

Heroes of the Faith: Reinhard Bonnke

Start with heroes of faith Hebrews 11

God is still raising heroes of the faith that is not written about in Hebrews 11

If we didn't have new heroes of the faith then that means God stopped writing His story

God is still writing His story

John 21:25 NLT

[25] Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

Hebrews 12:1 talks about the great cloud of witnesses

There are many heroes of the faith who's stories are not known but are still in cloud of witnesses

I'm thinking of those who are faceless and nameless who through prayer have changed the course of history, averted wars, changed the face of humanitarian crisis, seen people come to faith in Christ Jesus

There are some who we do know about

We know about them because of the impact they had on the world

Reinhard Bonnke

- Born in Koenigsberg in 1940
- 4 older brothers and one younger sister
- Dad was in the military and then became a pastor
- Age of 9 gave his life to Jesus and at 10 through a vision he was called to go to Africa
- Dad basically said he wasn't
- Martin would be his successor (oldest son)
- He knew he was called, he never gave up on that vision
- His own mission board wanted him to go to Tanzania yet he knew he was called by God to Johannesburg
- He refused to go to anywhere else other than the place where God called him.
- 17 years after receiving the call of God on his life
- He finally landed on African soil
- During the years to come, many lives were changed and touched
- He received a dream called to preach the gospel all over Africa
- The mission board tried to stop him time and time again
- It was then that he set up the ministry of Christ for All Nations
- He continued on with the call of God on his life and the vision of a bloodwashed Africa
- He preached the Gospel from Cape Town to Cairo
- Before his death in 2019 he witnessed 73 million registered decisions for Jesus
- His name was Reinhard Bonnke

Key Moments of his life

Dream at 10 and prophetic word

- Prophetic word that ignited a spark in a 10 year olds heart
- It happened in a prayer meeting
- A lady received a vision in the prayer meeting
- She said she saw a big crowd of African people
- There was a little boy with a big loaf of bread feeding the people
- When he feeds the people the bread is increasing all the time
- Then she pointed at Reinhard Bonnke and said this is the boy I see
- 17 years later in 1967 Evangelist Bonnke was on a ship with his young family heading to Africa and began his ministry in Africa
- Throughout his ministry in Africa that prophetic word was accurate
- Wherever he stood and preached and gave the bread of life, the word of God
- It multiplied
- Crowds grew in size
- The emphasis: It was a prophetic word that confirmed the call on his life
- At a conference on Friday with Ps Steve
- Prophetic words (one of the speakers spoke)
- We've had words spoken over our lives we may have journaled them
- They give us divine destiny and direction
- These words are keys that open Kingdom doors
- What has the Lord spoken over your life?
- Our words are powerful, they shape and mould people, rightly or wrongly
- Our words create our world - Ps Steve
- They can also create other peoples words too
- Prophetic word can impact peoples eternal destiny

Meeting with George Jeffries

- One of Evangelist Bonnke's key moments in his life was when he met George Jeffries.
- The world would describe it as a meeting of chance, disciples of Jesus would describe it as a moment of God's divine destiny
- It happened when he was a student at the Welsh Bible College in Swansea
- Evangelist Bonnke was on his way home from Bible College and doing some sightseeing in London.
- He saw a blue plaque that marked a famous person who lived there
- That person was George Jeffries
- This is how he tells the story:

"There I rang the bell. A lady opened the door. 'Pardon my intrusion, ma'am. Does George Jeffries live here who was the famous firebrand evangelist I have heard so much about?'

'Yes, he does.'

'May I see him?'

'No. Under no circumstances.'

She had hardly said no when I heard a deep voice from within the house say, 'Let the young man come in.'

...I stepped forward, took his hand and introduced myself. I told him I had a call of God on my life to be an evangelist and to preach the gospel in Africa. That I had been to college in Swansea (Bible College in Wales) and was now returning to Germany. What happened next was extraordinary. All of a sudden, he took me by my shoulders and fell to his knees, pulling me to the floor with him. He placed his hands on my head and began to bless me as a father blesses a son, as Abraham blessed Isaac, who blessed Jacob, and on and on. The room seemed to light up with the glory of God as he poured out his prayer over me. I do not remember the words with which he blessed me, but I do remember their effect. My body felt electrified, tingling with divine energy. After about half an hour he finished. I stood up and helped him to his feet. He seemed very frail. We said goodbye. The lady came and escorted me away. He could hardly stand. Nor could I, for different reasons." - Living a life of Fire, Reinhard Bonnke

I realized something wonderful had happened in London. I had caught Elijah's mantle that day. God had connected me with former generations of evangelists - George Whitfield, John Wesley, Evan Roberts, George Müller, Rees Howells, George Jeffreys. The gospel is like a baton in a relay race. That day I got the baton into my hands. The fire I had already within me. The fire is always fresh. The baton of the gospel is always old, and it is passed on, I now understood that on that day in London, the baton and the flame had met.

