

Spiritual Transformation

Luke Series #33

Luke 11:14-12:3

David Sunday

September 8, 2013

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

We pray Lord, that the words of my mouth would be filled with Your living Word and the meditations of our hearts would be fixed upon it reverently as we stand in the presence of a holy God listening to Your voice. Transform us through Your Spirit, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

I love our church. It is such a gift from God to be united in fellowship with other believers. I love what God has done in forming New Covenant and one of the things I love is our mission statement:

To bring glory to God
Through Spirit-transformed lives by the
Beauty and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

I have enjoyed walking into the sanctuary these past few weeks and seeing it artistically designed on that wall. Jordan Ferrell, you did a great job with that. It really pops and reminds us what we are all about. I think about that mission statement all the time because it captures the main thing on which God's people are to focus. If you asked me what I love most about our mission statement, I'd have to say, all of it! But there are two words in particular that I'm really glad the Lord led us to include:

- The word 'beauty' (which we will talk about some other time).
- The word 'Spirit' (which we will talk about now).

When we began meeting as a church three and a half years ago, we committed that we would consciously and explicitly rely on the Person of the Holy Spirit. We would not merely think of Him occasionally as an idea but would cultivate a reliance on the third Person of the Trinity for all we do. He gives us life.

This is in contrast to what we often see in churches today. This week's [Life Together](#) article is called "Practicing the Presence of the Holy Spirit." In that article, you'll read a metaphor from Richard Lovelace, who says,

"The typical relationship between believers and the Holy Spirit in today's church is too often like that between the husband and wife in a bad marriage. They live under the same roof, and the husband makes constant

use of the wife's services, but he fails to communicate with her, recognize her presence and celebrate their relationship with her."

We don't want to be like that as a church. The aim of this sermon is to refresh our commitment to communicate with the Holy Spirit, rely upon Him, recognize His presence, celebrate our relationship with Him and deliberately make a point of getting to know Him personally.

I believe our passage in Luke 11 is going to help us along those lines. Please turn to Luke 11:14 in your Bibles. Even more than on most Lord's days, today it will be vital for you to follow along in Scripture. Preaching isn't only my job. It is my job to accurately—and with the Spirit's help—convey the burden of a passage of Scripture to you. But it is the job of each one of us to receive the Word with attentive meekness, to be hungry and focused on the Word as it is preached.

¹⁴ Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴ "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

²⁹ When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹ The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

³³ “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

³⁷ While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. ³⁸ The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹ And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. ⁴² “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

⁴⁵ One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” ⁴⁶ And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. ⁴⁷ Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. ⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ ⁵⁰ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. ⁵² Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.”

⁵³ As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, ⁵⁴ lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

^{12:1} In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

We are covering a large section because we are making our way through the Gospel of Luke—the book with the biggest word count in the New Testament. Sometimes it is helpful to see a thread of truth weaving throughout a passage. The thread in this passage concerns how religious people respond to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. Remember how in Luke 11:2 Jesus taught us to

pray, “*Your kingdom come...*” “Father, show Your victory over opposition. Come in power and reign.” At the end of last week’s passage in Luke 11:13, Jesus encouraged us: “*how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*” So it is through the on-going ministry of the Holy Spirit that God’s Kingdom comes on earth.

In this passage, we see an illustration of this in the life of Jesus. Look at Luke 11:14. Jesus was casting out a demon from a man who was mute. God is a speaking God while Satan is intent on cutting off communication. This man cannot speak and Jesus shows His Kingdom power and victory over the opposition by routing the demon and setting the man free. As He does this, he tells us He does it through the working of the Spirit Whom He has just asked us to pray to receive. In Luke 11:20 Jesus says, “*But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*” That phrase ‘the finger of God’ is a metaphor for the Holy Spirit. In fact, in the parallel statement in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says, “*But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you*” (Matthew 12:28). Just as our fingers are attached to our hands and belong to them by nature, so the Spirit is joined in oneness to God’s Son. Jesus does all His work through and by the Spirit.

