

John 16:13-15

Sunday 10/2/2022

The one called Pilate, a man and a mess, tried four ways to get rid of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the same four ways people try to get rid of Him today. But I have to preach John 16 this morning.

Last week we began a detailed study of the working of the Holy Spirit of God out of John 16. You have heard me tell you that John 16 is the definitive chapter for us on the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus told them many times that when He went back, He was going to send them the Holy Spirit of God, who is also called the Comforter.

I showed you in John 16 how the Bible breaks this study down into two sections on how He is going to work. It is a natural outline, and we always try to follow the natural outline because that is truly the best way to see what God has for you.

First, we talked about this last week: how the Holy Spirit of God will work throughout the world when He came, as He moves through history. This is so important to see because all history needs to be viewed in the light of this great concept. I have told you so many times, and I always try to keep it before you because it is an easy little thing to forget, but it is a powerful thing to remember: all history, no matter where you go in the history of man, is nothing more than God moving to accomplish His plan, and the devil moving to stop that plan. It is so simple. The world, man, higher education, college, high school, primary school—they all complicate history to such a great degree. I understand it; they are without God. They want to know nothing about God, so they see it from a human standpoint.

Then I showed you three areas that the Holy Spirit of God impacted the world: to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. We laid each one of those out for you. We talked about how the Holy Spirit of God is the light that shines in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. We looked at how the coming of the Holy Spirit of God, along with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, changed the world forever. People do not like to admit it. People do not like to see it. But life on planet Earth was never the same when Christ came and then when He went back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit of God.

The second thing is how the Holy Spirit of God will work in us during the church age. This is what we are going to look at today. I gave you last week three key words for us to be effective for God that I think really sum up everything for my life, anyhow, and maybe you can use it too.

- Understanding. Understanding is probably the single greatest aspect of the Bible that most of God's people never get.
- Perspective. Seeing how things really are.
- Purpose. Understanding God's purpose and how that needs to become our purpose.

These three words working in harmony in our life. I talked about the song last week out of Psalms 40: "put a new song in my heart, even praise unto our God; many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." Where is that song for you? If you were going to go someplace in your Bible to begin that song, where would you go? Song of Solomon. That is where you would go. It is an incredible concept. All we do for God, or do not do for God, will be wrapped up in

those three words. You getting those three working together in your life, allowing God to show us through the Holy Spirit of God, moving through our lives to accomplish His calling in our life.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Everybody knows that verse. We say it all the time, but the last part of that verse is that you are called according to His purpose, not your purpose, His purpose. The problem with God's people today is that they have never picked up on that. They are saved, but they are living their life according to their purpose. You see, His purpose becoming our purpose. And proving that is what Romans 12:1-2 tells us: to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Now today, we are going to look at the next four areas that make up the seven of the Holy Spirit of God and how He is going to work. These will be to us. These will be to everybody in this room this morning if you are saved, the body of Christ. Let me say this: the Holy Spirit of God in our lives is the most unknown, unappreciated, underestimated aspect of God. He is the great unknown person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit of God. Oh, we talk about it. We use the terminology, but most of God's people have no clue how He works in our lives. We know what we know from what we hear, but we have no real understanding, no real perception. Therefore, we have no real purpose. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit of God is literally unknown today, what He does.

This is the problem because we all have a serious issue in front of us. Most of you have the majority of your life left. Our church is a very young church; most of you are in your twenties and nineteen. Most of you are very young in your life. You have many years if Jesus does not come. Here is the problem: you have to navigate for the next twenty, thirty, maybe forty years through this life. You have to find your way. You have to find a way to circumvent all the things that are out there that want to stop you. I am telling you right now, the Holy Spirit of God will most certainly, understanding what I am going to say today, the Holy Spirit of God in life and the sea of life and you navigating through it, the Holy Spirit of God will be the compass that you can set your course by and get to where God wants you to be. Setting the course, giving us our purpose. Hopefully, you will see today that in these next four areas, exactly how He does what He does and how He wants to do it in your life and my life.

The Charismatics, God bless them, are always wanting more of the Holy Spirit of God. They are always telling you, telling me, telling everybody that once you get saved, you did not get all the Holy Spirit of God. There are a number of things that you have got to do to continue to get more of the Holy Spirit of God, and at some point, you arrive. Well, let me just say this to you: the key to the Holy Spirit of God is not you and I getting more of Him. The key is Him getting more of us. You got all that you can get from Him the day you got saved, and you are sealed with it. So the problem is not in you and me getting more of Him. The problem is Him getting more of you and me. Now we turn our lives over to Him and find that purpose that God wants to have for us.

Now, some of this stuff, you hear it all the time, so just be patient with me. Allow me to ramble here for a few minutes. When the Bible tells us that the Word of God will be the mind of Christ,

we all know that. We have talked about it many, many times. As 1 Corinthians 2:16 and Philippians 2:5 tell us, we have that mind, and we know that mind to be the Word of God. It is through this mind that we are also told that we get our instructions. But when I talk about the mind of Christ, there are two aspects to that, because it will be the Holy Spirit of God that will give us that instruction.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

You see, the Word of God is the mind of Christ, but there is a mind of the Spirit. When you break it down and you look at it and you understand it, you realize that the mind of Christ will be the instructions that the Bible gives us. We are going to see that in just a little bit. So the mind of Christ will be the instructions for you and me to finish the work that Christ started. We find that in the Bible. Ah, but the mind of the Spirit will show you how to accomplish that. You see, the two have to work together. It is like the Trinity. There are three separate identities, but they are one. The mind of the Spirit and the mind of Christ are two different things, but they are one. The two differences are the work that they do. The Word of God shows me what Christ wants me to do. It gives me my purpose that I replace Him when He went back. The Holy Spirit of God, the mind of the Spirit, tells me how to do that. He shows me. He becomes my compass. You will never get the mind of Christ without first getting the mind of the Spirit. The two, you cannot have one without the other. It takes God's Spirit moving through you and then, as we saw in Genesis 1:2-3, giving you the light. Then, as you get into the Bible, the mind of Christ shows you as the Holy Spirit of God illuminates it for you.

