



## BLP 39. A Deepening Walk With the Holy Spirit: Part 1

Mark Carter & Tammy Chapman

In today's episode, Pastor Carter conducts a fascinating interview with Tammy Chapman, Pastor, and wife to Senior Pastor Scott Chapman, at the Chapel, a local multi-site church. They discuss how to be faithful to and effective for Christ through partnering with Him, and the freedom and joy this offers.

**Relationship with the Holy Spirit and yearning for more.** // Tammy gave her life to Jesus when she was 14 and admits she didn't know much. In college, she joined a Christian group and was discipled by a classmate. As she was growing and learning through God's word, her mentor, Jennifer, helped her connect to God through prayer. One of the group rules specified that speaking in tongues was not allowed, but Jennifer told Tammy that she had that spiritual gift. Tammy was moved by how close Jennifer was to God and how prayer flowed from her. She wanted a similar, deep intimacy with God, so she began to pray for the gift of tongues, before she had even heard it spoken.

**Presence and power of the Holy Spirit.** // Gifts such as speaking in tongues or prophesying can be seen by some as somehow illegitimate, or fake. The Holy spirit is doing a work, worldwide, in His Church. His presence and power need space and acknowledgment. Some cessationists have recanted, and we're seeing less resistance and more openness to expressive spiritual gifts.

**Pressure to perform versus Holy Spirit leading.** // When Tammy first started, if someone would reach out with a struggle, she felt pressure ahead of time to have all the answers for them. She was carrying a burden that interfered with what God wanted to do in those situations. God has brought freedom and relief from this pressure in verse John 5:19 NIV *Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."* Jesus does nothing on his own, he only does what he sees the Father doing. She allowed the truth of what this verse means, Jesus is giving us relational ministry gold. John 5:20 NIV *For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does...* When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he began the Lord's prayer by saying pray to our father, not to my (Jesus') father. He uses Abba, a term of endearment, intimate and personal. Jesus



is saying, my dad is your dad, the intimacy I have, you can have. When someone came for counsel or prayer, Tammy didn't feel like she needed to have the answers for them. John 5:17 ... *Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."* God is already doing something- turn to God and work with him, you don't have to have the answers.

**Be effective.** // James 5:16 NIV *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* Even Jesus got frustrated when disciples weren't effective. "We should be striving for effectiveness, but I believe our ultimate effectiveness comes from being able to see what the Father is doing and partnering with Him." Be bold about praying for effectiveness, which creates less worry about performance. It's not about how good I'm doing, it's about my effectiveness, which revolves around what God is doing. My goal, instead of being the person with the answers and solutions, is to help the person receive from God directly. He has their answer, and it may just be what they need for today. Sometimes he wants to effect permanent change, sometimes it's to give someone something they need for that moment, that day, or season. "What is the father doing? My job is to come alongside the father and help the person across from me receive His love, His wisdom, His grace, what He has for them in that moment. That takes the pressure off me and I just get to be this beautiful conduit of helping you experience God because He loves His children."

**The importance of posture.** // Even if I've had a busy day, and may not feel as prepared to minister, it doesn't negate the reality the Father is always working, He is always ready. It doesn't fully depend on me. That said, the more I create a posture in my life that is attuned to God, orienting myself around him, I have space to connect and feel I'm drawing near to Him. Pay attention while out in the world, always have eyes to see. God will plan encounters, be in a posture of awareness, 'God what are you doing, right now?', it's a joyful and life-giving way to be, at any moment God is ready to show up.

**Spiritual profit in the waiting.** // "There is something formative that God does in us when we long for the things of God and we keep coming back." "We're going to spend eternity with Him and we will never get to the end of who He is, there is always more of His goodness, more of His love, and more to be discovered in him, and to be experienced." Sometimes when you see spiritual gifts in others and you say wow God, I would love to be able to do that, because I'd love for you to use me that way in people's lives, or experience you in that way. Sometimes the things you notice, see, and want are actually the stuff that God wants to do. He plants seeds. Tammy prayed off and on for ten years for this spiritual gift. The spirit was revealing God as Father to her. Through infertility, Scott and Tammy had an opportunity to adopt, they asked for friends to pray. People speaking to them prophetically, and in tongues, lots of people who knew spirit in different ways were faithful intercessors. Within a seven day period, they had more encounters (some brand new) with the



Holy Spirit than any similar time span before. The adoption didn't occur, but a friend called her to share she felt God wanted to give Tammy the gift of tongues, and He did, that day onward.

**God's best gift.** // Luke 11:13 NIV *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!* If you want more of the spirit of God, you'll never have to feel ashamed to ask. God wants to give us more of Him, it's the best gift He gives us. We have a relationship with God that isn't static, what you started with isn't what you end with, it's dynamic, growing, changing. He's going to give us more of Him so we can know Him better.



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