

Recap: last week, we discussed the following:

- Having the courage to never give up
- Christian ministry is given to us by God, therefore, it's worth not giving up
- We have the Holy Spirit's power, to help us to keep on keeping on.
- This week, we'll be **celebrating Pentecost** and discussing the topic: **Having the courage to Grow**

ACTS 2:1-16(NLT)

- **Pentecost** Greek for "fifty," the fiftieth day from the waving of the sheaf (bundle of wheat) of the firstfruits, and seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection.

LEVITICUS 23:15-16 (NKJV) "And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD"

- After Pentecost, as described in **ACTS 2**, the world has never been the same !!!!

- Consider this statement:

"NOTHING IS EVER SO GOOD THAT THERE'S NO ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT"

- Is fear of the unknown, keeping us from growing?
- Is our refusal to embrace Godly change, stopping us from growing?
- Has the comfort of our current situation, made us unwilling to embrace God's next move?
- Are we so fixed in our ways that we've stopped growing?
- Isn't the just of the Gospel message, about growth and change for the better?

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18(NLTSE) And the Lord, who is the Spirit, makes us more and more like him as we are changed into His glorious image.

- The following parable as taught by Jesus, gives us vital teaching on the way we should deal with the growth and changes that the Holy Spirit brings:

LUKE 5:36-39(NKJV) "Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. 37 And no one puts **new** wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 But **new** (neos=new in time) wine must be put into **new** (kainos=new in kind) wineskins, and both are preserved. 39 And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, "The old is better.'" (**NLTSE:** 'The old is just fine,' they say.)

- The Greek has two different words for new, in verse 38. Namely **neos for new in time and kainos for new in kind**

- In this passage Jesus is teaching that the old covenant law and the new covenant Gospel can't mix.
- However, to illustrate a principle, let's say that wine represents the Holy Spirit and wineskins represent the systems, structures, people or attitudes we have in place, to facilitate the moving of the Holy Spirit in our church and lives.
- The Holy Spirit is not new, but He's timing and arrival for God's Kingdom purposes, are always new.
- The systems, structures, people and attitudes we have, will have to grow and change, as God requires.
- In fulfillment of **JOEL 2:28**, The Holy Spirit is being poured out on anyone and everyone, who wants Him.
- We must allow the Holy Spirit to renew our mindset, to ensure this growth
- Allowing the Holy Spirit total reign in your life, will cause growth
- These are some of the differences between a **growth mindset** and a **fixed mindset**:

<u>FIXED MINDSET</u>	<u>MINDSET CHARACTERISTICS</u>	<u>GROWTH MINDSET</u>
Set: you have what you have.	<i>SKILLS AND INTELLIGENCE</i>	Can be grown and developed
How do I look Performance focussed	<i>MAIN CONCERN</i>	Learning. Getting better Processed focussed
Something you do when you're not good	<i>EFFORT</i>	An important part of learning
Give up or check out	<i>CHALLENGES</i>	Persevere. Don't quit. Show more grit
Take it personal and get defensive	<i>FEEDBACK</i>	Likes it. Uses it to learn
Hates mistakes. Tries to avoid making them	<i>MISTAKES</i>	Treat them as a learning opportunity

- **ENVIRONMENT DETERMINES GROWTH, LEADERSHIP DETERMINES ENVIRONMENT**
- **Environment determines growth.** Consider what a planted seed needs to grow, (soil, water, sunlight, nutrients etc.)
- **Leadership determines environment.** Are we as leaders humble, teachable, team players or control freaks? Do we insist on having it our way only, just because we're in charge?
- A teachable person will learn from a child and be willing to embrace the ideas of others, even ideas better than their own.

- I have a personal mantra that says the following: **“Perfection is my goal, excellence will be tolerated”**. (see **MATTHEW 5:48** this perfection means being complete in Jesus)
- Are we willing to let God, through the working and power of the Holy Spirit, take us to His next level of excellence or are we going to say: “the old is just fine thank you”?
- God has implemented many changes in CMA and Bikers Churches across the country, since November 2017 and will continue to do so, as we build His Kingdom, one heart at a time.
- **The question is:** “Are we willing to be part of that building process, and are we willing to allow Godly change in our lives?”
- Yesterday’s excellence is today’s mediocrity
- Nothing is ever so good that there’s no room for improvement
- Will you allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to embrace this change?
- Everything changed after **Pentecost**
- Simply put, the Old Testament outpouring of the Holy Spirit was my measure (or limited)
- The New Testament outpouring of the Holy Spirit was without measure (or unlimited)

Old Testament saints had many experiences and blessings, as follows:

(The teaching below, up to the Care Group discussion, is from the DAKES study Bible. All scriptures quoted are from the NKJV)

They were filled (Ex. 28:3; 31:3; 35:31; Dt. 34:9; Mic. 3:8) **and had the Spirit in them** (Gen. 41:38; Num. 27:18; Dan. 4:8-9, 18; 5:11-14; 6:3); **within them** (Ps. 51:10-11; Isa. 63:10-14; Ezek. 11:19); **into them** (Ezek. 2:2; 3:24; Acts 3:21); **and upon them** (Num. 11:17-29; Judg. 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 14:6, 19; 15:14). He moved many (Judg. 13:25; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 1:21), **but none were baptized in the Spirit**. **John the Baptist and others were filled with the Spirit, but not baptized** (Lk. 1:15-17, 41, 67; 2:25-38). **Mary was filled about 35 years before she was baptized with the Spirit at Pentecost** (Lk. 1:45-56; Acts 1:13-15; 2:1-4). **Jesus was filled about 30 years before He was baptized with the Spirit** (Isa. 50:4-5; Lk. 2:40-52; Mt. 3:16-17). **The disciples were filled and had the Spirit in them 3 years before they were baptized with the Spirit** (Mt. 10:1-8, 20; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 33).