- Reinhard Bonnke ran with that baton for the rest of his life
- The anointing is on you
- Acts 2
- There is a flame for every head
- There is only one anointing
- Manifests itself differently
- It was a key moment in Reinhard Bonnkes life
- It was the anointing of God, the fire of the Holy Spirit that gave him the power and authority when he preached and ministered
- He was realised he was powerless without the anointing of God
- It can be a key moment in your life too
- *"The less Holy Spirit we have, the more cake and coffee we need to keep the church going. Nothing against cake or coffee, but there is NO substitute for the HOLY SPIRIT."*
~ Reinhard Bonnke

Dream of a blood washed Africa

- The Lord gave Evangelist Bonnke a dream of a blood washed Africa
- This was a significant moment as it expanded his call from Johannesburg to the whole of Africa.
- It caused him to spread out and conduct large Gospel crusades all over Africa
- Due to these meetings he built a huge Gospel tent but quickly outgrew it

- In 1984 he designed and helped to construct the worlds tent which quickly became the worlds largest mobile structure
- In 1985 it was completed and the tent was put up and the night before the crusade there was a hurricane like storm which destroyed it.
- That morning looking upon the ripped tent Evangelist Bonnke preached anyway and more people turned up than could have fitted in the tent.
- This started a new era where millions of people would turn up to the Gospel crusade, millions would make decisions to follow Jesus and the people would be healed and set free.
- Miracle of Blantyre
- Million registered decision cards in one day
- Hebrews 11 speaks about Josphe never seeing the promise of God for deliverance and his people living in the land
- By faith he saw it and never wavered from it and told the Israelites to take his bones up out of Egypt into Israel
- Evangelist Bonnke never saw the total fulfilment of this vision
- He saw it by faith and passed the baton onto the next generation

The power of a surrendered life

What can we learn from his life?

Most of us may never do what he did

It doesn't mean our reward in heaven will be less

He lived a surrendered life

Season of release

Poised and ready

Hebrews 12:1-2 TPT

[1] As for us, we have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us. [2] We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!

This is the posture Reinhard Bonnke had

His eyes were focussed on Jesus, surrendered to His will and purpose

What does a surrendered life look like?

Proverbs 19:23 TPT

[23] When you live a life of abandoned love, surrendered before the awe of God, here's what you'll experience: Abundant life. Continual protection. And complete satisfaction!

Commitment to Christ

- He was totally committed to Christ
- *Those who knew him off-stage can testify to his personal integrity, genuine kindness and overflowing love for the Lord. His ministry was inspired and sustained by his rich prayer life, his deep understanding of the Word and his unceasing intimacy with the Holy Spirit - Daniel Kolenda*
- Amazing that his comments weren't about his preaching, seeing healing miracles but his devotion to Jesus.
- It wasn't the platform that drove evangelist Reinhard Bonnke
- It was his intense love and passion for Jesus that drove him.
- His surrendered life started with his devotion to Jesus
- It was commitment to Christ that drove him
- Reminds me of the apostle Paul
- **Philippians 3:8-9a NLT [8] Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ [9] and become one with him.**
- Let our love for Jesus and commitment to Him be the driving seat for our lives.
- This contributed to his integrity
- No controversy on his wiki page

Commitment to calling

- Knew what he was called to do
- Stayed steady in that calling
- Many people doubted the call on his life and he had to overcome many obstacles
 - His Father tried to convince him he was wrong
 - The Denomination doubted the call on his life
 - The Missionary board wouldn't accept him or let him go to Johannesburg
- Even when things went well he was still committed to his calling (planting the Church in Germany, 50 people in 6 weeks, he was successful but he didn't give up on the call).
- Even when things went bad (Kano, lorry crash)
- The anointing of God which fell upon him when he met George Jeffries lit the flame of the call of God upon his life and he never looked back.
- There is a call of God on every life
- God has called us individually - we don't need another Reinhard, the world needs you
- What are you called to do?
- **Matthew 22:37-40 NLT [37] Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' [40] The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."**
- **Matthew 28:18-20 NLT [18] Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. [19] Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [20]**

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Jesus said He would be with us through the power of Holy Spirit
- There is a flame of the Holy Spirit for every individual person
- The Flame at Pentecost was on every head not just one
- Never give up on that which God has Called us to do.

Commitment to saying yes to Jesus

- Whatever God asked him to do
 - Build the worlds biggest tent
 - Post a copy of the Gospel in every letterbox in the UK
 - Preach the Gospel from Cape Town to Cairo
- Evangelist Bonnke's answer was always yes
- *"God always works with workers and moves with movers, but He does not sit with sitters."* ~ Reinhard Bonnke
- Evangelist Bonnke always said a big yes to Jesus and acted upon it quickly.
- In everything He asks us to do say yes to Christ
- John 14:15
- Our love for Him causes us to say yes to Him!
- It's our commitment to Christ that causes us to say yes to Him