

TALK IT OVER

APOSTOLIC VOICES

PART 4 | 13 OCTOBER 2025

NOTES TO LEADERS

Share these upcoming dates with your group:

1. Our next prayer meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday, the 21st of October. Dinner will be on sale from 6pm. Please encourage your LifeGroup members to be there.
2. This Sunday we have Lifegroup Sunday at all three services. The aim is to talk about all things LifeGroup and give people who are not in a LifeGroup an opportunity to get into one. If you know of someone who is not in a lifegroup (or the people in your group know of someone) please invite them to one of the info session on Sunday to hear more.

SCRIPTURES

1 PETER 1:23-25

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, 'All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 PETER 2:1-10

23 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The living Stone and a chosen people

4 As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,'

8 and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

- 1.1 Peter 2:9 says we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. What do these three descriptions reveal about our identity and purpose as the Church?
2. Tyrone said, "The Church is not [ultimately] about people; it's a people who are about Jesus." How does that shift how you view church?
3. Martin Luther said, "Wherever God builds His Church, the devil builds a chapel." What might "the chapel" look like in today's world or even in our own lives?

START SHARING

1. What helps you keep your relationship with Jesus central amidst all the busyness and concerns of life?
2. On Sunday we heard "God is working on us while He works through us." How have you experienced God "working on you" in this season? How does that affect how He can "work through you"?
3. Of the six cultures Tyrone described, Christ, Conviction, Community, Calling, Caring, and Commission, which one do you feel strongest in, and which one do you sense God inviting you to grow in?

START PRAYING

Pray that we would be a people who reflect Jesus fully, cultivating a culture that glorifies Him in every area of our lives.

START DOING

Focus on one culture from the six that you feel God is highlighting to you. Ask the Holy Spirit each day to show you how to practice it in your home, work, or relationships.

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Tyrone Daniel shared a challenging message on 6 cultures to create and cultivate.

One of the biggest distractions in life is not being able to see what God is doing.

We can get so distracted by what God's not doing, because we can't see what He is doing.

There are two key things that God is about:

1. God is working on us.
2. God is working through us.

In other words, we are God's mission while we are on God's mission. We generally love being on His mission, but we don't always love being His mission! We want God to work through us, to use us... but not so much on us. He's committed to both. He's bringing us to maturity.

Did you know that you can love the Church and not love Jesus? But you cannot love Jesus and not love His Church. If you truly love Jesus, you'll love His Church. There are people all over this nation gathering as the Church who are perhaps making it all about everything except the most important One: Jesus Himself.

Jesus is the central theme of everything. It's not about us. The Church is not about people; the Church is people who are about Jesus. While we are central to the plan of God, Jesus is the centre of God's plan. Everything revolves around Him.

Martin Luther once said, "Wherever God builds His Church, the devil builds a chapel."

Whatever God creates, the devil imitates to corrupt and distract. So just because we do what we do doesn't guarantee that God is in it. We can give our time, attention, affection, and raise our families in church life, but that doesn't guarantee that we're doing what God has called us to do. The devil is subtle. He does more damage through imitation than opposition. It's a subtle, ongoing drift, where we get busy with things that seem right, maybe even "church culture," but they aren't necessarily what God has called us to do. Jesus is not building a chapel; He's building His Church.

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Then chapter 2 continues (a powerful description of how God sees His Church).

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8 and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' [d]

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:1-10

- God calls US chosen. That speaks of dignity.
- He calls us a royal priesthood. That speaks of destiny.
- He calls us a holy nation. That speaks of being distinct.

Set apart for God. Not set apart from Him. We're different, not because of what we've done, but because of what He's done.

The Church's role is not to keep us happy; it's to help us become holy. And that often makes us uncomfortable! We belong to Him. Bought by Him, paid for by Him. What a privilege!

We are called to declare. The Church is not the way to Heaven; Jesus is the Way. But the Church is the sign that points people to Heaven. That word declare literally means to advertise. We are billboards for God's glory! The question is: what are people reading from our lives? Not just on Sunday, but every day.

C. S. Lewis said, "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw people into Christ."

6 Cultures to Create and Cultivate

These are not just moments or events, but lasting cultures that shape how we live and lead as God's people. If we can take hold of these and build them from Scripture, then we'll never need to worry about becoming a chapel. We'll remain the Church that Jesus promised to build.

