



Men's Discipleship Class
Subjective & Objective Direction - September 13, 2018

Verses Covered

John 14:15-19

2 Peter 1:20-21

2 Peter 3:14-16

Matthew 22:29-32, 34-35

Acts 13:2-3

Matthew 4:1

Acts 16:6-10

Jeremiah 1:5

Galatians 1:15-16

Ephesians 4:11-12

We are going to cover a lot of ground today. Here is what we are going to do. We are going to look at a lot of scripture. I am going to fly through. I will write them on the board. In spite of what your wife thinks, you have one authority in your life, and it is not her. Okay? Amen. You really only have one authority. That one authority is going to manifest himself in your life in two ways. This is where Southern Baptists have historically failed. One of the things as we walk through Ephesians, for example, we are gaining a glimpse into the trinity. We have talked about this. When you go to creation, the trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, which are eternal coequal and three persons in one Godhead, they do the very same thing in creation. You do not have God the Father doing something, God the Son doing something, and God the Spirit doing something. When you come to redemption that is exactly what you have. You have God the Father choosing to redeem you. You have God the Son executing that redemption in time, space, and history. You then have God the Spirit taking what God the Son executed. He applies it in your life. Now the problem with Southern Baptist is historically we have been really good with the fact that God loves you. We have been really good with the fact that Jesus died and his blood was shed. It is a source of our forgiveness. Where we have really objectively and miserably failed is in the understanding of the Holy Spirit. If you do not let him be the authority in your life, you can never reach your fullness as a husband, you cannot reach it as a dad, you cannot reach it as a worker, and you cannot reach it in any way at all. You can nominally move out of Christian life. You can be a nice guy and be moral. What the Bible wants for you is something much higher.

Look at John 14. Again, we are going to fly today, so just bear with me. Listen to John 14:15. This is Jesus. John 14:15-19 is when they leave the last supper. They are walking over to Gethsemane where Jesus is going to pray. This is what he says to them. They have a pretty long walk across the Kidron Valley. They are walking downhill and then uphill. As they do this, he is walking them through various aspects. Here is one of the last things he says to them.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

This means he will not be with them forever.

¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Everything we have in Jesus is rooted now in the person of the Holy Spirit. This is why the Bible says not to quench him and not to grieve him. If the Holy Spirit is not in control of your life, then you are not going to maximize who you are in Christ.

There are two ways that the Holy Spirit is going to be in control of your life. One, he is going to be in control of your life in an objective way. Then, he is going to be in control of your life in a subjective way. We are going to look at both of these in the scripture. If both of these are not true in your life, you then minimize who he is and what he wants to do. The great problem and the horror for a lot of Christians is that he is in us but he is doing nothing through us.

Objectively, walk with me. Look at 2 Peter. Slide over there. 2 Peter 1: 20-21. Slide over to the right if you are in the book of John. If you get to Revelation, hang a left. 2 Peter 1. Listen to what he says.

²⁰above all you know this; no prophecy of scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹Because no prophecy ever came by the will of man, instead men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

He says the author of the scripture is the Holy Spirit of God. Look at chapter 3 verses 14 – 16.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

What has he just said about Paul's writings? What has he just said about them here? That they are what? They are scripture. This is critical. Peter and Paul will both die before 70AD. Nero will kill both of them. He will behead Paul because he is a Roman citizen. He will crucify Peter.

Right before they die and way before everybody says the Bible was created, you have Peter stating that he knew what letters of Paul would be in the New Testament. The Bible was not formed by some council in the 4th century AD. The Bible, the minute it was written, it was immediately recognized for what it was. It was not something created by man. The early church saw what scripture was and what it was not. God somehow sovereignly gave them an insight into that. How serious do we take it? Go to Matthew 22:29-32. How seriously do we take it? This seriously. I do not have all the explanations. There are different personalities. The Greek is different. You read the Greek of John. It is real, real simple in the New Testament. You read Paul's Greek. It is a little harder. You read Luke's Greek. It is almost impossible to translate. You have different personalities in the Bible. It does not matter. At the end of the day, listen to what Jesus says. Remember the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Pharisees believed all thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. The Sadducees believed the first five. The Sadducees did not believe that after you died you went anywhere. When you died, that was it. They had a big argument with the Pharisees all the time. They had this trump argument that they always pulled out with the Pharisees. In Old Testament law, if you died then your wife had to marry your brother. If he died, she had to marry the other brother until somebody produced an heir. Now. The Sadducees always used this argument with the Pharisees. They said, "Look, if there really is a resurrection and you get up there and your wife has five husbands, who is her husband up there?" The Pharisees, being stupid, had no answer. Jesus has a great answer though. Listen to this.