The Holy Spirit of God built the Word of God all around history. The Bible says that holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. There is no question about that. He inspired it. Then He preserved it. In Acts 13:49, it says that He published it. It says that they published the Word of God throughout all the region. Last week in Bible Institute, as you know, we are coming through the book of Acts. I took some time because there are some key places there where everybody says that God did not know what He was doing, and the King James translators just took over and did some stupid stuff and put words in there. One of them, obviously, in Acts 12, was the word Easter. I clearly showed you that the translators, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, knew exactly why it should not be the Passover and why they put the word Easter in. Then I showed you over in Acts 19 where the Holy Spirit of God had the translators put in the word churches for pagan temples. Everybody gets an uproar about that. I explained why they did that, because they knew their history when it came to the Bible, and they knew where they had come from.

I remember when I taught you that, I did not really say anything at the time, but it just kind of hit me when I saw it. I had really never seen it before that He said in Acts 13:49, and here again, this

is the Holy Spirit of God. Hey, this is His book. He can put in it whatever He wants. Somebody says, "Well, man did that." No, no, no. Man may have done it to your Bible, but he did not do it to mine. The Holy Spirit of God kept this pure as it came through man, just like He kept His Son pure as He came through a birth through a woman. It is a thing where it is His book. He can do whatever He wants to do. Once you get a hold of that, things will be better for you when it comes to the Bible. So He injects Himself wherever He wants as the Bible was being put together to give you and me 1,500 years later what we needed to know to navigate through this quagmire mess called Christianity and the church age today.

Boy, the book of Acts is the book. I was reading down there, and I thought to myself where it says, "and they published the Word of God throughout the region." No, they did not. They did not go to a printing press someplace and publish the Word of God. Gutenberg got the printing press. He did not get that until, I do not know, what was it, 1400, 1300, one of those Gutenberg years in there. He finally did the printing press. But the first book that they printed on Gutenberg was the Bible. But that was not in Acts 13. Now I have heard preachers correct that with the Greek because they say, "Well, the word there should not be published because the Word of God was not published yet." See, if you have an NIV, it does not say the word published. If you have an ASV, they took the word out. Every new Bible takes the word publish out. You know why? Because they are so stupid, they do not understand. He is not talking about the Bible being published in a book. When you got saved, you are a walking Word of God. You publish the Word of God every day of your life. You ought to be the walking Bible. Let me ask you a question, walking Bible: how many chapters are missing in your life today? Yes, they published it because they realized that there was no written Word of God. They had the Word of God inside them, and they were publishing it throughout the world. That is your job and my job. There will be times when you do not have a Bible. There will be times when you get caught without the Word of God, and somebody needs to have some answers or this or that. You know what? It is okay. Do not beat yourself up. You know why? You ought to be the walking Word of God because it is published in your heart. The problem is we have got too many pages missing. That is the problem.

The mind of Christ shows you the work that you and I need to do in replacing Christ. The mind of the Spirit will lead and give you how to do that through the Word of God. One of the most incredible concepts of the Bible.

Now today, we will begin to look at John 16:13-15, and we will examine what the Holy Spirit of God will do for us as Christians in the New Testament church, the body of Christ.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Thank you for those that have made it out today. We pray for those listening online this morning, and we just pray, Father, that your Spirit would be among us today, that truly you would do the work today that we are about to talk about in each of our lives as we open up this incredible book and lay out the credible truth of the Word of God. Help us today, Father. We are a needy people. We live in a needy time, and we have, Lord, the Word of God that has all the answers. Help us to cling to it and do all that it tells us to do, and we will thank you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, we will see today four aspects of the Holy Spirit of God working through your life and my life, and without a doubt, these will be the most important aspects that we must understand to have the Holy Spirit of God moving through us and giving us the light on God's Word with what He does.

I. The Holy Spirit Guides Us to All Truth

There are a number of examples in the Bible. The old boys, when I used to talk with them, and I would hear them talk about the Bible, and they would get into some deep thing, they always used to say, "Well, I do not know. God has not given anybody the light on that yet." I listened to that back then, and I kind of understood it, but I understand it in a great way now. That is what the Holy Spirit of God does. It shines light on the Word of God. Anything that I teach you from the Bible, anything that you get or anybody else gives you, they did not get it on their own. They are not so magnanimous and magnificent that they just get into the Bible and find all those things. No, no, no. The Holy Spirit of God had to show them, just like He is going to have to show you. But there is a process you go through to get there and understand that.

A great example of this, as you will remember the story that we looked at when we first started the Gospel of John, was back in John 5. If you remember that story, it was a story of a man that was crippled, and the Bible says that he was crippled for 38 years. Yet, he is down there at a place, two key places: he is down there in a place called Bethesda, which means mercy, and he is at the sheep gate for the place of sacrifice. So you can begin to see how this thing is kind of forming itself up to something that Christ is going to do for us. We did that story all around this pool, this pool of water. All around this pool, there were all kinds of people that had all kinds of problems. They were just laying around. They were crippled folks. They were folks that were blind and could not find their way through life. They were folks that were withered and could not walk. They were folks that were halt, and they had some kind of deformity. They are a picture of where we are at today.

Now, I get it. They are also a picture of the nation of Israel. I gave you that when we came through it. We always think that Israel wandered 40 years in the wilderness, and they did, depending on how you counted. But when you go back and get the official counting, it was 38 years. So this man is a picture of Israel with all their infirmities. But in an inspirational application, it is a picture of us today. It is a picture of the body of Christ. Just like those people back there, people today, God's people, they are powerless. They have no power in their life. They are blind. They have absolutely no spiritual insight. They are halt. They have no walk with God. And they are withered. They have no work for God. If you do not think that is a good

comparison, go over to Revelation 3:18-19 and see the comparison with this, with the Laodicean church period, who thinks they are great. But they have all of these problems right here.

