

“SO THAT YOU WILL BELIEVE”

JOHN 16:5-15

SUNDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2009

2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH

GREGG LAMM, pastor-teacher

.PPT 1 ...

Good morning friends. It was so good to have Robin Baker teach last week from the life of David in **FIRST & SECOND SAMUEL**, and from the story of the “*Prodigal Brothers*” in **LUKE 15**. I love studying, preparing, and teaching God’s WORD, but 2nd Street is never going to become the “*Gregg Lamm Show*.” We’re all about Jesus Christ. And one of the ways we keep that focus is that I teach 40 times a year, and the other 12 times, someone else gets to be the Sunday morning *rabbi* ... which is simply the Greek word **teacher**.

Sometimes it’s our elders, or another person in our flock who is gifted as a teacher of God’s WORD. Sometimes it’s a person from outside our flock whom I believe has a message God wants to speak to us

But it’s good to be gathered together today ... so that we can be in God’s presence, and have the opportunity to hear God’s voice. I love how King David describes in **PSALM 19:7-10** about what God wants to accomplish in our lives as we exalt the name of Jesus, get into God’s WORD and invite God’s WORD to get into us. And whether we’re in a relationship with Jesus Christ, or not yet in a relationship with Jesus, God welcomes us here ... and here are some of the plans He has for us ...

.PPT 2 ... PSALM 19:7-9 (NEW CENTURY VERSION)

7-10 The teachings of the Lord are perfect; they give new strength. The rules of the Lord can be trusted; they make plain people wise. The orders of the Lord are right; they make people happy. The commands of the Lord are pure; they light up the way. Respect for the Lord is good; it will last forever. The judgments of the Lord are true; they are completely right.

If King David’s words describe something you could use in your life, then you’ve come to the right place - because we’re not here because this is a social club for the spiritually elite. And we’re not here because this is where the “perfect” people show up to parade their faultlessness. We’re here because we need the **new strength**, the **wisdom**, the **happiness**, the **purity**, and the **light** that only God has to offer us through His WORD and through a growing relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught us in **JOHN 15** that oftentimes this new growth will only come after there’s been a **pruning** back of the things in our minds, hearts, priorities, values, actions, and in our character that would inhibit this new growth, or the ability to even receive these gifts from God. Sometimes this **new strength**, **wisdom**, **happiness**, **purity**, and **light** comes directly through God to us - and at other times, God sends these **GIFTS** to us through the words, the actions, and the input of other people He sends into our lives and across our paths.

A few weeks ago when we were in JOHN 15 we came upon the first place in *John's Gospel* where Jesus talked with His disciples about The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Triunity ... God the Father, God the Son, Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit.

.PPT 3 ... JOHN 15:26 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁶ “When the Helper [*paraklete* ... the One Who comes alongside] comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of Truth Who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,”
[emphasis added]

And Jesus has more to teach us about God's Holy Spirit in the verses we'll study through this morning. God's Holy Spirit is the **Helper**, the **Comforter**, the **Counselor**, and the **Friend**. The primary Greek word Jesus uses for the **Holy Spirit** in *The New Testament* is *paraklete*, which means, “**the One who comes alongside**”. And so it's God's Holy Spirit who **comes along beside** us ... to **help** us, to **comfort** us, to **counsel** us, and to **lead us into all truth**. But here's the amazing thing. God also wants His Holy Spirit to flow through us to one another, so that we become the hands, the feet, the ears, the voice, and the very presence of God to one another. Do you see it?

.PPT 4 ... PROVERBS 27:6a

⁶ You can trust a friend who corrects you ... ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend. (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION | NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

King David's son Solomon, who wrote much of *The Old Testament* book of PROVERBS is saying that when God uses a Christian brother or sister to speak truth into our lives, it can be **painful**, but that ultimately it can also be **healing**. But here's the catch ... you and I have to live before God and one another in a way that we **ALLOW** people we trust to speak this kind of truth and conviction into us. And that's the rub isn't it?

I mean, it's pretty easy for us to remain too **proud**, too **self-reliant**, and too **isolated**, for these kinds of relationships to grow and mature in our lives. The same kind of **surrender** that it takes to ask Jesus Christ to be our Savior and LORD, is also needed for us to be humbled enough to pursue the kind of **SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS** with another person that Solomon is talking about here. **SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS** God can use to speak truth and healing into our lives ... **SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS** God can use to bring about the kind of **pruning** and growth that we need, and that God desires.

.PPT 5 ... JOHN 16:5 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁵ “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’”

In JOHN 13:36 Peter asked Jesus, “**Lord, where are You going?**” And Thomas said something really similar as well in JOHN 14:5. And here's what I hear Jesus saying back to His band of brothers in JOHN 16 ...

