

Pastor William McDowell

Habitation Conference Day 2

Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 9:00am Session

How will you respond to God being in the room? Wherever you are respond!

I was in Boston MA last October, the LORD began to move in our church in a powerful way. He had already been moving in a powerful way, but this was more tangible. I'd been carrying that outpouring in my heart. I went to go sing at a church and I'll never forget the feeling I had there. I thought, we were at song 2-3, and **I kept feeling this intense heat on my neck and back.** I kept turning around to see if I was next to some light or heat source. What is causing this? At the time I didn't know, I hadn't experienced it before. I'm turning around Clay Bogan said, "What's wrong?" I said, *"I just keep feeling this heat"*...and then it occurred to me. The Holy Spirit spoke and said, **"Stop for a second."** The LORD was standing there and it was such an intense heat. I felt it several time since then.

Last night I told you about nearly 150 miracles we've had at Deeper Fellowship. Well, we're just scratching the surface. I'm grateful for what God has done, but I've read that John G. Lake saw 100k miracles in 5 years! So, I know the LORD wants to do more. As we had just begun to see that outbreak, I remember as I stood there experiencing the presence of the LORD. He was healing people with back issues at that time. I knew I wasn't invited there to do that, It was a concert and people had paid for tickets. At the same time I knew the LORD was there. I remember the word of knowledge - calling out the back issues. People came forward and I asked the pastor's daughters who were the authority in the room...I said, "Can I flow this way?" I began to tell the story of the 25 -30miracles we'd had in the church up to that point. Faith in the room was rising. Right as we began to minister, they passed me a note that said, **"You are not allowed to minister this way because the bishop is not here."** Something happened that I carry with me and will remember all my life. **As soon as I read the note that you cannot do this...the heat left.** I began to weep because **all of my life I'd never felt the LORD withdraw.** They'd rejected Him, and I began to weep. I know the people had paid for the concert, but I just stopped it. I felt like, **"What am I gonna do if He's not here?"** I remember going back to my hotel and I remember vividly crying to the LORD saying, **"God, whatever it was YOU WANTED to do there, would you do it here? (at Deeper) because we wont reject You!** I remember that was on a Friday. I flew back on Saturday and I remember spending time with the LORD, and I said again, **"God, whatever it was You wanted to do there, would you do it here? because we wont reject You!"**

You know how gracious God is? While they didn't let me pray for people at that church, I got an email that 3 people who were standing closest to me all got healed. I remember all that Saturday crying and saying, *"Please do it here!"* As I was preparing my message I asked the same thing. I remember driving to church and He got in the car with me. In church, I stood up to try to speak and in the middle of it, He showed up in such a powerful way. I began to feel the heat radiate through my body. **There was an anointing that literally as I tried to go from one place to another -every person in between was slain in the Spirit.** The musicians will tell you there was a sound that happened in that moment that they weren't playing! as Heaven joined in the worship!

God, whatever it is You want to do, do it, and we won't reject it because of our agenda, our next song, or the next thing we have to do. We reject the moments where He invades. God, whatever it is You want to do, we won't reject it. Please do it!

I know we have a church culture that is so tied to schedules, but I believe God has found a people who will say, like David Binion said earlier - God wreck our program! Do what You want to do! We won't reject you! I know everybody has a different response. I can't be close like this and do anything but weep. I'm so glad Scripture says He collects our tears as prayers. **He wants to do more than we imagine.** He's looking for a generation that says we won't reject you. **I'm coming, but what are you gonna do when I come?** If it means we gotta stay all day. If it means we gotta stay all night or wake up at 4 am. We won't reject you! There's a sound of people who are saying we're open we want You we desire You! it's YOUR time! It's YOUR schedule! It's YOUR service! It's YOUR moving! We won't control you and we won't reject you!

I feel Him right now. **That heat just stood right by me right now!** This is a Divine invitation, accept it, accept it, accept it!

