



Being Continually Filled By The Spirit
Women's Discipleship Class – August 28, 2019

Verses Covered This Week

<i>John 14:25 – 26, 16:13 – 14</i>	<i>Matthew 16:13 – 23</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 5:19</i>	<i>Matthew 26:31 – 35</i>
<i>Ephesians 4:30</i>	<i>Matthew 50:51</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 12:13</i>	<i>Luke 22:31 – 34, 61</i>
<i>Ephesians 5:18</i>	<i>John 21:15 – 19</i>
<i>Matthew 5:3</i>	<i>Acts 2:22 – 24</i>
<i>James 1:18</i>	<i>Jonah 1:17, 3:10, 4:1 – 5, 11</i>
<i>Matthew 14:28 – 32</i>	

We've talked about the fact, and we're going to cover a little bit of ground tonight so we're going to have to travel. We talked about the fact you're under the direction of God in your life who brought you back to Him in the blood of Jesus so that He could implant His Holy Spirit inside you. Now His Holy Spirit then is going to speak to you two ways, right. He's going to speak to you objectively in the Scripture and He's going to speak to you subjectively. Now I want you to go real quickly to John 14 because you have to have the Holy Spirit even to understand the Scripture. Now we talked about the fact the Bible's going to tell you to meditate. It is part of your meditation that's going to open you up to these principles. Now remember these are the last things Jesus said. He's walking from the last supper; He's walking across the Kidron Valley into the Garden of Gethsemane when He makes these statements. Some of the last things He's telling His disciples. So listen to John 14:25 – 26.

²⁵“These things I've spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to 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.”

Then look at 16:13 – 14. He says:

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Acts 8, if you remember is where the Holy Spirit told Paul not to go into Bethania, but to wind up going into Macedonia. So the Holy Spirit is responsible for you understanding the objective word He has written. And then He's responsible for giving you the subjective word. So, again, if you'll remember, we're in the chess game. If I'm going to be effective in the chess game for the spiritual life of Christ in my home and beyond my home, I've got to understand the objective word and I've got to have the subjective direction of the Holy Spirit. So we've got to have both. Which is going to mean that we have to be filled with the Spirit. So go to 1 Thessalonians 5:19. And then we'll also go to Ephesians 4:30. And, again, if you can't find Ephesians by now, then you are one sick puppy. I want you to listen to 5:19. Real quick verse. He says here:

¹⁹Do not quench the Holy Spirit;

And then in Ephesians 4:30, I'm telling you, I've got to cover some ground tonight. So you've got to write these down and pray that you find it at some point. And then he says:

³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

So I have to have the Holy Spirit to direct me, both in the Scripture and in my life. I don't want to quench Him and I don't want to grieve Him. So I'm going to feel His grief when I'm walking away from the Father. And I don't want to quench Him; I want Him to be in control of my life so He can give me both these things. Now there are obviously then two things that have to be true about me. I have to possess Him; I have to be controlled by Him. So go to 1 Corinthians 12:13. Now I don't have time to argue this tonight, I may at one point and I may let you ask. These two are the key. Now I'm, again, I don't have any problems with the charismatics so don't think I'm busting their chops tonight. But I do think we need to be honest with the Scripture. So for me to be filled with the Spirit, two things have to happen. Or for me to be directed by Him, I've got to have the Spirit and I've got to be controlled by the Spirit. So 1 Corinthians 12:13, here's what it says:

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Now according to this, we were baptized into the body of Christ. Now you're going to have to trust me on this. The Greek here means that I was baptized at a moment in the past. Now when would that be? When you met Jesus. So I meet Jesus, what happens? The Holy Spirit comes in me. Now, Ephesians 5:18, slide a couple of books over. Now listen to what he says.