.PPT 6 ...

“We’ve been through a lot these past three years. I know you’ve asked Me about this before, but not lately. So now that I’m nearing the end of My time with you here on earth, I’m going to talk with you more about what’s going to happen to Me and to you.”

It wouldn’t be long before Jesus would be crucified, resurrected and return to His Father in heaven - and so, in this last chapter of His life with His disciples, Jesus tells them that He’s not going to leave them alone, but that He’s sending them His Holy Spirit.

.PPT 7 ... JOHN 16:6-7 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁶ “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

⁷ “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

And I see a **FAITH LESSON** for us here ...

.PPT 8 ... FAITH LESSON

God is never wrong, never late, and very seldom early. This creates a relationship of *dependence*, *trust*, and *surrender* between us, and God. *Dependence* can seem like a sign of *weakness*. But nothing could be further from the truth. *Dependence*, *trust*, and *surrender* is the ultimate combination of *humility* and *strength*. And this is the place we have to come to if we’re going to grow up in our walk with God before we grow old.

God’s plan is that our life with Him grows and matures, little by little, the way an acorn takes root, grows up through the soil, becomes a sapling, and then eventually a strong, adult tree. This past week as I was reading through the annual *Bible Reading Plan* we print in our bulletin each week, I read a verse in **EXODUS 23** that really speaks to this truth. The context of this verse is God leading the Israelites out of Egypt after 400 years of captivity and giving them a land of their own. And while the application of this verse to us today isn’t direct - what is applicable, is what we discover here about God’s character and about how God works in our lives.

.PPT 9 ... EXODUS 23:30 (ENGLISH STANDARD BIBLE)

³⁰ Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.

Before we come into a relationship with God, we’re held captive by sin. And as you know, sin is a harsh and demanding taskmaster. But when we come to God through Jesus Christ, we’re set free from the yoke of slavery that sin used to have over us. And **little-by-little**, choice-by-choice, day-by-day, God uses His WORD, other people,

and the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, to drive us out of the land of sin, and into the land of promise. And **little-by-little**, step-by-step, choice-by-choice, day-by-day, God uses His WORD, and other people and His Holy Spirit to **come alongside us**, build us up, point us in the way of life, and equip us to build a life that's rooted in truth, and that gives us a future and hope.

What characteristic of God does God want to increase in you **little-by-little**, step-by-step, choice-by-choice, day-by-day? His **HOLINESS** and His **PURITY**? His **WISDOM** and His **KINDNESS**? His **LOVE** and His **FORGIVENESS**? Well God will take you and me to these places and grow these parts of Himself in us, if we will, **little-by-little**, step-by-step, choice-by-choice, and day-by-day, allow God to use His WORD, other people, and His Holy Spirit as instruments of conviction, instruction, correction, pruning, growth, and transformation. The question is, "Will you do it?"

.PPT 10 ... JOHN 16:6-7 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

And I love what Jesus tells us here about the ministry of the Holy Spirit as our **Helper**. I made a handout a few weeks ago about many of the different ways God's Holy Spirit **comes alongside** us as followers of Jesus Christ. I'd encourage you to pick one up at the Community Center, and keep it in your Bible as we continue in our study of *The Gospel of John* - because Jesus is going to continue speaking about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as His followers. But right now, I want us to focus on **TWO MAIN WAYS** the Holy Spirit **comes alongside us**, and in doing so, becomes our **Helper**.

FIRST the Holy Spirit helps by interceding in prayer for us, because we don't always know how to pray, or how to live into the will of God.

.PPT 11 ... ROMANS 8:26-27 (THE MESSAGE)

26-27 The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves ... and keeps us present before God.

I'm glad the Holy Spirit helps me by praying specifically for the will of God in my life. I taught on this from **JOHN 14:25-31** on 14 December. If you want to know more about how the Holy Spirit is our intercessor when we don't know how to pray, and when we don't know what God's will is, I'd encourage you to get that teaching CD.

SIDELIGHT - **2nd Street's new website will be launched 16 February. It will have audio and .pdf manuscripts of all the teachings I've shared at 2nd Street the past 2.5 years ... teachings from PSALMS, FIRST PETER, HAGGAI, JOHN, and more. And the website will be updated**

each Monday with new audio and manuscript files. The audio files can be downloaded or listened to right on the website. The manuscripts can be downloaded for you to read and study on your computer, or to be printed out. There will also be audio files for most of the other teachings shared by other folks - and .pdf manuscripts or notes from a few of them.

