

Firm Foundation - July 12, 2026

Kevin Diggs I tell you what, I, I, I didn't, I wasn't sure what the spirit was going to do. I was just kind of prepared to sit there. You know, I, I have a word prepared for us, but, you know, I've come to realize I can't do it better than God. I can't. And when people come down here and they sit at the altar and like my wife said, there's going to be some things unleashed tonight. I think the most important thing that we can do sometimes as leaders is get out of the way, get out of the way, and let the Lord do what only the Lord can do. And so, as you can see, we're we're trying to build something a little bit different. We're trying to build by not building. We're trying, we're trying to, uh, to cultivate a culture without cultivating. I know that sounds funny, but when you're following the Holy Spirit and you're allowing him to lead, it's just surrender. Just surrender whatever you want. Lord. We surrender whatever you want. We surrender. I was sitting there for a moment. I'm like, you know, I gotta sit down because my legs are hurting, but I'm still going to keep surrendering. And so a lot of people said, you guys worship a long time. Yeah, we do, we do. And guess what? I don't even think we've become initiated completely enough in the spirit to where worship is going to go here eventually. See, the Lord desires his people in his presence. And tonight we're going to study something because I believe what the Lord is saying about a firm foundation really depends on us unlearning a few things. You see, Christians have been programmed for very a very long time. We don't even realize that. I'm here to tell you. I didn't even realize it. I've grown up in systems. I've grown up in programs and cultures that have told me how to do Christianity, But I'm here to tell you the only true way to do Christianity is to allow the spirit to carry you. And so tonight, I hope there is an unleashing. I believe there's been a restriction on the church for many years now, and the Lord is breaking it.

Speaker 4 Amen. Amen.

Kevin Diggs And it's not by one man or one couple. It has nothing to do with my wife and I. It has nothing to do with those who have come to Mark two twenty two. It's all by the hand of God. If you just look around, you can see it.

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs God is saying something. He is speaking. He is shaking the very foundations of his bride.

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs And he is saying, come back to me. Come back to the reason why I got up on that cross and I died for you. Turn, if you would to first Corinthians chapter three, first Corinthians chapter three. I'm going to read verses ten through fifteen. I'll be reading from the New Living Translation. Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it, but whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we have already have, Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the Judgment Day fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that

builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved. But like someone barely escaping through the walls of flame. We are continuing in our message series, a book of acts. Church, return to power and presence. If I had to put a title on tonight's message, it would be this a firm foundation, a firm foundation. Heavenly father, I thank you, Lord, that you have given us this word. But Lord God, most of all, Lord, I thank you that you are in this place. Your presence is with us. Lord God, you alone, Lord God, are the way, the truth, and the light, and all things have been brought to you, Lord God. So, Heavenly Father, as we study this word tonight, Lord God, continue to work in our hearts. Unleash us, Lord God. Restore your bride to its original form, Lord. Bring back the power of your presence, my God, let us abide in you because it's in your presence. Lord God, that we are made whole again where we experience peace. Lord God, when we experience your love. Heavenly father, I thank you for the people that are gathered here tonight. I thank you for the worship we've already had. Lord God and Lord God, I thank you for what you're going to continue to do. And it's a Jesus mighty name we pray and everyone in this House said, Amen and amen. Once again. I don't normally open this way, but I'm going to read a statement that I wrote. Typically, I don't even really use my notes. I just kind of flow. But I want to read this opening statement because I believe it sets things up for tonight. I believe the Holy Spirit is calling his church into a fresh return to the presence of God. Far too long, much of our discipleship has emphasized what believers are called to do more than who they are called to become. We have faithfully taught people to attend church, study scriptures, servant ministry, evangelize, and pursue holy living. Those things are good, necessary, and biblical. But they were never intended to become the source of our spiritual life. Somewhere along the way, we began teaching believers to build their Christian lives around church activity rather than spiritual Abiding. We became consumed with producing ministry instead of cultivating intimacy. In many ways, we have disciplined people into systems before we've disciplined them into the presence of Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit is inviting us to unlearn some things. He wants us to dismantle the mindset that says spiritual maturity is measured primarily by what we accomplish for God. The spirit wants to deliver us from the subtle belief that if we do enough, serve enough, know enough, or build enough, we will somehow become like Christ. The kingdom has never worked that way. The Christian life has never been about learning to imitate the fruit of Jesus. It has always been about learning to abide in Jesus until the Holy Spirit produces his life within us. As a result, many sincere believers have learned how to work for God without first learning how to walk with God. We have produced faithful servants, but not always abiding disciples. We have often taught people to imitate the works of Jesus before teaching them how to cultivate the relationship with the father from which those works flow. I believe this is one of the greatest discipleship challenges facing the church today. That is why Paul's words in first Corinthians chapter three are so important. Before he ever spoke about building. He spoke about the firm foundation. Everything that endures must be built upon Christ Himself. That is the burden of Mark two twenty two. We are not seeking to create a better church. Attenders or busier Christians. We are seeking to cultivate eight disciples who know how to abide in Christ, live continually dependent upon the Holy Spirit and minister from the overflow of his presence. Because until abiding becomes the foundation of discipleship, activity will always be, will always compete with intimacy. Works will always overshadow worship and doing for God will quietly replace being with God. I believe the Holy Spirit is