God’s Kingdom is supernaturally invading Satan’s kingdom in this passage. But as this happens, religious people are disturbed and disrupted by this. Not everyone is happy at what Jesus is doing or what God’s Spirit is doing in Jesus. Here is a passage about how religious people respond to the working of God’s Spirit in the life of God’s Son.

I know that the word religion has negative connotations today. In my mind it is not really a bad word; religion is a neutral term in the Bible. Yet it is true that religion often leads us away from God or keeps us at a distance from Him. Why was it that throughout the Gospels some of Jesus’ fiercest opponents were religious people? Why is it that in this passage, religious people had such divergent reactions to the work of God’s Spirit in Jesus?

Look at the three basic reactions from religious people that we see in this passage:

- Hostility (verse 15)
- Skepticism (verse 16)
- Amazement (verse 14)

Jesus is going to point out to all of us that something is missing. Religion without the Holy Spirit is always deficient and can be dangerous or deadly. Religion can produce hostile reactions to the gospel, cultivate skepticism or can indeed produce admiration for Jesus. But religion in itself is powerless to transform lives. Only the Holy Spirit can do that.

As we look at how religious people responded to the work of the Spirit in Jesus’ life, we should be looking at ourselves and asking, “Is my religious devotion being empowered by the Spirit of God?”

There are three signs or indicators that our religion is lacking the influence of the Holy Spirit. When we see these indications or characteristics, it should spur us on to seek the on-going, dynamic ministry of the Spirit in our life and church. What does religion without the Spirit look like?

1. We are more concerned about being right than we are about right relationships with other people and God.

Look at the religious people in Luke 11:15 who responded to Jesus with hostility. They saw the Spirit working through Jesus, demonstrating His Kingdom authority and setting a mute man free. Yet they called Jesus evil. How can people who know so much about religion get it so wrong about Jesus? *“But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons [the lord of the flies]’”* (Luke 11:15). They were saying His power was sinister. They were in peril of committing what Jesus calls in Luke 12:10 the unforgivable sin—blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The sin of attributing to Satan the works done in Jesus by the Holy Spirit is a dangerous thing. That sin is committed by religious people.

There is an unnerving word in Luke 11:17: *“But he, knowing their thoughts...”* Isn’t that a bit unsettling? He knows what we are thinking right now and is interested in interacting with us about our thoughts. He wisely answers their accusation about being used by the devil in Luke 11:17-22:

- He tells them, “A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand” (Luke 11:17-18). That phrase did not originate with President Lincoln but came from the Bible. Yes, the devil can occasionally perform quasi-miracles but he is never in the business of setting people free from sin and bondage. He may be like a businessman who gives an initial discount to gain a regular customer but his purpose and intent is always to drag people into bondage and bring them into deeper bondage. He is never in the business of setting people free. If Satan is setting people free from himself, he is about to have a nervous breakdown.
- He turns their own logic against them. Some of their own sons were exorcists and were casting out demons. Jesus asks, “Who gave them that power? If Satan is filling Me, what about your own sons?”
- He announces the good news which we are called to bring into all the world (verses 22-23). Jesus is stronger than the strong man and came to destroy the devil’s work. Satan holds people in bondage. Jesus came to overpower him, strip him of his weapons and carry off his belongings. This is the reason we send people into all the nations to preach the gospel and the reason He sends us into the world. We go with confidence because God is calling us *“...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me”* (Acts 26:18). Jesus’ power brings people out of Satan’s kingdom. He alone has overpowered the strong man who had a hold on this world. As a result, Jesus is active in the world today taking away Satan’s armor, spoiling his goods and setting his captives free. We praise Him for it.

Yet not all religious people appreciate this. Some of them see the power of Christ and His Kingdom at work and are unsettled and disturbed. We read at the end of the chapter that *“the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say”* (Luke 11:53-54). They don’t like what God is doing through Jesus.

