

Word and Spirit: A Match Made in Heaven

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?

Mike Betts leads Relational Mission, a network of churches which is part of the global Newfrontiers family. He is the author of *From the Inside Out, Relational Mission: A Way of Life*, and a soon to be published book on corporate prayer. Mike is passionate about the church enjoying her inheritance in Christ, involving church planting, gospel expansion, corporate prayer, and seeing the next generation grow into all that God has for them. Mike is married to Sue, and they live in Lowestoft, Suffolk, UK. He is part of the eldership team at Lowestoft Community Church, which he, Sue, and a number of others planted over 30 years ago. At that time Mike and Sue sought help and advice from Terry Virgo, who had begun to serve emerging churches. Terry's work and relationships with churches became the start of Newfrontiers. In 2011, Terry handed over responsibility for Newfrontiers to a number of his spiritual sons, and Mike began to lead the network that is now Relational Mission. Relational Mission works predominantly in the UK and mainland Europe but with growing connections across the world. Its network includes some 70 churches of which 30 are church plant and pioneering situations.

I. Word of God

- A. Sola scripture / Prima Scripture
- 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. Cessationism through conviction or hurt?
- 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