

Session 6 Powerful Preaching, the Spirit of Prayer, and the Harvest

I. THE RELATIONSHIP OF ANOINTED PREACHING AND THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

- A. There is a dynamic relationship between anointed intercession and anointed preaching. Both require a supernatural work of the Spirit in and through us. Jesus promised that the Spirit would supernaturally convict the people of sin. Such anointed preaching that supernaturally pierces the heart in a deep way is even more powerful than raising the dead. It is rare in the Church today.
- ⁸He [Holy Spirit] will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and judgment (Jn. 16:8)***
- B. Throughout history, when the spirit of conviction has been fully manifested, the Word took hold of the hearts of people until they were powerfully converted as seen in Acts 2 and Acts 19.
- ³⁷When they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter... “What shall we do?”
³⁸Peter said, “Repent...”⁴¹that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴²They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...⁴³Fear came on every soul (Acts 2:37-43)***
- ¹⁰All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus [from the revival in Ephesus]...
²⁰So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed [throughout all Asia] (Acts 19:10, 20)***
- C. I have been a student of the power of conviction through history. Supernatural conviction can be released many ways such as through preaching, singing, writing, drama, media productions, etc.
- D. I encourage all to become students of revival to see how God works and how much He is willing to do through prayer. My favorite revivalists in recent history are David Brainerd (1718-1747), Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), George Whitefield (1714-1770), and John Wesley (1703-1791). They lived during the *First Great Awakening* in America (about 1730-c.1755). Charles Finney (1792-1875) was the most prominent preacher in the *Second Great Awakening* (about 1800-c.1850). The largest camp meetings were at Cane Ridge, Kentucky (early 1800s) with 25,000 attending. I also encourage all to read about John G. Lake (1870-1935) and his amazing healing ministry.
- E. I read the biographies of these men over and over. Their stories gave me a vision in my twenties to be used by God, to contend to be used to bring many to salvation due to the release of conviction.
- F. I read Brainerd’s biography nearly daily for almost 5 years. I noticed a *cause-effect dynamic* in the grace of God in Brainerd’s ministry. When God granted him unusual grace in prayer with groaning (Zech. 12:10; Rom. 8:26), then power on his preaching usually followed to bring people to Christ.
- G. Leonard Ravenhill wrote of a time that Brainerd was lying in the snow for several hours under the burden of the spirit of prayer (travail). He sweat so much that the snow melted around him. The next day, when he preached to unbelievers, the power of God fell on his Native American audience.
- H. Brainerd embraced regular fasting and prayer, seeking to be anointed with the *spirit of prayer*. I set my vision to seek for the Spirit’s “gift” of the *spirit of prayer* that results in anointed preaching.
- I. Brainerd died of tuberculosis when he was only 29 years old. Jonathan Edwards described young David Brainerd as having piety, purity, and abandonment to God second to no man in that day.