So **FIRST**, the Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for us, because we don't always know how to pray, or how to live into the will of God. And **SECOND**, the Holy Spirit helps by teaching us Himself, and then by bringing the WORD of God to our remembrance.

.PPT 12 ... JOHN 14:26 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

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 said to you.”

Oh gang, how deeply and how passionately God longs to have His Holy Spirit **remind** us of the things His Son Jesus Christ teaches us as our Rabbi as we spend time with Him in His WORD. But if we're not taking God's WORD into our hearts and minds, there won't be much for God's Holy Spirit to **remind** us of, will there? And so back to King David's words we began this teaching with this morning ...

.PPT 13 ... PSALM 19:7-9 (NEW CENTURY VERSION)

7-9 The teachings of the Lord are perfect; they give new strength. The rules of the Lord can be trusted; they make plain people wise. The orders of the Lord are right; they make people happy. The commands of the Lord are pure; they light up the way. Respect for the Lord is good; it will last forever. The judgments of the Lord are true; they are completely right.

Oh that we'd dig into the WORD of God so the Holy Spirit can **remind us** of what Jesus Christ has been teaching us! What would happen to us as individuals and as a flock, as this became the driving passion and goal of our lives? What would happen as our common **MISSION** is fueled by lives that are committed to taking God's WORD into our hearts and minds so that our thoughts, words, priorities and actions began to reflect more fully the thoughts, words, priorities, and actions of Jesus Christ! Remember our revised **MISSION** statement that we're officially adopting this next week?

.PPT 14 ... 2nd Street Community Church - becoming more like Jesus Christ by loving God, loving people, and serving our world.

.PPT 15 ... JOHN 16:6-7 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

6 “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

v. 7 ... **it is to your advantage that I go away** ... What does Jesus mean here? I think Jesus is saying that while He was here on earth He could only be in one place at a time, but that when He returned to God the Father in heaven the Holy Spirit would come and fill His followers - and then through them, through you and me, God's presence and God's voice could be everywhere at once.

Of course these words Jesus was sharing with His disciples were hard for them to hear and believe! And so it's no wonder that He says in v. 6, "**sorrow has filled their hearts.**" The Greek word translated **filled** in v. 6 is **pleroo**, and it indicates that the **sorrow** the disciples were going through had become so great that it was affecting every area of their lives. But when Jesus clarifies in v. 7 that everything is happening **for their advantage** ... and that He's going away **for their advantage**, His intent in all of this begins to shine through. And I see another **FAITH LESSON** for us here ...

.PPT 16 ... FAITH LESSON

When Jesus has something hard to tell us, He knows it's hard. And even when we know that what God has to tell us, and what we need to hear *IS NECESSARY* (whether it's through His WORD, directly through the Holy Spirit, or through another person), we can still wish that He'd spare us the sorrow of knowing the truth. But even though He won't, the hard truths He has to share with us will always be shared in love.

So listen to me ... is God doing a work in your life that you don't understand? Like the disciples 2,000 years ago, has **sorrow filled your heart** because of the road you're on? If so, then know this ... God isn't mad at you, and He isn't punishing you. But He wants to show you how all this is to your **advantage**. And how it's to your **advantage**, is that if you'll let them, the circumstances of your life right now will give you the opportunity to press into Jesus Christ further than you ever have, to trust the will of God more deeply than you ever have, and to let your commitment to being a devoted, maturing disciple of Jesus Christ become more visible than it ever has. Do you see it?

*It was to the disciples' **ADVANTAGE** that Jesus was arrested? **YES, IT WAS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.** Because soon they'd have the opportunity to learn how to depend on God and other believers more fully and more consistently than they ever had before.*

*It's to your **ADVANTAGE** that you're out of work and looking for work? **YES, IT CAN BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.** Because in this place of dependence on God, He'll be able to open new doors of life, vocation and ministry that you probably wouldn't have had the discernment or the courage to explore, or walk through before.*

The disciples couldn't see how this could be true that night. But hearing Jesus say these words no doubt brought them comfort in the future as the circumstances, both of Jesus' life, and of their lives, that were still around the corner soon began showing up in 3-D Technicolor!

*It was to the disciples' **ADVANTAGE** that Jesus' ministry of teaching and miracles is stopped? **YES, IT WAS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.** Because then God could use each one of them more fully as instruments of His *teaching* and *miracles* in the ways He needed to.*

*It's to your **ADVANTAGE** that you're going through illness right now? **YES, IT CAN BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.** Because you'll have the opportunity to depend on God and other believers more fully and more consistently.*

I want to admit that this is a hard truth to teach, a hard truth to receive, and a hard perspective to understand, accept, and live into. But this is why and how my friend Wil Leonard while he was dying of AIDS five years ago, was able to, in the last weeks of his life, refer to his nearly 15-year battle with HIV as “**The Gift of AIDS**”. Not because he loved the **PROCESS**, but by experiencing first-hand the pain and brokenness of living in a sin-busted world, God used the lessons of **PATIENCE**, **SURRENDER** and **FAITHFULNESS** that Wil learned to bring him home to Himself and to recalibrate the purposes of his life in the here and now, and for eternity.

