

MOBILIZE 2020 PHASE 2 THE LEADER AND THE SPIRIT

Introduction

Great to see everybody again this evening! Please remember us in the UK in your prayers as they announced today that we are going into a new Corona Virus restrictions/lockdown possibly for the next 6 months. Our nation has never been through this before and we are all a little bit taken aback by it but this is the government that we are serving so please pray for us to know how to handle it!

Recap of last week: The Leader and the Word

Tonight I would like to begin by referring back to last week. Each week we come to another subject, I am going to give you a bit of a reminder, a taster of what we did last week. The reason for that is that we can so quickly rush on to the next thing and I don't want us to be able to do that, I want us to be able to reflect back on something so that we don't forget it. The purpose of this teaching is not that you can cover as much as possible but rather that you might get into you as a person the depths of what we are trying to learn each week. So can I ask for those of you that were here last week, how are you doing in the Word of God? We looked at the Leader and the Word. Can I ask you how you are doing in terms of loving the Word of God? Living by the Word of God? One of the things I tried to point out last week was how much of a priority knowing God's Word. It is so important that we are motivated to read the word of God when we prioritize what we will do with the time given to us. Can I really encourage you to remember to make the word of God a priority, to have an appetite to really be leaders who are soaked in the word of God and to increase your appetite for God's word. I want to go to two verses of scripture. The first one is Psalm 1 v1 . What a tremendous encouragement this is from the Word of God

Psalm 1v1-3

1 Blessed is the man[a]who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law[b] of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Amen! What an amazing promise! Brothers and sisters, leaders if we would really give ourselves to the word of God whether you are going through a good or a bad season, winter or summer you are just going to be fruitful all the time.

Let's turn to Psalm 19. The Word of God itself tells us what the Word of God does for us and I just love Psalm 19v7!



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Psalm 19 v 7- 8 and 10-11

*7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Fantastic! We need to be leaders saturated in the Word of God. Please don't rush on to what I am about to say unless you are beginning to get the Word of God into you on a regular basis.

THE LEADER AND THE SPIRIT

I am glad we are doing this back to back from last week because as I mentioned last week the Word and the Spirit go together. Paul's passion to Timothy is that he is passionate about the word of God but equally passionate about the things of the Spirit. Let me just connect the two things for you with a couple of examples. One is this: we need the Holy Spirit to give revelation from the Word of God. When I am doing my devotional life, I often find myself saying Holy Spirit would you please help me to understand this passage and it is amazing the difference it makes when we involve the Spirit with our reading of the Word of God! Don't think the bible is meant to be like any other book! It cannot be understood just intellectually. We need the Holy Spirit to help us understand what God's Word really really says. That is the first connection between Word and Spirit. The second is this: everything we believe about the Holy Spirit is rooted in the Word of God. It is not that we have come into a kind of twenty first century understanding of the Holy Spirit. Everything we believe is rooted in the Word of God. So the Word and the Spirit go hand in hand. And Paul entrusts to Timothy a passion for the Word of God. He equally entrusts to Timothy that he should have a passion for the things of the Spirit.

Now you will be pleased to know that we will be looking at less texts than we looked at last week when we looked at Timothy. We virtually read half of Timothy last week because so much refers to the Word of God. We are just going to look at some of the passages that refer to the things of the Spirit.

1 Timothy 1v18-19

¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith



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So Paul is going back probably to the early days of Timothy's life and Paul is saying, "Timothy remember the prophetic word that was given to you, a function of the Holy Spirit." "We don't wage war through human efforts" he says. "We don't hold onto our faith or good conscience by our own efforts. It is genuinely a work of the Spirit.

Let's turn over to 2 Timothy 1. We read these verses last week but now we are thinking of the things of the Spirit.

2 Timothy 1v 3-7

³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear (or timidity) but of power and love and self-control.

