

# Where are the Demonstrators?

Pastor Dwight Jones

If the world goes to hell, it is not the world's fault. They merely have no roadblocks. Come on. I said if the world goes to hell, it is not their fault. But Pastor, what about the perverts? What about the mess? What about the sick, wicked, twisted mind of this generation? What about the church of the living God that one little bitty shining light can brighten up a room this size? What about a church that will stand in the gap, make up the hedge, and declare, devil, you're not taking our generation. Somebody help me preach this morning.

First Corinthians chapter two, verse number four, one verse of scripture, and you're hearing today. Paul the apostle is declaring the word here today, and he says, and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power.

I want to say that again. Paul the apostle said in my speech, and my preaching, was not with enticing words of soft-petaled, seeker-sensitive gospel, but in demonstration of the power and of the spirit of God. Now, why do we need demonstrators? I'm glad you asked.

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. We have exchanged the power of preaching for a message that is easy to speak and easy to receive. You can find all kinds of soft-petaled gospel that'll tickle your fancy, but leave you starving.

I am not here for any of those reasons today. I'm here to pray for God to do one thing on this Memorial Day weekend at Harvest Christian Centre, and that is to stir up the heart of the demonstrators that we might see a raising up of the kingdom of God and an outpouring of the Holy Ghost in our generation. If that's your cry, stretch your hands toward heaven, and I want you to pray with me.

Father God, in the name of Jesus, we need to see an old-fashioned gully washer. We need a move of God in the house. We need a demonstration of the power of God.

I'm tired of church being a presentation, but not a demonstration. I'm tired of seeing the movement, but not any transformation. So today, God, in the name of Jesus, from the back to the front, side to side, wall to wall, wherever they're watching around the world: In homes, houses, or listening by radio, I pray the fire of the Holy Ghost would set down in their car, their house, wherever they're at.

If they've got to pull the car over and demonstrate right where they're at, let the glory of God set down, we pray. In the mighty name of Jesus, let us move in the power of your Spirit. Help me to preach with the integrity, the humility, and the honor to the glory of Christ, and may the ears of the hearers be ready to receive.

In Jesus' name, the church shouted amen, and amen. You may be seated today if you'd like. I want to talk to you about the subject of where are the demonstrators.

I mentioned a little bit earlier, but 2020 was the hour of the demonstrators. You and I were challenged as believers that we could not attend church unless we separated everybody by six feet. This front row would be fine.

Most of us would be okay today. You had to be six feet away, and you had to wear a mask because heaven knows that mask can stop anything there is. It's amazing what that mask will do, and yet we were told that we could not gather together in the house of worship because of this virus that was going around and was going to wipe out everybody in the nation.

I do not minimize what the damage was, nor do I make light of the actual hurt or pain, but what I'm here today to tell you is in the middle of all of that, they were telling the churches in California, you cannot worship because singing causes people to get sick, but you can get together on the streets, tear up everything there is, burn down buildings, destroy the city, and that's all right because that's free speech. Brother, I'm here today to tell you that we need some demonstrators in the house of God. I am not talking against free speech today, but I'm asking where are the free people that have a speech? Can I get an amen? Where are those of you that have been set free by the power of God, and you've got a testimony? That second song they sing, it fit right where I'm headed today because your victory is in your testimony.

Look this way, and let me tell you right now, some of us have lost our testimony. We've lost our joy, lost our excitement. I don't expect you to shout.

I see y'all kind of going, are you with me? There is victory in the testimony and the ability to open your mouth. The reason the devil tried to silence us during that pandemic was because he felt there was something shaking. Anybody that was in this church the first three months of that year will remember and can recount the move of God that was hitting this house, where it was absolutely water flowing across the building with the glory of God touching lives, and in the middle of that, hell raised up and said, I've got to silence the church.

Can I just prophesy right now? Let the devil throw his best shot, but the church must not be silenced. We need some men that know how to shout, some women that know how to dance. We need some holy ghost fire back in the pulpit of the church of America.

Can I get an amen? Where are the demonstrators? We're letting the world system steal our thunder. Y'all with me? I said we're letting the world system steal our thunder. This is the season of demonstrations.

BLM, ANTIFA, anti-Israeli, anti-American, anti-Biden, anti-Trump, and the list goes on and on. The difference between the demonstrators of the present and those of the 1960s and 1970s is many of the demonstrators being supported today are being supported by global agenda to unseat and destroy the United States of America. If there is going to be a counter uprising, let it start in the church.