The LORD spoke a Word to our house, I've shared it a couple of times since He wants me to share it here. **He want us to understand what's happening not only in this moment, but in moments like this.** 1 Kings 19:19 -21:

19 So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. 20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you." 21 So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

I borrowed a phrase from David Binion, I pondered it because he said something to me and it resonated with me. At the time, I understood it in my Spirit but I couldn't comprehend it with my mind. I have a group text that I keep up with David and Nicole Binion when the LORD does something in my church. I'll say, 2 deaf people were healed today. Someone got out of a wheelchair. A partially brain-dead baby was healed today. Today somebody who couldn't walk, who was paralyzed was healed. God healed lupus, cancer, etc. and as I would text these things, they would rejoice. One day David said something, ***"You are stirring in me friend, righteous envy."***

BTW I want to appreciate my wife. She pays a heavy price, but God's hand is on her. Discernment and her prophetic gift are manifesting. I've never been with a person like she is. She has said something warning me about people/situation and it's NEVER been wrong - not once. She's always been right. If you've been trying to get close to me and I've backed away, blame her, lol!

David said, ***"You are stirring in me friend, righteous envy."*** The way it hit my spirit was different. The majority of times we use the word envy, it is a sin. God was redeeming that word. God show it to me It seems like an oxymoron, envy is usually sinful behavior - because it's wanting what someone else and saying, ***"God hasn't been good enough to give it to me."*** Righteous envy I said, show it to me in the Scripture. There is a case of Scripture where there is Righteous Envy.

Romans 10: 1- 4; 19-21

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. **2** For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. **3** Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. **4** Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

19 Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, ***"I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."***²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says, ***"I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."***²¹ But concerning Israel he says, ***"All day long I have held out my hand to a disobedient and obstinate people."***

Romans 11:11

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious

God will expose you to things HE's doing in and through others to cause you to pursue what you wanted all along! You see others in the Body, fast, pray, seek God, and see Him working miracles, prophecy. So you'll say, "Wait a minute we have the same access, the same portion and something inside says, ***"I want that!"*** God will have you see a thing that will have you say I want that! He says, ***"Good! because I want you to have that!"*** Testimonies create faith for the future. If He did it before, He can do it again. If He does it for them, HE can do it for me! **That's why He exposes us to things like this so we can say I want it!!**

The interesting thing is, He doesn't force you to take it. He reveals it and then He waits for your response to it. It's as if God is saying, ***"Do you want it?"*** When the LORD told me to start a church I was scared to death. It took him having to embarrass me to do to it. I was sent to a church planting conference. In one of the sessions the LORD speaks. ***"You're not here for them, I want to do something through you."*** I didn't hear that, you must be talking to someone else. I left the conference and refused to attend any more sessions. I said, ***"No you didn't speak that to me."*** I said to a friend of mine (God has also called him to plant a church), I said, ***"You should go to this conference, I'll help you."*** I went back to the conference the next year with him. I'm sitting in the last break out session, and the LORD says, ***"Why are you ignoring me?"*** I said, ***"I'm not."*** He speaks again and I had the boldness to say again, ***"I'm not."*** My friend taps me and he says, the session is still going on... now this is after I've said to God twice I'm not ignoring you. My friend taps me and says, ***"I know this is going to sound really weird, but the Lord just asked me to ask you why you're ignoring him?"*** I had the boldness to say again, I'm not ignoring Him.

Then God has his way of saying you are NOT going to run from me. For the next 10 months I received 10 prophetic words. One I remember because it was something I said in my own heart. I was sitting in a meeting with another pastor saying, "I want to help him." Then, I said these words, ***"Besides, I'm comfortable here."*** Two days later, The LORD said through a prophetic voice, ***"Don't say in your heart, I'm comfortable here."*** The 10th month the 1st 5 days I got one each day. My mother said, "Why do you think this is happening?" I replied, ***"It's because I haven't said YES, LORD."***

Once I said yes to the LORD, whenever I would find an environment where God was moving in significant ways God... I'd ask Him, *"Do it there. God please create that culture."* **HE does not force us, He invites us and waits to see what our response will be.** Do you want it? Are you willing to do what it takes to have it, keep and not lose it? Will you pursue it? God is doing something significant in this season. The invitation for revival in this generation has been extended.