²⁹He answered them, he said, "You are mistaken, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God: ³²'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? So he's not the God of the dead, but of the living."

Now what did he do here? He makes his basis of believing in eternity on a verb tense in the Old Testament. He says, "God my Father did not say 'I used to be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I still am.'" This is how the Holy Spirit wrote this. He wrote this where we pay attention to even the verb tense. Every single thing in this book, you pay great attention to because obviously even a verb tense was basis for Jesus' entire doctrine of immortality. The Holy Spirit wrote this even though he used different people in a very details and serious manner. Now. Look at John 10:34. You are going to have people say to you, "The Bible is full of errors." I always have an answer for those people. I just ask them one question, "Could you name me one?" They will give you, "Well, uh, there are errors in the Bible." We are going to listen to Jesus, because it does not matter what you and I think. Listen to verse 34.

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Isn't it written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? ³⁵If he called those whom the word of God came to gods – and the Scripture can't be broken –

So. We have this clear statement. Can't. Be. Broken. The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible. We know which books he wrote. It is serious enough that you take verb tenses into consideration. There is nothing in it that is not true. You know that now from the objectivity of the scripture. This is what the Bible says about itself. Now, you have to come to a place where you are going to believe this. This is key. The Bible makes claims about itself. This is the first direction in

your life. If the Holy Spirit is the authority in our life because whatever he tells us is what the Father wants from us, there is never a contradiction in the Godhead. If God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit all think the same thing and believe the same thing, then whatever the Holy Spirit tells me is what the Father wants from me. Objectivity is inside that book. So, that book is the first direction in my life from God. This thing is how I know what the Holy Spirit wants me to do and be. He has written it down on paper for me. It took the Bible 1500 years to write by forty different authors with absolute unity and no errors, no mistakes, no problems. So, this is the objectivity of the Holy Spirit. I want this to guide my life. For example, I want to be careful here because I understand moms and dads are well meaning. I hear parents say to me, "We have prayed for our son's spouse from the day he was born." That violated the scripture. Why? The Bible does not say everyone is supposed to married. Matter of fact, the Bible actually says there are some people who are called not to marry. So, you have this objective truth that says not everyone is supposed to be married. When you look at your kids when they are sixteen, and say, "Listen, we prayed for you your whole life and for your spouse." You just put pressure on them that if they do not marry, your prayers have not been answered when their marriage may not be God's will for their life. This has got to guide you. He wrote this so that objectively you would know what you are supposed to do.

If this is all you do, you will miss the fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life. Now you have to let him speak to you subjectively. Before we start down this path, I want us to be real careful. You listen to me all the way through today. This is where the charismatics mess up. They kind of ignore this and play the game here where whatever God tells them subjectively overrules this. The subjectiveness of the Holy Spirit has to be confirmed by the objective written word. The Holy Spirit, if he wrote this, is not going to tell you something here that contradicts here. Right? If it is not confirmed here, then what he tells you is not true. Ken Copeland. I do not know if you know the name. He is a huge charismatic preacher. Matter of fact, if you want a really good laugh, go home today and Google Ken Copeland and Jesse Duplantis in the jet airplane. They actually debated that. Well, I'll let you look at that because it is stinking funny. They are actually being serious. There is a book called Christianity in Crisis that is not a bad book to get by Hank Hanegraaff. Ken Copeland one time was preaching and made the statement that God's spirit had taken him and showed him how Jesus died on the cross and then that God's Spirit said to him that if Copeland had known what Jesus knew Copeland could have done what Jesus did. Now. Nobody does what Jesus did. I do not want you going crazy out here. Do not call me and say the Holy Spirit told you that I should not be hunting anymore as a preacher. We are just going to send you straight to another church. Just understand how it's going to work. You do have to have a personal direction from the Holy Spirit. Let me show you a couple of things. Go to Acts 13:2. I want to be careful with my statement. This is not enough. It is sufficient, but it is not enough. Look at Acts 13. This is the church at Antioch.

