

CONFUSION VS. CLARITY

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SUNDAY MESSAGE [August 16, 2026]

Sermon Summary: Drawing from 1 Corinthians 14:33 and 1 Peter 5:6-7, “Confusion VS. Clarity” confronts the pervasive spirit of confusion operating in the world and in the church, contrasting it with the clarity, peace, and order that come from God. Pastor Jerry establishes that God is not the author of confusion and calls believers to pursue orderly, Spirit-led worship and living. The message addresses how confusion enters lives through ungodly soul ties, self-reliance, pride, and a failure to submit to the Holy Spirit's leading. We are urged as believers to walk in the Spirit, not merely as a doctrinal position but as a daily, active submission to God's instruction, counsel, and direction. Humility is presented as the prerequisite to divine promotion and kingdom positioning.

Scripture References:

- 1 Corinthians 14:33, which declares that God is not the author of confusion but of peace
- 1 Peter 5:6-7, which calls believers to humble themselves under God's mighty hand so He may exalt them in due time, and to cast all care upon Him because He cares for them
- Psalm 32:8, in which God promises to instruct, teach, and counsel His people with His eye upon them
- Psalm 139:7 and following, in which the psalmist declares that there is nowhere one can go to escape God's presence
- Psalm 119:130, which speaks of God's word giving light and understanding
- Galatians 5:16, which commands believers to walk in the Spirit so they will not fulfill the desires of the flesh
- Philippians 4:7, which describes the peace of God that surpasses understanding as a guard over the hearts and minds of believers
- Proverbs 16:18-19, which warns that pride precedes destruction and that humility is better than arrogance
- John 14:26, in which Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as a helper who will teach believers and remind them of truth

Key Points:

- God is not the author of confusion but of peace, and corporate worship should reflect His orderly nature while still allowing the genuine movement of the Holy Spirit
- Confusion is defined as instability, disorder, and unrest, and it is actively used by the enemy to disorient believers, particularly in the areas of identity, relationships, and decision-making
- Ungodly soul ties are a direct result of confusion and can form through close relationships, shared experiences, verbal vows, or sexual intimacy, creating bonds that linger and hinder God's plan for a person's life
- Soul ties can be broken through the blood of Jesus, and believers can walk in freedom
- Psalm 32:8 reveals that God instructs, teaches, counsels, and keeps His eye upon His people at all times, meaning no believer is ever truly lost or abandoned
- God is omniscient and omnipresent, and there is no situation, valley, or battle that exists outside of His awareness and presence
- Being born again and having the Holy Spirit living within you is distinct from actively walking in the Spirit, which requires daily submission and yielding to His leading
- Walking in the Spirit over time gradually diminishes the desire to fulfill fleshly impulses and replaces fear and overwhelm with focus and peace
- Humility is the key to kingdom exaltation and promotion, as God lifts those who humble themselves under His mighty hand, not those who rely on talent or ability alone
- Spiritual gifts, including tongues and prophecy, can become learned behaviors without genuine submission, and order and discernment must govern what is released in corporate settings
- Submission to God's leading is what unlocks His ability to work fully in a believer's life, and withholding that submission limits what He can do

Quotes:

“A gift in control will change a life. A gift out of control will confuse a life.”

“Confusion thrives in self-reliance, but clarity grows in personal surrender.”

“You're tougher than what the enemy wants you to know.”

“I don't want to use God as a get out of hell free card. And that's what a lot of people have done. They only use him as a get out of hell free card.”

“Humility precedes promotion. You are never going to be promoted until you're humble...God is not going to promote you because of your talent. He's going to promote you because of your humility.”

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Clarity Over Confusion, Walking in the Spirit, Humility, Divine Presence, and Surrender

Day 1: God Is Not the Author of Confusion

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:33 | Psalms 32:8 | Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional:

Chaos does not originate from God. He is a God of peace, order, and purpose. When life feels disorienting and every direction seems uncertain, it is easy to assume that God has gone silent. But the Word declares that He will instruct, teach, and counsel us, keeping His eye fixed upon us at all times. He is not standing at a distance watching confusion unfold. He is actively directing your steps. The question is not whether God is speaking. The question is whether you are positioned to hear Him. Quiet the noise today and lean into His clarity.

