

JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark
PART 76 - Mark 16:17-20

Standing Firm in Jesus' Name

READ: Mark 16:17a and Ephesians 6:10–18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) In Mark 16:17, casting out demons is listed among the signs accompanying believers. What examples elsewhere in Scripture demonstrate Jesus' authority over evil spirits and His ability to work through His followers?
2) In Ephesians 6:10–18, what does Paul tell ordinary Christians to do in response to spiritual opposition? What does this passage teach us about where our spiritual strength comes from?
3) Pastor G said, "Our authority isn't some supernatural power we possess independently! It rests entirely in Jesus, and we must continually exercise faith in and dependence upon Him through prayer!" How does this understanding change the way we approach spiritual warfare, temptation, or other challenges to our faith?
4) What are some practical ways we can stand firm against the schemes of the devil without becoming preoccupied with demons or overlooking ordinary physical, emotional, and psychological needs?

Different Gifts, One Holy Spirit

READ: Mark 16:17b and 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 27–30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Mark 16:17 mentions speaking in new tongues. What do Acts 2 and Paul's teachings in 1 Corinthians tell us about the purpose of this gift and its role in the early church?
2) According to 1 Corinthians 12, who determines which spiritual gifts individual believers receive? Why is that important when evaluating the claim that every Christian must demonstrate a particular gift?
3) Pastor G said, "Just because something happened among believers doesn't mean every Christian is supposed to demonstrate it!" How can this principle help us distinguish between biblical descriptions of what happened and instructions about what all Christians should do?
4) Christians sometimes disagree about the nature and continuing operation of spiritual gifts. How can we examine Scripture carefully, remain faithful to our convictions, and still demonstrate love and respect toward believers who interpret these passages differently?

Trusting God Without Testing Him

READ: Mark 16:18 and Matthew 4:5–7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Mark 16:18 mentions handling serpents, surviving deadly poison, and healing the sick. Which of these signs are independently illustrated elsewhere in the New Testament? What important distinctions does the sermon make between God's ability to protect or heal and our responsibility to act wisely?
2) In Matthew 4:5–7, Satan challenges Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. How does Jesus respond, and what does His response teach us about the difference between genuine faith and presumption?
3) Pastor G said, "God's ability to protect us is not permission to put Him to the test!" What are some situations in everyday life where Christians might be tempted to confuse trusting God's promises with demanding that God prove Himself?
4) James 4:15 and James 5:14–15 emphasize God's will and the importance of praying for the sick. How can we pray boldly, with genuine faith and expectation, while leaving the outcome in God's hands? How should we respond compassionately when someone we have prayed for does not recover?

The King Is Still Working!

READ: Mark 16:19–20 and Acts 1:1–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Mark 16:19 describes Jesus ascending into heaven and sitting at the right hand of God. What do Acts 1:1–11 and other New Testament passages teach us about His Ascension, His authority, and His continuing reign?

2) Verse 20 says the disciples went out preaching while the Lord continued working with them. What does that tell us about the relationship between our responsibility to share the Gospel and Jesus' continuing work through His people?
3) Pastor G said, "Jesus had ascended, but He hadn't stopped working!" How does knowing that Jesus is still actively working through His Holy Spirit and His people encourage you in your own walk with Him?
4) As we conclude our entire journey through Mark, consider Pastor G's closing challenge that the Gospel reached us because someone before us answered Jesus' call. Who helped bring the Gospel into your life, and what specific step can you take to make sure it doesn't stop with YOUR generation?