²As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

He does a couple of things here. He names two guys, and he gives them a particular direction for their life. Now, there is no way that the church in Antioch can read the objective writings of the Old Testament and come up with the names and the direction for the first missionary. The Holy

Spirit objectively spoke to the church, called out names, and called out the purpose. There is not any way to read this if you are the church at Antioch and come up with Paul and Barnabas. So, if you ignore the subjective roll of the Holy Spirit in your life, there is no missionary work from the church. The missionary work that started in the church started out of the subjective calling of the Holy Spirit to a church. There is nothing in the Old Testament they could read that would tell them two names and the direction for those two names. Without this, the church's role in winning the Roman Empire is limited.

Now look with me in Matthew 4:1. This was right after the baptism of Jesus. Listen to this.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Why does this verse prove that the Holy Spirit is God? Why does Matthew 4:1 prove the Holy Spirit is God? Why? Jesus is God. If he is led by anything other than God, he is sin and is not your redeemer. If he sins one time, he is not your redeemer. If the Holy Spirit is not God, then he is being controlled by something other than his Father. So, the Holy Spirit directs Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus has just come out of the baptism. He is starting his ministry. There has been this public statement by the Father. Now is the time for Jesus to hit it on the run which you would expect him to do, but that is not what he does. The Holy Spirit instead says, "No, I want you to go to the wilderness first. For forty days you are going to wait until I release you." You cannot read the Old Testament and know what he should do. Look in Acts 16. This is the verse you need to thank God for because this verse is the reason you are sitting in this room. Acts 16:6-10.

⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

They are like here. Paul wanted to move the gospel back toward Israel and into Africa. God turned him and instead the Gospel went up into Europe and to America. It has been America sending missionaries to Africa and not Africa sending missionaries to America. It is because of Acts 16. Now when you see this, there is not anything in the Old Testament they can read that tells them to go where they went. The people called out the direction for their life and where that gospel went all of it is based on the subjectivity of the Holy Spirit in their life. They cannot read the Bible and this all be figured out. So, the Bible is not enough in and of itself. It is though the key to confirming and checking whether or not what you sense from the Holy Spirit is legitimate. When I was in high school, I was accepted to Alabama. I am in Louisiana. I am filling out the forms from fraternity letters. How many of you are drinking the Kool-Aid and think the Aggies can beat Alabama in two weeks? It is so tragic isn't it? So. This is blind faith. Matter of fact, it is misplaced faith. At any rate, I am filling out these fraternity letters. I come home Sunday night after a date with the great Christian girl and get into the shower. I start thinking about my pastor preaching. Immediately, my thought was I do not even listen to him. Why do I care about

him preaching? I cannot describe this except to tell you this is what happened. Three times inside my head I heard a voice say to me, "I want you to preach". It knocked me down in the shower. I am a high school kid. I am a punk. I go back to my room and dry off to get dressed. I start to think to myself that this is not true. He does not do this anymore. He does not speak like this anymore. The minute I thought that to myself I had this overwhelming fear fall on me that he was going to blind me. I started to pray. For the first time in my life even though I knew it theologically, I now knew it in my heart that if he wanted to blind me there was not anything I could do to stop that. So, I went into my mom and dad and said, "I think God is calling me to preach, but I think he is going to blind me". My dad went back in the room with me and prayed with me. When he left he said that he did not think God was going to blind me. The minute he made that statement, that fear was relieved. I went in the next day and talked to my pastor. Fast forward to today. Now, I have this totally subjective feeling that God has called me to preach. I get into college. Back in those days, youth revivals were a big thing. I did a lot of youth revival preaching. I remember after about the second year of doing that I was sitting in my dorm room and told God that I could feel now that he was calling me to be an evangelist. The minute I said that it was immediately like God said, "You are just crazy, boy". I sensed that and immediately knew that is out. I began to sense that I was called to pastor. Now, I have two things. I have this call to preach and a call in that direction to pastor. Those are totally subjective. I can root them in the New Testament. If I go to Jeremiah 1:5, it says:

[5"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."](#)

So, I have in the Bible that God does have a preordained purpose for my life. I have Galatians 1:15 where Paul says:

[15But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles](#)

I have Ephesians 4:11 where it says:

[11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,](#)

I have this totally subjective call in my life to preach and to pastor. When I come back to the scripture, it confirms that this is legit. So, you have got to allow the Holy Spirit to control your life through both what the scripture says and then the subjective direction in your life. This has got to be confirmed by the Bible.