Just look at verse 13 with me please

2 Timothy 1 v 13-14

³ Follow the pattern of the sound^[d] words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Paul's desires to impart to Timothy a huge passion for the things of the Spirit. We said last week, it is the responsibility of one generation to speak to another generation and the Apostle Paul is passionate that Timothy has an impartation of the things of the Spirit, that he will then go and give the things of the Spirit as an impartation to those who he leads.

Acts 9 is the well known passage of scripture where the Apostle Paul is born again, where he has this amazing conversion on the road to Damascus. He doesn't stop there he ends up in Damascus and for 3 days he fasted and he was blind and during that time it was obvious from Paul's testimony that God came to him, spoke to him, gave him revelation and then Ananias turns up, lays hands on him, he gets healed of his blindness, he has an impartation of the things of the Spirit and that's the beginning of Paul's walk in the things of the Spirit. It goes on from there and Paul's experience of the Spirit may have been very dramatic but his passion is that every believer should definitely have an experience of the Holy Spirit and that what Paul experiences we should experience and what he practices, we should practice. In fact, the apostles, throughout the Acts of the Apostles are consumed with the person of the Holy Spirit. He is not a side issue. He is not an add on to the Gospel. He is up front and centre. In fact sometimes I think when you read Acts, it seems like the apostles are either coming from an experience of an encounter of the things of the Spirit



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or they are going to a place where they introduce the Spirit to people. It is all over their lives and ministry. Also Paul's epistles are full of teaching about the person of the Holy Spirit. Let me give you a few example of some of those epistles that are well known to us.

Galatians 3 v 1-3

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by ^{the} the flesh?

And in Galatians 5 we read in verse 16:

Galatians 5v16

¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh*

Galatians 5v 22,23 & 25

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

Ephesians 5v18-19

¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.*

These are examples of how the apostle Paul, not only in his experience but his teaching, his doctrine was saturated in the person of the Holy Spirit. Some people argue, some commentators that the whole of the book of Romans is actually a story of the work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot be justified without the Spirit, you cannot be sanctified without the Spirit. He is central to the teaching of the Holy spirit and you get to chapter 8 and it's all about how to live in the Spirit and verse 9:



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Romans 8v 9-11 and -14

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^{td} from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

And we haven't even got to the book of Corinthians! The Church in Corinth were overboard in the things of the Spirit you could say. Isn't it fascinating chapters 12-14 that Paul never rebukes them for being saturated with the Spirit, he just corrects their experience of the Spirit. He never says stop. He never says don't do this. He just says do it in a different way. So the Apostle Paul, for him to be a leader, which is what we are talking about tonight, it is absolutely essential that we know the person of the Spirit, we understand the doctrine of the Spirit of what he is called to do and that he comes into our lives and that we can't be leaders without the Spirit. Amen!

I want to mention 3 needs tonight that I see Paul talking to Timothy about:

1. THE NEED NOT TO NEGLECT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now here is the big question for tonight's session. Has Timothy dialed down on the things of the Spirit? While we are asking the question, I am going to ask it of myself as well? Have I dialed down on the things of the Spirit? We know from this passage, particularly 2 Timothy, it's obvious that Paul is really concerned about Timothy and what he is really concerned is that Timothy has forgotten the power of the Spirit in his life. Even the word remind you which comes 2 or 3 times in these passages is a hint: "Timothy, I am going to have to remind you of the prophecies that were brought over you. I want to remind you of these things." Look at **2 Timothy 1 v 6**

⁶ For this reason I remind you...

Well you don't remind people about things unless they have forgotten! So it is obvious he is concerned about Timothy who is a leader of a fantastic Church but somehow he is deeply concerned that Timothy has neglected the things of the Spirit. Why else would he say to him in **verse 6** "...fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on



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of my hands”, if Paul wasn’t concerned that actually Timothy was actually becoming docile, becoming passive? You don’t fan into flame something that is ablaze, you fan into flame something that is slowly going out. Paul knows that the embers of Timothy’s life are still flickering but they may only be flickering and Paul’s concern is that Timothy fans this into flame.