My, my, my. What are they all waiting for? What is the need, and what do they need so badly in that story? It is the same thing that we need today. You know what they are waiting for? The moving of the waters. Holy Spirit of God. Man. And then the movement in his life will be what the Holy Spirit of God begins to do with you to fulfill God's purpose. Now there is Christianity today: a stagnant pool filled with moss, with the stench of rotting foliage. God's people are laying all around, and they have no power in their life. They have no spiritual insight. They have no walk. They have no work. The real problem is there is no preaching or preacher that can get in there and stir up the water.

You know what America needs today? We do not need another political party. We do not need the Dr. Faucis. We do not need the Republicans or the Democrats. You know what we need to get this country back on its course? We just need about 200,000 preachers that will get into the pulpit, and every Sunday morning they will stir the water. You do not stir the water with teaching. You placate with teaching. I do not know what placate means. I hope it is not a dirty word. I heard it on TV the other day. You placate people with preaching. You lift them up. You do not need to be lifted up. I do not need to be lifted up. You see, when the Holy Spirit of God knocks you down through good preaching, then He will also lift you up. You do not need me to lift you up. You just need me to knock you down. The Holy Spirit of God will lift you up. Then when you get lifted up, then you and Him do business together. You see how it works? That is the problem.

All right, let us look at number one. Let us begin to break down these four great concepts of the Holy Spirit of God as we have them in our lives.

1.) The Holy Spirit of God will guide us to all truth.

Now that sounds like a simple thing. Somebody says, "Well, Bob, that should not take you very long." Oh, you do not know me. When you go on vacation, there are some places that are really interesting that you really wanted to go. You are not familiar with the area. You do not want to miss all the great places because you do not even know how to get there. Some places, the traffic is terrible. These places, the little out-of-the-way places, but they are on your to-do list. "I want to see this." You know what your best bet is to do? Get a guide.

About 1960, I was nine or ten years old. My mom and dad took us to Washington, D.C. You remember that? It was really our first vacation. We used to go to Frostburg, Maryland all the time, which to me, that was great. I thought it was going back into the wilderness. It was a farm back there, rattlesnakes, copperheads, all the good things your kid wants to play with. My mom and dad took us to Washington, D.C. It was our first real vacation. Let me tell you, how many of you have ever been to Washington, D.C.? There is a lot to see in Washington, D.C. I mean, it is every place you go. I have always thought in Washington, D.C. when they built the monuments back there, they all put a Bible verse over every one of them. Every Bible verse in Washington, D.C., even though they do not believe the Bible anymore, every Bible verse in Washington, D.C. in those buildings, is out of a King James 1611 Authorized Version. There is not an RSV verse

among them. In fact, I had a preacher friend of mine, one time when he went to Washington, D.C., he recorded all, and he preached a sermon just on the verses that are on the buildings.

You know what is on the United Nations building? A verse about the millennium. The United Nations in Washington there, their organization there, and the one over in New York City, they put across the thing there out of Isaiah where it talks about that they will beat their swords into plowshares and pruning hooks, and they will not know war anymore. In other words, when the United Nations, which was originally the League of Nations, became the United Nations, they were going to put an end to war. How did that work for them? We have had more wars; it did not stop a thing. See? But there are some great verses up there.

So my dad, we wanted to see everything, so my dad hired a guide. I still remember, I was just a little kid, but I remember the guy coming up and saying to my dad, and mom looked at him, and they said, "Yeah, let us do that." So he took us around and saw all the high points of everything in Washington, D.C. The one that sticks out in my mind was the great Marine Corps memorial there, glorifying the flag on Mount Suribachi. He explained the guys who they were, and that most of them were dead now, and they were still, it was an incredible thing. But he knew, he lived there. He knew where all the high points were. He knew where all the points of excitement were. He knew where to take us. We never got lost. He knew all the shortcuts so that we did not get snarled in traffic, and D.C. can be pretty much a traffic mess. He knew where we were today to go. He took us everywhere we wanted to see. I have never forgotten that.

When it comes to your Bible, we need a guide. We need a guide so we do not miss all the key places that God has for us. Because if you just try to get it on your own, which is what most people do, you wonder why you never scratch your head, why you never get anything out of the Bible. You have got to have a guide, and that guide is the Holy Spirit of God, who when God sent Him to you, was to send Him to you to lead and guide us into all truth. How many times we try to get into the Bible, and we just miss so much. You are not familiar with the Bible. You do not know all the things about it. You can get some helps. But the Holy Spirit of God will guide you to all truth. As you get closer and grow in the Lord, you will be amazed at how He will develop that.

Now, I have been saved a long time, and I have been preaching a long time. I am at the place where I can be in the middle of a sermon, or teaching in Bible Institute, or doing anything. I do not even know how to explain this very well. Some of you older guys that know how to preach very well, and you probably identify with me, but you are coming down through there, and you are teaching something, or you are preaching something, and you are talking. You are laying out your point, and you are thinking about your point, and you are doing a good job of putting it all together. Then, in between that, the Holy Spirit of God just shows you something, which you never saw before. You know what? You are now so good at it, and you are so comfortable with it, that you do not even miss a beat. People out there do not even know what happened. I have been preaching in sermons when God came in, and I always call it a play from the bench, and puts it in. It is a thing where you have to shift gears, but you have the ability that God's people listening to you do not even know what you are doing. In other words, the older you get in the Lord, and the closer you get with that Holy Spirit of God, of doing these four things, the more He has the

freedom to do with you, whatever He wants to do, whenever He wants to do it, and you are allowing Him to do it. That is how He guides you.

It is like some of you folks out there today have a red letter edition of the Bible. What is a red letter edition? I had somebody ask me that, did not even know what a red letter edition was. A red letter edition is that the words of Christ in the New Testament, they print them in red. So immediately, when you get into Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, you can see at a glance quickly what the words of Jesus are, versus what the words of just the course of the Bible, the writer is. They are very helpful for young Christians. Another thing is just think of your China marker. Some of you have yellow, some of you have red. My two basic colors are yellow and red. Yellow, when I am reading through my Bible, when I see something, I mark it in yellow, so that when I go there to teach the Bible, the first thing I see is what I need to know. If it is really something that really knocks my socks off, so to speak, then I put it in red. I train myself to know that when I open any book of the Bible, when I go to it, the first thing I see is the yellow and the red, and then I know what I am dealing with. Now that is what we do with a pencil or a China marker, but that is what the Holy Spirit of God does when you read it. He illuminates things. You will come along and something will just jump out at you. Something will just stick out like you are going to trip over it. That is how He leads and guides.