Generations have lived and died having never seen what you and I have the opportunity to see. God is inviting this generation to step into something historic. Who will do anything to get it? We are the beneficiaries of people who have gone before us. God has kept some of them alive to see it. I don't know about you, I don't want to waste the prayers of a generation. If there's been intercession, plowing and seed; I want to see the Harvest!! We are in a moment of Divine invitation. What happened here is what the LORD is doing for us.

1 Kings 19

19 So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. 20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you." 21 So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

Elijah had come from a moment of deep discouragement from Jezebel. He goes and finds Elisha. In your time of deep discouragement, you need to find someone else to encourage you. While you're blessing them, their strength is pulling you out as you pour into them. When the enemy is attacking, pour your life into someone. God will use that seed to pull you out.

He goes and finds Elisha and he does something significant - he throws his cloak/mantle on him. The cloak/mantle is a distinction worn by kings, and prophets. It signifies authority calling, influence, gifting, office or position. **He places the mantle of who he is and what he carries on Elisha and the bible says he walks away. It is significant to throw that on a person who wasn't looking for it, asking for it, or jockeying for it.** It was a divine invitation. Our response to the Word of God determines our experience. Our response to an invitation determines our participation in the things of God. **Passive responses yield passive results.**

What is significant is how will you respond to it. Elisha was like, *"Wait a minute, I know what you just did, and I'm not gonna let you get away!"* God encounters/Divine Encounters/Divine interruptions, they're all invitations - whoever will desire it enough to chase after it and gets it.

Bishop Garlington says, "At first God does you, and then He tells you what He did to you." It's an invitation that says there is more than this. **Elijah threw his mantle and exposes Elisha to his future, his calling and his potential. Then Elijah had to take it back. It was something Elisha had to walk through before he could possess it.** Young people, don't cancel the process. God does something powerful then sends you on a process to understand what He did. God calls you making an announcement about your potential it alters the course of our life... if we let it. Calling encounters of definition of encounter - define - encounter

Yes, God responds to our prayers in our worship, our cries, our longings. We are not the initiators - we can position ourselves for it. He says, ***"If you're coming - I'll be ready!"***

God is the initiator of every encounter.

We're missing it because we're not in the right position. If you position yourself, you can receive all that he intends for that moment. How we respond is up to us. **Will we allow the moment to change everything?** Elisha was in the field working. He didn't ask for it when he was called. **Elisha's response was immediate and without hesitation.** WAIT wait a minute! I know what you just did, and I want it. I know the significance of what you threw on me and I want that. I'm not just going to let you walk away like that.

God is throwing his cloak or the mantle of His presence and He keeps walking to see who will recognize it and follow. Sometimes an entire generation says what was that? Maybe they don't recognize what's happening and then they go back to life as normal. That was a healing. He did that as an invitation to show you something. You're trying to reason it out. **Don't let your reason cancel out a miracle.** Was that the Spirit of God we felt during worship? Planning Center says we have 10 more minutes. Can we explore in the presence a little more? or do we have to have control? **The moment if you're in control of every moment, HE isn't. Only one of you can drive. Get into a river with a boat without oars. In the river of God there shall be no boat with oars.** God encounters are an invitation. God looks for a generation that will say WAIT! I know what this is, I accept your invitation.