Now we don’t know from this passage 2 Timothy 1 v6-7 exactly what Paul is referring to. Some commentators think it refers to him laying hands on Timothy for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It may well be that. Other commentators say that Paul prayed for Timothy and imparted some spiritual gifts and it may well be some of those gifts as well! Whatever it is, Paul is concerned that Timothy understands that you can only be a leader, a true leader, if the experience of the Spirit today is as real as it was last month, last year or in Timothy’s case when he was a lot younger man. Also verse 7 gives us another hint of concern:

2 Timothy 1 v 7

⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of timidity...

I don’t know what that means but in Paul’s eyes Timothy is not only dialing down on the things of the Spirit but he is also becoming a bit fearful, becoming a bit timid and we know that when the Holy Spirit comes upon a person, it is not any longer about your temperament. Supposing Timothy was a bit of a weak guy, we know that Timothy had stomach problems and was told to drink more wine. He obviously had some weaknesses in his life but Paul says this is irrelevant, it doesn’t matter if you are a quiet, introverted guy! God has not given you a spirit of timidity and you lead not through your temperament but you lead by the anointing of the Spirit on your life and God’s Spirit is full of power and love and self control.

Why am I emphasizing this? Because I am convinced that Timothy has had a deep and rich experience of the things of the Spirit. He knew loads about the Holy Spirit. The teaching of Jesus about the Holy Spirit would have been going around the Churches. Paul would have taught into these things and it is not insignificant, and that is why I read it, that he had a grandmother called Lois and he had a mum called Eunice and Paul comments that they were rich in the things of the faith and they would have imparted to Timothy the things of God and that would have included the things of the Spirit. So Timothy knows about the teachings of Jesus, he knows about things from his ancestors and he was hanging out with Paul for years and years and years. Paul laid hands on him. He went on journeys with Paul. He would have seen the practice of the Holy Spirit in power and Timothy wouldn’t have been looking on from the side when they rocked up at a Church. Timothy and Titus



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and everybody else would have been involved in laying hands on people and seeing the impartation of the Spirit and seeing signs and wonders and miracles. Not only that, the Apostle Paul would have taught about the Holy Spirit. He would have taught what he taught in the epistles. It is interesting to me that although Corinth was in such a mess about the things of the Spirit, guess who Paul sends to Corinth to help sort them out? Timothy!

1 Corinthians 4 v 16

¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent^[e] you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ,^[d] as I teach them everywhere in every church.

He is telling Timothy to remind the Corinthians of Paul's ways in Christ as Paul teaches everywhere in every Church. He so believes that Timothy is powerfully anointed of the Spirit and thinks "who can I send to Corinth to unravel the mistakes they are making in the Spirit? I know I will send Timothy." Why? Because Timothy I trust. He is a man of the Spirit and he will bring the things of the Spirit into that context. Folks this was 10 years before Paul wrote to Timothy. So 10 years ago Timothy was on the front line of the things of the Spirit and 10 years later Paul is saying "Timothy remember! Fan into flame! Those things you used to do- I saw you! I was there when prophecy was given to you! When hands were laid on you!" Timothy knows so much of the things of the Spirit.

As leaders are we in danger of neglecting the things of the Spirit? Are our experiences, our beliefs and our practice of the Spirit, something we used to do? As time goes by we forget the things of the Spirit, in fact we forget the Holy Spirit. As time goes by we replace him with things. Maybe we feel we know how to lead without him or maybe we can do Church, we have been around for a long time and we don't need the Spirit? Have we neglected to walk in the Spirit, to live by the Spirit? Have we neglected to fulfil the things that have been prophesied over our lives. I talk about the Holy Spirit a lot! I do it everywhere I go. One of the reasons I do this is because I am convinced that even leaders neglect him. If you do not live by the Spirit you are going to dry up and this is the saddest thing of all or you may end up with old stories. Do you remember when? The good old days! The thing about the good old days is that they are the good old days. They are in the past. What God is concerned about now is your now experience of the Spirit.