restoring his church, not to another ministry philosophy, but to the only foundation that can sustain everything he desires to build Jesus Christ. If I had to say what Mark two twenty two is about, we are not trying to teach people to imitate the life of Christ. We are teaching people how to abide in Christ until the life of Christ is formed within them by the Holy Spirit. When I was studying for this message and I was reading this opening statement as I was writing it, I began to look around at the condition of the church, the condition of my heart, the condition of people. And then we came and we prayed on Thursday night, and we started talking about the things that have to die. And I remember what the Lord said in John chapter twelve, truly a seed must die. A seed must die when it hits the ground. And if it's going to bear fruit. And if you understand this passage, when he says it has to be built on a firm foundation, you understand that Paul is coming. He's speaking to the Corinthian church, and he's just got gotten finished telling them, so you worship Paul, or you serve Paul, or you serve the works of Peter, or you serve the works of Apollos in Christ. And he's talking about the division that's taking place. And he's saying, when I spoke to you, at first I had to speak to you as a child, as a new believer, because you're not quite getting it and you've divided Christ. And so the insinuation is they're building something other than the foundation he has laid, because he says, anyone that builds on this foundation that's different from the foundation of Christ, it will not sustain. It, will not make it through the fire. And then I look at the condition of the church in our community, and I see how people are divided by their beliefs. And the reason they are divided by their beliefs because they're not built on the firm foundation any longer. Like the Corinthians, they've taken their own ideas of the scriptures, and they've developed their own programs and systems, and everyone is run with it. And they're saying, the Lord is here, the Lord is here, the Lord is here, and the Lord's not in any of it. But it doesn't mean the Lord has abandoned his bride. Right. He never does that. He will never leave us and never forsake us. But he is calling us. He's calling us back to a firm foundation. And this is what Paul was saying. He was saying, people of Corinthians, be careful. Be careful, because everything that you build will be tested. It'll be tested by fire. It'll be tested by the Holy Spirit fire. This is where we are tonight because as we prayed on Thursday, I think there are things even within ourselves. And I pray for the grace and mercy to say this. Even within myself, where I've walked through so many things in church, it's almost like I have to be unchurched to experience the new church.

Speaker 4 Right?

Kevin Diggs Right. When I was praying on Thursday and I started reading the scripture, I started reading it from a from a different perspective. Like I've never read it before. Almost like the church has been walking in a certain direction and the Lord has had a lot of grace and mercy, but the Lord has his. Is almost like the Lord gave me a vision that he was following the bride instead of leading the bride, wondering when the bride would turn around. Right. And when will you come back? How far do you want to drift? And then as I was praying and worshipping, the Lord said, Jesus Christ will always be enough. He'll always be a firm foundation. So what better life to look at if we're trying to return to a book of acts. Church. What better life than Jesus Christ? Because everything you need to see was demonstrated by his life. But you're going to learn something. We're going to look at something different about his life. We're going to teach something different tonight. Turn, if you would, to Luke three twenty one and twenty two. Tonight you will become the you understand the core values of Mark two

