

Main Takeaways

1. Get Understanding, Not Just Information

The sermon emphasized that acquiring things without understanding leads to confusion and frustration. Like assembling furniture without instructions, we need God's Word to guide us in building the life He designed for us.

2. Not Every Spirit Should Be Believed

Words carry spiritual power. Not every encouraging word, prophecy, or spiritual communication comes from God. We must test everything against Scripture.

3. God Is Not the Author of Confusion

We live in one of two spiritual cities: Jerusalem (peace) or Babylon (confusion). Confusion is Satan's smokescreen, while God brings clarity and peace.

4. Dreams and Visions Are Divine Communication

When we're too busy or distracted to hear God while awake, He may speak through dreams and visions (Job 33:14-17).

5. Prayer Still Works

Prayer is not a last resort—it's a way of life. Humbling ourselves to pray, seek God's face, and turn from wicked ways brings healing.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Testing Spiritual Communications (20 minutes)

1. What are some "spirits" (words, influences, thoughts) that people commonly accept without testing them against God's Word?
 2. The pastor mentioned that words spoken over us as children can lodge in our hearts like leeches. Can anyone share (if comfortable) a negative word spoken over you that you've had to overcome? How did you break free from it?
 3. Read 1 John 4:1 together. Why is it dangerous to "try the spirits by the spirits" instead of by the Word of God? What's the difference?
 4. How can we practically develop the discernment to recognize when something isn't from God, even if it sounds positive or encouraging?
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Section 2: Living in Peace vs. Confusion (15 minutes)

5. The sermon contrasted Jerusalem (peace) with Babylon (confusion). What are some practical signs that you're living in "Babylon" rather than "Jerusalem"?
 6. James tells us that envy and strife produce confusion. Can you identify an area in your life where envy or strife might be creating confusion?
 7. The pastor said, "Most problems in our life are just misunderstandings." How can we pursue clarity and understanding in our relationships to eliminate unnecessary confusion?
 8. What role does praise and worship play in dispelling confusion? Have you experienced this personally?
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Section 3: Dreams, Visions, and Prayer (15 minutes)

9. Have you ever had a dream that you felt might be from God? How did you discern whether it was divine communication or not?
 10. The sermon emphasized that prayer requires humility—adjusting our schedules to prioritize time with God. What barriers keep you from consistent prayer? How can this group help hold you accountable?
 11. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. What "wicked ways" might God be calling His people to turn from today? (Be honest—this applies to believers, not just unbelievers.)
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Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option A: Word Inventory

- Pay attention to the words you speak over yourself and others. Are you speaking life or death? Peace or confusion? Journal about what you notice.

Option B: Prayer Commitment

- Commit to attending one of the church's prayer gatherings (noonday prayer on Tuesday or night church on Thursday), or set aside 15 minutes daily for focused prayer.

Option C: Dream Journal

- If you have a vivid dream this week, write it down immediately and bring it to God in prayer, asking for understanding. Share with a trusted spiritual mentor if needed.

Option D: Confusion Audit

- Identify one area of confusion in your life. Write it down, pray over it, and ask God for clarity. Research what Scripture says about that issue.

Closing Activity (10 minutes)

1. Confession: Ask God to forgive us for believing spirits that weren't from Him and for speaking negative words over ourselves and others.
2. Declaration: As a group, declare together:
 - "I cast out the spirit of fear from my heart and mind."
 - "In its place, I receive the peace of God."
 - "I will not live in confusion but in the peace of Jerusalem."
3. Intercession: Pray for anyone in the group who shared a specific struggle with confusion, fear, or spiritual discernment.

Memory Verse for the Week

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace." - 1 Corinthians 14:33

5-Day Devotional: Discerning Spiritual Communications

Day 1: The Foundation of Wisdom

Reading: Proverbs 4:7; James 1:5-8

Devotional: Wisdom is not merely knowledge—it's the principal thing. But notice the instruction doesn't stop there: "with all thy getting, get understanding." You can accumulate possessions, education, and experiences, but without understanding, you'll build a life that doesn't match God's design. Like assembling furniture without instructions, you might create something, but it won't be what it should be. God's Word is your instruction manual. When you feel confused or uncertain, return to Scripture. Ask God for wisdom, and He promises to give it liberally. Don't rush your spiritual growth; take time to understand what God is building in your life. Understanding eliminates confusion and brings clarity to every decision.

Day 2: Testing Every Spirit

Reading: 1 John 4:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:14

Devotional: Not every spiritual voice deserves your attention. The enemy disguises himself as light, speaking encouragement that leads to destruction. The serpent didn't attack Eve with harshness—he framed his lie as a benefit. Today, many spirits communicate through words people speak over you, memories that haunt you, and thoughts that discourage you. These aren't mere opinions; they're spiritual forces seeking permission to operate in your life. Your defense is the Word of God. Don't try the spirits by feelings or other spirits—test them against Scripture. When someone speaks something over your life, measure it against God's truth. Words spoken decades ago may still be lodged in your heart like leeches. Identify them, reject them, and replace them with God's truth.

Day 3: Peace Versus Confusion

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:33; Isaiah 26:3; James 3:16

Devotional: God authored a city called Peace—Jerusalem. Satan built a city called Confusion—Babylon. Every moment, you're dwelling in one or the other. God never produces confusion; where you find confusion, you've encountered the enemy's smokescreen. He uses confusion to mask his movements and keep you off-balance. The recipe for confusion is envy and strife, and from confusion comes every evil work. But here's your weapon: the peace of God that passes understanding. When confusion surrounds you, fix your mind on Christ. Begin praising God, remembering His faithfulness. Worship shifts your focus from the chaos to the Creator. Most problems are simply misunderstandings that need clarity, not warfare. Seek understanding, communicate clearly, and watch confusion dissipate in the presence of God's peace.

Day 4: Dreams, Visions, and Divine Instruction

Reading: Job 33:14-17; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17

Devotional: God speaks once, even twice, but we often don't perceive it. When you're too busy, distracted, hurt, or rebellious to hear Him during waking hours, God opens your ears while you sleep. He seals instruction through dreams and night visions. Not every dream originates from God, but when He speaks this way, you'll remember it vividly. That "weird dream" you can't shake may be divine communication. Don't run to ungodly sources for interpretation—seek believers with spiritual discernment. God uses dreams when your conscious mind is too cluttered to receive His message. If you've had a recurring dream or vision that won't leave you, pray for understanding. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what God is saying. He's trying to guide you, protect you, and prepare you for what's ahead.

Day 5: The Power of Humble Prayer

Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:14; James 5:16; Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: Prayer isn't your last resort—it's your way of life. God's prescription for healing is simple: humble yourself, pray, seek His face, and turn from wicked ways. Then He will hear, forgive, and heal. Notice that even God's people have "wicked ways" that need turning from. Your flesh requires constant retraining, and prayer is the pathway to transformation. Yet prayer is the hardest discipline for believers to maintain. We want others to pray when we're in trouble, but we neglect prayer when life is manageable. Humbling yourself means adjusting your schedule to prioritize God. It means acknowledging you need Him more than sleep, entertainment, or busyness. Prayer connects you directly to heaven, releases forgiveness, and brings healing. Make prayer your first response, not your final option. When God's people truly pray, breakthrough happens consistently.