I want you to know that the Bible says that He leads and guides in all truth. The Bible just does not contain some truth. The Bible contains all truth. Years ago, I worked with a Christian psychologist that I knew was coming to our church, not this one. He was a nice guy, but he is a typical educated-beyond-his-intelligence guy. He was one of these guys who was a Christian psychologist. He was a doctor. He loved to portray himself. He wanted everybody to know that he was a doctor. I am not sure what he was a doctor in, but evidently, whatever he did. He is the guy. You know you are with the wrong guy when this happens. I went to lunch one time with him. This guy was not even in a private practice. He worked for some organization out there. But he was a doctor, or he said he was. He probably was. We go into this restaurant to go to lunch. We are standing there, and the lady comes and says, "Two?" I said, "Yes, two." So she starts to take us back. He goes over to the lady that is still there and he says, "I am Doctor So-and-So. If any calls would come in for me, would you direct them to my table?" I said, "You are kidding me, right? What, your wife is going to call you?" But see, that is what a real doctor does. If you are a brain surgeon, you are a heart surgeon, you have got people up there, you go to eat, you say, "Hi, I am Doctor Alexander, and I am going to be here if my nurse calls or the hospital calls. Would you let me know immediately?" "Oh, yes, Doctor Alexander." This guy is an idiot. He is a nobody. He is a doctor fine, Doctor Howard, Doctor Fine out of the Three Stooges. Yet he wants to pretend he is somebody.

So we sit down, and we have talked for a long, long time over months, months, months. Here was his take on it. He is still around today. He is in one of the big mega churches now, and he is just basking in the light of his doctorism. I am sure that the church, when the pastor does not know what to do with somebody or does not want to do it because it interferes with his golf game, he sends them over to Doctor Fine, Doctor Howard, Doctor Fine for about \$120 an hour. You know, when you are cured, when your insurance runs out, it is amazing. So anyway, he says,

"Here is the fundamental difference between you and me." I said, "Okay, what is that?" He says, "I believe the Bible contains truth, but I do not believe the Bible contains all truth." In other words, what he had learned through his psychology was going to supplement the stupidity of God. Let me tell you something. When God put that book together, it is all truth. Every part of it, nothing lacking, nothing needed to be added, and certainly nothing Doctor Fine, Doctor Howard, Doctor Fine is going to put into it. It is just the way God wanted to have it, and the Holy Spirit of God will lead you and me into all truth, not just half truth, not just some truth. Every truth that is in there that God wants you to have.

II. The Holy Spirit Reveals Prophecy

2.) He will show you prophecy. He will show you things to come.

Last week we talked about the testimony of Jesus Christ. We talked about how that in Revelation 1, then again, in Revelation 19, that the testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy. The fact that He has the ability to have prophesied something 2,000 years before it has happened or longer than that, and it will come to pass. He never misses it. It is never a misfire. It is never an oops. It is always right on the money. We know clearly from the Bible that all time is in the hand of God. We know from eternity past to eternity future, God carved out a little parentheses called time that runs approximately 7,000 years. We are at the end of that, coming into the 6,000th year of that. We know that His plan for His purpose was during this time period that God created. It needs to become, as I have said, the plan for our purpose.

We also know that time is past, present, and future. It is the history of the Bible that will show you God's plan through history that will lead you to where He is going in the future. Let me say that again before I give you the verse that shows you that clearly. It is the history of the Bible that will show you God's plan through history that will then lead you right into where you are at today and then into the future. Years ago, Michael J. Fox made a movie. Remember? What was it called? Back to the Future? Remember that? That is a cute little movie. I like the little flying car and all that stuff. But you know what? Everything you see out there is just a counterfeit of the Word of God. You want a real back to the future? It is the book you are holding in your hand. I will show you here in just a minute. Just bear with me.

Then we will move up to the present as God comes through this. We saw that through the development of Israel, sought an institute, the development of the church, seen it in Bible study. As that all unfolds and the Holy Spirit of God leads and guides us through all truth, you begin to build then your understanding, which leads to you seeing perspective and then leads you to how you fit into what God is doing, your purpose. God has a purpose, but you have to make that purpose your purpose, and there is a process for you to get there. Then through the Spirit guiding us, we now know where God has been and where He is at and then where He is going. Now the Holy Spirit of God will show us all things to come. This will be our doctrine of the Bible that we talk so much about.

All history, all events in history, all events leading up to today that we live, what we call current events, everything is aimed through God's purpose and God's plan toward two days in the Bible:

the day of Christ, which is the rapture of the church when He comes for you and for me, and then the theme of the Bible, the day of the Lord when He comes back to establish His kingdom. I showed you last week that all history BC and AD, before Christ and in the year of our Lord, all build around the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then through the repeating of history, God will use history to show you and I the future.

Now the future events, just for us, the rapture of the church, then for the nation of Israel when the people left, the tribulation period, first three and a half, second three and a half. We have the second coming of Christ. We have the battle of Armageddon. We have the millennium. At the end, we have the new heavens and the new earth, and we have eternity. Those are all future events that most of God's people do not have a clue about. The reason why they do not have a clue about the future is because they do not understand anything about what God has done in the past. They do not understand His purpose. It is all laid out in detail through the Old Testament of God dealing with the nation of Israel and dealing with the main characters of the Bible.

Now here it comes. If you do not like anything else I said today, if you just get these two, it was worth your coming this morning. Two great verses in the book of Isaiah dealing with this very thing. Two verses that will change the way you look at everything, including your Bible. The first one is Isaiah 46:9-10. Now it does not get any clearer than this. I stated my case before I gave you the proof. Well now I am going to give you the verse, the bedrock of what I just said.

