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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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OCTOBER 26, 2025  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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In his sermon, Pastor Gary delves into John Chapter 13, focusing on the profound actions and statements of Jesus that continue to resonate today. He emphasizes the importance of recognizing the depth and significance of Jesus' actions, particularly his decision to wash the disciples' feet. This act, Pastor Gary explains, was unprecedented and shocking, yet it demonstrated Jesus' understanding of his identity and the authority given to him by God. Knowing who you are in relationship to God, Pastor Gary asserts, is crucial, as it determines your actions and enables a life of purpose rooted in divine authority and identity.

Pastor Gary challenges the congregation to reflect on their own understanding of identity and authority in Christ, urging them to adopt a posture of humility and service akin to Jesus. He stresses that the profound nature of faith often lies in actions rather than words, highlighting the power of meekness and humility in influencing a self-centered culture. Pastor Gary invites his listeners to rise in their personal lives, not in self-promotion, but by embracing servitude and empathetic love towards others, even those who are difficult to love.

In conclusion, Pastor Gary encourages the congregation to remain open to the mysteries of faith and to the ways God may choose to work in their lives, even when they don't fully understand. He calls for a childlike faith that embraces vulnerability and remains open to God's plans. Through this openness and humility, believers can become effective demonstrators of Christ's love and authority, embodying the profound truths that Jesus exemplified. Pastor Gary reminds his listeners that they are equipped with every spiritual blessing needed to fulfill their calling, urging them to share their stories of faithfulness and to embody the gospel through action, not just words.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: Knowing Who You Are in Christ

Understanding our true identity in Christ is foundational to living out our faith, knowing where we came from, who we are, and where we're going.

### Chapter 2: Rising Up... to Go Down

True spiritual authority comes through rising in faith while simultaneously humbling ourselves in service to others.

### Chapter 3: The Power of Demonstrated Meekness

The greatest sermon ever preached was Jesus washing the disciples' feet without words, demonstrating the transformative power of meekness and humble service.

### Chapter 4: Understanding Comes Through Obedience

We don't need to fully understand everything before we act in faith; understanding often comes after obedience, not before.

### Chapter 5: Living as Kingdom Demonstrators

We are called to be living demonstrations of the gospel, equipped with every spiritual blessing to serve others with humility and love.

# II. STUDY GUIDE

## Key Points:

- Jesus knew His identity completely; who He was, where He came from, and where He was going, which enabled Him to serve without hesitation
- Knowing who you are in Christ determines what you do and what you won't do
- Christians possess divine authority (exousia) over darkness, fear, and circumstances that they must learn to leverage
- Rising up in faith often means going down in humility and service to others
- The power of meekness is the most transformative force in our self-centered culture
- Laying aside "outer garments" means not being defined by status, possessions, or position
- Demonstration of faith is more powerful than rhetoric; actions speak louder than words
- You don't need to understand everything before acting in obedience; understanding often comes afterward
- Never tell Jesus what He can or cannot do in your life or ministry
- Spiritual maturity is childlikeness, not having all the answers
- Be open to everything in Scripture, rather than creating "no vacancy" signs for certain biblical truths

## Key Scripture

**John 13:3-7** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Philippians 3:20** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**John 13:17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**Colossians 1:27** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

**Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### Other Relevant Scripture

**Ephesians 1:3** - Every spiritual blessing in Christ (seated in heavenly realms)

**Ephesians 2:6** - Seated in the heavenly realms

**Matthew 8:20 / Luke 9:58** - "The Son of Man had nowhere to lay his head"

**Acts 26:14** - "Kicking against the goads"

**Luke 21:28** - "Look up. Your redemption draws nigh."

**1 Peter 5:5** - Clothed in humility

**Colossians 3:12** - Clothed in compassion

**John 10:9** - Jesus as the gate

**Luke 2:7** - No room in the inn

### **Supporting Verses for Main Themes:**

**Romans 8:17** - Joint heirs with Christ (identity theme)

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - Purchased by Christ (identity and value)

**Luke 10:19** - Authority over the enemy (exousia/authority theme)

**James 4:7** - Submit to God, resist the devil (authority theme)

**Matthew 20:26-28** - Servant leadership

**Mark 10:43-45** - The last shall be first, servant of all

**Galatians 2:20** - Crucified with Christ (identity theme)

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## Day 1: Knowing Who You Are

**Question:** How does knowing your true identity in Christ—who you are, where you came from, and where you're going—change the way you approach difficult or uncomfortable acts of service?

