

# *Gospel: The Revolutionary Power of the Christian Life // The Word //John 14:23–24; 15:4–7*

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## Announcements:

- Vision Night: only a few seats left
- Sunday morning:
  - Good news: More than 1000 people will start coming to our church in 2 weeks.
  - I need some of you to move. You say, that sounds just like what you said last year. It is. And you did it.

The basic idea I introduced to you last week was that the gospel is not just the way we begin in Christ; it's also the way we grow in Christ. You see, for most people the gospel functions like the diving board off of which they jumped into the pool of Christianity. It was a prayer they prayed to begin their Christian life, but now that you're a Christian you grow in Christ by learning new principles and precepts and practical steps on just about every possible topic—how to be a better husband; how to control your temper and figuring out whether or not Kirk Cameron gets left behind.

But I showed you that according to Jesus the gospel is not just the diving board off of which we jump into the pool of Christianity, it is the pool itself... we grow in Christ not by going beyond the gospel, but by going deeper into the gospel. (As God enlarges your understanding of His glory revealed in the gospel, and the generosity and kindness He displayed to you there, you start to change internally; not that not just your behavior changes but *you*, your heart and your desires, change.)

So Jesus tells us in John 15 to abide in the gospel—abide means literally to make our home in it; to dwell there; and as we do, we'll grow. As the roots of our lives go deep in the gospel, fruit comes as naturally to us as roses on a rose bush.

- **(Possible illus:** “I used this at one of our services last week but not the others, so if I used it in yours, sorry... At our old house I killed a few of the flower bushes)

The revolutionary, counter-intuitive truth is that real growth in Christ comes not from being told what you are to do for God; but by standing in awe of what God has done for you.

- **One of my preaching heroes, Charles Spurgeon said that at the end of every sermon he would plow a trough back to the gospel...** which I always thought meant that you took a hard right at the end of every sermon (regardless of what you were talking about) and explained the 4 spiritual laws. But think about the imagery of trough... a trough is for water. At the end of every message he plowed a trough back to the cross, because from the cross alone comes the living water that refreshes our souls with the power to do anything in the Christian life. (So, whether we're talking about being better husbands, or being more generous, or not being so dependent on people's opinions, the answer is always the gospel)

**And so, I've given you the gospel prayer with the challenge to pray this every day of this series: (*bookmark*).** This is a prayer I wrote and have used every day for a few years praying the 4 dimensions of the gospel over my life daily.

- In saying... You celebrate His gift righteousness;
- In saying... His all-sufficient value to you—He Himself is better than any of His blessings;
- In saying... you think on His generosity toward you, that moves you toward generosity to others.
- In saying... you see your world through the lens of the compassion and power He has placed at your disposal.
- **(Pray this every day: *Danny's mistake*)**

These 4 things are what it means to abide in Jesus. As you dwell in these things; make your home there; His life and power are released into you. So, do it every day. **(pick one up at your campus.)**

The other thing we're doing through this study is looking at the 5 spiritual disciplines that Jesus gave us to keep us abiding in the gospel. Jesus commands us at least 5 things in John 15: **(word/prayer; character; community; generosity; missions/evangelism).**

He says this: **15:10** "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love"

- Now, what that doesn't mean is that if we do these things, God somehow loves us more, as if we earn His love and approval through doing them.
- No, the gospel, at its core, is gift-righteousness: God gives us full acceptance in Christ, as a gift. Jesus kept the law perfectly in our place; and then suffered our penalty for having broken the law in our place. And there's nothing we can do to add to that; there's nothing we can do to make Him love us more, or nothing we have done that makes Him love us less.
- No, when Jesus says that by doing these things we will abide in His love, He doesn't mean by doing them we earn His love; He means that by doing them we keep ourselves in the presence of His love. **The hard part of Christianity is not earning God's love (that's given as a gift); but believing in that love and resting in it.**
- So these disciplines keep us in the presence of God's love. They keep us abiding in it.
  - They are like **wires that connect us to the power of the gospel.** FENCE Wires don't have power in themselves; but they connect you to the place from which the power flows. **In the same way, the spiritual disciplines don't have power in themselves, but they keep us connected the place where the power comes from, the gospel.**

- You get that?

**Here is command #1 we see in John 15: He tells us, vs.7 to abide in the Word:**

**15:7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." If we abide in the word, our prayers will be answered.

Just before this in John 14, which is part of the same talk with His disciples, Jesus said this: **14:23-24** "If anyone loves me he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent me."

