

Bishop Joseph Garlington
Habitation Conference 2017 Day 2 7pm service
Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mixed emotions are like watching your evil mother-in-law go over the cliff in your brand new Lexus, you don't know what to think about it. I'm excited about Tasha Cobbs ministry, but at the same time I wanted her to stop because I didn't know if there would be time for the message. This is a good moment, anything can happen and probably will. Isaiah 8:18

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God... (Hebrews 11:3)

Nothing happens in the Kingdom except the Word be declared. If you like where you are, keep saying what you're saying. If you don't like where you are you need to say something else. We've been in this room singing songs. I love music because often **when God wants to get a truth in the earth that has to bypass your left brain, He makes it a song.** You'll sing things you don't believe until you believe them. He makes things happen creatively in such a way that you think it's your idea. I was 18 pastoring my first church. I lived in a home with widow who lived in projects. I took care of her 8 grandkids during the day, so I was flooded with company I didn't want. One day she took a pill put it on the ground and told one of the grandkids, "Don't eat that!" and they took it and ate it. She started laughing. She said to me, "Have you ever tried to give baby a pill?" He was crawling toward the garbage and picking things up, and I figured I'd try it with something he needed to have. **God will give you something to sing that you wouldn't say.**

I believe we're trapped by the song, "For Your Glory, I would do...**anything?**" Do you know what anything means? Is anything too hard of God? (Jer. 33:27; Gen 18:14) When you say anything, you mean anything? Then it starts to work its way out in your life. You start asking, "**What the heck is going on?!**" Was that the part about anything? Yes, it was.

Song...Glorify Thy name in all the earth. John 12 where Jesus tells His disciples, "My time is not yet. **Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies it abides alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** Father glorify Your name"...**by dying?** Deitrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Jesus bids a man to come and follow Him; he bids him one to die." We're trapped by our words and the music, but it's a good trap.

Jeremiah told God "You deceived me..." (Jer. 20:7) **God said, "No...you misunderstood what I said,"** because God doesn't deceive. Reading book on prayer at my honeymoon in 1971. There was a prayer that the author was praying, "**God if you're doing anything in the earth, I want to be a part of it.**" Or...would you rather not be a part of it and you're praying, "LORD, *If it's gonna mess my life up, I don't want anything to do with it!*" I told my wife, the prophet, "Let's pray it." She said, "You lead us in it." There are some things you go through in life, then two years later you tell your friends about it, and they're just laughing. Was it funny? I didn't think it was funny. We made a decision to say, "**If it's gonna be funny later, it's funny now,**" and we decide to laugh about it. So we prayed, "God, if you're doing anything in the earth I want to be a part of it." At the time, I was a part of a really pentecostal holiness church, baptized in Jesus' name. We had Acts 2:38's! Excuse me, I move in A Divine Dimension...
ADD, Lol!

I prayed that prayer and I've learned to say that prayer. 30 days after praying the prayer I got kicked out of the denomination. **It never occurred to me that I asked for it.** I got the left foot of fellowship. I couldn't sort it out. As I looked at that moment I felt betrayed, ripped off. *Why pray a prayer and get an answer like that? I had to understand process.* Moses told the

Children of Israel, ***"You shall remember all the way the LORD brought you..."*** (Deut. 8:2) **Some of us have forgotten how we've gotten where we are.** Sometimes you have to just stop and think about it. So now we have thought about it. **Today, I'm in places I never would have been had I stayed where I was. God had to get me out of what he wasn't doing to get me to where he was doing.** A child is put in play pen, it was really a ninja prison. But **it was the only way your mom could keep you safe.** I have kids who I grew up with in school who are dead now, because they didn't have the kind of prison I was in. **Some of y'all needed to be in the holiness church were you couldn't go out, movies, wore dresses down to there.** God used the holiness church to spare me, even with me being in that season. The LORD said my sheep will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:9) When I was younger I responded to about 20 altar calls for salvation. It was a journey. You know saved on Sunday, backslide n Monday... Lord, take me in and lead me out.

He was leading me out. I walked that path and each time it was time for a transition that needed to take place. It became necessary to say yes to an unknown. **The more you want of God you have to give up something that's not God.** What you don't want to do is despise what held on to you while you're waiting for this new season.

A friend called me to tell about an experience he'd had in Toronto Ontario. When I grew up in the church, we used to have revival. The Holy spirit would move powerfully. If people got touched by the Holy Spirit, it was like they almost got shocked by Him. I thought that was normal. I didn't know you could slow dance in worship, all the songs in the pentecostal church had to be fast. My friend told me he'd just come back from Toronto. He said they started praying for people and they started being slain int he spirit . They raised the biggest offering in their history. You've got to go, he said.