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

In the Greek, what that means is be continually, every day, filled. So in other words, the filling of the Spirit is something that occurs all the time. The baptism in the Spirit occurred once. It's done. So once you become a Christian, once you believe what the Holy Spirit tells you about Jesus, you put your faith in the blood, then you're forgiven. And once that forgiveness occurs, the Holy Spirit comes into your life and settles in. That's done, past tense. There is no such thing as a post conversion baptism in the Spirit. But Ephesians 5:18 says that every day I'm to continually be

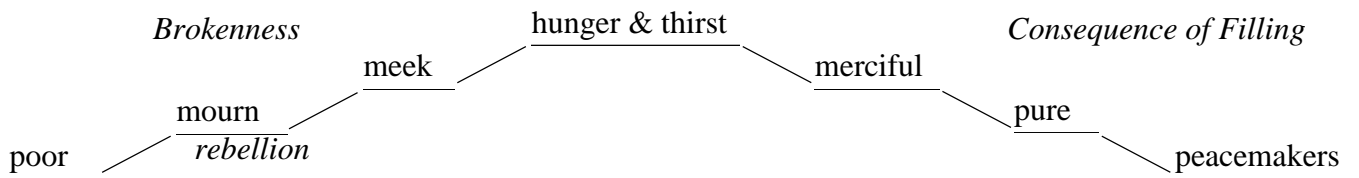
filled. So being filled, controlled by the Spirit, is something I have to do every day. So obviously the question is, Holy Spirit comes into me at my rebirth, so how am I filled with the Spirit? Because, obviously, if I'm not filled with the Spirit, these things don't occur in my life. So how am I filled with the Spirit? That is the key.

So, go to Matthew 5 beginning in verse 3. Now we're going to have to walk through this. So here's what you have in this. This is the opening of The Beatitudes. Now there are a lot of people that argue that the Sermon on the Mount is not applicable to you because it's too hard to obey; which is correct. You can't live it out. So what Jesus does is in Matthew 5:3 – 9, he gives you the steps to how to die to self and allow the Holy Spirit to fill you. We're going to have to walk through some stuff so listen.

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

There are two Greek words in the New Testament, actually two Greek words period for poverty. This Greek word is used to mean I'm poor, but I kind of live check to check. This Greek word is used to mean I am completely destitute. I have no money and all I can do is beg. Jesus full-well knowing the language, picked this word in Matthew 5:3, that you are to be totally destitute in spirit. Now is He talking about the Holy Spirit or your spirit? He's talking about your spirit. It's that part of you that is connected to Him that you drive your spiritual life from. He says you are to be completely, in that spirit, totally and completely broken. Why? Because that's the kingdom of heaven. God's never going to be king, and that kingdom of heaven is never going to operate in your life as long as you think you can run the show. So the first step is: I'm broken.

<u>Greek Lesson</u>	
<i>penés</i>	– poor, check-to-check, nothing more than the necessities
<i>ptōchia</i>	– poor, destitute



Second step.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

That is, I'm broken, then I weep over my sin. I am sickened by it. Then He said, blessed are the meek. Now there's a verse in James 1:21 that says,

²¹receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

Meekness is not the idea that you're weak and you sit around and you're just this sweet, gentle guy. Jesus was meek, but He was anything but that. We're going to see what He says to Simon Peter in a minute. So I come to a place where I realize I can't live a Christian life. I'm sickened by that. And what happens is when these two things become true, I become teachable. I'm now capable of the Holy Spirit working in my life because I'm sorry about what I am and I know I need Him. What's the next verse? I will hunger and thirst after righteousness and I will be filled with that righteousness. So now I have the capability of being filled with the righteousness. Now look at the next three things he says. He talks about being merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers. These are all consequences of this. When I become broken and then I become filled with the Spirit, I'm merciful. Why? Because I'm not going to judge anybody else because I've got my own problems. So I'll be merciful. My heart will be pure because it's no longer about me. It's about Him. And I'll become a peacemaker. And just so we understand this, that does not mean you make people like each other. Both the Greek word *eiréné* and the Hebrew word *shalom* mean God's best for somebody in life. It's not the idea that I make people get along. It's the idea that I want the best God can have for somebody in their life. So what happens is when I become broken, I can't live the life. It sickens me that I can't. I will listen to God teach me. I will become filled with His righteousness. I'll be merciful to others. My heart will be pure. And I will want God's best for every single person I come in contact with. So there's the stair step. And Jesus lays this out right before He goes into the Sermon on the Mount. And look at the very next thing He says.