OK, so 4 things I want you to see these verses teaching us; all coming right from Jesus' words here: *1. The divine nature of the Bible; 2. The single focus of the Bible; 3. The benefits of abiding in the Bible; 4. A radical commitment to the Bible.* So, here we go:

### **1. The divine nature of the Bible (14:24)**

- Jesus claimed that the words that He spoke were not just the words of an enlightened man, but the very words of God.
- See, vs. **14:24**, "...the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent me."
- This was not an attitude, by the way, that Jesus had toward just His words in the Bible (the words in red), this was true of all of Scripture. Every word of Scripture He viewed as the word of God.
  - There are some who say that while God is behind the Bible, because it is written down by humans, it is mixed with human error. It's some of God's ideas mixed up with faulty human expressions: the writers, you know, were culturally bound, sometimes couldn't see out of their biases and traditions. Sometimes they just make mistakes. But we, of course, see things clearly now because we are sophisticated and scientific and so from

time to time we have to correct some of the archaic ideas or historical inaccuracies in Scripture.

- There are three words we use to describe Jesus attitude toward the inspiration of the Bible (inspiration meaning divine nature of it): **verbal, plenary, infallible**
  - Verbal: Not just the ideas, but the words themselves.
  - Plenary: The whole of them; all of them.
  - Infallible: they won't lead you astray; they are without error.
- All the Bible, not just the places where God is directly speaking, is the word of God.
  - Jesus in Matthew 19:4-5 – Jesus quote Genesis 2:24. When he quotes this he says, 'God said this...' But when you go back to Genesis 2:24 you'll see that it was clearly a comment by the narrator of Genesis, who we assume was Moses. Jesus is basically saying, 'What Moses said there is what God says.'
  - It's not just the big idea of the Bible that was word of God, but the individual words themselves. For example: In John 10:33 Jesus is in a vigorous discussion with the Pharisees who say that Jesus should not be claiming to be God. Jesus counters them by saying, "Is it not written in the Law...?" and then he quotes a verse from the Psalms with one word in it about the Messiah being God.
    - Now, here's the thing: the Psalms are not the Law of God. They are the songs of the people of God, clearly written by Jewish composers.
    - And the Psalm Jesus quotes, Psalm 82, is not even written by David (the star of the Psalms), it's written by Asaph, who is a guy we don't really even know anything about (he's JV; a lightweight). Jesus builds the argument for his deity off of one word in that Psalm.
    - I love Roger Nicole: *"Jesus Christ bases his argument for his deity on a single word in a secondary clause in an unimportant psalm by an*

*obscure figure in the seemingly least authoritative part of Scripture—the Psalms."*

- Jesus' words in the NT comprise 1800 verses. Of those 1800, 180 are quotations from the books of the OT. They are preceded by things like, "This is what God said; It is written." 10% of everything Jesus said was quoting from another part of the Bible.
- You say, "Well, that deals with the OT, but what about the books written after Jesus? Most of the NT is written by guys like Peter, and Paul, and Matthew, Mark, Luke and John."
  - Good question: If you look back at chapter 14, right after vs 23, you'll see this verse:  
**[14:26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.** He is promising His Apostles that after He is gone He will send His Spirit which will preserve and continue His teaching. Do you see there are 2 promises in there?
    - He says, "The HS will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you;" which means that He will enable them to accurately record all that He said;
    - And He also says "The HS will teach you all things" which means the HS will continue His teaching through them, clarifying it and deepening it and applying it in their situation. This is the promise of the NT!
    - Which is why Peter and Paul refer to each other's writings as "Scripture," the same name Jesus gave to the OT.
- This Bible is the very words of God.
- It is trustworthy.
- Listen, it is better than if God spoke to you in a dream or vision (how excited would you be about that?)