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

You see what He said? He told you to remember the former things of old. That is your history. Then He gets a little interlude in there: "For I am God, and there is none else. Amen. I am God, and there is none like me." Boy, that is an understatement. Now here it comes. Declaring the end from the beginning. See that? He just told you He is going to declare the end of everything by going back to Genesis where He started. Now how in the world does He do that? Declaring the end from the beginning. Now look at this: "And from the ancient times the things that are not yet done." He just told you that the things in the Old Testament, the ancient times, and the things in the beginning are going to lay out for you the future. Now if you can ever get a hold of those two verses and start to make them work for you and figure out how He does this, your life will never be the same when it comes to the Bible. You have talked about finding your purpose and God's purpose. Right there it is, man. Now, does it get any better than that or easier than that? Yet we just walk around like we are in a fog someplace.

Now let me show you the second one.

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

He says, "I am the LORD. That is my name. And my glory will I not give to another. Neither my praise to graven images." Here it comes. Verse 9: "Behold the former things," that will be the things up there in verse 46 from the beginning and the ancient times. "The former things are come to pass. And new things do I declare. Here it comes: before they spring forth, I will tell you of them." The future is no mystery. It is only a mystery for those who do not understand anything about the Bible. It is only a mystery, and you scratch your head and you have to worry about this or look at this or get into this with those who do not understand God's purpose of what He is doing and then find your purpose. So we never learned the great lessons. He says He is going to declare to you what He is going to do and show it to you by what He has already done in history. Without a doubt, two of the greatest verses in the Bible to unlock it through the light of the Holy Spirit of God and getting God's mind and then getting the mind of the Spirit as you become a man. Then the movement. What happened back in Genesis 1 when the Spirit began to move? Light. Light. Light.

III. The Holy Spirit Glorifies Christ

3.) He shall glorify me.

With this, we see that the job of the Holy Spirit of God is simply to glorify Christ and God. He seeks nothing for His own. This is powerful. He is always behind the scenes. He is always behind the person of Christ and will bring the glory of His work always back to God. He seeks no glory or recognition. So having said that, if at salvation we are now indwelt with that same Holy Spirit of God, and He is moving through our life, movement and giving us guidance and light, then we too should always give the glory to Christ or God. The mark of a Spirit-filled child of God will be someone who seeks nothing for themselves. They realize that whatever good they do is only because the goodness that they have in the Bible is God's goodness, which is Jesus Christ. You and I could not do a thing. I do not care how good you preach. I do not care how good you teach. I do not care what you know about the Bible. The moment you think that it is because of you, you are in trouble. It has not got a thing to do with you. It has to do with the Holy Spirit of God in you and you allowing it, but you have got to give the honor and glory back to Him.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

That has to be the mindset. You know the great example of that was Christ Himself. I do not know if you have ever looked at it from this angle or not. He was filled with the Holy Spirit of God just like you and I are. Yet He was a man of no reputation. He was the Son of God just like you and I are. Yet Philippians 2:5-8 says again, going back to, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

You see, verse 6 says that He was God and equal with God, as I said, just like you and I if you are saved today. Verse 7 says, "But he made himself of no reputation." He took on the form of a servant that was made in the likeness of man. He humbled Himself, verse 8, and was obedient unto death. Now the cross was His calling. Your dying on the cross is not your calling, probably. For Christ, His obedience unto death was His obedience to God's plan in His life to hang on that cross for you and for me. Now God is not going to ask you to do that for mankind because Christ already did it. But I am telling you right now, just as He was obedient unto death, which was His mission and His calling, God has a calling for every one of us in here today, and the question is, are you obedient to fulfill it? It might not be death as His death was, but He has got a calling for you, and our obedience, it is not about "look at me, look what I can do, look at this, look at that. How great I am at this, how great I am at that." It is about, are you obedient unto the calling that God gave you? That is the key. In everything that Christ did, He gave the glory to His Father, not on Himself.

You compare that with the modern-day mega church pastors. Some of the smaller church pastors too. You compare that with the Christians out there and the pastors out there that their whole everything about them hangs on how great they think they are. What they know about the Greek or the Hebrew, what they know about this, the education that they have, the fact that they have standing above all the people, and all the people look at them like Moses looked at God on Mount Sinai. You see this clearly in the Laodicean church if you go back to Revelation 3, that they are increased with goods and they have need of nothing. That is the church today. Not knowing that the Bible says they are blind, wretched, poor, and miserable. That is the church today. Yet in spite of that, we just keep popping ourselves up like we are something.

I remember a while back, I do not remember who even sent this to me, but there was a guy that I knew that was going to this mega church. This mega church had an incredible, beautiful building. It was incredible, really nice. But they decided that they needed to build a second mega church building to have a mega-mega church. So they went into this million, million, million dollar, millions of dollars building program and built this building that was incredible. I remember looking at that, and I am thinking to myself, you know what, now I have never been interested in a building. I always figured that was God's job. My job is one thing: make sure you get the book straight across the plate. I have got time to worry about buildings. If God wants, I would be happy in a tent this morning. I do not care. If I went out there, we do not have to, but if I would have had to go out and build a church, I would have got John back here in a Butler building. I do not know who Mr. Butler is, but you know him, so let us go to work on it. I would put a slab down there, put up a big building, and put up there, and somebody would say, "It looks like a Safeway warehouse." Well, it is a safe way for you to get to heaven, so come on in. It is not in a building.