I go to Toronto. I thought, *"This wasn't revival, it was white folks acting like black folks used to act in the holiness church."* When we were doing it, you called it emotionalism. My wife is real clear about the presence of God. You look at her for a moment and if the spirit is moving she will affirm it. God had to blast me. I was critical... **I wasn't critical of revival itself, I was angry because I'd stopped doing it.** That experience gave me permission to do it. We became 'siditty.' I was angry because I see people are getting touched by God. God said, **"Do you want a touch?"** *"Probably"*, I answered. I was prayed for by Pastor Carol Arnott. She didn't know who I was. I was there 'incognegro.' I said, "Would you pray for me?" She said yes. I fell down. I didn't just fall, I curled up in a fetal position and i just cried. I was embarrassed; all these people who she was praying for were now standing around me and I'm crying. I know what they're saying, *"Poor black man, he's suffered so much rejection."* Then I hear Carol say, **"Oh Father, just heal this man of all of his rejection."** Now I'm really ticked because she doesn't know me. I'm crying on the outside and I'm saying, *"I don't have any rejection! You don't know me!"*

I heard the Father say, "You can take My view or yours. Which do you want?" You can leave here just like you came in. Some of you will have the same encounter tonight. **I could see this door and it was my door of opportunity and it was getting smaller and smaller.** *"Ok, I got rejection,"* I said. When I said that, I thought I was crying before. What followed was ugly. It was the release of sinuses and snot. and I was saw all these people around. poor black man! Ugly cry. I think I was on that floor for maybe about an hour. In my mind's eye they're still standing around. When I got up, I was the only one there. The only guy that was still there was the maintenance man. It's as if he said, *"I see this all the time. Just move and I'll clean."*

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What if I fail after the fire happened to me in that room? He didn't answer me. **Everything that I had criticized the night before changed.** The hokey songs I thought they were singing didn't sound hokey anymore.

I can see clearly now that the pain is gone. They had one song, "Mercy is falling it's falling like the sweet spring rain... Hey ho! I receive your mercy, I receive your grace I will dance forevermore. When I took the song back home they asked, "*Can we change that chorus a little bit? We cant sing Hey ho around here!*" My Pastor laid hands on me and I fell back on the floor crying again. The bible says, weeping may endure for a night (Psalm 30:5) **You cant get your place of joy, without your place of weeping.**

Genesis 7:11b

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month-- on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

Isaiah 8:18

Behold, **I and the children whom the Lord has given me are for signs and wonders** in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

I am a sign. Mark 16:17-18:

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe;** In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Some things you're asking God to do; He's told You to do. Jesus was a sign. Jonah was a sign. We don't understand **signs aren't the thing - they point to the thing.** You see a sign with an airport on it. That's not the airport, you can't go on the sign and fly anywhere, it's just a sign, it's pointing you to something. **God wants us to be a people that when others see us they'll look for what it is we're representing - WHO we're pointing them to JESUS!**

I am a rock. Isaiah 32:1-2

1Behold, a king will reign righteously And princes will rule justly. 2Each will be like a refuge from the wind And a shelter from the storm, Like streams of water in a dry country, **Like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land.**

When Bishop Tudor Bismark shared with you (Pastor William) the Word about establishing a trust/foundation to rescue men and women who were sold in human trafficking like chattel property. **God has entrusted us with the capacity to rescue, care to save.**

I am a river. John 7:37-38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

I'm a sign, I'm a rock, and I'm a river. If you believe on Me you will have the ability to do the same thing I do, and greater works.

John 14:12-13

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; **and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If we live in a world where our God is not doing anything, why does anyone want what we have? The Gospel is a supernatural message, Someone was raised from the dead! Does God heal people? YES! Does He heal everybody, not always, but I'm not going to push away the miracles He does! Why give up on the miraculous? Why get stuck on the ones who don't get healed, there are many that do! **Don't let people intimidate you with what they think you should have.** My Evangelical friends tell me how I should speak in tongues, when they can't.

One day I asked my grandson to pray for dinner. We all had our heads down and he prayed silently instead of aloud. I asked him, "Did you pray?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "I didn't hear you." He said, **"I wasn't talking to you."** When Tasha Cobbs called us to pray in our prayer language, she called us into a conversation. I Cor. 14 **when you pray in tongues, you're speaking mysteries to God.** Something is going on inside of you. People who haven't had that experience look at you like you're crazy. You pentecostal guys shouldn't translate the Scripture according to your experience. Well you shouldn't translate the Scriptures through your lack of experience. When I speak in tongues, I'm a sign. What are you saying? I don't know? Why are you saying it? Because it makes me feel good!