Old Testament saints had gifts and fruit of the Spirit (1 Ki. 3:12; 1 Ki. 17:1-2 Ki. 13:25; Acts 3:21; Heb. 11); **different measures of the Spirit** (Num. 11:16-25; 2 Ki. 2:9; Lk. 1:17) **but not the Spirit baptism or the Spirit “without measure”** (Jn. 3:34; 7:37-39). The **disciples had gifts and great power years before the Spirit baptism** (Mt. 10:1-8, 16-20; Mk. 6:7-13; Lk. 10), **but were told to get the Spirit baptism before starting their ministry** (Lk. 24:49; Jn. 7:37-39; 14:12; Acts 1:4-8).

Old Testament saints and disciples of Christ had salvation (Ps. 51:12); **redemption** (Ps. 31:5); **grace** (Ps. 84:11); **physical healing** (Ex. 15:26); **names written in heaven** (Ex. 32:32-33; Lk. 10:20); **the new birth** (Gal. 4:28-30); **conversion** (Ps. 19:7); **righteousness** (Rom. 4); **the gospel** (Gal. 3:6-14; Heb. 4:2); **justification** (Rom. 4); **holiness**; (Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 1:21); **pure hearts** (Ps. 24:4); **sanctification** (Ex. 29:42-44; 31:13; Ezek. 20:2; Jn. 15:3); **and many other spiritual blessings before Pentecost** (Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 2:33).

- **Therefore, one should not take any of these blessings as evidence of a Spirit baptism.**

- **From all this, we gather that the Spirit baptism is the fullness of God in the lives of believers, and not the Spirit by measure, (or limited) as in Old Testament times** (Jn. 3:34; 7:37-39; 24:49; Acts 10:38; Isa. 61:1; Rom. 15:29; Eph. 3:19).

WATER AND GLASS DEMONSTRATION

The difference between a filling and a baptism or the Spirit by measure and without measure may be illustrated by a glass and a pitcher of water. When water is poured into the glass it is filled, but not baptized. By burying the glass in the fullness of the water it is both filled and baptized. Taking the glass out of the fullness of the water it is no longer baptized. So it is with believers. When a person is filled with the Spirit he has that measure of power and can do things according to the degree of anointing he has.

- If he is merely filled and has the Spirit by measure he is limited in spiritual power.
- If he has the Spirit in all fullness there is no limitation. He can do the works of Christ and the apostles (Mt. 17:20; 21:22; Mk. 9:23; 11:22-24; 16:17-18; Jn. 14:12; Acts 2:43; 3:6; 5:16; Rom. 15:18-19, 29).
- A filling always comes with a baptism, but a baptism does not always come with a filling. **At Pentecost they were both filled and baptized** (Acts 1:4-8; 2:4), **and many fillings kept coming to them to replenish the Spirit and power they had received** (Acts 4:8, 31; 13:52). **One must continue to live and walk in the Spirit and be filled with all the fullness of God in order to maintain that baptismal fullness** (Eph. 3:16-20; 5:18; Gal. 5:16-26).
- Speaking in tongues was predicted by Isaiah: (Isa. 28:9-12) and by Christ (Mk. 16:17; Jn. 15:26; 16:13) and was fulfilled in Acts 2:4-13; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; 1 Cor. 12-14.
- This was similar to the Spirit speaking through the prophets in their own language (Acts 3:21; Heb. 1:1-2), only here it was with different languages (Acts 2:4, 6, 11).
- Though speaking in tongues is done through immediate inspiration by new recipients when one has thus received the gift, it then becomes a part of his mental makeup so that he can, if he desires to do so, exercise it without direct inspiration, even in a backslidden condition (1 Cor. 13:1-3).
- This is why the exercise of vocal gifts of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues is commanded to be regulated and even judged as to whether it be under direct inspiration or whether the person is exercising a gift of himself (1 Cor. 14:29-33).

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do you understand by the term: "changing your mindset". How is this different, from changing your mind?
2. What do you understand by the terms: limited vs. unlimited, or with measure vs. without measure? How do these differences, relate to the outpouring of the Spirit in the Old and New Testaments?
3. Why would we need changed mindsets, to receive the Holy Spirit, without measure?
4. What mindset or attitude is there, that may be stopping you from being baptised in the Spirit?
5. Pray for one another to be baptised/filled with the Spirit
6. It's important to remember, that no person or counsellor, can fill/baptize you with the Holy Spirit, only Jesus can. (see **LUKE 3:16**)