twenty two. This is what you're going to know about Mark two twenty two. My core value will never be a multi-million dollar building. My core value will never be. We have the greatest youth ministry or the greatest worship band, or the greatest women's ministry, the greatest men's ministry. I don't care. I think if those ministries are great, it's because we're falling on our knees at the altar. Because the Lord made him that way. But you're going to see some core values. And what I think the book of Acts church valued and what they saw. Luke three, verses twenty one through twenty two. One day, when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit in bodily form descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, you are my dearly loved son, and you bring me great joy. You see, Jesus, when you come to understand what he did. We always look at Jesus from the perspective that he was on the cross and he died for our sins. But there were so many things. He stepped out of his divinity into humanity and decided to live like us. He did not live like us just to do it. He did it so he could show a perfect life could be lived. If you followed God a certain way. So here he is, stepping out. He goes into the River Jordan. He's water baptized, but it doesn't stop there. Now the Holy Spirit comes on him like a dove. Why? Because the Lord saying, I'm stepping out of my divinity into humanity, showing the people that I will do everything by the spirit, by the spirit. I will consult my father. We also learn in Matthew three eleven through twelve I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I? So much greater. I'm not worthy even to be his slave or carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with the winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area. Gather the wheat into the barn, but burning the chaff with never ending fire. We believe Jesus did not merely come to forgive our sins. He came to fill his people with the Holy Spirit so they could live the Christian life as he demonstrated it. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not simply about power of ministry. It is the beginning of a life of continual dependence upon God. We also believe the fire of the Holy Spirit is God's refining work within us. As we abide in his presence, the Holy Spirit reveals what is not of Christ burns away what cannot remain and forms the character of Jesus within us. His fire does not merely empower us, it purifies us, transforming us from glory to glory. This is what you need to know. Jesus Christ was demonstrating something. He was saying, I'm going to be baptized in the spirit, and I have come not to baptize you with water, but to baptize you with spirit. And the Lord lived a life where he demonstrated that through the spirit he was able to accomplish things. My question to you then is, if the Lord was baptized in the spirit and he came to baptize you with the spirit, why don't churches focus on it?

Speaker 4 Amen.

Kevin Diggs What are we scared of? What is it? Have you ever noticed? We'll count the salvations. We'll count the water. Baptisms. But how many Holy Spirit baptisms? Now I get it. There are many people that believe, and I believe this, that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised him from the dead, you are saved, and the seed of the Holy Spirit is planted inside of you. I'm not trying to change the scriptures, but what I am saying is that the church has reduced salvation to a simple repeat after me.

Speaker 4 That's right.

Kevin Diggs And over time, it's become a system or a program. And yet the Holy Spirit is trying to work something out in us. And so for so long you would see people come down. And because of efficiency, the pastor would say the prayer, you repeat the prayer and then scoot on out because we got another service. But yet there was no time for it to work out, for the spirit to do its job, to the spirit, to reveal all truth. See, we don't see that in the book of acts. Last week we learned that Simon the Sorcerer was saved. He did commit his life to the Lord. He was water baptized, and it was said that he hung with Philip for a while. But it wasn't until the Holy Spirit came when Peter and John said, have you received the Holy Spirit? And they started anointing people with the Holy Spirit. We saw the true heart of the sorcerer. But then the mercy and grace of God came upon him and said, it's alright. You could still be forgiven. But it was the Holy Spirit that revealed the truth inside the man and revealed the truth to the people around him.