1. A Culture of Christ

Christ is the culture we must pursue above all else. He's not an add-on or an ingredient in the mix, He is the mix. The enemy distracts and divides us, keeping us busy with good things that replace the God thing. He shifts our focus from the person of Jesus Christ, and if he can convince us he's not even real, we won't resist him.

Many have grown up in church but never grown up in Christ. Have we built church culture at the expense of Christ culture, celebrating activity more than intimacy, busyness more than being with Him? A body without a head is a corpse, and the devil knows it. If he can get the Church doing good things without Jesus at the centre, he has nothing to fear. Our authority, power, and purpose are found in His name.

We must keep Christ first, not just on Sundays, but every day. People lose their way when they lose their why. And Jesus is the why. He's the reason we do what we do, not for leaders, crowds, or nations, but for Christ Himself. He is our motivator, our message, and our mission. If we lose Him as our why, we'll start serving religion instead of relationship.

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

The main thing is not “keeping the main thing the main thing”, it’s keeping the main One the main thing. If we aren’t being shaped by Jesus, we’re being shaped by something else. May it never be said of us that we got busy with ministry and forgot the Man.

Christianity is Christ. It’s not a pursuit of something but of Someone. If we chase platforms or ministries instead of Jesus, we’ve become a chapel; if we pursue Him, we’re the Church.

Revelation 19 says, “The Bride has made herself ready.” The story doesn’t end with a war but with a wedding. Jesus is coming back for a Bride, pure, devoted, and in love with Him. We shouldn’t get so busy fighting that we forget why we’re fighting. It’s not about the battle, it’s about the Bridegroom.

Paul said, “I want to know Christ.” Not just serve Him, but know Him. Intimacy before activity, relationship before responsibility. Let’s be known not for what we’re against, but for who we’re with. Not for militancy, but for intimacy.

Whole generations are turned off by a Church that’s anti-everything when what they long for is a people in love with Jesus. Let’s be known for our intimacy with Him, not just our opinions or causes.

Modern Christianity wants Jesus as a therapist to heal their pain, but not as Lord to lead their life. We can’t have one without the other. Do we want what He gives, or do we want Him?

Hebrews 13 reminds us: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” People change. Ministries change. Leaders change. But Jesus never changes. If our faith is in anything or anyone else, we’ll be disappointed. Only Christ remains steady and true. He is our why, our what, and our how. When we lose sight of Him, everything unravels. When we stay centred on Him, everything finds its rightful place.

2. A Culture of Conviction

Conviction keeps us standing when everything else is shaking. Too many people change what they believe when life gets tough. When circumstances shift, their theology follows. But conviction isn’t shaped by comfort; it’s forged in truth.

Conviction doesn’t come through persuasion but through revelation. It’s birthed by the Word and sealed by the Spirit. We’re not called to convince people - that’s the Holy Spirit’s work. Our task is to live with such consistency that our lives demonstrate what we believe.

What will future generations believe because of us? What we tolerate today, they’ll celebrate tomorrow. We can’t afford to be casual about truth. Someone once said, “A church without mixture will receive the Spirit without measure.” God pours His Spirit on those who are fully His - people of Word and Spirit. The Word without the Spirit is powerless; the Spirit without the Word is weaponless. We need both.

The greatest threat to Scripture isn’t those who oppose it, but those who claim to believe it while ignoring what it says. The Bible isn’t a book of personal promises; it reveals God’s purposes. When we live for His purpose, we can stand confidently on His promises. Maturity means feeding

ourselves. The milk of the Word is digested by someone else; the meat is what we receive directly from God. Don’t rely on second-hand revelation.

The Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when you read it. When He speaks to us, no one can unconvince us. That’s conviction. We love verses that encourage us, but avoid the ones that correct us and shape us. The Church doesn’t just need inspiration; it needs formation. Let’s be people of conviction - unshakable in truth, unashamed of Scripture, and unwavering in faith. Because in a world of shifting beliefs, only conviction will keep us anchored.