But see, this is the problem. When you do not have the Bible, then you have to have a building. You have to have something. Come on, back in history, when you went back into the medieval times and you came into a, we are talking to 1400, 1300, maybe to 1200, 1400, 1500. When you

went into any European town, you know the first thing you saw? The Catholic Church. They built it so big and grand, and you can still go to Europe and see them. They are in constant repair. Look at Notre Dame. It was back, it was back, I mean, I know, it lost some of its glimmer when the Hunchback died, I get that. But I am telling you, it is a thing where that goes back to, I do not know how many hundreds of years. You have Wittenberg Church. In 1500 or something, Martin Luther went to Wittenberg, Germany, and on that door nailed his thesis on the wall. I stood at that same door. Still there. Go to Strasbourg. Go to Vienna. Whenever town you went in, the Catholic Church wanted to make sure that you saw they were a mega church. Now that is where that mindset of today started. Because when you go around any city in this country, the first thing you see is the mega church cathedrals. Except now they are neo-Evangelical, in some cases Baptist. It is the same concept. They actually think that bigger is better. They actually think that if you have a huge church, a mega church, that that is really a sign that God is in it. Hey, the Waldensians did not have a mega church. The Albigensians did not have cathedrals. The Cathari and all of those Bible-believing groups had nothing. May I just say this? When Jesus came into this world, He came into a stable. It was not a Marriott or a Howard Johnson or a five-star Holiday Inn. We lose some things in time, do not we?

Anyway, this guy, they built this big building, and he took a selfie of himself with the building behind him. He laid his hands out and he took a picture and he sent it out to everybody and he says, "Look what we did." I thought to myself, "You are right. You did it. God did not do it. You are right. Thank you for that testimony, brother." But that is where we are at today.

IV. Discerning What is of God

Then the last thing, moving right along. He says, "All things that the Father hath are mine, therefore said I, that he shall take of mine and shall show it unto you." Now, let me just talk to you this morning as, forget I am your pastor for a minute. Let me just talk to you as a brother in Christ. Somebody just like you. Of all the four things the Holy Spirit of God does for us, and these are all incredibly great things. I take away nothing of them. But this fourth one to me is most important. Because without this one, the other three just will never work for you. This fourth one here is the glue that really holds all four of them together. This verse is a great place in the Bible that will tell us that through our walk and fellowship and relationship with the Holy Spirit of God, through Him guiding us, giving us what we need, that God will show us what is really of God and what is really not of God. I cannot underscore that too many times. This is the great confusion today. This is the great quagmire that Christianity finds itself in. This one thing messes up more of God's people than any other thing I know. He will do this through the Bible as He guides you through the three basic ways.

I am telling you, we have in our Christian world today things that look like God might be in them or is in them. I clarify it like this. I say that I have preached this for years and years and years, that everybody sees things two ways. There are things out there in Christianity that are spiritual and they are Christian. So people stop right there and think because it is spiritual and it is Christian that it must be okay. You see, I am never satisfied with that, not in the Laodicean church period. Now that may have been true at one time. You cannot trust it today. No, no. I am

not interested in what is spiritual and what is Christian. I am interested in what is scriptural and what is biblical. I do not care about the rest. This is the problem today. This is the confusion today.

Now, I am going to give you three basic little things here that I follow. If you do not want it, that is fine. I do not care. You find your own way through life. But the first thing that He begins to fulfill this fourth thing is through the principles of the Word of God.

- Principles of the Word of God.

Solid, sound principles of the Word of God are where you start. Now, why do you start there? Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Wisdom comes from principles. Now, why are principles important? Well, principles will show you fundamentally what is of God and what is not. But the most important thing about using principles for your foundation of everything you believe and you are going to build on is the absolute fact that God never violates His own principles. God never lays a principle down and then changes it. When you learn the fundamental principles of the Word of God, life, ministry, family, marriage, all of those things. When you come back to the principles, not somebody's book you read on it, not somebody's opinion or idea on what your marriage should be or how you train your kids or how you raise your kids. No, no, no, no. I am not saying that is all bad. But what I am saying is much of that stuff has nothing to do with the Bible. It is a lot of Doctor Fine, Doctor Howard, and Doctor Fine. You have got to get to the bedrock truth that does not change. Then you build on it from there. That is where you have to start.

The second thing you are going to find once you lay the foundation of the principles down, that you now know that you have got a solid foundation that is not going to shift on you, will be the types you find in the Bible.

- Types in the Bible.

Types are biblical illustrations of what God is doing that are set down and built on the principles that the foundation of the Word of God is built on. The Bible in the Old Testament is filled with them. That shows you what God will do by what He has done. Of course, I go back to Isaiah 46 and Isaiah 42. We know for just for an instance that there are 21 types of Christ in the Old Testament. There are 18 types of the Antichrist. We know that there are types of Israel. We know there are types of the church. We know there are types of Christians. We know there are types. But all of those types, they are illustrations of God's truth that are principles. That is how you learn. You learn what God is doing with you by what God has done with others. You find where others got messed up and got confused, messed up and got deceived. Then you look at what they got deceived in. You follow the bedrock principles that never change. Then you use the typology in the Bible. By the way, there is not a Bible scholar in the world that would walk across the street and spit on types in the Bible because they do not believe they are really there. That just goes to show you their depth of stupidity. They are the greatest. That is what makes the Bible come alive. When you see those things and understand those things and you see how that they work through the Bible in every aspect. But you do not just go there. You have got to, it has got to come back to a baseline. Your house will not last very long if it is not on a strong, sturdy

foundation. Your Christian life will not last very long either if it is not built on a very solid foundation. Those foundations are the principles. You know why? They do not shift. Your house will get cracks in the basement walls because the ground settles and it shifts and it cracks. That will not happen with the principles in the Word of God. There will be no cracks. You will not have to call the O'Sham man to come and fix your foundation. That foundation is sure. That foundation is fixed. That foundation is absolute because God never violates His own principles. So stick with the principles. Do not get off on somebody's goofy conspiracy. Stay with the principles.

The third thing.

- Patterns and Models.

What are patterns and models? They are established protocols. They are established protocols of the Holy Spirit of God that set the course for us. These are non-negotiable. Sooner or later, and the quicker you learn this, the faster you are going to learn them. God does everything by a pattern. You see it in Hebrews 8 and 9. You see it in 1 Chronicles 28:11. You see it in Exodus 25:9. You see it all the way through the Bible. Once you get the principle foundation down and you start working on those, once you see the principles illustrated through the types, then through those two things God will show you established patterns. Never, never, never deviate from the patterns. I believe if I remember my preaching last week that in Ecclesiastes, the Holy Spirit of God went through circuits like wind. That is a pattern. When you find your course in life that God wants you to fulfill, the Holy Spirit of God being your compass and find your purpose, you will find it through these three things.