Tonight...) If you have a dream or vision, you've got a 1 in 3 chance it is God:

- *It could be a hallucination* (something self-induced);
- *It could be a cult or demonic spirit* (The Bible tells us there are many false spirits speaking in the world, often posing themselves as angels of light);
- *Or, it could be God*
- James Dobson talks about being sure he heard from God that he would die that year: told all of his staff. He was wrong.);
- **When you have a dream or vision or holy hunch to you, you have a 1 in 3 chance of it being God. With the Scripture, it is 1 to 1 chance. It's always God.**

## 2. The single focus of the Bible (15:7)

- **15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you"** Notice how Jesus equates "His words abiding in us" with "us abiding in Him?" See how He just moves between those?
- That's because the words of the Bible are always about Jesus. Everything in it points to Him.
- Luke 24, "Beginning at Moses and the Prophets He explained how all the things there were about Him." I'm sure that was the greatest Bible study ever. He showed that the point of every text was the gospel.
- ***You can't understand the gospel apart from Scripture and you can't understand the Scripture apart from the gospel.***
- It's all about Him:
  - I try to show you that every time I preach. It's always about Jesus.
  - A few weeks ago: Lamentations 3. The sufferer was Jesus. Because He faced desolation by God, I know that God's mercies are new every morning.
  - When we studied 1-2 Samuel I tried to show you that David was not just to be a hero we emulated, but one

who pointed to a much greater King, who would fulfill what David shadowed and succeed where David failed.

- One more I've learned recently:
  - If you're reading through the book of Joshua-Judges, you find all these military hero stories. Joshua, the mighty captain who defeats the armies of Canaan;
  - Deborah: the woman hero who leads the army of the Lord in victory when all the man are too chicken.
  - Gideon: who beats the armies of the Midianites with only 300
  - Then you have Samson, who opens up a can of whooptrash on the Philistines by himself, with just the jawbone of a donkey.
  - Then you come to the story of David: who defeats a 9-foot giant when he is a teenager.
  - What this commentator pointed out was that there is a progression downward in this: Joshua, the mighty captain, wins with the whole army; Deborah, is a woman who wins with the army (which was seen in the ancient world as a step down); next, Gideon doesn't have the whole army; only 300; Samson is a strong guy who wins by himself; David is a teenage weakling.
  - The whole point of those stories is that Israel will be delivered not by political or military or economic might, but by One who came in weakness and defeats the enemy all by Himself.
  - It's pointing you to Jesus. These point you not to heroes to emulate, but a Savior to worship.
- The whole point of the Bible is that you fall in love with Jesus and worship Jesus.
  - That is what is behind the statement I make around here: *"The goal of a lecture is that you leave with information; the goal of a motivational speech is that you leave with action steps; the goal of a sermon is that you leave worshipping!"*

- He is the single focus of the Bible! As you see Him in the Bible, and you abide there in Him, and dwell in Him, and rest in Him, you change. Look at this verse where Paul explains that: “To this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. [16] But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed... [18] And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord (in Moses), are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. **(2 Corinthians 3:15-18 ESV)**. How are we transformed? The Spirit enables us to see the glory of Jesus as Moses and the rest of the Bible is read to us and we are transformed into people who love and crave the glory of God as well.

### 3. The benefits of abiding in the Bible

I see 3 of them in these verses:

#### a. **Recreated heart (15:5)**

- Jesus promises, **15:5** (“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.”) that as we abide in His word our lives begin to bring forth spiritual fruit. The word of God brings life out of deadness.
- There’s an interesting development in the Bible.
- In the first chapter of the Bible, God speaks and light comes out of darkness. Genesis 1:2 says that the earth was formless and void and God spoke and beauty and life burst forth. That’s Genesis 1. John 1 starts the same way: “In the beginning was the Word...” but the Word here refers to Jesus. Just like God’s word brought creation out of nothing in Genesis 1, Jesus is going to bring life to people who are spiritually dead.
  - At the end of the gospel of John the last thing Jesus does is breathe on His disciples... which was not a Hebrew sign of affection. How awkward would that be? Good to see you (breath). No, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the HS.” What’s that an image of? When God first created man, He breathed

on Him and man became a living soul. In the same way, the HS, through the word of God, is going to bring life to our souls. Jesus is breathing new life into them.

- How many of you felt that when you became a Christian?
- Paul picks up this idea in 2 Timothy 3:16 and says, “Scripture is the breath of God.”
  - In Gen 1 God’s word created the world out of nothing; in John 1 it brought back life from the dead; now, this word is bringing healing to our damaged souls and lives.
  - Is your marriage dead and destroyed? You need the word of God. Are you trapped in addiction? Filled with depression? Sadness? Loneliness? Do you feel lost; like your life has no anchor; your life is formless and void? You need the word of God.