- J. Jonathan Edwards preached the famous sermon, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. He read it by candlelight in the evening meetings, yet people wailed under the conviction of sin.
- K. George Whitefield and John Wesley were operating in the same power of conviction in England. Whitefield was only 22 years old when he spoke regularly to crowds well over ten thousand people. As the power of God descended on them, they cried out for mercy.
- L. Charles Finney was a lawyer who was baptized with fire in his preaching. In 1857, he preached in New York City and claimed to see 500,000 new converts in eight weeks, about 60,000 a week.
- M. In the spring of 1982 in St. Louis, *God showed me the relationship of the spirit of prayer (anointed intercession) to anointed preaching to win new souls*. One Saturday night in March, for the first time, a spirit of prayer (travail) sovereignly fell on me in a prayer time. I wept for souls for almost one hour. I said to myself, “This is what Brainerd experienced. Tomorrow I will see if an unusual release of grace to win souls is on my Sunday morning message.” It was a “holy experiment” in the grace of God. The next morning as I preached, about 100-200 people were weeping during my message. I could hear their soft cries as I preached. During our altar calls, we often had one or two people get saved each Sunday. On this day, about 20 unbelievers came forward and wept at the altar over their sin and with a new desire to be saved.
- N. Two months later, in May 1982, the same thing happened again to me during my Saturday night prayer time with almost the exact same results during my Sunday morning message.
- O. In Kansas City, on April 3, 1983, at 6:00am, I was preparing for my Easter Sunday message. Suddenly, I began to travail in prayer for the lost souls that would be at the Easter service. It lasted for about two hours. I drove to the church, weeping for souls. At about 9:00am, the spirit of prayer (travail) came on me for another hour. The leaders shouted through my office door that the 10:00am service was starting. The grace of prayer continued on me past 11:00am. My eyes were slightly swollen from weeping. I was late in getting to the pulpit to preach. However, my message was unusually oppressed. I was confused. I invited people to come forward to be saved. No one came. Five minutes later, about 100 people were talking and mingling at the altar area.
- P. Among the people, I saw three visitors standing in the altar area with their eyes closed, praying. When I put my hand on the first man, he instantly fell to the ground and wept openly. He cried, “Jesus, have mercy on me!” I went to a lady who was praying with her eyes closed and said, “Would you like prayer?” She nodded. I put my hand on her, and she fell to the ground weeping and groaning, “God, forgive me! Give me mercy.” The same thing happened to the third person.
- Q. Bob Jones was speaking to several at the back of the sanctuary. He said to me, “You have had quite a day today. I saw it all last night in a vision. The Lord set you up to go fishing today. You were in a little fishing boat with the Lord. You were excited because the Lord put a net in the boat. You grabbed the net for a big catch today, but the Lord grabbed your hand and said, ‘You can’t throw the net today’ [*the net refers to mass evangelism*]. You were disappointed. He gave you a fishing hook, and you knelt down at the side of the boat and made three strokes in the water and pierced three fish through their heart.” (They represented the three souls saved that very morning.)

- R. Bob continued, “***The Lord will give this youth movement 1,000 times more power to pierce hearts*** than you had today. They will be authorized to use His net. The nets will be full. The Lord told me that He set you up to understand this vision. Do not leave the place of praying for souls. ***The Lord will raise up 5,000 young people here with a vision and calling for apostolic preaching.***”

II. JULY 1988 AND GOD’S PROMISE TO DRAW US AS IN JOHN 6:44

- A. In July 1988, Bob Jones spoke at a Bible study one Saturday night. I was not there. He said, “Tonight is going to be a big night for Mike. He will receive a visitation from an angel who will give him a ***promise about intercession and souls from the gospel of John***. He may not even know that an angel visited him.” At 2:30am that morning, I was awakened from a sound sleep. I instantly began to travail with a spirit of prayer for the harvest in Kansas City for an hour. It was a sudden, sovereign work of the Spirit similar to what happened to me on Easter Sunday in 1983.
- B. The Spirit spoke to me, “I will supernaturally anoint you in prayer and will release the harvest in your midst.” He said “***I will draw them*** (Jn. 6:44). First, I will draw the intercessors into the anointing of the spirit of prayer, then I will draw the harvest in great numbers through them.”
- C. I understood that it would be as much of a sovereign work of the Spirit as waking up from a sound sleep to experience the anointing of prayer. The next day I spoke what the Spirit said to me from John 6. Several told me what Bob said the night before about me preaching from John that day.