Greek & Hebrew Lesson

God's Best *shalom* (Hebrew)
eiréné (Greek)

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This produces God's righteousness, not man's goodness. Goodness is never persecuted. What's the difference between goodness and righteousness? Righteousness is God's glory, His holiness, implanted in you that you can't come up with on your own. Man's goodness is something you can do without God's righteousness. Men don't persecute men's goodness because they look at a guy like that and say, "I don't do that, but I could if I wanted to." But when they see the righteousness of God, for example, when your husband's being burned at the stake and you pray for the people doing the burning, they hate that because they realize they can't do that without something inside them they don't have. So when Jesus lays this out, this is how you die to self. This is how you become filled with the Spirit because you are broken, you can't do it, you are sick of what you are and now you're teachable. So you will now listen when the Holy Spirit begins to deal with you.

Now we're going to see this in the life of my favorite apostle, the jerk of all, Simon Peter, who never gets it right. But I want you to watch what happens to him. Go to Matthew 14 and we're going to look at verses 28 – 32. I want you to watch what happens to this guy. He is clueless. Now beginning in 22 it says: He made the disciples get in a boat, go to the other side. He walks on the water. We know this. He gets into the boat. Jesus says it's OK. Now look in 28.

²⁸Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it's You, command me to come to You on the water."

²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, he walked on the water, came to Jesus.

³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink he cried out, "Oh, Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand, took hold of him saying, "Oh, you of little faith. Why did you doubt?" ³²When they got in the boat, the wind ceased.

Now I want you to notice something here. He succeeds at first, right. He walks on the water a little ways. Then he fails. He sinks because I guarantee you James and John said, “Look out for the wave.” And he saw the wave and he fell. And then he is rebuked by Jesus. Now this is what you find. He’s successful for a little while. OK. Then he fails miserably. And then he’s rebuked strongly by Jesus. Now continue with me. Look at Matthew 16:13 – 23. Now listen to what he says. Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi. Asked His disciples who do people say the Son of Man is. They say everything. Now looking down in verse 15.

¹⁵Who do you say I am? ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You’re the Christ. The Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus said, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. My Father in heaven.

Is he right? He succeeds. He’s right. Now drop down to verse 21.

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show His disciples He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed. And on the third day be raised. ²²Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him saying, “Far be it from You, Lord, that shall never happen to You.” ²³But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.”

Does he fail here? Yes. Does Jesus rebuke him. Yes. Oh, man. Strongly. So he passes a little bit, messes up, he gets harshly rebuked. So when people say Jesus never called people names, oh yes, He did. And Peter deserved it. Matthew 26. Look at 26:31 – 35. Now we’re going to have to cover a little ground. You stay there. I’m going to read you something out of Luke. But listen to Matthew 26:31 – 35.

³¹When they had sung a hymn; they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said, “You’ll all fall away because of me this night. For it is written I will strike the shepherd. The sheep of the flock will be scattered. ³²But after I’m raised up, I will go before you into Galilea. ³³Peter answered Him. Thought they all fall away; I will never fall away. ³⁴Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times. ³⁵Peter said, “Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You. And all the disciples said the same.

Now you stay there. I want to read you an unusual verse out of Luke 22:31 - 34. Now listen to what Jesus says to Him in the same context.

³¹“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you that he might sift you like wheat; ³²but I prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. ³³Peter said to Him, Lord, I’m ready to go with you both to prison and death. ³⁴Jesus said, “I’m telling you, the rooster will not crow this day until you deny three times that you know me.

So in Luke 22, Jesus reiterates this to Peter. And what He says is, “I prayed for you.” He doesn’t pray that he won’t fail. We know that because he tells him he’s going to fail. There and here. He

said, what He's praying is that when he fails, that that failure will not destroy his faith. Jesus prayed that his failure will make the faith work. So He prays that that failure that's going to embarrass him and humiliate him will not destroy him. That's Jesus' prayer right here. Now does he succeed? Yes, he does. Look in Matthew 26:50 – 51. These guys come. They come to take Jesus. Big crowd. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Talking to Judas. And they came and laid hands on Jesus and ceased Him. Now remember what Peter said. I got this. I will not deny you.

⁵¹Behold one of those who were with Jesus, (and this is Peter based on another gospel) stretched out his hand, drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

So Peter succeeds. He told Jesus, "I'll die with You." There is a huge mob and he owns up to what he said. He takes his sword out, cuts the ear off of the servant of the high priest and says, "Bring it on." So he succeeds. But then he fails. Look in 73. This is after a long night. They've taken Jesus up to Caiaphas' house. He's in the dungeon. And if you want to know Jesus and what He thought when He was in the dungeon, you read Psalm 88. But He's in the dungeon. Now listen to this.