*It was to the disciples' **ADVANTAGE** that Jesus was mocked, beaten and nailed to the cross? **YES, IT WAS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.** Because to see with their own eyes the price Jesus was paying to forgive their sins would fuel the fires of their own commitment to be instruments of God's forgiveness, and mouthpieces to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people God brought across their paths.*

*It's to your **ADVANTAGE** that your spouse left you? **YES, IT CAN BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.** Because in that place of brokenness, God is able to do a work of healing discipleship you've never known before ... knitting the pieces of your soul back together again and giving you a mission and a purpose in life you've never dreamed of.*

Again, the truths in this teaching aren't for the faint of heart. And in some ways it almost hurts me as your shepherd to break these truths open for you this morning. But friends, it's in our pain and in our brokenness that God's Holy Spirit most powerfully and intimately appears to us ... and it's during the hard times of our lives, where we have to choose to depend on Him instead of on our own devices. Here's how Peter wrote about this perspective suffering God wants to lead us into ...

.PPT 17 ... FIRST PETER 4:13-14 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)

¹³⁻¹⁴ Be glad for the chance to suffer as Christ suffered. It will prepare you for even greater happiness when He makes His glorious return. Count it a blessing when you suffer for being a Christian. This shows that God's glorious Spirit is with you.

When we're going through hard times as Believers, the Holy Spirit rests on us as our **COUNSELOR**, our **COMFORTER**, our **HELPER**, and our **FRIEND**! Here's how the Apostle Paul writes about this sacred truth in **SECOND CORINTHIANS** ...

.PPT 18 ... SECOND CORINTHIANS 1:3-5 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)

³⁻⁵ Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort He gives.

Jesus is saying to His disciples here in **JOHN 16** that despite the evidence to the contrary, that despite what they might have been *thinking* or *feeling* ... that He was willing and able to take what they were going through and turn it into something **GOOD**, into something **MEANINGFUL**, and into something **REDEMPTIVE**. No wonder Joseph in *The Old Testament* and Paul in *The New Testament* were able to say ...

.PPT 19 ... GENESIS 50:20; ROMANS 8:28 (GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION)

²⁰ [Joseph says to his brothers who tried to kill him] You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good ... ²⁸ [Paul writes to fellow-Christians who were being persecuted in Rome] We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him ...

It's in the hard-to-understand, difficult-to-navigate-through chapters of our life stories that Jesus Christ invites us to make an intentional, focused effort to put our trust in Him. Look at the disciples before Jesus Christ left. They were so often confused, thick-headed, double-minded, afraid, selfish, and self-centered. And then think about what you know about them after the Holy Spirit, their **HELPER** showed up in **ACTS 2**. Over and over again we see them being wise, surrendered, bold, and self-sacrificing. Truly, it was to their **ADVANTAGE** then, and to our **ADVANTAGE** now that Jesus left and that the Holy Spirit came! Do you see it?

ILLUSTRATION ... PRAYER FOR US IN OUR HARD CHAPTERS RIGHT NOW

.PPT 20 ... JOHN 16:8-11 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁸ “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;
⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;
¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;
¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

In these four verses Jesus explains to us what we could call the “**THREE-FOLD CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** ... showing us how God's Holy Spirit convicts us of **sin**, **righteousness**, and **judgment**. What does **conviction** mean? To be **convicted** of something is “to be shown and convinced of the true nature of something.”

FIRST, the Holy Spirit **convicts** us concerning **sin** when He gives us a greater knowledge of what **sin** is, and how we're choosing to participate in **sin** or walk away from **sin**.

When Jesus says in vv. 8-9 that He will **convict the world of sin**, it should give us hope to believe that even though there are still many people who've rejected Jesus and who are even violently opposed to the good news of His Gospel, that His Holy Spirit will never give up trying to **convict** them of their **sin**, and you and me of our sin, and give all of us the opportunity to surrender into a relationship with Him.

SECOND, the Holy Spirit **convicts us concerning righteousness when He gives us a greater knowledge of what righteousness is, and how we're choosing to participate in it, or walk away from it.**

When Jesus says in v. 10 that He will **convict the world of righteousness**, it should give us hope to believe that God's Holy Spirit wants to use you and me as His followers to be the windows through whom the world can see His righteousness, His plans, His heart of love, and His forgiveness. This is why God wants our words, actions, priorities, values, character, and how we navigate through the hard chapters of our lives as a testimony to the truth and the power of His **righteousness**.