3. A Culture of Community

One of the greatest hindrances to the Gospel isn’t the world’s self-indulgence, it’s the Church’s self-sufficiency. Some of us have walked with God long enough to think we know how to “do church.” But if we think we can do this without Him, we’re not the Church, we’re a chapel.

Jesus said, “Apart from Me, you can do nothing.” If the Holy Spirit isn’t the power behind what we do, we’re just performing religious activity. He’s not optional, He’s essential. Without Him, we have no conviction, no revelation, no life. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the beauty of Jesus. We can’t learn that kind of revelation; we catch it.

So we honour Him, not by inviting Him in, but by following His lead in everyday life.

He empowers us not only to speak and heal, but also to forgive, to stay quiet, to love when it’s hard. Let’s never become so skilled at church that we stop depending on Him. Let our posture always be, “Holy Spirit, You lead and we’ll follow.”

Our building may be impressive, but this is not the Church; it’s where the Church gathers. We can attend every Sunday and still not be planted in community. God didn’t just save us for Heaven; He placed us in family. The Bible tells us that God “sets the lonely in families.” We don’t choose our family, God does.

And in His wisdom, He places us among people who stretch us, challenge us, and help us grow. We don’t leave every time we’re offended; we stay because God planted us.

We can’t grow if you’re not planted. When we realise He put us here, we stop attending and start belonging, stop consuming and start contributing.

God heals us in community, not away from it. How we treat one another either validates or undermines the Gospel. Francis Schaeffer said, “The Christian community is the final apologetic.” The world will judge the truth of our message by the love we show each other.

Conflict will happen. But when we despise, ignore, or talk against one another, we misrepresent the One we claim to love. So let’s handle conflict God’s way, walk in forgiveness, and choose unity over offence. We can’t mature without people or grow outside of community. We truly are better together - not as a slogan, but as a Kingdom reality.

4. A Culture of Calling

Every one of us has a call. Our calling isn’t just about ministry or preaching, it’s about representing Jesus in whatever sphere He’s placed us. Some of us think that at the end of our lives or ministries, God will bring out a calculator to add up everything we’ve done (the people we’ve reached, the ministries we’ve led, the things we’ve built...)

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

But God's bringing a *scale*. He's not going to measure how much we did; He's going to weigh *how much of Jesus* is in what we did.

Our calling isn't about *activity*, it's about *authenticity*. How much of Christ is reflected in our lives, our leadership, our businesses, our families, and our ministries? Because God's ultimate goal is that we would be *conformed to the image of His Son*. We're all called to maturity, to multiplication, to Christlikeness.

Don't chase titles or recognition; chase transformation. The Church doesn't need more impressive people, it needs more surrendered ones.

5. A Culture of Caring

Someone once said, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving."

God so loved the world that He gave. We're not called to serve the Church out of duty; we're called to serve God out of devotion.

The defining mark of a follower of Jesus is generosity - with our time, our talents, and our treasure. God does not oppose wealth, but He does command generosity. God doesn't want our resources to stop with us, He wants them to flow through us.

Keep sowing, keep sending, keep releasing, because the Kingdom of God doesn't grow through hoarding - it grows through pouring. As we give, He gives more. As we release, He releases more. That's the law of the Kingdom.

6. A Culture of Commission

We will not impact the world by simply going to church. We impact the world by being the Church. Sundays are essential, but they're not the destination; they're the launchpad. This is where we gather, get equipped, and get sent.

The Gospel is a missions message. The Bible is a missions book. The Great Commission is a missions mandate. And the Church is a missions people.

The closer we walk with Christ, the more missional we become. We can't claim to love Jesus and not care about the people He died for. We've been given a mandate from Heaven to reach cities, regions, and nations that have never heard the name of Jesus.

Psalms 2:8 says, "*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance.*" We often quote that as if the nations are our inheritance, but they're His. The nations belong to Jesus, and we get to share in His inheritance by going where He sends us.

So may the Lord grip our hearts again, not with guilt, but with gratitude. Not with pressure, but with passion. May He lift our eyes beyond ourselves and cause us to see what He sees, a harvest ready for the reaping. Let's live for His name. Let's love like He loves. Let's go where He sends. Because at the end of it all, it's all about Jesus. Always has been. Always will be.