⁷³After a little while, the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you to are one of them for your accent betrays you. ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the Man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And he remembered the saying of Jesus. "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

He fails now. And then, listen to this. You stay in Matthew. But listen to Luke 22. Same chapter we looked at a minute ago. Listen to what Jesus says. Luke 22:61. This is one of the most staggering statements in all of the word of God to me. Listen. Now I want you to remember everything on Jesus' heart. He's being led, He's been beaten up all night. Now they're hauling Him off to pilot.

⁶⁰Peter said, "Man I don't know who you're talking about. And immediately while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter and then he remembered the saying of the Lord, and he went out and wept bitterly.

He is rebuked (22:61) strongly by the very eyes and emotion of Jesus Christ. All these places Peter succeeds, he fails, he's rebuked. His success is always for a little while. It's always for a short time. And then when he really has to stand his ground for a long time, he fails. For example, here he's fighting men. But over the night, he's fighting all the demons that are gathering to attack Jesus. And now he's got to fight his spiritual battle and he fails and Jesus rebukes him. Now go to John chapter 21 and we're going to look at 15 – 19. We all know this story. But I want you to notice one other thing. He's mouthy in all these places, right. He's mouthy. "I got it. I got it." And he passes his mouth for a little while. Fails his mouth. Jesus rebukes his mouth. Now listen to John 21. They are on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It's post resurrection. We'll actually start in verse 15.

¹⁵When they finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, Son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said, “Lord, You know I love You.” “Ok. Feed My lambs.”
¹⁶He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” “Lord, You know I love You.” “OK. Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him a third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him a third time, “Do you love Me.” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know everything. You know I love You.” “Then feed My sheep.”

Now when you come here, there’s no mouth from Peter. When Jesus says, “Do you love Me?” He just quietly says, “Yes, Sir.” He doesn’t say, “Yeah, I failed You, but I got this.” All of his mouth is gone. There’s no rebuke from Jesus. There’s no failure from Peter. Because for the first time in the life of Simon Peter, he is broken. He has realized Matthew 5:3 and Matthew 5:4. He’s realized after all this, particularly this last night when Jesus turns and looks at him, that he can’t do what he’d said he’d do. There’s the brokenness in his spirit. Blessed are those who mourn. He is sickened by what he does because he says here, he went out and wept bitterly. You don’t find any weeping at any other place. When Jesus looks at him and says, “You are Satan. You don’t savor the things of God.” There is no weeping in his life because he is not broken. But here there’s immense breaking. Now he’s broken. He’s mourning. And now he’s teachable. “Simon, do you love Me?” “Lord, You know I love You.” The mouth is gone. The bravado is gone. The cockiness is gone. And now we have a young man who was never teachable and now he’s completely teachable because Matthew 5:3 – 5 have been enacted in his life through this failure. It’s interesting that Jesus orchestrates the failure. He creates it in his life so that he will get here where Jesus can reach him. And then what happens? Look at Acts 2:22 – 24. It’s his sermon. Pentecost. Remember he’s terrified on that last night of his life. Jesus is gone. They’re alone. Acts 2:22 – 24. Listen to what he says:

²²Men of Israel here these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst. As you yourselves know, ²³this Jesus delivered up according to the definitive plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hand of lawless men, ²⁴God raised Him up.

What’s he doing now? He’s succeeding without failure and has no need of rebuke. He’s looking at the same people he cursed Jesus in front of and right here, knowing Jesus is gone, he could be killed, he looks at them and says, “You killed Him, but God raised Him from the dead. You better get right.” He is a totally changed man because of the failures that Jesus orchestrated in his life. This is the key and this is how Matthew 5:3 – 5 become a reality in your life.

Now I want to show you something and then I want to tell you a story and then we’ll rock and roll. Go to the book of Jonah. It’s past Matthew. We’re going to look at 1:17, we’re looking at 3:10, we’re going to look at 4:1 – 5, and then verse 11. Jonah 1:17. Now, he’s on the boat, right. He’s not supposed to be. The guys don’t want to throw him in. They finally chunk him in.