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs See? What am I saying? I'm saying one of the problems with the church is because we've reduced the salvation message to a simple repeat after me. We have created hybrid Christians. People that go through the motions. Maybe it's because they're sitting with friends, maybe the wife pulling that husband down. But what does the word says? If you believe in your hearts and confess with your mouth, you have to believe. But what happens is they do a repeat after me, and some person stands up and says, now you are good. Did we not judge? Thou shalt not judge. Or is it thou shalt just not judge me bad? Just tell me I'm good. But the Lord didn't say bad or good. He said, don't judge because the only person that can read the heart of a person is the Holy Spirit. And if we're going to return the church to the very foundation of Christ, then men have to get out of the way and let Christ work on the heart of the people. Now you know why we pray and why we worship, why we allow time here. Why? Because we want the Lord to unleash you from the thought process, that there's a certain etiquette, a certain way to dress. And if you got a lot of money, you could sit in the front. And if you're upper middle class here, middle class here, come on. You know what I'm saying? Yeah. So we're intentional about something. We're intentional about something. We're not just intentional about salvation and water baptism because it doesn't stop there like the disciples did in the book of acts. One of my favorite things about this young lady right here. Nancy. I love it when she does it. I love it when she does it. Have you received the Holy Spirit? That's what she does. Have you received the Holy Spirit? She's intentional. That's biblical. It's all in the Bible. It's biblical. I know you don't like she's. She's shy when you talk about her. But let me tell you something. It's biblical. I've watched her do it. Have you received the Holy Spirit, like Peter, like John? Have you received the Holy Spirit? He even said in the book of acts one time, we have never even heard of the Holy Spirit. They're intentional about it. Can I tell you another person? Remember, what's a firm foundation? Everything Christ did, Christ came out of the water. The Holy Spirit came on him. He came to baptize you and the Holy Spirit. The disciples were intentional about the Holy Spirit. Guess who else was? Watch. Go to John chapter seven, verses thirty seven through thirty nine. 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 been glorified. Watch this. He's preaching at a seven day festival. He comes the last three and a half days. If you remember the story, he tells the disciples to go. He says he's not going to come, but he comes about another way and they find him speaking. He's speaking for three and a half days, but when the speaking is over, he does something. When everyone's picking up and everybody saying, he says, if anyone thirsts, have him come to me, and I will give him living waters. Does that resemble a conversation that he once had with a woman? Next week. But here he is. I will give him living waters. Now, when I read this, this wasn't Jesus just giving us a line. He was demonstrating to the church the way to conduct yourself. When that sermon is over, you start equipping. When that servant is over, you start anointing people with oil. You start anointing him with the Holy Spirit because it's an intentional action. You let the fire separate. People are so worried about separate, separate, separate. What God is saying is, I'm taking all that nasty in you and taking it out. I'm separating it. But then we wonder why Christians struggle for so long. I don't know, I just don't believe God's never really never showed up in my life. Have you prayed? Oh, yeah. I spent time in his presence. Wow. But this is a question for the church. Have we taught him? One of our core values here will be the baptized people and the Holy Spirit. But our next core value will be how to abide. Versus Mark. The book of Mark. Verse one thirty five. Jesus preaches in Galilee. Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated area to pray. Luke, don't turn. I'm just going to read them. Luke five sixteen But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. Luke six twelve. Jesus chooses the twelve disciples. One day soon afterwards, Jesus went up on the mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. Do you see something? Always withdrawing, always praying, always abiding, always spending time with God? Why don't we talk about it? See, we like to talk about the fruit of Jesus, but we don't like to talk about how the fruit was manifested. See, he abided in the presence of the father. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus continually withdrawing to be alone with the father. While many admire his miracles, his authority, his compassion. Scripture repeatedly reveals the source from which his ministry flowed. Continual communion with the father. However, for generations we've emphasized the works of Jesus more than the way of Jesus. We have taught believers to pursue his power, imitate his character, and reproduce his ministry. Yet we have not always taught them to embrace the lifestyle from which those things flowed. Constant communion with the father. Constant communion. We have often tried to emulate the public life of Christ without first embracing the private life of Christ. You see, the disciples understood something. They got it. On any given Sunday, you can walk in a church and they'll say, let's talk about love. Let's talk about kindness. Let's talk about joy. Peace. Right. Come on. AM I right? You talk about these topics and. Al some scriptures and line it all up. Got it. Everybody be good Christians now. And so we focus on how to live a life like Christ and how to manifest that life, but not losing our own. And so we try to recreate something and we're told to recreate something, but we're never told how to abide. See, Jesus Christ didn't do it by his own will. He did it through the power of the Holy Spirit because it says, I do nothing that the father doesn't do. Everything I say, everything I do. I have seen the father do. This is why it says, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, he would withdraw himself to go look at Jesus. He would abide. So the disciples said something, Lord, Lord, we notice something. Teach us how to pray. Teach us how to abide. Teach us where you get that information and teach. Say, teach me how to

preach. Teach me how to heal. Teach me how to do miracles. Teach me how to walk on water. Peter did it, why can't I? No, no, no. They said, Lord, we see it. We see where the power flows. We see it. We see that every time you go and you come back, something happens. Every time you go, you come back. You say something. Every time you go, you come back. It's a radiant light. Lord, you're going somewhere. Teach us how to go there. Teach us how to pray. And yet, if you go to any church in America. They say we don't have time. But Paul said, any foundation. Anything built on this foundation that is not built with Jesus Christ will fail. And this is what he was saying. But here at Mark two twenty two, we're going to create space for you to abide. We're going to teach you how to pray. We're going to teach you how to rest. Can I tell you something? I understand that some of you are still restless during worship. I understand some of you. You're not you're not used to it. I understand some of you are not even used to praying along. Here's what's funny. You think it's you? Okay. Where do you think you come from? You come from a realm. That's all they have. You have to relearn and to relearn. You have to unlearn what this world has taught you. Yeah. You really believe you're sitting in that chair twitching because you were designed to twitch. Or maybe there's something that's gotta be worked out inside of you.