My son is watching horror movies and becomes terrified something's in my room. He says, **"Dad come and pray,"** and I pray in my prayer language. You guys are ok. He goes back and says, **"Dad come back it's back."** I start to pray, he says, "No, pray in that other language, it feels better." **Why does it feel better? because you're in touch with someone - God.**

I'm a sign, I'm an answer, I'm the river. We are an answer, but we don't understand WHY we're the answer. In Matthew 14, thousands were gathered after Jesus had been preaching, they were hungry and his disciples said, "Send them away so they can get something to eat." Jesus said, **"They don't need to go away, YOU feed them!"** (vs. 16) 5,000 plus people?!

When God tells you to do something... He's telling you, you can do it.

Bring the fish and loaves to Me he says. You may not understand what He's doing. **"This is all we have!"** they said, **"Will it last?"** All you have is 5 loaves and 2 fish, it's not sufficient. Jesus takes it, blesses it, and breaks it, and says you guys hand it out. Then afterwards they belch... that's what you do when you're full. Jesus said, "Now I want you to gather up the fragments and 12 baskets remained (vs. 20)

Danibelle Hall sang a song called Ordinary People whose lyrics said, **"Little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hand."**

So, I'm the answer...but I'm also the problem.

In Matthew 16:9-10 **Jesus was angry with His disciples because they forgot the miracles of the 5k and 4k.** He asked them, **“Why do you lack faith?”** We’d say, **“I don’t.”** Jesus told them, **“Beware of the leaven of the pharisees.”** (vs. 6) **You will leave Habitation and you will have an encounter with pharisees.** They are the same yesterday, today and forever. When you encounter them and tell them what you’ve experienced, they’ll have theological and intellectual questions and skepticisms. You respond like the blind man that Jesus healed? IDK all I know is... **“I was blind, but now I see.”** (John 9:25)

What was your condition before coming here? I want us to get this river business sorted out. When I embraced the river, I thought this is going to be the most wonderful thing. Find me in the river. Find me on my knees... We see roses, but we don’t count on thorns. **This river of His presence is good, but do you know what people are saying about you?** God had us do things when the River was pumping in our house. People had questions, **“What are they singing over there? What’s going on over there?”** I’m going to share some things Pastor Sorge should have shared. **Rivers are progressive, rivers wander.** Some worship and some preaching is like that. In chess, a bishop is a piece that moves diagonally anywhere on the board. **Sometimes you’re asking what’s God’s point? He’ll get there.** I started asking, **“God is this where you meant for us to go?”** He replied, **“Your boat has oars on it. Not in my river. No boat with oars can come on this river. I’m going to control the direction.”** God whatever you’re doing in this season don’t do it without me. (Paul Morton song)

I enjoy my kid and grandkids, and when I could I used to toss them in the air. One of them had a friend who would say, **“Do me!”** That friend had no experience with me. So I took them, and threw them up in the air and they said, **“Stop, I don’t like it!”** Some people are not going to like what you like, or enjoy what you enjoy that’s fine. Here’s the problem with the river: it’s up to your ankles and it’s ok, then it’s up to your knees. Then it’s not at your waist, **the Scripture says your loins** - loins are a peculiar part of the anatomy. The river is going to affect your sex life, your reproduction. You can’t stay in the river because the river of God is teeming with life.

Let me point out several things about this river. **The river is the Holy Spirit. Corporate worship is the combining of our various rivers.** All the rivers flow into the sea and then they go back where they started, and they do the same thing again. **As you get further out in the deeper part, that’s where the healing trees are. But we don’t have time to wait on God.** We don’t have time to do all that. **If you want what God has, it’s gonna take some time.**

Rivers are contradictory. They can be a source of great blessing or great controversy. They will unite divided groups or they can divide united groups. They are places of great honor and great scandal. Elijah, Naaman, Gehazi 2 Kings 5. Naaman said, We have better rivers where I live. I thought Elijah would lift his hand over and proclaim the name of the LORD his God! People will say, I didn’t want the man of God to blow on me. Jesus spit on a man’s eyes (John 9:6) He also spit and put it on a dumb man’s tongue. (Mark 7:33) **The guy (who could see Him doing it was, like) WHAT?!!!! He ..ohm never mind, I can talk.** He wasn’t blind, the blind man couldn’t see it coming. Naaman says to Elisha, I’ve gotta go home and I’ve been serving a pagan king. I’m not serving the pagan king’s god anymore! Get some bushels of earth to have my own private worship experience. I will only be bowing to your God from now on! **Find something that you can take home so that you can recreate the atmosphere that you had here.** God I want this. **If you are the river, to be in this river is going to require great humility.** God I don’t want you to do it anywhere else. I don’t care where it starts, but let’s have it. It’s a place of great confusion. **I’m the problem, but I’m also an answer.**