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2. THE NEED FOR DEPENDENCY

Was Timothy losing it in terms of a lack of dependency on the Spirit? Am I beginning to lose that sense of dependency on the Spirit? It is very possible to do this. You can look very busy, you can do a lot of things on the outside and people can look at you thinking wow you are amazing as a leader but I know what it is like to run on empty. I have the appearance but inside my reservoir is drying up. The only way to keep that reservoir full is to daily depend on the Holy Spirit. That is what stops us neglecting the things of the Holy Spirit, our need for daily dependency.

You need to come to a place where you are able to say **“I can’t live without the Holy Spirit.”** As leaders we have got to come to the place where we are saying constantly **“I just can’t do the things God has called me to do in my own strength! I cannot be the kind of leader that He wants me to be without the help of the Holy Spirit.”** I don’t know about you but with all that is going on in the world and everything that is happening at the moment, I just can’t do life without the Spirit. I want to be completely dependent on him. That is not a weakness, that is a strength to admit “I cannot do this.” When COVID hit here, my first 3 weeks were just awful. Fortunately, Liz is not here with me tonight because if she was she would be going: “He was awful!” The reason I was awful was because I thought “I can do this, I can manage, it will be absolutely no problem!” After three weeks I gave up! I thought “I cannot do this. I cannot lead these people. I cannot lead New Ground. I just don’t know how to do this.” From that moment on it changed. Sadly, it took me 3 weeks but from that moment on it changed because I learnt how to depend upon the Holy Spirit. I know you have heard loads of things about the Holy Spirit but I just wanted to remind you that the Holy Spirit is our helper, he is our comforter and our strengthener.

The Greek word is the word ‘paraclete’ which means someone who comes alongside you to help carry the load. There is no area of the Christian life where we do not need the person of the Holy Spirit and he is longing to help you and every day that we ignore him, we are quenching the Holy Spirit. I am actually not allowing him to do the very thing he is called to do. My responsibility as a leader on a regular day to day basis, in every area of my life is to give over to the Holy Spirit. I need to constantly be saying “I cannot do this without you Holy Spirit, please help me!” Take prayer. How is your prayer life without the Holy Spirit? When I ask the Holy Spirit to help me in my praying everything changes. When I forget to ask him, my prayer life is pretty painful. My mind wanders all over the place and 10 minutes feels like an hour. When you ask the Spirit to help you an hour can seem like 10 minutes so no wonder the scripture says repeatedly ‘pray in the Spirit’. Why? Because we can not pray in our own strength.



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Romans 8 v 26

For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

I can't understand the word of God without the Spirit. I can't really worship without the Spirit because the bible says 'Worship in Spirit and in truth.' I can't witness to people- the bible says 'the Spirit of God will come upon you and you will be my witnesses.' I cannot relate to Christians- I am looking at a lot of your faces and you all look really lovely, wonderful loving people but I have got some news for you- I will run out of love for you eventually, someone on this screen will annoy me, someone I won't get on with. I can't love people without the Holy Spirit. It is the fruit of the Spirit. When I am filled with the Spirit, I can love people that I wouldn't naturally get on with. Marriage. I need the Holy Spirit in my marriage. Those of you that have got children, you need the Holy Spirit to help you to raise your children and then your children become teenagers and if you haven't got the message yet, when teenagers come along you will cry out in desperation. I mean what is more difficult? To raise the dead or to raise teenagers? I think it is a bit of an equal situation! The Holy Spirit wants to be involved in every area of our lives. He is not a Sunday person. He is not just interested in spiritual things, he is really interested in every area of your life and that includes your work. He wants to be involved with you even in the workplace – we need the Holy Spirit every day. He is a person. He is real. It takes 2 people to have a relationship.