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs By abiding. So the Holy Spirit can separate the wheat inside of you from the chaff. And as it burns it up, you're going to be able to say, I just prayed for an hour. It felt like five minutes. I prayed two hours. I can't believe they're praying for twelve hours at Mark two twenty two. I can't believe we only had one day to do it. It says that the disciples were in the upper room for days before the Holy Spirit came. See, I see something about a Biden. I see something about the Holy Spirit. When you sacrifice a sacrifice of praise, that spirit can't help but start moving around, start moving around and burning up some things in your life. And what happens is you get more and more perfected because now you're yielding to the spirit, you're yielding to Jesus Christ, and the veil starts getting removed. And now you're reflecting something else. Now you're not just praying like this. You're like, yeah, let's do another one. Let's do another one. You change, you change. Psalms ninety one, verses one through two. He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. And I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress, and God will I trust. The secret place is not where ministry ends. It where it begins. Jesus never ministered independently. He ministered from intimacy. I'm here to tell you, we cannot expect to bear fruit of Christ while neglecting the lifestyle of Christ. Power without presence is unsustainable and fruit without abiding is impossible. The early church understood this. They did not simply admire the life of Jesus. They adopted his pattern before they moved in power. They waited in his presence before they were sent into the world. They were clothed with the Holy Spirit. Their ministry was never sustained by an ability alone, but continual dependence on God, just like Jesus showed them abiding. It's another one of our commitments here. People have been asking me, when are you going to do this? When are you going to do that? Don't worry about those things. Worry about what I'm telling you, what we're going to do. We're going to baptize people in the Holy Spirit because that's what Jesus did. And we're going to abide in his presence because that's what Jesus did. We are committed to teaching believers not only how to serve Christ, but how to abide in Christ. We believe the life of Jesus cannot be reproduced

through human effort. It is formed within us as we dwell in his presence and yield daily to the work of the Holy Spirit. You know I speak a lot about the Holy Spirit, yes I do. What I can't figure out is why certain places tuck it in the corner. Because if the Holy Spirit leads me to all truth about Jesus and I don't speak on the Holy Spirit, how are you getting there? Could that be building something on a foundation that is in Christ?

Speaker 4 That's right.

Kevin Diggs Do you see how fast a hybrid Christianity can be developed?

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs Do you see how people can start to worship a brand? This is where people come out. And I'm not look, I'm not I'm not here to hurt anybody, but I am here to speak truth. If you say, I gotta go to a church because it's got a good children's ministry, don't even write children's ministries in the Bible. Right? I'm not saying we shouldn't have them. We gotta have them. We want to bring up our way these kids in the ways and never depart. What I'm saying is people attend church just for that. Oh, I don't really get anything out of Sunday, but I really like this little group. What are we talking about? And I'm baffled sometimes. And then people go, hey, I wonder what Kevin's thinking. No, you don't want to know. You don't want to know because you don't. You don't know the God I know, the God I know. As soon as I step out of my door and I put that worship music on, hits me. By the time I get to my street, when I get to my street, I start walking. Then I got tears in my eyes. By the time I get to my circle, I don't know what to do with myself. People think I'm nuts and I don't care, and I just keep walking. When I get back and I walk with them there and I just keep going and the Lord just keeps dumping on me, dumping on me, dumping on me. I don't care about children's ministry stuff. I'm glad we got it. We gotta have it. But I need the spirit of the Lord to have any of that. And this is what the Lord is saying. If you want to be built on a firm foundation, you have to be built through the Holy Spirit because it's the only thing that will lead you to Christ.

Speaker 4 That's it. That's right.