Thursday night we talked about this, the book of Acts. The book of Acts is everything that establishes every pattern for what we are going to face in the church. That is why I am taking such time with it at an institute. I have tried to show you the great things. We got into Paul's sermon, the first sermon Paul ever preached over there in Acts 12 and 13. Remember? Then I showed you how he is coming down through that. Then I took you back over to Peter's first message in Acts 2. I stood back and I showed you, when you compare these two messages, the first one that Peter preached and the first one that Paul preached, they are preaching the same message. But what is different is when they got to the invitation. Because one was to Israel, the other one was to the church. God clearly establishes patterns. The book of Acts will lay down every pattern that you and I need for the church age. Everything. Everything that you and I need. I mean, I spent, I do not know how many years knocking down the book of Acts. It was tough for me because the book of Acts, there are so many things going on. There is such goofy stuff being taught about it. But I am telling you right now, it is a book that you are going to have to get down, and you can quote in your sleep upside down in the corner of your bedroom. Because it has got the patterns of where we start. It has got the patterns of why this church is who we are. Why I do the things that I do.

We talked about Halloween. There are churches out there today that are poo-pooing Halloween. I get it. Day of the dead. I love it. No problem. I get it. The day of the dead. The reason why you do not want Halloween in your church is because it reminds everybody of the time they come on

Sunday. That is their day of the dead with your message. I get it. But you see in the book of Acts, it gives me the pattern. It teaches me to look at something that the world recognizes and then show how I can take the world's fears and turn that thing around to do what God wants to get the honor and glory out of it. We see, where do you get that at? Acts 21 and 22. Where do you get yours from? Principles. Patterns. They will give you every understanding of how we are to operate and how we get things done. The book of Acts is where it starts for you and me.

Once I get a pattern for the church age of everything in it, then the next book He gave me, and I gave you this Thursday night, was a pattern for what I am to believe. My doctrine. That is the book of Romans. The next book. Once I get that pattern down, then I get the next two books. When I get the next two books, it gives me the pattern of ministry. 1 Corinthians shows me how not to do it. 2 Corinthians is my handbook for New Testament ministry. Then I want to understand the concept of missions. I find the pattern on missions in the Bible. That will be Paul. You ask yourself with all the missionaries and missions and mission fields and all the mission places out there, just stop and see sometime how many of them follow the pattern of the Bible. Most of them do not. The Moravians did. Jonathan Goforth did. Stanley Livingston did. The great missionaries of the day did. Watchman Nee did. We lost it someplace along the way.

I look at the books of 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. That is the pattern for the model pastor and the model minister. I look at my pattern for, and I tell you this all the time, my goal is to build a Philadelphian church in the Laodicean church period. Sounds cute. Kind of like talking points. Yes, but my pattern for that is the book of Colossians and Revelation 3. You find a model and a pattern for your work and for your ministry. You know where you find that? The book of Philippians. Philippians matches up to the church at Philadelphia. Ten verses that that whole book is built around to give you everything you need to know for your model and pattern for ministry. They are all through the Bible. There is a model and a pattern for you as a father and mother to raise your family. There is a pattern in the New Testament for your marriage. There is a pattern for a pastor to build a church. There is a pattern for your children in training them. There is a pattern for you as a husband. There is a pattern for you as a wife. There is a pattern for you as a leader.

You see, the problem is today that because there is no working of the moving of the Holy Spirit of God, the church is broken down today. We live in a Christianity that is broken down today. I told you last week in Revelation 3:19-20 and then over there in the early part of Revelation how that the light of the Laodicean church, their candlestick was put out. We are living in a time in Christianity without the light of God. Other than a few churches sprinkled out there, and you find out in 1 Samuel 3, there is your principles and there is your type with Samuel. We have given it to you how many times over the years? Getting rid of the Bible and the movement of the Holy Spirit of God, and now we move into this mindset to replace it. We move Christianity into a quicksand and a quagmire of false teaching and concepts within the body of Christ that are Christian. Oh, they sound good. And they are spiritual. Oh, it gives you goosebumps. They just have nothing to do with the Bible when they are not scriptural. When you lose the forsake of patterns of the Holy Spirit of God gives you, you are lost. You have no compass. Christianity today for the most part, there are good guys out there that are doing the job. I talked to them all

week long, and I get you people send me websites to these guys that are doing good job preaching and they are doing a good job. But they are the remnant. Christianity is a broken down wreck. That is why people are having the struggles that they have. Remember His work and how He moves through His own pattern again are called the circuits. So you have to get into that pattern in your life.

You can pretend all you want. You can do all you want. You can scream and yell and do all the things you want to do and think you make you spiritual until you lock in. Listen to me, until you lock into the pattern based on the principles through the types and let those patterns dictate every aspect of your life, your marriage, your kids, everything you do, you are not going anywhere. It is the difference again one last time, and you will not have to hear it again until the next time. It is the difference between what is spiritual and Christian versus what is biblical and scriptural.

V. Conclusion: A Call to Purpose

Now with that and how the Holy Spirit of God will work through the church age, one to unsaved people, for proof of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Listen to us. He will guide us into all truth. He will show us the things to come. We give the glory to Christ, not ourselves. Then He will show you what is real and what is not. Those four things will cover it all. There is not one more thing to add to it. It covers everything we are going to face.

It is the Holy Spirit of God directing you and me through every aspect of our life. The Bible says three score and ten, not seventy. I am two years past it already. For you and me to stay on the right track with the right perspective. That we do not waste making the investments in the wrong things. I cannot underscore that. When we get to the judgment seat of Christ, do you realize all of us? We are going to stand there, and all the goofy, stupid things that we invested in that had one thing to do with what God wanted to do. We are all guilty of that. Every one of us. Some of us are just natural. Some of it is just the way that it is. Some of it you are not going to be able to change because we are in this world, it is not of this world, but we have to deal with it, and here it is. You are going to have to invest in things. That is just the way it is. In my life, I cannot speak for you. In my life, I am not investing one more thing in anything more than I have to that is not toward His purpose. That is why I will squeeze every drop out of everything that I can. That is why I will go to Arkansas. Because it is a great white throne judgment of the judgment seat of Christ if just one person gets into heaven because of what we did. Maybe you do not think it is worth it. I do.