How could people who were so concerned about being right in religion be so wrong about Jesus? It is because their religion was lacking the Spirit’s life-giving power. Let’s run through a quick overview of their religion. In Luke 11:37-54, Jesus—the Divine Coroner—is giving us an autopsy or morbid analysis of the dead religion of the scribes and Pharisees, showing us evidence of their pervasive disease. I’m going to give a few headings on what characterized their religious devotion. (I was helped in some of these observations by a Rev. Dowsett from Scotland.)

- a. They were rigorous about how they appeared on the outside but grossly negligent about cultivating inward holiness (verses 38-39).

I used to work with a pastor who frequently left coffee cups out for several weeks with a little bit of coffee in the bottom—a great place to cultivate living organisms. If you have ever had the misfortune of grabbing one of those cups and filling it with fresh coffee, you would have a very gross drink. I hope you would never take a drink without looking inside the cup.

Jesus comes to eat with these Pharisees and all they notice is Him missing the ritual washing before dinner (verse 38). Jesus tells them: “You have a problem. You are very concerned about external cleanliness but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. Your religion is all about control and your modus operandi is to gain at the expense of others so you can control your own life. Get the inside clean and your whole life will be clean.” Religion without the Spirit focuses on the externals, not on inward holiness.

- b. They cared about details but not about God or His goals (verse 42). They tithed mint, rue and every herb. God cares about tithing and we should begin by giving a tenth of all we possess to Him. But He also cares about how we got our income in the first place. Did we gain it through extortion or injustice? He is concerned about why we are giving. Is it an expression of our love for God and passion for His Kingdom? Jesus discerns that the scribes and Pharisees are simply ‘paying rent’ to God when they put money in the offering plate. Tithing should flow from a heart that is passionate about justice and expressing love for God.
- c. They craved influence in the community but cared little about the quality of their influence (verses 43-44).

When they walked into church, it was a pompous parade. They loved for people to look up to, bow down to and greet them. When they went into the marketplaces, they loved the esteem of men. Jesus said they did not realize their influence was more putrefying than purifying. When people encountered them, it was like tripping over an unmarked grave and falling into

contamination. Religion that is not moved and motivated by the Spirit brings contamination rather than transformation into lives.

- d. They loved to tell others what they should do, but did not lift a finger to help them actually learn to obey God's Law (verses 45-46).

They had strong opinions about how everyone else should live and loaded others down with heavy burdens. "*For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers*" (verse 46). Religion without the Spirit leads us to have strong opinions about how other people should live, what they should wear or eat, how they should run their households and spend their money, what priorities they should have in ministry and what their politics should look like. Some of our opinions may be well-informed by Scripture; but instead of coming alongside people with grace, truth and love, without the Spirit we set ourselves apart as superior and tend to look down on others.

- e. They were proud of their heritage in the prophets but rejected the message just like their forefathers who killed the prophets (verses 47-51).

We can be very concerned to defend the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. But the question is: Is the Scripture working its way into our lives to transform us so we are not just hearers but doers of the Word (James 1:22)? This can only come with the Spirit.

- f. They searched the Scriptures but did not come to Jesus Who is the Key to understanding the Scriptures. "*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge*" (verse 52).

Faith in Jesus is the key to understanding the Scriptures. The scribes and Pharisees knew the Scriptures but would not come to Jesus, the living Word. Jesus tells us that if we are enamored by the written Word but do not bow in humble, loving submission to the actual Word—Jesus—we are going to hinder others from entering the Kingdom as well as failing to enter ourselves.

This is what religion without the Spirit can lead to; that is the autopsy of dead religion. We can be so concerned about being "right" in what we believe or in the way we follow certain rules yet get it totally wrong in our relationship with God and with others. Only through the working of the Spirit can our religion fill us with love for God and others.

We have to ask ourselves from time-to-time if our religious devotion is not taking on some of these characteristics. I believe we are all recovering Pharisees and hypocrites at best. When people say, "The church is full of hypocrites," I say, "True. But at least it is full of hypocrites who realize their hypocrisy and are recovering from it by the grace of God and the gospel."