Kevin Diggs Abiding is where you learn his voice. God doesn't speak to me. Have you abided? I learned my wife's voice over time. Now when she speaks, I know. Believe me. No no no. I know her so well. I know before she speaks. Now it's just eyes. I don't even think it's that anymore. It's me driving home. I ain't got there yet, you know. I just know, right? I know. And so it's all good too. But watch this. Watch this. I don't know his voice. How much time have you spent trying to get to know him? How do you know God's voice? And you know, everybody wants me to explain. God the Holy Spirit, I don't know. How do you explain intrusive thoughts? Come on. Negative thoughts. Thoughts of bitterness. Frustration. Anger. Why do we assume they all have to be negative thoughts? Why can't God now speak through the power of the Holy Spirit the other way?

Speaker 4 Right?

Kevin Diggs See, that's what I've learned. I've learned that he speaks that way. Oh, boom. That thought. You see, if we're naturally evil, where do you think that good thought came from?

Where do you think that love came from for someone? Where do you think that ability to forgive came from? You think it came from yourself? The Lord said you are evil. Even on your best days. You are filthy rags. No, it didn't come from you. It came from the power of the Holy Spirit. And the more you hang out, the more the intrusive thoughts have to go away. The angry thoughts have to go away. The frustration, the bitterness, the anger. All has to go away because there's an overpowering force of the Holy Spirit says, no, no, no, don't hate love. And this is what takes place. When we abide, we will abide here. This is the firm foundation that Christ expected His church to continue building on. One of our next core values be continuously filled with the spirit, continuously filled with the spirit. Let's read it again. John five nineteen. So Jesus explained, I tell you the truth, the son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the father doing. Whatever the father does, the son also does. John five thirty. I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just because I carry out the will of the one who sent me. Not my own will. Jesus ministered from a continual dependence upon the father. Did I say that already? I hope you're catching a pattern here. Everything Jesus did came From the father. Why can't we comprehend that everything we need to do needs to come from Jesus? This is where you get not my will, but your will be done. You see, when we baptize people, the Holy Spirit, and then we teach them how to abide. There's a transformation process that takes place because Paul says, it's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me. And when Christ lives within you, you start carrying out his will. You don't carry out your own will. And guess who did it? Jesus. I told you, there's no greater life to watch. But you see, once again, we focus on the fruit of Jesus life. But we don't see what? Bear that fruit. Watch. He spent constant time being filled. He did not withdraw once. He withdrew constantly, constantly, constantly seeking the father for direction, seeking the father for guidance. And where this is demonstrated most is the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is under intense pressure and he's praying. Since he was under so much pressure that there was blood coming out of his sweat because he was being crushed for us.

Speaker 4 Yes.

Kevin Diggs And then the Lord says something. Father, if it is your will, let this cup pass from me. Yet immediately he surrendered his own desires, saying, nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done. Do you see the will in Jesus? It was a piece of him that wanted to pass up the cup. He was showing you the difficulty of what was taking place. He was showing us the difficulty of sacrificing our will in the moment for the will of the father. And yet Hebrews chapter twelve says, yet you have not been crushed like the father has. And this is what's taking place. He's abiding. And because he's abiding, although he has feelings, although he has, he has these fears and all these things that are taking place because he's completely human and completely divine at the same time. It's the divine nature of the Lord that takes over and says, nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done. He was filled again and filled again and filled again, constantly in the presence and filled again. What would happen if people in the church continually withdrew to abide with Christ? What would happen when they're faced with the situation? They don't know how to deal with, but because they abide in Christ, no longer their will is active. It's God's will that's active. What would happen to the church? You see, somebody might be nasty to you or mean, but instead of rushing to the phone to tell your friend what happened, you rush to prayer and then you're able to send that person, hey, I still love

