



## **Undeclared, Underrated**

Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr.

### **Sermon Summary**

This message reminds us that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, guiding us from within rather than through outside experiences. Every temptation and sin fall into three categories—the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life—and while these desires are destructive, Jesus overcame them all. As believers, we live with a “mixture” of spirit and flesh, which means we must learn to quiet our flesh and listen to God’s Spirit. Hearing His voice is what brings strength, direction, and victory in our daily lives.

### **Opening Question**

- Have you ever felt like two voices were pulling you in opposite directions? What was that experience like?

### **Scripture Reading**

Read together: **1 John 2:15–17, Matthew 16:13–23, Romans 7:15–25**

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **1. The Inside Job**

- a. How does knowing the Holy Spirit lives inside you change the way you think about guidance from God?
- b. Why do you think so many Christians still look for God’s voice “out there” instead of inside?

#### **2. The Three Temptations**

- a. Which of the three (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life) do you feel culture pushes on us the hardest?
- b. Which one tends to be the greatest struggle for you personally, and why?

#### **3. Jesus’ Example**

- a. What can we learn from the way Jesus used Scripture when tempted?
- b. How can we use God's Word practically in our own battles?

#### **4. The Mixture Within**

- a. Romans 7 describes the war between spirit and flesh. How have you experienced this "mixture" in your own walk with God?
- b. What practices help you strengthen your spirit over your flesh (prayer, fasting, accountability, Scripture, worship)?

#### **5. Hearing God's Voice**

- a. Peter heard from God one moment and his flesh the next. How can we discern between God's voice, our own thoughts, and the enemy's deception?
- b. What do you think it means that "wherever you have revelation, you are hard to defeat"?

### **Application Challenge**

This week, pay attention to moments when your flesh and spirit are in conflict. Pause and ask:

- *"Is this the Spirit leading me, or is this my flesh pulling me?"*
- Write down any moments where you sense God speaking to you through His Spirit and Word.

### **Closing Prayer Focus**

- Ask God to give the group discernment to recognize His voice.
- Pray for strength to resist the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
- Pray for the Spirit's guidance in daily decisions.