¹⁷The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Now I don't know about you, that would do it for me. I'm coming out. I don't care where God wants me to go. I will become the president of Auburn if he wants me to go once I'm in the belly of the fish for three days. Oh, Jonah. Look at chapter 3, verse 10. Jonah preaches and he's really pretty good. You've got the capital of Assyria, probably the nation that created the crucifixion. I mean these people are vile. So Nineveh is the capital. He goes in and he preaches. And look at this. I mean these people repent. As a matter of fact, in verse 6 of chapter 3.

⁶The word reached the king. He arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself and sat in ashes.

That would be like the head of North Korea becoming a Christian. So look at 10.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, He relented of the disaster that He said He would do to them and He did not do it.

So this is a great moment. I'm out of the whale. I'm preaching. I've had a great victory. I mean, everybody's saved. This is great. Old Jonah. Chapter 4.

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was angry.

You've got to love this guy.

²He prayed to the Lord. He said, "Lord is this not what I said when I was yet in my country? That's why I made haste to flee to Tarshish. I knew that You're a gracious God and merciful.

He's pretty gracious! He didn't kill him in the ocean! Jonah's not real smart. He's probably a seminary professor.

So you're a gracious God and merciful. Slow to anger. Abounding in steadfast love and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now Lord, take my life from me. It's better for me to die than to live. ⁴And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

So he's hacked because God's forgiven them. And here's how the book ends. Look at verse 11. Jonah's still mad.

¹¹He said, "Should I not pity Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Jonah ends with Jonah, and here's the key, unbroken. He's been in the belly of a fish, he's seen the mighty hand of God, and the book ends. As a matter of fact, there are scholars that try to argue that this couldn't be the end of the book. I think it's absolutely the end of the book because it's a great picture; brokenness is not automatic in your life. Even orchestrating this the way He did in Peter's life, Peter could have been like Jonah and not chosen to be broken. Your brokenness, Matthew 3:4 – 5, is a choice you make in response to what God does in your life. It's still your choice. You can choose not to be broken. And that's the key.

So let me tell you. And I think what happens in your life, and if you're not broken, you're never going to allow the Holy Spirit to fill you because you don't need the Holy Spirit, you have yourself. It brings you to an end of yourself which then allows you to do two things. The only way for you to be filled is two things. You rely and you trust. You rely on the Holy Spirit and you trust that He will fill you. You're not going to rely on Him if you're not broken because you've got it; you don't need the Holy Spirit and you've got to be able to trust Him that He will do what He's orchestrated in your life. And this is up to you. Now I really do believe that God will give you one major breaking in your life. And then He'll give you subsequent little breakings.

When I was at my second church, New Baden, north of here. As a matter of fact, both my kids were born in Bryan when we were in New Baden. It was, what's the phrase I want to use.... church from hell. That's the word. That's the phrase. It was horrible. Now I'm not exaggerating when I say this. I had 100 people that attended worship. I had 30 hard core Southern Baptists. I had over here 30 hard core Benny Hinn charismatics. I had 30 people in the middle, they had no idea what was going on. If I had preached against the virgin birth, some of these would have come up and said, "Oh, Brother Chris, that message touched my heart so much." So this is my church. I have nine deacons. I've got 3 hard core Southern Baptists. I've got 3 crazy charismatics. And I've got 3 that have no idea. So over 2 ½ years, it's like a bucket with a bunch of corks and you're trying to hold the corks down. You can hold some down and then they're popping up. It was horrible. Every single day I was getting blistered by somebody. So I would go to God and tell Him how bad they were because apparently He didn't know that. So I sort of made a habit of going over to the office and just telling Him. So I was there 2 ½ years and about a month after my second year, and again, I don't have these experiences all the time. You're hearing a couple of them. They don't happen all the time. But I'm praying and I'm telling God how bad they are and the Holy Spirit spoke to me. As a matter of fact, it was one of those moments where I just stopped. And He said, "Did I send you there for them to love you or for you to love them?" And I said, "Well, if you put it like that. You sent me to love them." At which point the Holy Spirit said to me, "Then it doesn't matter whether or not they love you." Now what broke me was that when I got up out of the prayer, I realized something about myself that made me sick. That the sheep He made me shepherd of I hated and I didn't have the power in and of myself to change what I felt. So the Matthew 5:3 – 5 hit me right there. I began to hunger for His power. I began to rely and trust on His Holy Spirit. Read a little book at that point that I'd had in seminary called The Green Letters. Little tiny book about that big. Meant nothing to me in seminary. It altered my life when I finished the book because it went through all this in a much deeper detail. And so my life was altered and sure enough, as I was broken, it was right after that that God opened the door for me to go to Midland. And it was interesting because this is my fourth church and in my first church, very very small, 30 people in worship, He taught me numbers don't matter, discipleship does. Second church He broken me spiritually. Third church He showed me what a church ought to be. And then gave me the privilege of coming here. So every church had a factor in my ministry. But New Baden was probably the deepest factor in that it created Matthew 5:3 – 5 in my life. So I'm just telling you tonight, you're not going to understand this book totally. You're not going to be moved well by the Holy Spirit unless you're filled by Him. You're not going to do that unless you're broken. And the brokenness is still, no matter how He orchestrates it, a choice you make.