3. THE NEED FOR IMPARTATION

It is very important that you hear this for us as leaders. Paul's concern is not only for Timothy but the repercussions if Timothy doesn't get his life sorted out with the things of the Spirit. Remember our word 'ENTRUST'. Paul wants to say to Timothy, "You can only give what you have got." It is a very important lesson for us to learn. You can't give to somebody something that you haven't got. So if Timothy's experience of the Spirit is back in the past, all he can give to people today is past and Paul is saying to Timothy, "you desperately need to be Spirit filled because what you are is what you give to people." You can not impart the things of the Spirit on the basis of head knowledge. That will just give people information about the Spirit. What you and I are called to do is to lay hands on people, to talk to people and to pray with people and as we do that, there is a living impartation of the Holy Spirit.



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2 Corinthians 3 v 6

For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

In other words, if I am filled with the Spirit then that is what is going to come out of me. If you have received life you can give life. If you have not received life you haven't got anything to give to people. How do we give life? 2 Corinthians 3 vs 6 says by the Spirit. If Timothy neglects the Spirit- first point, or if Timothy does not depend upon the Spirit- second point and if Timothy does not fan into flame the things of the Spirit- third point then it has huge repercussions on the next generation.

I often think about this that in our Churches we can short change people in the things of the Spirit unless today we are full of the Spirit and talking about him all the time.

Let me give you some examples:

- I think we short change new converts. When people come to Jesus they need the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives which means as we lead people to faith in Christ, which is a wonderful experience, we very quickly need to be talking to them about the person on the Holy Spirit. We need to be on the front foot of leading them into the things of the Spirit. If not new converts will always struggle. I am amazed that new converts who really embrace the things of the Spirit seem to just go for it and I want us to encourage one another not to short change them.
- Secondly, and this is going to surprise some of you. Church kids. Kids that are raised in our Churches. I feel deeply concerned that if my generation had experiences of things of the Spirit, the next generation can just assume they know it everything of the Spirit and we can assume that they know everything and they really don't. I don't want to raise a generation of kids that just go to Church on Sundays and they know their mum and dad are a bit weird because they speak in tongues. I want our kids speaking in tongues! I want my grandkids speaking in tongues. I want this new generation to experience the things of the Spirit as former generations have as well! The only way it is going to happen is if we talk about the things of the Spirit.
- The other thing is this if people are hungry and thirsty for God and they turn up to your Church because they have heard that you are a Church that really moves in the things of the Spirit what are you going to do. We need to lay hands on people and pray for them that they might receive the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.



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I have gone for 30 minutes so it is time for me sadly to draw this to a close. My constant passion, and I'm guessing something the Apostle Paul might have done as well is this constant challenge that the next generation experiences the things of the spirit and it doesn't fade away as the years go by. My prayer for you and the Church that you come from, is that you will be a leader, confident in the things of the Spirit that you might impart this to other people. Just to say as I close that 2 years ago, I did a series of teaching on the Holy Spirit. It is called the Holy Spirit Course and it was 6 weeks and it was done for small groups particularly but also can be done for individuals. If I have whet your appetite and you would like to know more about the Spirit, including more about the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruits of the Spirit, then here is a link to that:

<http://newgroundchurches.org/media/series/16/>

I would encourage you if you are interested to go deeper to go through these teaching on the Spirit.



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MOBILIZE 2020 PHASE 2

TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2020

Breakout groups discussion questions

Week 2: THE LEADER AND THE SPIRIT

These discussion questions are a guide and the group leaders will lead you through the discussion time and what they believe can best be covered in the time available. However, these questions are also great for you to work through on your own in between our sessions to help you get maximum benefit from the teaching and to give God time to grow you in each of the different areas addressed each week.

Feedback

Please share with the group how your times in God's Word has been this week.
Do you have renewed motivation to read the Word?
Which of all the motivating factors shared with us last week have been key for you.

Discussion questions – week 1

1. Is my experience of the Holy Spirit mainly something in the past?
In what ways have I neglected Him?
2. If you were asked to 'fan into flame' the things of the Spirit, what would you actually do?
3. Are you stirred about passing the things of the Spirit onto another generation?
If so, what practical things will you do to make this happen?
4. Is there any area of your life where you have not been depending on the help of the Holy Spirit?
Be honest, and ask your group to pray for you.

PRAY for one another



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