

# Welcome to Spiritual Wisdom Knowledge and Understanding

My name is Lisa Kane

This message is called "The Spirit"

Let's take a look at walking in the spirit.

## Mark 14:3-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

### The Anointing at Bethany

<sup>3</sup> And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head. <sup>4</sup> But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? <sup>5</sup> For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

<sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. <sup>7</sup> For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. <sup>9</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

I want you to see something here. The disciples got caught up in the whole ministry that they forgot the goal of what the ministry was about.

Not only did they forget, but they actually let a critical spirit overcome them, which caused them to bring down someone in the Lord, and I'm sure that was not their intent. They ended up doing something they didn't want to do, which was hurt someone or in this case, criticize her. But Jesus lifted her back up and as a result, she's known to everyone now who reads the gospel. Jesus was under the influence of the Spirit and was able to keep things in perspective

I want you to see that it's so easy to get caught up in our daily lives and church activities that we forget the end goal.

In the case of the disciples, the end goal was the death of Jesus, and understandably so that they missed this. They formed a bond with Him as they worked together, and even though Jesus told them of His upcoming death, there was a spiritual covering over them keeping them from knowing and understanding this, but I believe they could have known if they only asked and kept focused on it. But they didn't and this allowed a critical spirit to come in.

And then look what happened...

<b>Mark 14:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<b>Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus</b>
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<sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. <sup>11</sup> And when they heard <i>it</i> , they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.
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As soon as Jesus corrected them for criticizing her, you can see Judas was very upset and went to betray Jesus. He took the criticism personally...he disagreed with Jesus. He believed the poor were more important and Jesus tried to bring him back on track reminding him that His death was more important.

So you need to ask yourself, what is the goal of being a Christian? Are you so busy with the ministry that you have forgotten the end goal like the disciples did? And what can you do to stay on track with this goal?

<b>Philippians 3:14 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
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Paul's goal or prize was the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. He's saying focus on the eternity, not this present Earth we're in.

<b>Colossians 3:2 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
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Hallelujah! As you can see, this is an actionable item on our part.

Now, let me tell you a secret...if you keep the main goal / prize at the forefront, God will show you the things going on around you and help you understand the things going on that leads to those goals in your lifetime. This will help you stay focused and not get weighed down by a critical spirit or the unknown spirits hindering you every day like what the disciples faced and many face today.

How does this work?

<b>Galatians 5:16-17 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<b>Walking in the Spirit</b>
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<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
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Paul describes it perfectly..."do not do the things that you wish". How many people are realizing that they're doing things they didn't mean to do? For example, in Virginia this weekend, losing control and running over a crowd with a car because these people don't believe the same way you do.

Or how about all the road rage incidents, which are awful. They get mad and feel justified in doing what they do. I actually saw a video of a guy pull out a club and hit another man with it in a road rage incident. Then when they confronted him, he said he couldn't help himself.

These are classic examples of not being in control. Notice, what leads to this? Anger.

There's a time for anger and it can be controlled. Look at how Nehemiah handled anger...

<b>Nehemiah 1:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
<sup>3</sup> And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province <i>are</i> there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem <i>is</i> also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."
<sup>4</sup> So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned <i>for many</i> days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah was so upset that he wept and mourned multiple days, but instead of losing control, he fasted and prayed to God because he was in the Spirit. He focused on things above, not Earthly.

Now more than ever we need to be in the Spirit just from everything we're seeing on the news.

So what does the Bible say the Spirit is and is not?

<b>Galatians 5:16-26 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
<b>Walking in the Spirit</b>
<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, <sup>[a]</sup> fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, <sup>[b]</sup> drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told <i>you</i> in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those <i>who are</i> Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

In all the situations that I've seen in the news, the root is self. I want...and you prevented me. Using road rage as an example, "I want over here and you are in my way" but if I go any ways, they'll move and next thing you know, you've got a guy or gal fully angry trying to scare, intimidate, pass you and brake in front of you. And when that isn't enough, they force you to stop and possibly even pull out a gun.

However, in the Spirit, we have the opposite of self with love and kindness as just two examples related to road rage. So if someone wanted over in the lane while driving, the one in the Spirit would just let

him or her over. What a big difference...now sometimes people say they're willing to be nice if they turned on their turn signal...that's conditional and that's not being in the Spirit.

Being in the Spirit is unconditional. This is what the disciples were thinking when the woman broke the alabaster jar and poured the spikenard oil on Jesus head. Their thought that it was "better" and would serve more people if only...however Jesus in the Spirit reminded them of the end goal and that He was going to die.

You see being in the Spirit will keep you on track with the end goal. Help you realize that you are not of this world but are of the upcoming world.

And what was the most important thing here? Jesus dying...without His death, we have no resurrection. We have no eternity or forgiveness with God. The law wouldn't be fulfilled.

So the main important goal was Jesus dying. So when the woman showed up with the jar of oil, she prepared His body. She was focused on the spirit. The spirit moved her.

Is the spirit moving you? Are you even aware of the spirit? He's there and He's showing you exactly what He has seen.

<b>John 3:32 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<sup>32</sup> And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.
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The Spirit is going to tell you things He has seen and witnessed. He's going to keep you on track, but you need to be listening to Him. And make sure you test the things you hear.

<b>1 Thessalonians 5:21 New King James Version (NKJV)</b>
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<sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good.
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Just because something sounds good and makes sense doesn't mean it's right. For example, compromising the Word of God is never good, and yet many do it every day.

Earlier I read Galatians and it provided us a list of things that won't enter the Kingdom of God: "adultery,<sup>[a]</sup> fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders,<sup>[b]</sup> drunkenness, revelries, and the like"

Let's look at something here that may sound good like "selfish ambitions". Is it really wrong to have strong ambitions to be someone great? According to Galatians it is. Why? It's wrong because it's promoting yourself and will cause you to make decisions that make your "self" more important. For example, if you want to be a partner in the new law firm you're working for and they tell you to hide evidence of the latest case, they may make you partner...that's self promoting by compromise.

Now you see why selfish ambitions are wrong, and won't enter the Kingdom of God. Note, that's not the Kingdom of Heaven...remember:

**Romans 10:13 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”<sup>[a]</sup>

The Kingdom of God is the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. You can't enter this power and anointing when You aren't following the Word of God. God cannot bless wrong.

Obedience leads to entering this Kingdom and that means you need to know and see what will enter this Kingdom and what won't.

**Matthew 22:37-39 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>

If you truly love God, you'll obey Him and that means, you'll find out the things He doesn't like.

This is a key foundation in staying focused on the Spirit.

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, I ask that Your Spirit be upon me and help me stay focused on You and the things leading to Your end goals. I want Your goals to be my goals. Help me be able to do that.

In Jesus' Name Amen!

Make God's goals your goals and stay focused with the Spirit! Go and learn from the Word of God. Paul has many lists that state what will and what won't enter the Kingdom of God.

Walk in the Spirit and know what's going on around you. He will keep you on the straight and narrow!

Thank you for listening. I look forward to seeing you in Heaven celebrating our eternity together!

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