So that's how you die to self. That's how you become broken. And that's how you become filled. And the filling of the Spirit is the key to understanding the Scripture. It's the key to being directed correctly. If you're a parent, you find out real quick you're not smart enough to raise your kids.

So you need His objective quality in your life so they can see His character in you as you implement His word. And then you need the subjective direction of the Holy Spirit so you know how to handle all the vagaries of parenting that show up in your life. Because you can't parent, that's why the Bible doesn't give any rules. This kid in this home needs different structure than this kid in this home. You can't parent the same. There are no rules so you have to have the Holy Spirit's direction. And that's got to depend on being broken. Now it should be after two years of a kid, you should be broken right there. Because if you're not, you have issues I can't help you with. I always love people that have their first kid and they're so excited. And then you see them about two years later and they're just worn out.

Questions

Q. How do you discern if you're filled with the Holy Spirit sometimes it's not you don't feel the Holy Spirit. How do you discern when it's possibly a testing of your faith or if you're just not, you haven't been broken?

A. I think the way you test whether or not you're filled with the Spirit is do you have a hunger for His character. That's the whole thing. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after His righteousness. They shall be filled. I don't care what you feel. But what do you want. I may not feel good, but if I want His holiness, I'm being filled with the Spirit and I'm broken. I think that's the fundamental key.

Q. How do you know when you're truly broken because as a parent, or anything really, you're always diligent and work hard after the Lord, so how do you know when you're not putting forth your own effort and relying on God and not your own?

A. Yeah, how do you know when you're putting out your own effort and not relying on God. Because you will fail. I mean, you will. It always creates failure when I do my own effort. The advantage I had was being a pastor, I'm scared in front of people. So for me to preach, created a pretty deeper need for Him. And I can sense when I'm preaching, I mean I'll just say this. I can tell when you're bored out of your mind. And when I'm bored it's really bad. When I'm in the middle of a sermon going, "Gah, this is awful. But I've got to finish what I said." So just know there are sometimes I'm bored. So I'm in there with you. I think that's really the key. You're going to fail if you're not doing it in His power. I mean, seriously, and I'm not being funny here. But we all get, kids can drive you crazy, and when I'm overly cranky with them, cranky's a normal deal, but when I'm really just blistering them, and I'm not really disciplining them, that's the sign that I'm struggling. And I think it's when you fail. Which you will fail when you're not broken.

Q. *Could not hear the question.*

A. Absolutely. When I, I hate to admit this, of course I'm just going to air my dirty laundry. I'm out of here. I don't care. So after I got elected president of the convention I got arrogant. Because being president of the convention you have all these young pastors that want to get to know you. They want to spend time with you and you start looking in the mirror and putting lip prints on it. So God broke me from that in a way, I'm not going to say what He did. It was another place I preached, but it was so humiliating. I did such a

poor job that He broke me there of where I had become. And it wasn't some major thing. It was just a little one moment where, boom, I'm toast and I'm embarrassed and I'm humiliated. He pulled me back out of the arrogance.

Q. *Could not hear the question.*

A. I think sometimes, like Jonah, we choose not to be broken because we don't want to do what He wants at the end of the day. We don't like the end result. Jonah just wanted them to be killed. And so when He forgave them, it hacked him off. And sometimes we fight the brokenness because we know what it's going to lead to. Let me just put this in perspective. If you're in a marriage and your husband had an affair, but you decide to stay with him and love him and he's not responding the way you want him to, you don't want to be broken because you want to be mad at him. And so sometimes that's really the issue. It's a Jonah issue. We don't want to be broken because I don't want to forgive my husband. I don't want to love my wife. I don't want to treat her well. And so I fight the brokenness because I don't like what I know is going to come. And I think that's part of the issue that we all face.