When this happened to Elisha everyone around him knew it. Everyone around you will know when you answer God's invitation. Something ought to be different about you. Even at your job it should say, ***"I had an encounter with God and I gave it everything I had!"*** Elisha said, let me kiss my mom and dad goodbye. Not in a negative way like Luke 9:61 to say God was not the priority. Elisha said, *"I'm going with you, let me just say goodbye to everybody."* Tell your friends and family, *"It wasn't something you said or did. If I don't call as much, it's because I have a problem with you, I want to be with God. I have to kiss you good bye."* **If you're in love with being loved by people you're not ready for an encounter with God.**

To the younger generation here, you're the most connected, yet most isolated generation. We hate being alone so badly that we created Instagram/Social Media for connection. **If you want to be intimate with God you need to embrace isolation and loneliness!** Jesus Christ must become your best friend. He needs to be the first one you run to. Don't tweet about it, pray about it!

Elisha wasn't poor. He had 12 teams of oxen, but he was willing to lay down his affluence. If you're pursuing the things of God, there is no fall back option. There is no plan B. God is looking for people who will decide if they wanna be hot or cold. **Elisha burned the oxen. He destroyed all of his former identity.** You used to know me as this guy. I'm not going to my old life, the power, the ownership. **I'm going after something that he did to me and I want it!** He said listen, I'm gonna create the ultimate accountability situation. Everybody saw him do it. He said, ***"I'm not gonna try to hide it. I'm not hiding my experience. I know you don't understand it."*** You might say did you really hear from God?...Elisha said, ***"Eat my past, cause I'm going into the future."*** They're talking about you any way! Tell them go ahead and eat that! but the next time you see me I'm gonna be wearing the mantle!!

After this point he follows after Elijah as his assistant. He's essentially saying. you did something to me, I had an experience. If anybody asks me, what are you doing, **I'm after what**

wrecked my life! Why are you following so hard? Because I had an encounter that wrecked my life and I want to get the fullness. I want get the fullness of what He did to me. **We stop short because we are happy with the initial thing.** We don't realize it's just a part of something larger. For some, the price is too high - leaving everything unfamiliar, leaving comfort our zones. You don't have anything to do but go forward! You left the oxen and the plow!

Following the encounter, the Presence of God, the invitation, the accepting, was the assignment/ demonstration of God. It came a point 2 Kings 2 it's time for Elijah to transition. All the prophetic people know it. There was only one person who was tenacious - Elisha. Elijah says, "Hey this is what I want you to do. Stay here and visit the prophets of Bethel." **As surely as the LORD lives and I live I will not leave you,** Elisha replied. Elijah goes to visit school of prophets in Jericho and Elisha says again, *"I'm not leaving you."* Elijah says I'm gonna cross the Jordan. God was testing his commitment - how committed are you to the call/ the invitation? How committed are you to the presence of God? Are you willing to leave everything and everyone else behind? Every time they got to a city the prophets asked Elisha, *"Did you know that the LORD was going to take your master today?"* He was like, Of course I know, but be quiet! **I'm not gonna let you distract me or deter me from what God has for me.** Just because other people can sense it, doesn't mean that they will experience it. **Only the committed are gonna see it, only those who stay close.**

He's at this point where God is testing his commitment. This is important - separating from the crowd. We always talk about separating from the world. That's easy for many of you who love God the way you do. This was different. **Are you willing to separate from those who have the same gifts, calling, your tribe? There are moments in your life where God wants to separate you from your tribe because there's something He wants to say/do for that is YOU.** The prophets at Bethel and Jericho stayed behind. There was only one who really wanted the mantle. The other 50 prophets stayed at a distance - **the ones who stay close are the ones who are going to get it.** Elijah splits the Jordan. We have to catch the moments where God is doing things. Others keep waiting and waiting and waiting there are only certain moments and you've got to catch them! Elijah says, *"What do you want me to do for you?"* Elisha replies, *"I want a double portion of your spirit."* I want your life repeated in my life and then add to it. **I want everything God did through you AND what He does through me.**

