

Life Church Message 2012-10-14 - What's God Saying?

- **What's God Saying?**

Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday October 14, 2012

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- **New Material**
 - **Preparation**
 - **What's God Saying?**
 - **Raw Material**
 - **Preparation**
 - **Standing Issues**
 - From a word Bishop gave me:
 - Make sure people do something with God's message.
 - Make it plain:
 - Use accessible language.
 - Use modern day parables based on every day occurrences:
 - Sitting at a stop light
 - Driving through a green light
 - Approaching a yellow light
 - Being cut off in traffic
 - Going shopping
 - Going to a mall
 - Going to school; sitting in class
 - Going to work; sitting in your office;
 - Keep it simple.
 - Use illustrations of truth out of my own experience.
 - Impart faith to obey the Word and receive God's promises.
- **Introduction**
 - Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
 - Welcome Cards -
 - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
 - These cards do two things for us:
 - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
 - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
 - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
 - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.

- **Please use this card:**

- if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out before,
- to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
- to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.

Please include your contact information unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.

- Transition

- We're following up on our discussion of Romans 12:1-3.
- Confession - my difficult relationship.

- **Read the Passages**

- John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- 1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

- Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy

Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs — we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

- **Ephesians 4:1-16**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- **Study the Passage**

- **Exegetical Idea**
- **What does this mean?**
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
- **Apply It: What difference does it make? So What?**
- **Formulate the Homiletical Idea:**
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
- **Small Group Sharing**
 - Do you expect God to lead you? Why or why not?
 - Do you expect God to speak to you? Why or why not?
 - Describe a time when you knew God was speaking to you or leading you.
 - Have you asked other believers to help you hear from God? If so, describe what happened; if not, why not?
 - What is God saying to you now?
- **Conclusion**
 - Keep the conversation going.
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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**
 - Welcome Cards - refer to script
 - We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.
 - Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
 - Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:

- if you're a first time visitor
- if you've never filled one out before,
- if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
- if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.
- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**
- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**
 - ““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””
- **Men's Prayer**
- **Life Group Material**
 - **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#).
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John 1:1-14

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He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

Acts 2:1-21

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But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- **Discussion Questions**

- Do you expect God to lead you? Why or why not?
- Do you expect God to speak to you? Why or why not?
- Describe a time when you knew God was speaking to you or leading you.
- Have you asked other believers to help you hear from God? If so, describe what happened; if not, why not?
- What is God saying to you now?

- **Scriptures For 10/14/2012 Life Church Sermon**

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• Small Group Sharing

- Do you expect God to lead you? Why or why not?
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- Have you asked other believers to help you hear from God? If so, describe what happened; if not, why not?
- What is God saying to you now?

• Life Church Mission Statement

- Our mission is to teach people:
 - to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
 - to follow him together as his family,
 - to function together as his body,
 - and to work together to expand his kingdom.

- ## Understanding The Bible

Unless otherwise indicated, scriptures are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV) Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! **We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**