Q. What did you think of the major brokenness are events that when you walk through them you really couldn't survive them without God. I mean you're on your knees praying. And those are the ones the biggest change?

A. Yeah, I think, see I think He tried to break him in all three spots. I think if Peter responded to any one of these, he'd been OK. But he kept going because Peter just wouldn't accept the breaking. And what He did was He humiliated Peter. As I imagined the first apostles meeting when they're in the room with Peter, they're all going, "How'd that work out for you, big boy." So I think the real key is, and the problem with us is if you try to live for Christ, you can succeed a little while. But you just ultimately are not going to succeed all the way around. If you go back to parenting, you're going to be nice with your kids for a little while, but they're going to at some point put you in a place where you're just treating them like trash because you just can't deal with it. And that failure is my reminder that I'm not broken or living inside that brokenness at this point. It's a hard thing.

Q. Do you think that when he's going through these phases that like he knew that he was being worked on? Do you think he knew?

A. That's a really good question. Do I think Peter knew? Not a clue.

Q. So if we were to look back, if you looked back and saw this church did this, this church did that, so in our life is kind of like probably there's probably a difference between something He's convicting you of and something He's breaking you of?

A. Yeah, I think absolutely. As a matter of fact, when I was called to preach, it was very dramatic. I've told y'all that one night in the shower. But after I went forward, both my pastor and my youth director, at separate times, looked at me and said, "Have you been thinking about this for a couple weeks?" I said, "Preaching? Y'all are nuts!" And they both said, "We've sensed God dealing with you." So sometimes, other people may sense

God dealing with you and you're just so, I mean the only word is, I'm so arrogant or I just don't want it, I mean this would be the tough one to me. When Peter succeeds and says, "You're the Christ, Son of the living God." And then Jesus says, "I'm going to die." And he says, "No, you're not." And Jesus said, I mean He slammed him, he said, "Get behind me, Satan. You don't even care about God. You only care about basically yourself." And it had no impact on him. I mean, again, if you notice all these, he doesn't weep at any of these. He only weeps when he curses Jesus, turns around, and hears the rooster crow. And remember, Jesus has been beaten up all night. Beard's been plucked out. He's dehydrated. He can barely walk. And so He's being hauled off by these Roman guards to Pilate from the Sanhedrin. And He hears the rooster crow and He turns purposely in all that pain and catches Peter's eyes. That's what broke him. As a matter of fact, we're going to look at that when we look at the difference between repentance and remorse. We'll look at the difference between Peter and Judas, why Judas went to hell and Peter didn't. They both had the same problem.

Q. So that's completely different from a conviction?

A. Yeah, I think this is different than a conviction. I think the conviction he was right on of who Jesus was. But again, he didn't want to be broken because He didn't want Jesus going to the cross. He's like all the other Jews. I want Him to kill the Romans and make me money.

Q. You know how there's different points in your life where you're broken and it causes you to weep and you'll be teachable in different areas of your life. So do you think sometimes you can be broken in a certain area and then come out of that brokenness and go back to where you were and then you have to be broken again?

A. Oh, I think that's exactly what I did preaching. I came out broken. Then I'm cocky. And then God says, "OK. I can do this." I think being knocked back down, seriously, maybe it's just me, but it's kind of continual for me. I haven't arrived. I don't think God looks down and goes, "There's My man." I don't think He does that. I think God's looking down here going, "Oh, I'm trying to save Central. I'll get him out of there." So I don't know about everybody else, I just know me. It's still ongoing unfortunately. My wife would certainly, totally, agree with that concept. I always tell her I'm Chris Poppins: practically perfect in every way. But she has not totally bought into that theory at this point. But I am working on her.