He said, *"You've asked a hard thing. You've asked me for something I can't give you. Only God can give it."* If you see me when I'm taken from you, then you have it. If you don't then you won't. Elijah is saying to Elisha -**You want what you see on me? You won't get it if you don't see what it is! God can't give you something if you don't understand how to carry it.** Suddenly there was a whirlwind and chariots of fire and horses and Elisha said, *"My Father, My Father I see!!* The horses and the chariots of Israel!" **I understand the mantle.** It has been you that has been protecting the nation this entire time. YOU, my father, the horses and the chariots of Israel. **I realize what you've bent carrying has been protecting the nation my entire life.** The prophetic word of the Lord has been carried through you. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God, Psalm 20:7

If you understand the kind of mantle God wants to release into this generation, when you open your life things change. They will change in your City, in your Nation, in your church. The carrying of the mantle is the Word of the LORD. This generation has begun to re-embrace the prophets. You didn't shut down what God is saying - I can use the generation because of the prophetic. They will prophesy to the dry bones and say live again! Ezek 37.

It's amazing, 50 prophets were there, they saw the whirlwind, but only Elisha saw the chariots. How do we know? 1) Elijah was taken to heaven and that which he was carrying fell to the earth. **How many mantles have fallen to the earth without anyone to pick them up?** There are mantles on the earth pick it up and strike the waters saying where is the God of Elijah?! I want to see the double portion happen now! I want to see miracles now. I wanna see revival now! I wanna see healing now! **There are many mantles still on the ground. God is not just releasing revival in this season; He's mantling revivalists.** You've been praying for revival and God's been looking for you. HE's raising up a group of people who'll say, "We won't reject you! We want what you did to us! We don't want to leave the same from that moment. We want it.

He goes across the water, and **the 50 prophets who didn't stay close they had a sense of what was gonna happen, but they weren't in a position to make it happen.** They said, let us go look for him. They saw the whirlwind, but not the chariots. Elisha now knows what's on him. **What you're looking for, I'm carrying!** Don't dismiss certain people- the ones who are on their knees broken before God. You haven't seen anything yet. They have an understanding about what they're carrying. They're carrying it with a life of humility. With the mantle that is going to be released, a revival is going to break out all over the world. He knew what he was carrying. **Then you walk around knowing you have the backing of Heaven.** Not only did he get the mantle, he was aware of heaven's nearness.

2 Kings 6 **There was a war happening the king was upset how did my enemy know what was going on?** His advisors said Elisha the prophet knows what's going on in your bedroom. With God, there are no secrets. **Warfare and prophetic people - you can't see what they see.** They go and surround Elisha and his servant, who can't see says, **"We're surrounded! I don't know how we're going to get out of this!"** Our natural circumstances are impossible. Elisha asked the LORD, **"Open his eyes to see that there are more with us than with them."** What did he see? The horses and the chariots! If you really understood what you're carrying...that every where you go you have Heaven's backing: nothing would intimate you or cause you to draw back! God watches over his word to perform it. (Jer 1:12) **The reason the enemy is fighting you is that he doesn't want you to speak, or to understand what you're carrying.**

Worship leaders - some of you are literally cutting of the power of God because you refuse to write what's he's given you! The sound that He's given you. You're singing somebody else sound. **You can't get into the next season singing someone else's songs.** It's like you've got a hallmark card versus a hand written letter, which is better. True worship is when you say what you mean, when you release what's on your heart! A letter to someone is better than picking out a card someone else wrote. **The mantle is for the release of the song of the LORD!** Pick up the mantle it's not just for a few it's for all. Mantles are being released for songs/ gifts to be released in this season. When parts of my body heat up, it's a Word of knowledge. I know He's releasing healing in that part of the body. **The Holy Spirit is releasing His gifts in this season for a generation that's willing to pick up the mantle. Those who stay close receive it.** Many of us are trying to receive it, but only those who are close receive or see it. **The lord walking through the earth releasing - invitations for significant assignments** - some places have seen no significant moves of God because there was no one in that year to take on the mantle.

Hosea 2:21

"In that day I will respond," declares the LORD-- "I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth;

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Heaven will do what heaven does when earth does what only earth can do. I will respond with a corresponding action!! I will release what's in Heaven when you release something on the earth.

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