to James, but examining brothers and sisters in the biblical narrative who were surprised by God in answer to their prayer is also very instructive. This footnote would go on for pages if I brought up all the instances of God's response to prayer...where fire came down from heaven after the prayer, and people couldn't even carry on their daily tasks. But two instances in the New Testament stand out as great encouragement, because they involve people outside the circle of the Great Apostles. We saw last week how, in Acts 10, Cornelius was spoken to by God because of his constant care and vigilance in prayer toward the poor around him: **1***At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment. 2He and all his household were devout and God-fearing. He gave generously to the people and prayed to God regularly. 3One day at about the ninth hour, he had a clear vision of an angel of God who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" 4Cornelius stared at him in fear and asked, "What is it, Lord?" The angel answered, "**Your prayers and gifts to the poor have ascended as a memorial offering before God. 5Now send men to Joppa to call for a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.**" See how a lifetime of prayer and care brought about a history-changing result. The most entertaining example, however, occurs two chapters later, when, in Acts 12, a prayer meeting is abruptly interrupted when the object of their prayers, Peter, who was kept in prison after James' execution, knocks on the door where the prayer meeting is being held, having been set free from prison by an angel: **12***And when he [Peter] had realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, **where many people had gathered together and were praying. 13**He knocked at the outer gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer it. 14When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she forgot to open the gate, but ran inside and announced, "Peter is standing at the gate!" 15*"You are out of your mind," they told her. *But when she kept insisting it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." 16*But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astounded. **17***Peter motioned with his hand for silence, and he described how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. "Send word to James and to the brothers," he said, and he left for another place.* Notice Rhoda's reaction. Notice the reaction of those who were praying. Why were they astounded? Why did they think Rhoda was out of her mind? What would you have thought? Explain how this illustrates the first principle of Hebrews 11: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."*
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**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: Matthew 13:11-15
Tuesday: Matthew 13:44-45
Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
Thursday: Philippians 1:27-30
Friday: Proverbs 18:20-21
Saturday: Philippians 4:4-7
Sunday: Psalm 16:11

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.