

# Uprising

Week of May 8

People are in desperate need of hope. The atrocities we see on the news remind us this world is spiraling down at a staggering speed. And yet, God is still on the throne, the Holy Spirit is still at work, and there is still hope for the weary. But just as true joy and lasting peace are gifts from God, living hope is also from above.

Our Lord is an expert at unveiling beauty through our circumstances if we surrender to Him. Now more than ever, the church must remember that we serve a mighty God and He is bigger than the problems and trials we face. It's time His people experience an UPRISING of Holy Spirit-power, and in victory *rise up* to be lights in a dark and broken world. The only way we can make a difference in our time is through supernatural power that the indwelling Holy Spirit alone supplies.

## Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

It was during his second missionary journey Paul preached the Gospel in Corinth. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Don't be afraid. Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in the city belong to me" (Acts 18:9-10). Paul listened to the Holy Spirit and stayed in Corinth for the next year and a half—teaching and preaching the message of Christ. As a result, many people in Corinth came to faith in Christ.

Corinth being a metropolis seaport city not far from Athens was filled with people who would have appreciated "clever and persuasive speeches." But later, in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul says: "When I first came... I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified." Paul preached a plain and simple message to the intelligent people of Corinth. He did not want eloquent speech to be mistaken for Holy Spirit-power: "I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God" (v5).

1. How is the message of Christ both simple and confounding at the same time?

How does this phenomena make the message of Christ unique?

We cannot plummet the wonder of God's great wisdom and His mysterious plan of salvation. In his old age, Peter said: "It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen" (see 1 Peter 1:12). The message of God's grace offered to us in Christ is beyond man's calculation and comprehension. Yet, the story of Jesus is so simple, even a little child can accept it.

The convergence of these two wonders – the great simplicity and the great complexity of the Gospel message – make the Good News of Jesus Christ unlike any other message in human history. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus once declared: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way" (Luke 10:21).

2. Read what Jesus said to an intelligent man in **John 3:3-8**.

Notice in v8 of this passage Jesus says: "The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." What does this tell you about the role of the Holy Spirit as you speak to others about Christ?

Disciples make disciples. If you have asked the Lord Jesus into your heart (into your life) you now have a new assignment from heaven, according to Matthew 28:18-20. Followers-of-Christ are always on mission. Jesus is telling us either to "Go" or "As you go, make disciples." Do your part. Stay connected to like-minded mission-ers. Don't get side-tracked by the trappings of this world. Over and above everything else in this life, we have a job as Christ-followers – to take as many people with us to heaven as we can. A monumental task requires monumental reliance upon the Holy Spirit.

3. Our Plain Truth states: "Speaking God's truth changes lives and trusting the Holy Spirit changes me." In the space below, jot down how you have seen the two components of this Plain Truth come alive for you personally:

Speaking God's truth changes lives –

Trusting the Holy Spirit changes me –

Everyday we are surrounded by people with needs—hurts, habits, and hang-ups that keep them from the life God intended for them. And we all have setbacks of some sort to this life of faith. We should guard against any misconception that being on mission is neat, tidy, and perfect. Actually, it is just the opposite. Just think about the life of Jesus, John the Baptist, the apostle Paul, Peter and the other apostles. But the more we listen to the Lord's voice through His Word and spend time with Him in prayer, the more we will recognize His voice. Problems can be our friend if we learn to turn to the Lord. Though we prefer troubles not come our way, difficulties can cause us to rely more upon the Holy Spirit. And that's a good thing.

4. In closing, take a few minutes and read the memoirs of Paul and his traveling companions as highlighted in Acts, chapters 17-18. (You may want to pick up at Acts 16:35 where we left off last week, when Paul and Silas were jailed in Philippi). Notice problems met Paul and his companions at seemingly every turn. And yet, had Paul not encountered these difficulties he would not have met the people he did and planted the churches he did. Amazing.

How are you learning to rely upon the Holy Spirit—how has this lesson/message and this sermon series been a help to you personally? (Please be prepared to share briefly with your Life Group this week)

# UPRISING

**Text: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Acts 18:1-11**

## The Plain Truth:

\_\_\_\_\_ God's Truth changes \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit changes \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ God's Truth.
2. Speak with \_\_\_\_\_ that the Holy Spirit  
\_\_\_\_\_ people.
3. Let the \_\_\_\_\_ change you from the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Here is how we use PREP with the One Year Bible at CC:

- A) \_\_\_\_\_ for a prepared heart.
- B) Read—Meditate on Scripture.
- C) Edify—What has been revealed?
- D) \_\_\_\_\_ - Focus on the essentials.

### One Year Bible Reading

May 8: 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22, John 5:24-47, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 14:30-31  
May 9: 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17, John 6:1-21, Psalm 106:13-31, Proverbs 14:32-33  
May 10: 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27, John 6:22-42, Psalm 106:32-48, Proverbs 14:34-35  
May 11: 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15, John 6:43-71, Psalm 107:1-43, Proverbs 15:1-3  
May 12: 1 Samuel 12:1-13:23, John 7:1-30, Psalm 108:1-13, Proverbs 15:4  
May 13: 1 Samuel 14:1-52, John 7:31-53, Psalm 109:1-31, Proverbs 15:5-7  
May 14: 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 8:1-20, Psalm 110:1-7, Proverbs 15:8-10

May 7 & 8, 2016