

Strong Foundations: The Word and The Spirit

Do Word and Spirit go together in local church life? What does a church, both mature in the word of God and in stewarding the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit, look like? Often churches emphasise one to the exclusion of the other. Is there a better way? Is it possible to combine robust exegesis of scripture with extraordinary manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence? Might the church in the coming days across Europe experience maturity and fruitfulness in both?

Jon Beardon is a member of the Relational Mission core team, with responsibilities that include overseeing the team of directors responsible for governance, finance, and communications and directly supervising some of the Relational Mission churches in the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic (Pardubice), and Serbia (Nis.) Jon loves working with these local churches to strengthen them and foster unity between them overflowing into ownership of shared church planting mission. In the United Kingdom this takes the form of the 20/20 initiative – reaching 20 more places in the East of England over 20 years since the year 2020. In the south of Serbia, he is working with longstanding local partners to serve a movement of Roma churches through teaching and training. Jon is a local church elder based at Wellspring Family Church, Dereham, a church he planted in 2002. Jon has a secondary teaching qualification, he spent six months in Ghana as a missionary, and for nearly five years worked as a schools' evangelist in the United Kingdom, before focusing solely on local church ministry and mission since 2000. Jon has a BA in Theology from London School of Theology. He is married to Nicky and has four children. In his spare time he plays field hockey and likes to walk.

- I. Word of God
 - A. Sola Scriptura / Prima Scriptura
 - B. Reading and meditation
 - C. Read the 'classics'
 - D. The whole counsel of God
 - E. Teach beyond your experience
 - F. We worship the God of the Bible – not the Bible!
 - G. Recognise the grace on others
 - H. Weigh the principle not the observable

- II. Holy Spirit
 - A. Belief in gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit
 - B. Misuse and mishandling
 - C. Praxis based on scripture, not experience
 - D. Life by relationship – Word and Spirit
 - E. Avoiding prescriptive ideas
 - F. Freedom is key
 - G. Gifts are situational not possessional
 - H. Facilitating the Holy Spirit

Suggested Readings: See Session 1 Notes