On October 26, 1951, Francis Schaeffer wrote a letter to a friend and said:

As I have thought perhaps more quietly than in previous days, it has seemed to me that in the past there has been a fallacy in my thinking. That fallacy is simply this: that insofar as we are so abundantly right ... concerning the Biblical position, therefore it would certainly follow of a necessity that God's rich blessing would rest upon us as individuals and as a movement. [Have you ever heard that fallacy? Many of us tend to believe that way.] I no longer believe this is so. . . . What does all this mean to me? I am not sure, except that it brings me increasingly to my knees – to ask that the Holy Spirit may have His way in my life; that I may not think just of justification and then the glories of Heaven (with merely a battle for separation between). {But that I may also think of} all the wonders of the present aspect of my salvation, and that they may be real to me in my life and ministry. What a wonderful Lord we have, and how glorious it is to indeed have God as our Father, and to be united with Christ, and to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Oh, would to God that our ministry could be under His full direction, and in His power without reservation.

When is the last time your religious devotion has driven you to your knees to cry out: “Holy Spirit, have Your way in my life? Make the wonders of my salvation in Christ real to me that I may love Him more and love people as He does”? When our religion is more concerned about being right than about right relationships, it is a sign that we need the Holy Spirit.

2. **When what God has said in His Word and in His Son leaves us wanting “something more” than what He has revealed in His Word and the gospel of His Son, our religion is out of step with the Spirit.**

Not everyone was hostile toward Jesus in our passage. Luke 11:16 says, “...*while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.*” What did Jesus just do? He set a mute man free from a demon. That is a pretty important sign from heaven. But they are not convinced and want something more before they will believe in Him.

I am quite sure that there are many people like this in churches today. They're not hostile to Christianity and are spiritually open, willing to consider what Jesus has to offer. But before they make a commitment to Christ, they are waiting for a sign and demanding more evidence. Jesus says that this is a dangerous thing to do. He says in Luke 11:29, “*This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.*” Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and nights and came out alive. The sign of Jonah is Jesus—the Son of man—buried in the ground and after three days rising from the dead. His resurrection is the only sign God is going to give to this generation and to generations that follow. If the death and resurrection of God's Son is not sufficient to persuade you to believe, God will not give you anything more. This is the light God is shining into the world. The ‘light’ in Luke 11:33 is the light of the gospel of the glory of His Son. God says it is in the open for all to see who have eyes to see it.

The problem is not with the light that has been shown, with the gospel or with the Word of God. It is not that God has not given enough evidence. The problem is with our spiritual vision. We are blinded by our sin in the darkness of unbelief. “*Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, [when your spiritual vision is clear] your whole body is full of light...*” (Luke 11:34). When you receive and love the revelation God has given in His Word and gospel, that light will shine throughout your whole being. The gospel is a shining light for all to see.

“*...but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness*” (Luke 11:34-35). Be careful, you who sit in church, listen to teaching and are always investigating and judging as if you have the right to stand in judgment of God. Be careful you who have heard so much but are still demanding something more. You think you have light and are wise but your body is full of darkness.

Phillip Ryken says, “If we fail to see Jesus...it is not because He does not wish to be seen. There are enough lumens in His lantern. The problem rather is that our eyes are too dim to see His glorious grace.” The problem is that our vision is “obscured by the dark clouds of unbelief.”

That can only be dispelled by the Spirit of the living God. Only He can give us sight to see God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Religion that leads to speculation and hesitation is the devil’s occupation. He loves to keep us speculating, investigating, hesitating, failing to commit. The Holy Spirit says to us, “Don’t ask God for more evidence. What are you doing with the message you have been given?”

3. When we are looking at Jesus with admiration but seeing no life transformation, our religion needs to be empowered by the Spirit.

This brings us to the mass of hearers following Jesus. Look once more at Luke 11:14. “*When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.*” They saw the work of the Spirit in Jesus and witnessed the power of the Kingdom to set a mute man free from the devil’s dominion and were amazed—filled with admiration.

