

John

Series: **Unfazed: The Overwhelming Life**

July 17, 2016

Message Three:

## **Overwhelming Essentials**

John 7:37-53

Mention YouVersion –

**Mention 21 days of prayer/fasting – two new initiatives –**

- **All church connection system –**

**Mynewlife graphic**

**Growth Track graphic**

- Know God
- Find Freedom
- Discover Purpose
- Make a Difference

**Intro:** The passages we are looking at this month involve the opposition Jesus was facing – causes us to think about the opposition we are facing in our culture –

Regardless of the opposition, we can be thankful for this promise:

**Romans 8:37 – No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

**NIV - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

**The Message - None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us.**

What happens in this passage is still in the midst of the opposition –

Review the last two week's outlines -

**We've seen what the Lord gives and takes away in the midst of opposition.**

- **Jesus takes away fear.**
- **Jesus gives Himself.**
- **Jesus gives eternal life.**
- **Jesus gives the only Person in Whom to trust.**

**We've seen how to deal with opposition.**

- **Timing**
- **Truth**
- **Target**

**Big Idea: What do we need to be unfazed and overwhelm any opposition?**

**T.S.:** 3 necessities:

### **1. We need the Holy Spirit.**

John 7:37-39 - On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

If you have a spiritual thirst – it can be quenched by the living water of the Holy Spirit –

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ – you become a carrier of the Holy Spirit –

John 20:22 - Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19 - Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?

He has put the Holy Spirit in us – He has merged our spirits with the Spirit of God – this gives birth to the fruit of the Spirit in our lives –

The disciples had all of this – but when real opposition kicked in ... they really needed to be immersed in this Holy Spirit –

They were converted at the point of that John 20:22 verse –

But there was another life-changing encounter that gave them power –

Luke 24:49 - "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 – On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 8 –

Acts 9 –

Acts 19:1-6 - While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them.

"No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

"Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked.

And they replied, "The baptism of John."

Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus."

As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

Every believer needs this power – in the days of opposition to come, we need the power of the Holy Spirit!

Peter before and after ...

All of the Apostles – went from hiding in rooms to preaching in the face of martyrdom –

I believe when people have this experience they will overflow with such praise it cannot be expressed in the language we know – but this

experience is about a purpose greater than praying in another language – this is more than an experience – this is an encounter that grants the power that we need – the power that God wants to give us and has made available to all of us!

## 2. We need clarity.

John 7:40-49 - When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting." Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born." So the crowd was divided about him. Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him.

When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

"We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded.

"Have you been led astray, too?" the Pharisees mocked.

"Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!"

- The crowd was confused about who Jesus was.

A lot of people today are confused about who Jesus really is – we talked about this earlier this year – Socialist – self-help psychologist – wish-granting fairy – granter of prosperity – some think He's always angry -

We can never be confused about this ...

- Jesus spoke with clarity –

The testimony of those who could not arrest Him ...

They were confused.

- Those who wanted to kill Jesus and His message had clarity.

Those who are warring against the Church and its cause today are very sure of what they are doing. There is no waffling on their part.

The Church waffles and wavers – the Church is in disunity.

Some are unsure what the Bible says about Christ being the only way!

Some are unsure what the Bible says about sins that destroy and separate people from God!

Some give the signal that people can continue in sin and be right with God!

We must speak clearly – we must do so in love – but we cannot fail to speak! People's eternal souls are at stake!

We can say, "Oh, I don't want to say anything that might be offensive!"

The Gospel is offensive! We may offend someone even if we tell them lovingly that their sin will separate them from God, but we must speak it lovingly!

How do we do it in love? We tell them that God has a better life for them in this life and the next - that God loves them in spite of their sin – that the sin they are holding onto only gives temporary pleasure and fulfillment while God's pleasures last "forevermore" –

**Psalm 16:11 ESV - ...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

- Pleasure in sin for a season vs. pleasures forevermore ...

This is another reason we need the Holy Spirit –

I love to pray in the Spirit ...

But if that presence of the Holy Spirit filling me does not give me love for my enemies, then am I really full of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus told us to love our enemies ...

Luke 6:27-28 - But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

Only the Holy Spirit can help us do this –

That's why in the midst of this opposition – people wanting to kill Him – Jesus knew the same would happen to His followers – so He tells them – "Come and drink – you need the Holy Spirit – it is the only way you are going to survive these times – it is the only way you are going to survive the opposition – it is the only way you are going to continue to love people who hate you!

David Wilkerson & Nicky Cruz – “I’m going to cut you into a thousand pieces...”

Wilkerson: “And every piece will cry out, ‘I love you!’” –

That’s the power of the Holy Spirit!

That’s also a message of clarity –

Wilkerson’s message was not, “You’re sleeping with your girlfriend! You’re killing people! You’re selling drugs – doing drugs – this has got to stop!”

No – David’s message was something they had never heard before – “Jesus loves you – and I love you, too!”

And if you have a hard time saying that to human beings who hate you and want to destroy the Church and its mission – then you need to come and get the drink Jesus was talking about!

Jesus had a message of love! Jesus was crying out to everyone who came to the feast –

He didn’t just say the Holy Spirit was for followers – He was telling everyone, “You can get in on this, too!” He had something to give, a gift of love, the gift of the Holy Spirit, for everyone there.

All they needed was a thirst.

### **3. We need an open heart.**

John 7:50-53 - Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked.

They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!”

Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home.

This shows us that Jesus wasn’t speaking in a way to alienate everyone in the opposition.

Nicodemus was a part of the group opposing Jesus – He was part of the group who sent people to kill Jesus – He was part of the people who sent those soldiers –

But Jesus spoke in a way that even one of His enemies was listening to His words.

This is how we need to speak –

And Nicodemus had an open heart.

Sometimes in the Church we are ineffective because we are fighting among ourselves.

Ultimately, the Pharisees lost –

Yes, they succeeded in killing Jesus on the cross, but that was part of God's plan.

Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus continued to gain followers!

**Video “Risen” movie – Bartholomew to the Tribune: “They’re everywhere!”**

Jesus and His followers are alive and well – the Pharisees have been defunct for 2 thousand years!

The Beatles said they would be more popular than Jesus Christ – they broke up and disbanded arguing over money, music rights and contracts.

Jesus and His followers are still alive and well all over the world!

We in the Church need to be aware of this – if we fight among ourselves we will simply be aiding those who want to stamp the Church's influence completely out of our culture.

**The devil doesn't fear a divided church – the devil fears a United Church!**

There may be those in the Church that have a different view on a certain doctrine –

Speaking of the Holy Spirit ... our doctrine vs. others ...

Not everyone who is a part of this local group needs to agree – but we need to be united on Jesus and His message of forgiveness and love!

**Psalm 133:1 NIV - How good and pleasant it is When brothers live together in unity!**

John 17:23 NIV - ...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

So that the world may know – that's our focus – that's why we need unity.

Ephesians 4:3 NIV - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**What do we need to be unfazed and overwhelm any opposition?**

- The Holy Spirit
- Clarity
- An Open Heart

- Invitation
- Prayer
- Song:

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