#### b. **Answered prayers (15:7)**

- **15:7** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”
- That’s a pretty big promise, but when you are filled up with the word of God, your requests come into line with His will, and you start asking for things in line with His purposes.
- **Quite often, the reason we don’t get answers to our prayers is that our requests of God are out of step with His purposes.** When the people of God know the purposes of God, they have open access to the power of God.
- **Love the image of John Piper here:** prayer is a **wartime walkie-talkie** for those who are engaged on the front lines of God’s mission to radio back up to God what they need to get the job done. It’s not a bell you ring for your butler when you want more ice in your glass when you’re lounging around the pool.

One more benefit:

c. **Fullness of the Spirit (vs. 23)**

- **14:23**, "If anyone loves me he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him."
- When you abide in God's word, Jesus and the Father come to make their home with you. Think about that. As you abide in God's word, the fullness of God Himself comes into you.
- *I love that this verse addresses the 2 extremes of Christians:*
  - Some Christians prioritize the Spirit over the word (they are always wanting to be filled up and knocked out and baptized by the Spirit). Others prioritize the Word over the Spirit (growing in godliness is growing in your knowledge of doctrine).
- Here vs 23, the two are inextricably joined. See that? **Vs. 23** tells you that keeping God's words is what brings the fullness of the Spirit. *"If you keep my word I will come and abide in fullness in you."*
  - How do you get the presence of God? Through some special ceremony? Baptism? No, by abiding in His word.
    - **Paul said the same thing in Galatians 3: You received the Spirit by believing the gospel in faith.** In the same way that we believe the gospel for salvation, believing the gospel releases the power of the Spirit in our lives. As you abide in the gospel, the Spirit flows within you. ***(That's REVOLUTIONARY for some of you charismatics. You want the fullness of the Spirit? Not a special ceremony. Abide deeply in the gospel!)***
    - **Exodus 34:6-7** Moses wants to see God; to be in His presence. God puts him in the cleft of a rock, passes by, covers him with his hand, and then it says that as God passed by, He "declared His name" to Him. *"The Lord is*

*compassionate and merciful. The Lord is abounding in lovingkindness; He repays injustice to the 4<sup>th</sup> generation."* There's a perfect picture of the presence of God. God is physically there as His character and attributes are declared. Here's a definition:

**The presence of God = A felt sense of the attributes of God as revealed in the gospel**

- So don't seek the Spirit; seek the gospel. As you grow deep in the gospel (as you abide in it) you will be filled with the Spirit.
- (And BTW, at a lot of these churches that teach you to be filled with the Spirit, they focus on the Spirit. That's proof they are not really full of the Spirit, because the Spirit would never do that. The Spirit always focuses on Jesus.
- **John 16:14** Jesus said, **"The Holy Spirit... He will glorify Me."** Where you see the focus being placed on the Spirit, you can be sure that it is not really the Spirit, because the Spirit always focuses on Jesus. Theologians sometimes call the HS, "The shy member of the Trinity." He never draws attention to Himself; always to Jesus.
- **So, this speaks to those who prioritize Spirit over gospel.** But it also speaks to many of you who have no concept that there really even is a Spirit of God who wants to speak to you and commune with you and fill you.
  - For 2000 years the saints of God have talked about these incredible moments where they are filled up with the Spirit of God. The book of Acts talks frequently about the apostles being filled with the Spirit and a sense of confidence and boldness that came to them.
  - Paul talks (1 Cor 14:25) about a church being filled with the presence of God and

unbelievers having the sense that there is a God who sees them and knows everything about them and they fall on their face!

- **MLJ** (a very doctrinal, deep Reformed preacher—spent 6 years preaching through Romans) talks about these moments of ecstasy in the presence of God. He said it's like I'm walking along with my little 5-year old girl and I sweep her up in my arms... truth be told, I didn't really love her any more in that moment, but her perception of it changed then: She might have known that I was her daughter before, but in that moment she *felt* it.
  - He said, God does that with me. He suddenly sweeps me up in His arms and fills me with His Spirit and I have a felt sense of His glory and His love and presence with me.
  - He said this: "I spend ½ my time telling Christians to study doctrine and the other ½ telling them that doctrine is not enough."<sup>1</sup> D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Which leads me to our final thing, #4. We've looked at **1. the divine nature of the Bible; 2. the single focus of the Bible; 3. the benefits of abiding in the Bible;**

#### **4. A Radical Commitment to the Bible**

- You see, if all these things are true... we should be radically committed to this book.
- The center of our church is the word of God.