THIRD, the Holy Spirit **convicts us concerning judgment when He gives us a greater knowledge of what judgment is, and how we're choosing to participate in it, or choosing to walk away from it.**

When Jesus says in v. 11 that God's Holy Spirit will **convict the world of God's judgment** - know this ... that God's **judgment** only comes at the time when people finally reject, for the last time, God's **conviction** of their **sin** and God's **conviction** of His **righteousness**. The **ruler of this world** Jesus speaks of in v. 11 is Satan.

Jesus is saying that at the end of the earth as we know it, the people who've rejected for the last time God's **conviction** of their **sin** and God's **conviction** of His **righteousness** ... will see God cast Satan into the Lake of Fire (cf., REVELATION 19-20), will experience the **judgment** of God in their own lives, and will know they've made the wrong choice when time and time and time and time again, they turned away from God's **conviction** of their **sin**, and God's **conviction** of His **righteousness**.

New Testament writers often use two variations of one word to describe our rebellion toward God. **Sin**, **IN THE SINGULAR**, usually refers **to our one main sin**, which is missing the mark by making the choice to reject God and live life our own way. **Sins**, **IN THE PLURAL**, usually refers **to our individual acts of sin**. And notice that Jesus says here that God's Holy Spirit will **convict us of sin**, **singular**.

BEFORE we make the choice to come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit's primary role in our lives is to **convict us of sin**, **singular**, to **convict us** of our decision to reject God and live like we're our own private Messiahs. But **AFTER** we come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit's primary role in our lives is to **convict us of our sins**, **plural**, **of the individual acts of sin we choose** to make, because He knows that with each of these decisions, our hearts become more and more hardened toward God, and unless we come back to God's **righteousness** and receive His **judgment** for our sins, more than likely, we'll eventually turn our backs completely on Jesus as though we never even knew Him.

.PPT 21 ... JOHN 16:13-15 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹³ “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
¹⁴ “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.
¹⁵ “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Remember that Jesus is having this nighttime conversation with His disciples just an hour or two before He'd be arrested. In fact, right now they're walking east out of Jerusalem toward *The Garden of Gethsemane*, which is up on *The Mount of Olives*. And He's dropping all this Truth into their laps, and hoping that they'll receive it, and not be overwhelmed by it. Just like He is doing for us here this morning.

We saw back in [JOHN 16:13](#) that Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “**Spirit of Truth**”. And gang, what Jesus is getting at is that He's looking forward to His believers (His disciples back then, and you and me, as His disciples today) - He's longing for all of us to know the beauty of being led away from error and into Truth by His Holy Spirit. And the consistent reference to the Holy Spirit with the pronoun “**He**” rather than “**it**” is one of the many evidences that the Holy Spirit is just as much **A PERSON** in the Godhead as God the Father and God the Son Jesus Christ. Let me ask you a question.

.PPT 22 ... What's the truest evidence of a “Holy Spirit-filled” church?

It's a church that's built on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. And again, that's the foundation our revised **MISSION** statement reflects.

.PPT 23 ... 2nd Street Community Church - becoming more like Jesus Christ by loving God, loving people, and serving our world.

We're committed to Jesus Christ being the main focus, the main attraction, and the main event of our life together. And as that happens, it will be evidence of the fact that God's Holy Spirit is alive and well in our midst, and that God's Holy Spirit is being given the freedom and the space to work in our midst. **A HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A JESUS CHRIST-FOCUSED CHURCH.**

[v. 13](#) ... **and He will disclose to you what is to come** ... What's God's Holy Spirit been **disclosing** to you lately? **Disclosing** to you about Himself, about yourself? **Disclosing** to you about your character, about you sin (singular), or about your sins (plural)? What's God's Holy Spirit been **disclosing** to you about your priorities and your values, about whether you're building your life on Jesus Christ, the rock ... or **disclosing** to you about whether you're building your life on yourself, which will always be shifting sand? Oh, that you and I would learn to be the kind of disciples, to whom, God, through His precious Holy Spirit is always **disclosing truths** that are **intimate**, **corrective**, **convicting**, healing, and **transformational**!

.PPT 24 ... NEXT SUNDAY ... JOHN 16:16-24

[NEHEMIAH 8:10](#) says “**the joy of the LORD is our strength.**” How does this verse become true in our lives? Come discover the relationship between suffering, joy, and being able to pray with great faith.