Peter, a Jew, was a sanctified racist. You don't have to be white to be a racist. When people of color say they can't be racist, the word in the Bible is to have **'respect of persons.'** (e.g. in African countries there is respect of persons based on which tribe you're from). **Tribal people will sometimes kill you quicker than someone from another race.**

It's about refusing to believe that those in the river are called to the ministry of reconciliation. We're being dictated to by politics, media, etc. More than 3,000 black babies are being aborted DAILY. When you tell me black lives matter, don't those lives matter? Is it really true that the most dangerous place for that person is in his/her mother's womb? **If you want to get in the river get in there to change the issues that are taking place.**

If you are a millennial come to the altar.

I was born in the South. They had the word COLORED written on the door of the bathroom. I asked my mom, **"Who is color red?"** She said, **"YOU are colored."** I lived in Alabama for 7 years, my barber was a Swedish guy. He had a son, and he tried to explain to his son about segregation. **When he told his son about drinking out of a white and black water fountains, he didn't understand.** His son was so far from that in his history, that he didn't know it had occurred.

You're participating in the most significant part of your life and you don't know how you got there. You can be the answer, or you can be the problem. I believe you're here in this season because God wants to instill something in to answer the questions that some of your friends are asking. Remember Ephesians 6:12 - we're not wrestling against flesh but principalities, powers and the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **Ultimately, no one hates you because you're black or white, they hate you because of your image/identity in Christ.**

Galatians 3:28

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

My four sons heard that message and they all married white girls. When I hear black people denigrate white people, I say, **"I can't do that because some of my family members are white."** You might say, "Not in my family." I'm saying, **"YES, in YOUR family...because in God's family some of our brothers and sisters are white!"** (black, asian, latino, etc).

In 1906 when Azusa changed the world, there was every race, every color represented in the move of God. God's intention was always to deal with those issues in the river. Don't discount what the HOLY SPIRIT wants to do about all the issues out there, **It's not about who's president...it's about who's God.** I want to be the answer not the problem.

Link up with someone

I am struggling with Christians who are angry about every and anything, they think President Trump is the problem, the media is the problem, etc. **Christians know the DEVIL is the problem!** Who threw that rock? **The devil did, but he told you someone else did.**

Ecc. 4:1

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Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: ***I saw the tears of the oppressed-- and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors-- and they have no comforter.***

Someone wants to hurt you because someone has hurt them. The ministry of reconciliation 2 For 5 is that we're to tell broken people **your sins are forgiven.** God in Christ has forgiven you. That's our message. But WE haven't forgiven them! We're not Jonah saying kill, kill! We're Jesus saying we forgive you. **We are on an assignment of compassion.**

A man saw a squirrel trying to cross the road. He goes over to the squirrel and he says oh my gosh, who would have done this? He tries to pick up the squirrel, who sees his thumb and bites the guy. In a moment of pain he shook the squirrel so hard he fell to the ground. Then he picked up the squirrel... **he forgot his mission was to save the squirrel.** Everybody you try to help may not respond the way you want, but your mission is still to say, "*God's not mad at you.*" Because I'm in the river.

Pastor William

Ephesians 3:8-10

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

The line of racism has been erased by grace. Paul was talking to people in this passage whose grandparents didn't even talk to each other. We are in a season of revival where God will use the Church to display unity in the earth. We are not just a sign, a rock, a river, and sometimes a problem. We're not going to be a problem. We are also a mystery and we are a revelation. We can either hold on to the past, or be in the river.

God's grace makes us ONE. We have to love hard. God wants to use your unity and love to shame the devil. We want to be said that there is a generation fully committed to the purposes of God. When we lift our hands together to make one sound we are declaring to the powers of darkness that your rule over humanity has come to an end! It's not individual, it's one sound. Multiple streams - one river. It's a prophetic sign.

Joshua 3 called the sons of Israel the former generation had died in the wilderness. There was Caleb and Joshua, but this generation - they were to be builders of the NEW family line. Your parents and grandparents didn't get it. They couldn't let go of the past. It doesn't matter what your family used to do. This generation of church is going to do it differently than anything before. It's a NEW thing, I'm getting ready to see something I've never seen.

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