- The focus of all our services is the preaching of the Word. We don't come in here to do something for God as much as we come in here to hear from Him.
- Our worship is anchored in Scripture...
- You ever hear someone say, "Wow, that worship leader really brings me into the presence of God?" Wrong. The word of God is the only thing that brings you into the presence of God. Sure, you can create mood through lighting and smoke machines and style of music and a charismatic leader, but the word of God is the only thing that brings us into the presence of God.
- Our small groups: study the passages I am preaching more deeply. Why? Because the word is everything!
- We center ourselves on it, and it does the rest of the work!
- That's what we do as a church; you, yourself should **resolve to know it!**
  - It is life or death for you. Like Moses said (Deut 34), "*This is not an idle word; this is your life!*"
  - Ever notice this? Jesus' in His most desperate hour, often quotes Scripture:
    - Several times he quotes from the Psalms and the Prophets. Here's the thing: He wasn't quoting them to others. He wasn't teaching. He was quoting them to Himself. Scripture was how He sustained Himself in the darkest hour.
    - When He was being tempted by Satan, He quoted Scripture.
    - What do you sustain yourself with in the hour of temptation or the hour of darkness?
    - In the hour of death, you don't have time to think about what to say and compose yourself. What is inside of you just comes out! Someone comes up and pushes you off a cliff, you don't think about what you'd like to say

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<sup>1</sup> Lloyd-Jones, *Messenger of Grace*, 216.

in that moment; what's inside of you just flows out!

- When Jesus was stabbed in the heart, He bled the Bible. That's why He was faithful to the end. It's the only way you and I will have strength to be faithful!
- Again: 1800 verses record Jesus' words. Of that 1800, 180 are quotations from the Bible. 10% of everything Jesus said in the Bible was a quotation of your Scripture. How much of your speech would be Scripture quotation and illusion? You think you need it less than Jesus? Like, He needed Scripture as a crutch; you are strong enough on your own?
- Some of you college students are going to be destroyed this year because you don't have the Word of God in you enough to keep you from error, temptation, and depression.
- Resolve to know it.
  - Teach it to your kids: Deut 6 tells me to put the words of God in front my kids' eyes and to write them on the walls of our house. It's my job as a dad: I always read to them and disciple them.
- You should make daily time in it your priority: "You say I'm just too busy."
  - Some of you mothers: You hear a message like this and get inspired ("I should do that!") but then feel guilty because it seems impossible with the kids. I understand. I have 4 kids. How are you ever going to raise your kids right if you're not filled with the Spirit of God? And you can't be filled with the Spirit of God if you are not daily spending time in the Word of God. You've got to make it a priority! *Get up a ½ hour earlier. BTW, the discipline for that is the night before. Turn off the TV a half hour earlier.* Arrange some time with a

friend where she keeps your kids and you go out once a week and read for an hour and then you do the same for her. Husbands, you take care of the kids sometimes in the morning so she can meet with God.

- Businessmen, you say, "I work 70 hours a week." Get a listening Bible—in the car. Here's the thing: I don't really buy the "I'm too busy line." You always find a way to eat. In some way. Even if you did get so busy you missed a day eating, you wouldn't miss two. **When the word of God becomes as essential to you as eating, you won't miss it for days on end.**

So, resolve to know it...

- **Open your heart to even it's difficult teaching**
  - A lot of people approach the Bible with a red pen in their mind ready to mark out the stuff they don't like. "Well, I don't agree with that... and I like Jesus' teaching here but here, no way." You'll never know God that way.
  - You say to me, "I'm a committed Democrat." And I say, "Well, I prefer all my friends to be Republicans. I want you to be my friend so in my mind you'll be a right wing Republican." I'll never know you that way. I'll know a caricature of you. Well, you do that with God. "To know someone, you have to know them on their terms, as they are. You have to let them disagree with you and challenge your preconceptions." Some of you are bigots to God; you already have your mind made up. You have to let God contradict you if you're really going to know Him.
- **Saturate your reading in prayer**
  - The point is fullness of the Spirit; walking with God. Tell God you want to know Him.
    - **Illus.** Me getting so 'rote' in my Bible reading.

