

Uprising

Week of April 24

Living in the Spirit doesn't happen by accident. From the beginning God has designed everything with order and purpose, including His gift of salvation for you and me. The Holy Spirit has always been at work drawing humanity to the things of God. The problem is, humanity does not so quickly stop and pay attention to the wind of God's presence. We like to be in control. And sadly, most people never stop to consider the One who is ultimately in control, the One who breathed into us the breath of life (Genesis 2:7).

God, sovereign and in ultimate control of all things, has given us the gift of free choice. It is baffling to stop and consider the many freedoms we have. And yet we are never more *in control* than when we are surrendering to the Holy Spirit's lead. A healthy life of wise living begins with yielding to the One who knows us better than any other and who has our best interest at heart. Although it's hard to give control to another, trust is how we grow personally and relationally at work and at home.

Read Acts 6:1-7

The number of Christ-followers was well up into the thousands by this point. "But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent" (v1a). Let's see how the twelve apostles approached the matter, and were willing to give control to others in order for the early church to continue to grow.

1. What did the twelve do initially according to v2?

How did they make their selection of leaders according to v3?

What did this plan (giving over responsibility to others) allow the apostles to do according to v4?

The apostles were willing to train and equip others to lead alongside of them. We often think that for things to be done well, things must be done our way. And while that may be true if we have a good system already in place, really good leaders know it's important to be open to new ways and ideas. Often – when you get "new blood" in the mix – there are better systems and more efficient methods discovered. In His Church, Christ has gifted us with many different gifts. Growth happens when we engage (use, value, trust, give control to) everyone's areas of expertise.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Who is behind the gifting of the Lord's Church and who "decides which gift each person should have"?

What types of gifts are mentioned in this passage, and where are you gifted?
Are you currently using your gift(s) in the Lord's church (why or why not)?

According to this weekend's message, there are three things that will keep a company or organization from growing: (1) the leader is unwilling to change (2) the people are unwilling to change (3) both leader and people are unwilling to change. While the Bible clearly states that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) we know that methods – how we share the Good News and carry out the Lord's Great Commission – must change if we are going to effectively reach the world around us.

3. What is the Gospel message and how is it unchanging?

In your lifetime, or perhaps since you have professed faith in Christ, how are you seeing "methods" change in order to more effectively reach people who are far from God?

Are you part of a church – and do you have a mindset personally – to "do whatever it takes" in order to reach people for Christ?

Whatever it is keeping us from being willing to change and go God's way—pride, tradition, fear, stubbornness, embarrassment, indifference—we must surrender to the Holy Spirit today! Jesus laid down His life for us and publicly bore our shame and disgrace when He took our punishment on the cross. Nothing should stand in our way of living full-on for Christ. Too many lives are at stake for us to value things or tradition over people. New wine goes into new wine skins (Luke 5:37-39).

4. Disciples make disciples. In the space below, name some of the ways the Holy Spirit has been prompting you to change and be fully devoted to Christ. Since the beginning of this message series "Uprising" how are you giving up more control to God's Spirit, and what are you starting to see happen?

Man may sense a higher purpose for his existence, but then the notion of surrender repels him in the other direction, causing him to reject promptings from God's Spirit with something of his own imagination. "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused" (Romans 1:20-21).

God wants you to know Him personally and intimately. Don't let your old thoughts, ideas, or even religion, get in the way of the new thing Christ wants to do in you. Don't let some foolish idea of what you figured God was like keep your mind in the dark and confused. Know your Heavenly Father—the real God—through His Word. Surrender to Christ and be filled with His Holy Spirit. Live in true freedom today.

UPRISING

Text: Acts 6:1-7

What controls us?

1. _____
2. Feeling of _____
3. We know our _____ control us.
4. Paul tells us that our _____ controls us.

Three things that will keep a company or organization from growing:

1. The _____ is not willing to _____ and go to the next level.
2. The _____ are not willing to _____.
3. Both the _____ and the _____ don't _____.

The Plain Truth:

**You are never more in _____ than when you
_____ to the Holy Spirit.**

One Year Bible Reading

Apr. 24: Judges 2:10-3:31, Luke 22:14-34, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 14:1-2
Apr. 25: Judges 4:1-5:31, Luke 22:35-53, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 14:3-4
Apr. 26: Judges 6:1-40, Luke 22:54-23:12, Psalm 95:1-96:13, Proverbs 14:5-6
Apr. 27: Judges 7:1-8:17, Luke 23:13-43, Psalm 97:1-98:9, Proverbs 14:7-8
Apr. 28: Judges 8:18-9:21, Luke 23:44-24:12, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 14:9-10
Apr. 29: Judges 9:22-10:18, Luke 24:13-53, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 14:11-12
Apr. 30: Judges 11:1-12:15, John 1:1-28, Psalm 101:1-8, Proverbs 14:13-14

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