The other day Jesse Duplantis, Ken's buddy, told his flock that he needed a new \$60 million jet. He said God told him that, and they needed to give money to his jet. He has three jets, but he needs a fourth. That is his calling. God has called me to have a new jet. The problem is that when I come to the scripture in I Peter 5 that if you are an elder in the church you are executing the ministry he has called you to do that you do not do it for "shameful gain". You take a lot person at Texas A&M and tell them that there is a preacher who wants a \$60 million jet. Would

you consider that shameful gain? Lost people would go, "Oh, yes". So, you have lost people who understand the scripture is negating his subjectivity. Clearly, this is not a call from the Holy Spirit because the objectivity of scripture contradicts that call. You understand Ken and Jesse, my two favorite people, are actually in a discussion about why they need their \$60 million private jet. This is what I want you to google. The reason they need them is because they said they cannot pray in a commercial airline because it is a long tube filled with demons. Google this because it is worth laughing. People would bother them by coming up to them and asking them to pray for them. So, they cannot pray in a commercial jet. They need a \$60 million jet. Now, how do we know that is wrong? When you come to the book of Nehemiah when he is in the king's presence and the king looks at him and says, "You look really sad. What is the deal?" Then there is this weird little statement where it says, "I breathed a prayer before the God of heaven and then I spoke to the king". You can pray anywhere. That king, if anyone was demon filled, was demon filled. That negates their statement that they cannot pray on a plane. So, do not tell me that God has given you some weird thing if it contradicts the scripture. I had a lady in my office. She was struggling in her marriage. This was probably thirty-five to forty years ago in another situation. So, we got to talking and she finally confirmed for me that when she was in college she was dating two guys. One was a Christian, and one was not a believer. She told me that the Spirit of God told her to marry the non-believer. How do we know that is not true? The Word says you are not yoked with unbelievers.

If I do not allow the Holy Spirit to speak to me internally, I do not know who should go. I do not know the direction. I lose missionaries. I lose the missionary direction and the missionary impact if I do not allow the Holy Spirit to speak to me subjectively. Whatever he says subjectively, I have got to legitimize through the objectivity of scripture. I know I am going to hear from people who say the Bible is hard to interpret. It is not. There are some things that are hard. Peter wrote that about Paul's writings. Sure enough Calvinism versus non-Calvinism. Nobody has settled that. We have been arguing that for five hundred years, and we are still arguing. Give it up. I do not care if you are a Calvinist as long as you do not care that I am not. There are some things in scripture that we are just not going to fix. There are a ton of things in scripture that are not hard to interpret. When the Bible says to not be yoked with an unbeliever, is that hard to understand? You do not marry an unbeliever. When the Bible says in marriage the bed is undefiled. Now, when I read that I know that I cannot sleep with anybody outside the bed that marriage has defined as legitimate. I cannot sleep with anybody before marriage defines the bed as legitimate. That one little statement covers no premarital sex and no extramarital sex. It is settled by one simple little statement. I love the brilliance of the Bible. It does not define marriage. Why? Every culture has a different definition for marriage. The argument in the Bible is that it does not matter what the culture says. You live inside the culture's rules, but you live in it where everybody in the culture knows you are married. You do not sleep with your woman before that day, and you do not sleep with any other woman after that day. It is real simple. When the Bible says, "Do not sleep with a man as you do with a woman". There is not a lot of interpretation there. If you think there is, we need to chat when this is over. In 1 Timothy when he says, "Pray for kings and other in authority". Is that hard to understand? Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord. The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Is that hard to understand? Let me tell you something. All that crap is simply not true. Crappos is Greek for crap. The good thing about being in here talking to the men is that I do not have to

have a filter with the men. This is way easier to understand than we give it credit. It is easy to understand. If you are going to reach fullness in Christ, you have to have his internal direction and his objective clarity. You confirm this with this, both guide your life. This in a very general way. This in a very particular way. If both are not operative in your life, you are never going to be the best husband, dad, or person you can be. They both have to be there.

In the next few weeks, we are going to look at the scripture and learn how to understand it. We are going to learn how to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us. We are going to learn how he does that, how he is going to do that, and then how to be controlled by the Holy Spirit as in the life of Simon Peter. We are going to walk through this over the next few weeks because the number one thing you need to learn before we go anywhere else in the scripture is that the Holy Spirit has to drive your life. Let me tell you something about this. God has an incredible sense of humor. Voltaire, French deist, said that his writings would one day overrule the scripture. He has over seventeen volumes of writings. Well, after he died in the sovereignty of God, they sold his property and put a Bible printing press on his property. God always wins here one way or another. You have to have both in your life. Both are needed. We are going to walk through in the next few weeks how to allow both to work and form in your life. We are going to learn how to let the Holy Spirit do that.