Q. I want to make sure I understand what you mean by broken. Is that like when someone passes away?

A. No, I don't think so. And that's a good question. I think the difference between trial and brokenness is, trial causes me pain, brokenness brings the acknowledgement of my failure. When my dad died, it hurt me. But it wasn't a broken issue because when I got to the funeral home and saw his casket is when it kind of hit me and really hurt me. But it was interesting because at that moment I kind of sensed from the Holy Spirit say, "You know the Jesus you preach every Sunday, he's the first one that told you about Him." So even

though I'm in a bit of hurt, He eased that wound. He doesn't ease the wound in breaking. And the breaking is because I'm just a jerk, not because I'm hurting.

I think absolutely. I think that's the difference between trial and broken. Trial brings me hurt, but it doesn't mean I failed. A brokenness means I've absolutely failed and He's trying to pull me back. The tough thing is, if you're not broken, you generally can't handle the trials. So you've got a different ball game then.

Q. For me, brokenness is the ultimate, deepest point of humility that I can experience. When I'm at the lowest point, that means I'm empty and I realize that I'm nothing and He's everything. And it's only at that lowest point of brokenness and humility He can fill me and then.....

A. I think that's exactly right. I think it's the only definition of humility. Humility is not denying your giftedness or your skill set. For example, you sing really well. You don't run around saying, "I don't sing well." That's not humility. That's really begging for people to compliment you. That's really arrogance. But I think brokenness means when you get up to sing, you trust Him to bless you. You don't trust your voice to do the blessing. Even though it's a gift He gave you. I think absolutely humility, the ultimate humility, is simply even in spite of what gifts I may or may not have, I've got to have Him. I think absolutely.

Q. So trials are a result of us living in a broken world and then brokenness is

A. OK. Somewhat. Some trials, and we're going to talk about these down the road. But some trials are a result of being in a broken world. When you read the book of Job he didn't have trials because he was in a broken world. He had trials because God stuck them in his life. And not to break him, but to use him as an example to our worst enemy that there was somebody on this planet that loved Him.

Q. I guess I'm just trying to clarify.....

A. And I'm not sure there's a perfect clarification. No, and that's a really good question: miscarriages and people passing away, I don't think He kills other people to break me. I don't think He damages anything in anybody else's life to break me. And if you miscarry, that's your child's loss as well as yours, don't misunderstand me. But that's your child being taken away and I don't think He would do that to break me. I think He orchestrates things in my own life to do that breaking. But He generally orchestrates what I think I can succeed without Him. That's where the breaking's going to come. Trial is just either something in this world, something He allows, to teach me something, or even to show off who He is in my life. But the breaking is to keep me from thinking I can do it on my own.

Q. *Could not hear the question.*

A. Are you talking about your child's brokenness or your brokenness over your child brokenness? Yeah, I think that is a trial. I think, I mean my kids are, OK. My daughter comes home on Father's Day one year and she says, I've slept with this guy. And then I get the call in staff meeting from my wife, "Hey, Lauren's pregnant." So I run the staff out

and I'm sitting there trying to process my life. Everything in the world's going through my head swirling. I don't think that was brokenness to me. And the only way I got through it was to trust what the Scripture says that He's bigger than whatever happens in my life. And that somehow this would turn out to be really good. And it did turn out to be good because she gave me a grandson who's just like me. So it worked out really well. All kidding aside, in time, God orchestrates, here's my deal, and this is what, because I'm sure at some point my grandson's going to ask me, "Why did mom not marry and have me? Because everybody else in the family has done it right." And I'm going to look at him and I'm going to say, and this is, I think, part of the answer to your question. I think God always brings something good out of tragedy. And he's the good thing. Where at first, when I hear the word pregnant, he's not a good thing. And at that point, that brokenness is killing me. But at this point, 8 years later, it's a blessing. And I think what you're dealing with sometimes in time, it's not time that solves it, but in time God will redeem the situation. I still go back to, we'll look at this, as a matter of fact, we may look at this next week. As a matter of fact, we may do the prayer thing next week. But in Romans 8:26 & 27 it talks about the Holy Spirit in us praying for us. And then the very next verse is we know that all things work together for good. The reason they work together for good is because the Holy Spirit's praying for you in the middle of your mess. And so I think that's the answer. When I'm dealing with the brokenness of my own child, it breaks my heart. And I'll tell you the bad thing about children. I have bad news for you. When they leave home, it's worse on you than when they're home. Because you can beat the crap out of them when they're at home. And there's nothing you can do for their hurt. But I think that's the answer. I think Romans 8:26 – 28 is the answer.