**Reading:** Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4

**Devotional:** Jesus knew who He was, the only begotten of the Father. Before He could wash the disciples' feet, He had to be secure in His identity. Today, ask yourself: Do I truly know who I am? Your identity isn't found in your career, possessions, or reputation. You are a citizen of heaven, purchased by Christ's blood, seated in heavenly places with every spiritual blessing. When you're rooted in this identity, you won't hesitate to serve others, even when it damages your earthly reputation. Your actions flow from knowing whose you are.

Spend time today reflecting on your true identity in Christ. Let this truth anchor you.

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## Day 2: The Authority to Rise Up

**Question:** What does it mean to 'rise up' in your current season, and is there something God is calling you to step into that you've been avoiding?

**Reading:** Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:18-23

**Devotional:** Jesus rose from supper knowing He possessed all authority. There comes a moment when God calls you to rise up: to stop procrastinating, to step into leadership, to confront what you've been avoiding. You have been given divine authority over darkness, fear, and doubt.

This isn't presumption; it's your inheritance. Faith looks up, while sorrow looks back, and worry looks around. Perhaps today is your moment to rise up in some area of your life. Maybe it's time to lead your family spiritually, address a lingering sin, or step into ministry. You've been resourced with everything you need. The question isn't whether you're capable, it's whether you'll obey the call to stand.

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## Day 3: Laying Aside the Outer

**Question:** In what areas of your life are you defined by 'the outer' (status, possessions, position) rather than by your identity as a citizen of heaven?

**Reading:** John 13:3-5; Philippians 2:5-8

**Devotional:** Jesus laid aside His outer garments before washing feet. Are you defined by externals: your home, position, income, or status? True power comes from stripping away what the world values and clothing yourself in servitude. Jesus was wrapped in humility as His garment. He didn't need outer approval or fanfare; He knew His worth came from the Father. When you're no longer dependent on external validation, you're free to serve anyone, anywhere. This is countercultural and profoundly powerful.

Today, examine what "outer garments" you're clinging to. What would it look like to lay them aside? The most influential people aren't those climbing ladders, they're those washing feet.

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#### Day 4: The Unadulterated Power of Meekness

**Question:** How can the power of meekness, power under control, transform your relationships and witness in a self-indulgent culture?

**Reading:** Matthew 5:5; James 4:6-10

**Devotional:** Meekness is power under control. In our self-indulgent culture, nothing is more transformative than genuine humility. Jesus demonstrated that the meek will inherit the earth, not a city or nation, but the entire earth. Meekness means not saying what your flesh wants to say, not defending yourself constantly and not needing to win every argument. It's when your mouth stays closed but your heart opens wide. This is what our world desperately needs and rarely sees. If there's no meekness evident in your life, something is suppressing the Christ within you. Meekness should naturally ooze from believers.

Today, practice restraint. Choose silence over rebuttal. Let your humble actions preach the greatest sermon.

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#### Day 5: Demonstration Over Understanding

**Question:** What would it look like for you to demonstrate the gospel through action rather than just words, following Jesus' example of washing the disciples' feet?

**Reading:** John 13:6-17; James 1:22-25

**Devotional:** Jesus told Peter, "You don't understand now, but you will later." We often delay obedience until we fully understand, but faith doesn't require complete comprehension. The greatest sermon ever preached was when Jesus washed feet without saying a word, pure demonstration. Don't let your pursuit of understanding outrun your demonstration of love and service. You don't need to figure everything out before you act. Be open to whatever God wants to do through you, even if it doesn't make sense now. Your life is the test, not your theological knowledge.

Today, ask God to show you one practical way to serve someone, then do it without overthinking. Let your actions preach louder than your words.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## "Profound: The Foot Washing"

Based on John 13:3-7

### Opening Prayer

### Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when someone served you in an unexpected way that left a lasting impression. How did it make you feel?

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

**Identity in Christ:** Jesus knew who He was, where He came from, and where He was going. This knowledge drove His actions.

**The Power of Meekness:** True power and influence in our culture comes through humble servanthood, not self-promotion.

**Rising Up... to Go Down:** Rising up in faith means humbling ourselves to serve others.

**Demonstration Over Rhetoric:** The foot washing was "the greatest sermon ever preached" without words being spoken.

**Mystery is Okay:** We don't need to understand everything before we act in obedience.

## Discussion Questions

### Identity & Authority

Pastor Gary emphasized that Jesus knew who He was, where He came from, and where He was going. How would you answer these three questions about yourself?

- Who am I? (beyond what I do for a living)
- Where did I come from? (my spiritual origin)
- Where am I going?

Read Philippians 3:20. What does it mean practically to live as a "citizen of heaven" in your daily life?

It was stated: "Do you truly understand the authority that you have?"