- Everything you are reading should lead you into dialogue with God. Worship.
  - The point is not learning facts about God; the point is friendship with God. So pray before; during; after.
- *“But I just don’t feel like it. I don’t leap out of bed and say, “Where’s my Bible. I want to read it so bad I forgot about breakfast.”*
  - Full disclosure: Me too. I’m like that too. But do it anyway. Obey this command even when you don’t feel like it. And as you do it, *repent* and cry out to God for Him to heal your heart, and rejoice in the fact that God accepts you not because of how much you love the Bible, but because of what Christ has done for you.
  - **For those of you who don’t have a good daily time with God, we have provide a simple, 15-minute plan you can use. On the “Gospel page” on our website. ([WWW.SUMMITRDU.COM/GOSPEL](http://WWW.SUMMITRDU.COM/GOSPEL): Just go to our website you’ll see it right there on our front page. There you can see how to begin a daily time with God; how to structure it; how to pray, etc.)**
- Finally, **I can’t talk about this without thinking about the 2.25 billion people on our planet with no access to this Word.** 6645 UPG’s, many of whom have never even had the Bible translated into a language they can understand. What are you doing with your life? What are we doing with our money? Is there any need more pressing than that?

and main, point to you. We’d love to show you how to begin that relationship with Jesus. It starts with a prayer like this one...

**Closing:** The word of God tells you that what you most need is a restored relationship with God. We are sinners, rebels who have chosen to rule our own lives rather than let God use them. The word of God tells us that God, in His love, has extended grace to us, sending Jesus to die as a substitute for our sins so that if we would repent of our sin (which means to return control of our lives back to God) and receive His free offer of forgiveness, we would be saved. Have you ever done that? That is the Word of God’s first,

# Bullpen:

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- **[Galatians 3:2–6] You received the Spirit by believing the gospel in faith.** Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ... [5] Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—[6] just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?
- \*\*\*That’s more than just fullness of the Spirit, that’s fullness with the whole Trinity. When you abide in His word, Jesus and the Father come in the person of the HS to make their home with you. By the way, this speaks to you of the nature of the Trinity: all 3 members of the Godhead are each in and a part of one another. So, in the Spirit you have present also the Father and Son. The Father, Son and Spirit are in one sense separate but because they are all God they are all fully present in each of the others. (And all God’s people said, “Explosion.” That’s what you get for thinking about God.)
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  - Some truth about God becomes radioactive in your heart. For example: You need peace, you seek peace, and suddenly the truth that God has all things under His control and that He loves you as He demonstrated at the cross just comes alive to you, and then you have peace. Not like a peace that marijuana or beer gives you, but real peace.
- Here is what I would want to say to our church:
  - Some of you seek experience with the Spirit. Just want to hear from God. God’s word is better than Him speaking directly in your heart or imagination. If you have a dream or vision or a holy hunch, you’ve got a 1 in 3 chance it is God:
    - *It could be a hallucination* (something self-induced; James Dobson talks about being sure he heard from God that he would die that year: told all of his staff. He was wrong.);
    - *It could be a cult or demonic spirit* (The Bible tells us there are many false spirits speaking in the world, often posing themselves as angels of light);
    - *Or, it could be God*
    - **When a spirit speaks to you, you have a 1 in 3 chance of it being God. With the Scripture, it is 1 to 1 chance. It’s always God.**
    - If it is the Spirit of God, He will be pointing you to Jesus.
      - **John 16:14** Jesus said directly, **“The Holy Spirit... He will glorify Me.”** At a lot of these churches where they are full of the HS, the HS seems to be directing all the attention toward Himself. Where the HS is really present, you won’t notice Him, you’ll notice Jesus.
      - 1 John 4:1 John said this is how you know the difference between true spirits and false spirits. True spirits are always pointing to Jesus. Spirit of God comes to you and tells you that the Dallas Cowboys will win next year’s Superbowl... well, that would take an act of God, but you can be assured that is not the Spirit of God, for the Spirit of God’s one thing He does now in earth is point people to the gospel.
      - So, that is what I would say to some of you: don’t seek the Spirit. Seek depth in the gospel in the Bible, and fullness

of the Spirit will be the result, just as  
Jesus promised here.

Other verses include: 15:3, "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you;" 14:10 – "The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works." 15:20 – "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also; 16:1 – "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling." 17:17 – "Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth." "In John 17:17, Jesus prays to the Father, 'Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.' This verse is interesting because Jesus does not use an adjective, *alethinos* or *alethes* ('true'), which we might have expected, to say, 'Your word is true.' Rather, he uses a noun, *aletheia* ('truth'), to say that God's Word is not simply 'true,' but it is truth itself." (Grudem, Bible Doctrine, 36)