III. NOEL IS COMING (MARCH 1984)

- A. On Tuesday, March 20, 1984, Bob heard the audible voice of the Lord, “Noel is coming. Noel is coming.” So, that night at our evening church service, he said, “Noel is coming. Noel is coming.”
- B. On Friday, March 30, I met Noel at a pastors’ prayer meeting, then again at 10:00pm that night. On Saturday, March 31, Noel and I went on a public march in protest against the oppression of Soviet Jews, and then we went to Bob Jones’ house. *(On Sunday April 1, there was a picture of me and Noel in the Kansas City Star related to the article about the march for the Soviet Jews).*
- C. While driving to Bob Jones’ home, Noel told me how God visited him in Colorado Springs at a vast valley of flowers and said, “The number of flowers that you see represents the number of souls that you will lead into My kingdom. Take off your shoes, for this place is holy.”
- D. When we arrived, Bob asked, “What’s your name?” He said, “Noel Alexander.” Bob had an old envelope in his hand. Years before, in 1976, he had written on it: “***When Major General Alexander comes, it will begin the government of this movement.***” Noel joined me in leading prayer meeting three times a day throughout much of the 1980s. Some of Bob’s friends told us, “We have been waiting for Major General Alexander for years.” Then Bob said to Noel, “I am going to put a mirror in front of you. You are like a man standing before a vast field of flowers that speaks of the number of people that you will lead into the kingdom. Let us take our shoes off, for this day is holy.”
- E. In December of 1984, Noel had a prophetic dream in which the Lord showed him that the day is coming when 7,000 people a week will be saved in the Kansas City area.

IV. THE BUS WITH SEVEN WINDOWS: A PROMISE OF THE GREAT HARVEST

- A. In January 1988, Bob had a vision of a bus which spoke of the young adult movement and the magnitude of the harvest and its link to intercessory giving with a spirit of generosity and faith.
- B. **Bob described the vision:** Jesus was driving a bus with seven windows on each side. At first, nobody recognized that He was the driver. He was driving really fast when going downhill and around curves and really slowly when going up hills.
1. Many who were watching the bus from the road were saying, “They are driving far too fast. They will surely go off a cliff.” The people riding in the bus said, “We are driving far too slowly. It seems like we will never get there.” The Lord said, “You will not go over the cliff, no matter what your accusers say.” There were many accusations and complaints on the journey as the Lord was testing the faith and patience of all who were involved.
 2. One point that the Lord was showing Bob was how different His leadership is from man’s and how faithful His promises are, even in the face of human frailty. Bob had been complaining to the Lord that the “young people movement” he had come back from death on August 8, 1975 to help and support was not progressing fast enough and it caused him to be discouraged.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts...¹¹My word [promises]...shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (Isa. 55:9-11)
 3. Bob said, “Let me tell you something about the way the Lord drives the bus. *That Man has the most unique ideas in His leadership.* There is hardly anyone that would agree with Him if they really knew what He was doing. If they really knew the journey that He was taking them on, almost every leadership group would vote against it. They would not go downhill so fast nor would they go uphill so slowly. They would do it just the opposite.”
- C. In vision, the Lord gave Noel Alexander \$1,000 and said, ***“Sow this money into the harvest and I will multiply it 1,000-fold.”*** Then he said to Jesus, “That is a million dollars.” Jesus said, “This is a token of the prosperity that I will release if you will trust Me and give when I say to give.
- D. In the vision, the Lord said, “If you sow that million dollars into the harvest, then I will release a million souls and give you a 1,000-fold increase.” Thus, the Lord was promising to give us a billion dollars to sow into the kingdom. The Lord said He would confirm it that day by having a millionaire call Bob. John DeLorean (1925-2005), the famous car manufacturer, called him from New York.
- E. Bob spent that morning digging in his garden. He found a cast iron bus with seven windows on each side. At the staff meeting that day, Bob said, “The Lord is going to give Noel \$1,000 to sow into the harvest.” Noel said, “In the mail today, I received a surprising \$1,000 check from the US government.” Bob told us to ***get ready to receive a million dollars to give to missions.***
- F. God promised this movement great economic prosperity for prayer and souls as long as we would use it for His kingdom. At our conference in June 1990, our conference offering (including an offering from our local church) totaled ***1.4 million dollars*** to buy Bibles for the Soviet believers.