- What areas of your life need you to exercise spiritual authority? What holds you back?

### The Outer vs. The Inner

Jesus "laid aside his outer garments."

- What "outer" things define you or give you identity? (career, status, possessions, reputation, etc.)

What would it look like for you to be "clothed in servitude" this week?

### The Power of Meekness

Pastor Gary defined meekness as "power under control."

- Why is meekness so countercultural and powerful in today's society?

Read Matthew 5:5.

- Why do you think the meek will "inherit the earth"?

Pastor Gary said: "If there's no meekness on the outside, somebody is suppressing the meekness in us."

- What suppresses meekness in your life? (pride, anger, need to be right, fear, etc.)

Share an example of someone whose meekness made a profound impact on you or others.

### Understanding vs. Doing

Jesus told Peter, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

- Why do we often wait to fully understand before we obey?
- What is God asking you to do that you don't fully understand? What's holding you back?

How can we balance the need for wisdom and discernment with the call to childlike faith?

### Telling Jesus What He Can't Do

Peter said, "You shall never wash my feet."

- In what ways do we tell Jesus what He can or cannot do in our lives or in the church today?

Pastor Gary mentioned denominational differences about healing and spiritual gifts.

- How can we remain open to "any and everything in the Bible" while maintaining healthy discernment?
- What does it mean to have "vacancy" in our hearts for whatever God wants to do?

### Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for each person to consider:

Where is God calling me to "rise up" right now?

Who needs me to wash their feet (serve them humbly)?

What "outer" thing do I need to lay aside?

Where am I telling God "No vacancy"?

### Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

#### **Individual Actions:**

1. **\*\*Identify Your "Rise Up" Moment\*\***: Write down one area where God is calling you to step up in faith this week, even if you don't fully understand.
2. **Practice Meekness**: Identify one relationship or situation where you typically respond with defensiveness or pride. Commit to responding with meekness instead.
3. **Serve Anonymously**: Do one act of service this week where no one knows it was you—no social media, no recognition.
4. **Lay Aside the Outer**: Identify one "outer" thing you're holding onto for identity and intentionally lay it aside in prayer.
5. **Count Your Blessings**: Make a list of the resources, gifts, and authority God has given you. Thank Him and ask how to use them.

#### **Group Actions:**

1. Foot Washing Experience: Consider having an actual foot-washing service at your next meeting to experience what the disciples experienced.
2. Serve Together: Plan a group service project where you can demonstrate the gospel without words.
3. Accountability Partners: Pair up to check in on each other's "rise up" commitments.

Memory Verse

**John 13:15-17**

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for humility and meekness in each group member's life
- Ask God to reveal areas where we need to "rise up"
- Pray for courage to serve even when it's uncomfortable
- Ask for openness to whatever God wants to do in our lives
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate the gospel this week

For Next Week

**Challenge:** Come prepared to share one story of how you demonstrated servanthood this week and what you learned from the experience.

**Optional Reading:** John 13 (the complete foot-washing account)

### Leader Notes

Be prepared to share vulnerably about your own struggles with pride, understanding before acting, or telling God "no vacancy."

The discussion about spiritual gifts and denominational differences (question 15) may be sensitive—keep the focus on personal openness to God rather than debating doctrines.

If your group is comfortable, the foot-washing experience can be profoundly meaningful, but don't force it.

Emphasize that meekness is not weakness, it's strength under control.

Encourage the group that not understanding everything is okay and even healthy for spiritual growth.

# V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CBC CURRENTLY DOESN'T HAVE WATER... THE PROBLEM IS BEING EXAMINED, FOR RIGHT NOW THERE ARE PORTA-POTTIES OUT FRONT

**\*PLEASE NOTE\* IF THERE IS A REASON YOU OR YOUR CHILD IS UNABLE TO USE A PORTA-POTTY, WE CAN ACCOMMODATE. PLEASE SPEAK TO ONE OF THE STAFF MEMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE.**  
(PASTOR JOEL, PASTOR THOMAS, PASTOR DAVID, DYLAN, ERIN, MATTIE, TYLER)

Be sure to set those clocks forward for this Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. **\*IMPORTANT\*: DO NOT ASK DYLAN, HE HAS NO IDEA HOW THIS WORKS!**

Pastor Joel will not be having his critical conversations class this Wednesday, but will continue with part 2 of that on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Recovery Alive** and **Grief Share** meet weekly. Reach out for more information if you're interested in that.

Operation Christmas Child begins this month! Be sure to designate that in your giving if you want to participate.

Whisper Mountain youth camp is approaching quickly, November 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Make sure any youth get registered soon!