you. That's what happens in God's will. Jesus was able to lay down his own will because he had continually yielded himself to the father. His obedience in the garden was not a moment of sudden surrender. It was the fruit of a lifetime of continual communion with the father through the Holy Spirit. We see the same pattern in the book of acts. We see that the people are continuously filled. I'm going to read a little bit of a long passage, but I want you to see it. Acts chapter four, verses twenty three through thirty one. As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priest and elders had said. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God. O sovereign Lord, creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. You spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying what you use the Holy Spirit to speak through David. That's the revelation Peter starting to get while he prays. Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepared for battle. The rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah. In fact, this has happened here in this very city for Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate, the governor, the Gentiles and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. Watch the revelation again through the power of the Holy Spirit. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. They're learning something here. They're getting revelation and they're starting to see the Lord pour out. And now, O Lord, hear their threats. And give us your servants great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power. May miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant, Jesus. After this prayer, the meeting place shook and they were all filled with the holy. Wait a minute, wait a minute. Weren't they filled in acts chapter two? So why are we getting filled in acts chapter four? So not only have we reduced salvation and baptism and stopped there, and don't anoint people with the Holy Spirit, they're saying, you don't just anoint people. The Holy Spirit, you continuously get filled by abiding. When they were praying, the place shook and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Then.

Speaker 5 So wait wait wait wait wait wait.

Kevin Diggs Peter receives the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two in the Upper Room should be it, right? We got it. Operating power. Peter did some great things in acts chapter three. He healed somebody. He gets arrested. He's doing good. He gets out, he's still believing he's good. But then Peter says, no, no, no, no, Lord, I need more, I need more, I need more bravery, I need, I need, I need you to, to, to anoint me with the miraculous powers. He says, I, I, I experience acts chapter two, but now I need an acts chapter four feeling.

Speaker 4 Yeah.

Kevin Diggs So he fills him again. Paul is saved on the road of Damascus. Struck down, struck blind. He sees Jesus. He believes at that moment. But he doesn't stop there because Jesus sends a man to lay hands on Paul. So Paul is anointed with the Holy Spirit, and then the scales fall off because it had to reveal the truth. Now I can see. Now I can see you see the intentional nature of the Holy Spirit. You see the intentional nature of Jesus abiding. Do you see the intentional name that he kept withdrawing to keep being filled? This is the firm

foundation of Christ. Christ didn't say, hey, guys, wrote this up. This is the people in charge. This is all their titles. This will be the system program we run. Let's meet every Thursday. Talk two hours about it. Okay. By the way, I'm CEO, CEO, lead pastor, you know. So what he did, he withdrew. Lord, I gotta, I gotta, I gotta speak to five thousand. Withdraw. Lord, I gotta I gotta choose twelve disciples to withdraw. Lord, I gotta, I gotta, I gotta take this bitter cup. Withdraw. Always withdrawing. The Lord spoke to me about Mark two twenty two. He said, you're on the cusp. Yeah, you're on the cusp. You're being unleashed. You're figuring it out. You're getting there. But what the Lord is saying. I need you to unlearn some things. You see, your idea of a children's ministry comes from your past. Your idea of a men's ministry comes from your past. The women's ministry comes from your past. Your idea of small groups comes from your past. And the Lord saying, if you want to have a small group, if you want to have a children's ministry, you need to go through me because the Holy Spirit's going to lead you into a new way of how to do this. You're going to see it differently because you can't possibly take it. I need you to see if you can do me a favor. I don't know if you can do this. I wasn't going to do this. I'm going to do this. Can you bring up Luke chapter seventeen, verse twenty eight and go to the end? Twenty eight go to the end. I read something differently than I ever read it in my whole life, my whole life. If you could get Luke, I think it's Luke seventeen twenty eight. Carla, tell them the last verse in that New Living Translation, if you can get it, is that it? And the world will be as it was in the days of lot. People went about their daily business, eating and drinking and buying and selling, farming and building until the morning lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be business as usual right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day. A person out on the deck of the roof must not go down into the house. To pack. A person out of the field must not return home. Remember what happened to lot's wife? If you cling to your life will. You will lose it. And if you let life go, you will. You will save it. Let me read that again. If you cling to your life, you will lose it. And if you let your life go, you will save it. Where did we hear that? Did we not hear that about the seed? Same lot. That's. That's what caught me. Same line, same line. Keep going. That night, two people will be asleep in one bed. One will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill. One will be taken, the other left. Where will this happen, Lord? The disciples asked. Jesus replied, just as a gathering of the vultures show, there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near. Keep going. If there is. Watch. I read this as end time prophecy all my life. But when I looked at it again and I saw the caucuses, it meant what was spiritually dead.

Speaker 4 Yeah.

