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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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JULY 6, 2025

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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In our journey of faith, the call to 'follow Christ' is more than just a pursuit to imitate His actions visibly; it is an invitation to welcome Christ and His Spirit into the core of our being. The sermon explores this profound message delivered to the disciples: 'Follow me,' and then dives deeper into the nuances of what it means to live with Christ within us. The key scripture, Colossians 1:27, reveals that the true essence of following Christ lies in understanding that Christ is already in us, the hope of glory. This realization charms us away from the exhaustion of trying to mimic Christ superficially to experiencing the vitality of releasing Him from within. Converging this with Romans 8:9, we recognize that our relationship with Christ transforms from a mere follower's path to an intimate companionship where the Spirit dwells in us, prompting us to embrace our unique callings and live abundantly, empowered by His presence. This shift presents us with a life enriched by vigor and fruitfulness, inviting us to let the Spirit guide us daily in holding us up and nurturing our faith, rather than striving in our strength to chase after Him.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: Amazing Grace and the Need for Community

We reflect on the transformative power of grace and engage with important aspects of community and fellowship.

### Chapter 2: Praise, Lament, and Divine Presence

We engage in praise and explore the space for lament, acknowledging God's presence and sovereignty amid life's challenges.

### Chapter 3: Intercession and Worship

We're reminded of prayers for our community and missions, and the powerful act of worship through song and prayer.

### Chapter 4: From Following to Leading by the Spirit

We shift from a theme of following Christ outwardly to being led by His Spirit within us.

## II.

STUDY GUIDE

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Key Points

- Distinguishing between following Christ and allowing Him to lead from within
- Understanding that the presence of Christ is already within believers
- The concept of spiritual surrender and being carried by the Holy Spirit
- The exhaustion of trying to mimic Christ versus the vitality of releasing His Spirit
- The call to recognize the mystical union with Christ and the internal transformation
- The assurance of salvation as a sealed promise through the Holy Spirit
- Experiences of spiritual renewal and transformation as evidence of Christ within
- Encouragement for believers to nurture their relationship with God through Scripture and prayer

Key Scripture

**Matthew 4:19** "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

**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.

**Romans 8:9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

**John 14:16-17** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

**Ephesians 1:14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

**John 14:12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

**Acts 2:38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:21** For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

#### Other Scriptural References

**2 Corinthians 3:17** (alluded to) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**Exodus 12:46** (alluded to the Passover and the unbroken bones of the lamb) "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Philippians 1:6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## Day 1: The Sweetness of Salvation

Question: In what ways does the idea of being 'carried along' by the Holy Spirit challenge our notions of independence and control in our spiritual lives?

Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Devotional: The sweetness of God's grace is like a melody that transforms us from being lost to being found, from being blind to seeing. Reflect on the immense love God has for us, turning wretches into saints through His amazing grace.

Spend time today thanking Him for the unmerited favor that has saved and restored you.

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## Day 2: From Darkness to Light

Question: In what ways have you experienced the 'mystical invasion' of Christ's presence in your life, and how has it transformed your perspective?

Reading: John 1:1-14

Devotional: As we emerge from blindness into sight, we experience the light of Christ. His incarnation is the ultimate expression of divine love. Consider what it means for the light to shine in your life.

How can you reflect this light in the world around you? Today, let His love illuminate the dark corners of your heart and guide you in spreading hope to others.

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## Day 3: God's Redemptive Love

Question: In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to surrender control and allow God to 'carry you along', and why?

Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: God's love is evident in His sacrifice, laying Himself down to raise up the broken. As you ponder this selfless act, reflect on how you can demonstrate His love in your relationships and community.

Take a moment to pray for God to instill in you the ability to see and love others as He does.

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## Day 4: Hope in Suffering

Question: How does the concept of Christ being 'in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1:27) challenge or enhance your understanding of salvation and spiritual growth?

Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Devotional: Suffering is a part of life, but with God's presence, there is hope. Allow Him to comfort you and others through trials. Consider past experiences where God's presence was a solace, and think about how you can be a source of comfort to others.

Hold onto the assurance that your trials can lead to deeper faith and hope.

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#### Day 5: The Divine Dance of Unity

Question: How might our approach to evangelism and ministry change if we focus on 'releasing' Christ within us rather than trying to imitate Him?

Reading: Revelation 19:6-9

Devotional: Envision the ultimate celebration—the marriage of the Lamb. Think of your life as a preparation for this divine unity where all prophecies are fulfilled. Reflect on how you can live in a way that anticipates this eternal communion.

Let today's reading inspire you to worship God with all creation, as together we await the joyous union with Christ, celebrating His worthiness and majesty.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## Small Group Guide: "Carried by the Spirit"

### Opening Prayer

#### Discussion Questions

##### 1. Understanding the Invitation:

- What do you think Jesus meant by "Come, follow me"? How does this differ from merely imitating or mimicking his actions?
- How does the idea of following Jesus for a specific time until he was no longer visible challenge or affirm your understanding of discipleship?

##### 2. Christ Within Us:

- Reflect on Colossians 1:27, which mentions "Christ in you, the hope of glory." What does this mean to you personally?
- How does knowing that Christ dwells within us change our approach to living as Christians?

##### 3. The Role of the Holy Spirit:

- Discuss the idea of being "carried along by the Holy Spirit" as opposed to striving to follow Christ by our own efforts. Have you experienced this in your life?
- How can we better allow the Holy Spirit to lead and carry us in our daily walk?

##### 4. Freedom in Christ:

- What does it mean to have true freedom in Christ? How does the Spirit help us experience this freedom?
- Share a time when you felt liberated through your faith. What circumstances led to this feeling?

##### 5. Wholeness through Brokenness:

- The sermon suggests that Christ's brokenness makes us whole. How can embracing our own brokenness lead us to spiritual maturity?

- Discuss the statement, "Celebrate the beautiful mess that is your life." How can this perspective transform our attitude towards struggles and imperfections?

### Key Takeaways

- Following Christ is less about physical or literal imitation and more about allowing His Spirit to work within us.
- The indwelling of Christ in our lives is a mystery that transcends physical presence and empowers us for greater works.
- Our Christian walk should be characterized by relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us rather than striving in our own strength.
- Spiritual freedom is possible through a deep, personal relationship with Christ, facilitated by the Holy Spirit.
- Acknowledging and embracing our brokenness can lead us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's work in our lives.

### Practical Applications

#### 1. Daily Reflection:

- Spend time each day in quiet reflection, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal His presence within you and to guide you through your daily tasks.

#### 2. Scripture Meditation:

- Choose a passage from the Book of John and meditate on it throughout the week. Allow the Spirit to illuminate its meaning in your life.

#### 3. Community Support:

- Partner with another group member to pray for each other, asking for the Spirit's guidance and support in a specific area of life where you feel challenged or uncertain.

#### 4. Embrace Brokenness:

- Write down aspects of your life that feel broken or messy. Pray over each one, asking God to show you how He can use your brokenness for His glory and your growth.



### 5. Act in Freedom:

- Identify a belief or behavior that feels like a burden or shackle. Seek God's freedom by committing to a specific change or action step that aligns with your identity in Christ.

Encourage openness in sharing and remind group members that each person's journey is unique. Let the conversation be led by the Holy Spirit as you explore these themes together.

Closing Prayer

# V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The youth and their leaders leave for Whisper Mountain Camp on July 7<sup>th</sup> and return on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Please cover them in prayer during this time.

Next Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Discover CBC class right after the service. If you are interested in becoming a member or just want to learn more about the church, this is a great class for you!

The women's hike is coming up Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you get registered for that if interested.

To register for any of these events, or just to get more information, email [info@cbchighlands.com](mailto:info@cbchighlands.com) or call the church office!