Personal Reflection: What areas of your life feel most chaotic right now? Are you seeking God's direction, or are you relying primarily on your own reasoning?

Practical Application: Set aside ten uninterrupted minutes today to sit in silence before God. Bring one specific area of confusion to Him and ask for His instruction and counsel.

Day 2: His Eyes Are Always Upon You

Reading: Psalms 139:7-10 | Psalms 34:15 | John 14:26

Devotional:

There is nowhere you can go that places you beyond the reach of God's presence. The psalmist describes a God who is present in the heights of heaven and in the depths of despair, present at the dawn of a new morning and at the furthest edge of the sea. You are never truly alone, even when isolation feels overwhelming. God's omnipresence is not a theological concept reserved for seminary classrooms. It is a living, breathing reality meant to comfort you in your darkest hour. He has promised a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who teaches and reminds you of truth when confusion tries to take hold.

Personal Reflection: Have you ever felt as though God had taken His eyes off of you during a difficult season? How does the truth of His constant presence change the way you view that season now?

Practical Application: Write down one moment from your past when you now recognize that God was present even though it did not feel like it. Let that remembrance build your faith for what you are currently walking through.

Day 3: Walking in the Spirit

Reading: Galatians 5:16 | Romans 8:5-6 | Philippians 4:7

Devotional:

Being filled with the Holy Spirit and walking in the Holy Spirit are not the same thing. The Spirit of God may dwell within you, yet your daily choices can still be driven by fear, pride, or fleshly impulse rather than by His leading. Walking in the Spirit is a deliberate act of submission. It means yielding your decisions, your words, and your desires to His guidance each day. Over time, this consistent surrender produces something remarkable. The grip of old habits begins to loosen. The noise of fear begins to quiet. What once felt overwhelming comes into focus. The peace of God stands guard over your heart and mind like a fortress.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your daily life are you still relying on your own strength rather than submitting to the Spirit's leading? What would it look like to surrender those areas today?

Practical Application: Before making any significant decision today, pause and pray specifically for the Holy Spirit's direction. Practice this as a habit throughout the week and note any difference in your peace and clarity.

Day 4: Breaking Free From Ungodly Soul Ties

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:17-20 | 2 Corinthians 6:14 | Psalms 119:130

Devotional:

The connections we form with other people carry spiritual weight. When those connections are forged outside of God's design, through sexual intimacy outside of marriage, through toxic relationships, or through bonds that pull us away from God's purpose, they can create lasting chains that are difficult to recognize and even harder to break. The enemy understands this, which is why he works to keep you tethered to people and patterns that interrupt what God has ordained for your life. But the blood of Jesus is more powerful than any soul tie the enemy has used against you. Freedom is not a distant hope. It is available to you right now through surrender and the renewing of your mind in God's Word.

Personal Reflection: Are there relationships or past connections in your life that have left a lingering hold on your thoughts, emotions, or decisions? Have you brought those bonds before God and asked Him to break them?

Practical Application: Pray specifically today and ask God to identify and sever any ungodly soul ties in your life. If needed, seek counsel from a trusted pastor or spiritual leader who can pray with you and walk you through a process of spiritual freedom.

Day 5: Humility Precedes Promotion

Reading: 1 Peter 5:6-7 | Proverbs 16:18-19 | Matthew 23:12

Devotional:

The hand that you humble yourself beneath is the very same hand that will lift you up. God does not promote on the basis of talent, charisma, or capability alone. He promotes on the basis of a heart that has learned to bow. Pride insists on being seen. Humility trusts that God sees. Pride demands its own timeline. Humility rests in the promise that God's timing is always right. Casting your cares upon Him is not a passive act of resignation. It is an active declaration that you trust His character more than you trust your own ability to manage your circumstances. When you humble yourself, you are not losing ground. You are being positioned for everything God has prepared.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas in your life where pride has kept you from fully surrendering to God's plan? What would genuine humility look like in those specific areas?

Practical Application: Identify one area today where you have been striving in your own strength and make a deliberate choice to release it to God in prayer. Write out 1 Peter 5:6-7 by hand and place it somewhere you will see it throughout the week as a daily reminder of the power of humble surrender.