Kevin Diggs It's dead. Don't go back in your house. Don't go back to your past and grab your things. Don't look back like lot's wife. You've been saved from that. The Holy Spirit has come upon you and revealed truth. Do not go back. Move forward. This is why it says one was taken, one did. One decided. This is good enough for me. But one said no, no no no. I'm going. See I never I understand it could still be in times, but I mean, it's so funny. So they're dancing around caucuses. But those people were taken. How can they dance around a caucus and be taken. Because it's it's an insinuation that most theologians believe that the good people were left to keep going. But why would why would birds dance around caucuses that are supposedly taken. And then it hit me, it's a dead place. And it didn't hit me when the Lord said, truly a man

must give of his life if he wants to live. And then I started to see the spirit and the fire in it. See, when God was revealed, when was Christ revealed? When the Holy Spirit came and said, I'm revealing all truth about Jesus Christ. Now read the scriptures now. See what the Lord is saying. He's saying, leave your past behind and all the thoughts you had about church, because behold, I am doing a new thing. Oh. My wife's known me all my life. And, uh, you know, I've always been two things I've. This is probably my pride saying it, but I've always been a tough guy. But I've also, I love hard. I don't know any other way I love hard. And I hate when y'all struggle, I hate it. I pray hard for y'all because I hate your struggle, I hate it, I hate it, I hate it. I hate when y'all. Get upset when you see each other, I hate it, I hate it not because I'm, I'm upset with y'all. I just hate what the enemy does. I hate it and the Lord is sitting there like, man, if they just just rest, just just just come and hang out and they'll realize that was the enemy lie. Because how could two people that want the same thing be any different? Not when it comes to the Holy Spirit. The Lord said, Mark two twenty two is on the cusp, but there were things they gotta let go. They can't look back like Lot's wife. And it didn't just say it to you guys. He said it to me. There are things you gotta let go. You gotta let it go, Kevin. Gotta let it all go. You know? I have I have a weird. I'll just be a weird, weird. I, I I've never been scared of anything except snakes. Uh, but I also had this weird fear, you know, I'm. I'm strong spiritually, but I got a weird area. It's my kids love my kids. I love my kids to the point where I'm so. I've seen a lot of them. I've seen a lot of the world. I've seen a mess. I think the Lord allowed me to do that when I was in a cover band, and I saw a lot of mess. I saw a lot. I saw more than a person should see. I saw it. And so I, you know, the Lord's working on me. I have to shut my eyes. I gotta, I gotta unsee things. I gotta go, Lord, I trust you, I trust you, I trust you. And he's working on me. That's where he's working on me. I said, hey, you gotta go. You're not mine. I just here to steward you, bring you up in the ways that you belong to him. I said, the Lord is teaching me to trust more, me to abide and me to believe in him. I'm no different than you. You're no different, no different. But I want to say this to you. Please stand. Christ centered, Christ centered churches. I mean, really Christ centered. What does it mean to be really Christ centered? It's not about trying to copy Christ's life. It's about building the life of Christ within you. See? Watch this. If you build Christ within you, are you a copycat or are you the original thing? Do you see how the Holy Spirit reveals truth? You see, when you're the real thing and Christ grows within you, you're the authenticity, you're the authentic article, and people are going to go, that's a real life. That's real. But if we try to just go through the motions and hang on to our life and see if we can act like Christ. The spirit goes, that ain't it. See, tonight I was going to talk about worship and the laying on of hands and praise. And I think I'm going to get to that next week. But the Lord said, you're not released yet, because there are people in the congregation that still don't understand what I'm trying to pour out. He said, well, he poured it out in Acts chapter two and he's ready to pour it again. The Lord loves pouring. He loves it. My wife said something about being unleashed. What's holding you back? What's in your past? Can you not let go? What desire? Ambition you might have. That may not be the Lord's will. What do you need to trade in? What do you need to sacrifice? What do you need to let die? So the spiritual future in your life can live. This is the question I'm asking you tonight. The Holy Spirit is here. We're going to baptize people in the Holy Spirit. We're going to teach people how to pray and abide in the Holy Spirit. And we're going to continually do this because the Lord is ready to refill and refill, refill and refill and refill because it's a continual abiding. I want to say

this if there's something you gotta let go, I want you to come to the altar right now.

Kevin Diggs You don't need me to count anything. Just let it go. Just come to the altar. Let it go, let it go, leave it here. Leave it here, leave it here. Leave it here for your future. Your future has something for you. The Lord is saying, my future for you is good.