Jesus wants us to know that admiration is good but it is not sufficient. He wants us not only to be filled with admiration but also to experience a transformation of our lives. Jesus died to purchase and purify a people for Himself who are zealous to do good works. He desires a people whose lives are being transformed by His Spirit—not just a bunch of admirers. I am confident there is a lot of admiration for Jesus in today’s churches and at New Covenant Bible Church. But are we being transformed and changed by what we hear?

For all admirers of Jesus who marvel at His power, believe in Him and rejoice in His salvation, I want to leave us with three questions to help us gauge how much more we need to ask the Father for the Holy Spirit and for transformation in our lives that will bring glory to God. Let us ask these questions of

ourselves as we prepare to come to the Lord's Table. This table is open to all who recognize their sin and need of a Savior, trust in Jesus and are looking to Him, not only for the cleansing of our sins but for the transformation of our lives. As we prepare to come, Jesus is active to transform us by His Spirit. Consider these three questions.

A. Am I just watching Jesus or am I joining Him?

In Luke 11:23 Jesus says, “*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*” Most people prefer not to choose. They don't want to be against Jesus but also don't want to be wholeheartedly, without reserve and uncompromisingly with Him. Jesus says you have to choose because there is a war going on and neutrality is not an option. He is not looking for spectators but for soldiers to join Him.

An army bold whose battle cry is, “Love!”
Reaching out to those in darkness.

(from O Church Arise by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend)

Jesus says you have to decide if you are with Him or against Him. I imagine a battle scene: armed soldiers are fighting; there are casualties on the field and all kinds of activity. Suddenly a group of tourists come by with their iPhones, standing there and taking pictures. The commanding officer says, “Get out of the way! There is a battle here and we need soldiers, not spectators.” If you are not joining Jesus in gathering others, we are actually working against Him and scattering. Am I watching or joining?

B. Am I just emptying my life of what is bad or am I filling it with what is good?

In Luke 11:24-26, Jesus talks about an unclean spirit going out to seek a place of rest. If it doesn't find one, it will come back to the place it left. If all it finds is a house swept and put in order, it will come back with a vengeance and the last state of that person will be worse than the beginning. I think Jesus is telling us that the Christian life is not just about putting off what is bad but about putting on what is good. It is not simply about changing habits but about filling your life with the Spirit. Someone I read said, “We're only safe from Satan when we're filled with the Spirit.”

A lot of what passes for Christianity today is just self-help, tidying things up on the inside, personal recovery or moral reformation. That is not true Christianity. True Christianity is about the work of God the Spirit giving life to those who are dead. It's about regeneration—the life of God in the soul of man. We need to pray that the work of the Stronger One—the Lord Jesus Christ—will so fill our lives that we will not only get rid of a few bad habits but be totally transformed by His presence in our lives.

It is the Holy Spirit Who alone can replace:

- our lust with purity

- our gossip with edifying words
- our worry with trust
- our greed with contentment and generosity
- our anger with patience and gentleness
- our profanity with peace
- and our addictions with selfless zeal for the glory of God.

(Adapted from Phil Ryken)

Am I emptying or am I filling?

C. Am I just admiring Jesus or am I obeying Him?

“As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” (Luke 11:27). I love that little story. I can imagine an older woman seeing Jesus and saying, “Your mother must be so proud to have a Son like You.” Mary was blessed in carrying Jesus in her womb for nine months and seeing Him grow up in her home for many years. She is the most blessed among women. But Jesus says there is a greater blessing still. You get to have Jesus in your heart forever by hearing God’s Word, receiving the good news, letting the light shine in your eyes and the Word come into your ears.

He speaks and listening to His voice
New life the dead receive

(from [O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing](#) by Charles Wesley, 1739)

You hear the Word, put it into practice within the new life that you receive, keep and obey it. That is transformation by the Spirit—what the New Testament calls walking by the Spirit. We need to rely on Him moment by moment. He is closer to us than our bodies and breath. He comes to energize and empower us.

We are going to pray for the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Every believer who is hungry for Jesus is welcome to come, be strengthened and nourished by these emblems of His death and by His presence and risen power in our midst. Let’s sing for the transforming work of God the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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All Scriptures quoted directly from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

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