That is what I will do with Halloween. You think I care about Halloween? I will tell you what. It is something that does not matter one way or the other to me. I do not care. Groundhog Day is my favorite day. It does not matter to me. I feel like sometimes the old hillbilly preacher that was preaching down south and got his terminology messed up and he said, he was talking about the resurrection of Christ and he says, "Christ came out of the tomb and saw a shadow and went back in. It was six more months of tribulation period." He did not have his theology very squared away. But I will use everything out there. I do not want to get to the judgment seat of Christ. I do not want us to get to the judgment seat of Christ. And God said, "Bob, you missed this. You missed." There is enough that I am going to miss. But I do not need to add to my score. When I

see something that God just drops in my lap in the whole world, all week long, you should have heard them on Fox News and CNN. Everybody is playing this thing up about the fentanyl, which is a terrible thing. Now they are making it in color that the kids cannot. They think it is candy. Within a 10-mile radius. How many people out there you think are goofy enough, crazy enough, and demonic enough that would do something like that? I guarantee you. So what am I going to do? I am going to compromise on it. I am going to go after it. I am going to take something that the world is afraid of. I am going to take something on a day that has nothing to do with Christianity. I am going to turn it around for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am going to go out there, and we are going to meet some people. We are going to talk to some people. You know what? The Holy Spirit of God, those kids walking up and down those cars out there, I am going to tell you something else. The Holy Spirit of God will be walking up and down the parking lot too with you. What an opportunity for you to meet them out there and say, "Hey, let me just walk you around the cars. My name is so-and-so. And you are who? Okay. You live around here? Great. Well, come on. I do not want your kids to miss nothing. We have got hot dogs over here. We have got cider over here. Fentanyl is over here. It is down in the basement. We have got to keep that head." But let me just walk you through everything that we have got here and just be there. Be there. Be there. Guide. See? If the Holy Spirit of God can walk you through the Bible and be your guide, why can not you be somebody else's? Amen.

One thing and I am done. Listen. I would suggest you write this down. I wish it was my original. It is not. Kind of is. I cleaned it up. If you do not have the purpose in you to change the world, yes, you. Do not tell me what your limitations are. General Booth started an organization that reached the world. John Paton went on to the New Hebrides Islands, and when he went there, the whole island was just pagan. When he gave his life and died 30, 40 years later when they left him, you know what? There were no pagans. Everybody was converted. I mean, one man, one person, one of you can change the world. It only takes you getting the right purpose. God can take you and change the world. You do not get to be 65 or 75 and say, "Well, I am going to..." A guy asked me the other day, "When do you think you will retire?" I said, "I am not going to retire. I am going to re-fire." There is no end-date on my calling of God. I will be done when God says you are done. But not till that point. I am not going to say I am done when there is so much left to be done.

I think I read this week about Dr. Livingston, who was the great missionary to Africa. He spent 51 years in Africa. He left the United States. Nobody heard from him for years and years and years. They feared the worst. They sent a New York Times reporter all the way over to Africa to try to find out what happened to Dr. Livingston. His name was Stanley. He goes into the interior of Africa, and he is got a guide, and he is going through there, and they come through the bush, and around this corner into this little tribe, and there in tattered clothes was Dr. Livingston. This comes the famous phrase that they use for years and years and years, that you do not hear much anymore. When you meet somebody or you see somebody, they would always say, "Oh, Dr. Livingston, I presume." You know, it would be like being lost on Mars with you and your wife and your daughter and your son, and you lose your son, whose name is Michael. Your last name is Alexander, and you are on Mars looking around, and you cannot find your son, and you say, "Michael!" And your wife starts saying, "Michael Alexander!" And you look at your wife and

you say, "Do you think there is more than one Michael here on Mars?" "Dr. Livingston, I presume," they say.

He spent his whole life in Africa. When he died on the mission field, I thought of this when the queen died, and they had her in Westminster Abbey, and I got online and found a tour of Westminster Abbey. It was an amazing thing, all the kings in there. But you know who is buried also in Westminster Abbey? Dr. Livingston. He was British. He died in Africa, and they shipped his body back to be buried in Westminster Abbey. But before they did that, the natives that he had won to Christ, they cut out his heart, and they buried it in Africa, and then sent his body back to England. I thought to myself, you know what? If I died today, if you died today, where would they bury our heart? Where would our heart be buried today? Oh boy, I am telling you, it is easy to get caught up in the spiritual, it is easy to get caught up in the Christian. But boy, I am telling you, the only thing that is going to keep you on your right purpose is simply allowing God to use your life to change the world. Let me say this. If you do not use your life to change the world, then the world will change your life. It is just that simple.

Purpose, perspective, understanding that God has something that He wants us to do as a church. We need to take every opportunity we can. It is a thing where when we get there at the judgment seat of Christ, I do not want to. There will be a lot of things that we have missed, a lot of dumb things we have all done. I get it, I understand it. I will take it, I understand. But I do not want any more on my credit card than I need to have. That is why we have got to look at every opportunity we can. There are enough of you here that nobody has to get, one person has to get burned out doing everything. When that happens, when only a few select few do anything, they feel the burden, they feel the weight, and they do it because they are good people where everybody else takes a free ride and the load falls on them. You know what? That is the way Christianity is today. You and I have to be about our Father's business. The Holy Spirit of God, with those four things that He is going to do in our life, that is the key.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank you and praise you, Father Lord Jesus. We love you. For all you do for us, thank you for today. Thank you for the men and women of this church. Truly, Father, use this little church to change the world. Though I know even as I preach this morning, it is going out all over the world. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people follow what this church does. I just pray, Father, that you will never let us miss an opportunity. That we will always be there to look and see that we can squeeze whatever we can out of everything we can. And just have a good day.