If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray. I'm telling you, friend, prayer is not a silent voice. Prayer is a war.

Can I get an amen? We need some men that know how to pray, some women that know how to pray. Where are the demonstrators? Where are those that are tired of watching our nation be destroyed by the globalist agenda movement of the George Soros crowd? Where are those who see the wickedness that is prevailing upon our children and they're saying, God, enough is enough. It's time for an uprising.

You're talking about waving banners. You talk about marching. I'm talking about praying and standing and talking and lifting your voice.

When the church is silenced, the world goes to hell. If the world goes to hell, it is not the world's fault. They merely have no roadblocks.

Come on. I said, if the world goes to hell, it is not their fault. But pastor, what about the perverts? What about the mess? What about the sick, wicked, twisted mind of this generation? What about the church of the living God that one little bitty shining light can brighten up a room this size? What about a church that will stand in the gap, make up the hedge, and declare, devil, you're not taking our generation.

Somebody help me preach this morning. Those who are marching at the colleges and universities in the streets of America are demonstrating a pure lack of knowledge. Who do they think is going to feed them when America that they hate so much is destroyed? Well, we can forgive their debt.

We ain't going there, but I got a lot to say about that as well. Listen to me very closely. Again and again, you will hear people speak to the right of the citizenry to peacefully protest.

Every time I listen to the news, somebody will get on there in the Senate or the House or wherever it is. All these kids have a right as long as they don't destroy anything. What do you think they're doing when they write graffiti, anti-God graffiti, anti-American graffiti, anti-Israeli graffiti? They are destroying, but there is a counterculture.

I just got to stop right now and preach. I said there is a counterculture. She's been silent far too long, but the counterculture is an 85-year-old grandmama that knows how to pray.

The counterculture is a young man that will refuse to bend, bow, or burn. There is a counterculture of believers who are ready to stand up and say, God, let God be God in America again. Oh, yes.

I could go off on a tangent right now. I promise you I could, but what we're watching in America today is unraveling our culture. This is not the 60s.

This is not the 70s. There was a spiritual awakening that took place about five decades ago, a religious awakening, an awakening that was not measured by church attendance, but was measured by a lot of activity in the world. So we began to pass every law there was that justifies every lifestyle there is except for the one that is biblical.

Can I just go ahead before I get off my high horse for a moment, my soapbox? Can I tell you, oh God, wake up America? Can I get an amen? God, awaken America. If you can't wake up

the 50s and 60-year-olds like me, then wake up the kids that'll say, God, let God be God in America again. Can I get a witness? Where are the demonstrators? Demonstrations in the Bible were predominantly presented by a group of people that were different than everybody else.

Somebody got to blend out. Look at neighbor and say, blend out. We don't hear that.

Everybody's blending in. I just want to blend in. I just want to fit in.

I want to look like everybody else, act like everybody else. Listen to me. I want to be totally radically different.

Can I get an amen? Because you can't dim it. Listen, if everybody's wearing blue and you wear red, you stand against it. If everybody is wearing pink and you wear orange, you stand against everybody.

It's not anything you've got to say. It's not anything you've got to do. Your very appearance looks different.

Where is the church that still stands out? Can I get some help on a Sunday morning on Memorial Day? I said, where are the believers that are not afraid to stand out? Everybody else going to hell, but I ain't going to hell. Everybody else bowing their knee to the idol when the music kicks, but I will not bow the knee because I will stand. Oh, come on.

Where are, look at neighbor and say, where are the demonstrators? We have an entire book in the New Testament devoted to demonstrators. Are you with me? You say, where is that? It's the fifth book of the New Testament. Right after Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, there is a book of demonstrators.

That's not the name of that book. What do you think Acts is? It is a demonstration. Come on, somebody.

I'm tired of trying to explain this thing when we can just demonstrate it and get the job done. Can I get a witness in the house? We can preach the sick or healed, but when we demonstrate the sick or healed, things change. We can preach there's victory in Jesus, but when we demonstrate it, it's a different measure.

Can I get somebody to help me? Tell your neighbor, where are the demonstrators? Jesus was a demonstrator. He always looked for a crowd going one way and went the opposite. Go to a funeral with him.

The widow of Nain is marching down the street. The widow's got her child there in the casket and the Bible said they're all going down the street, but Jesus comes up the street, lays his hand on the casket and the poor. Oh, listen to me very closely.

You've got to understand when you start demonstrating, it will get people's attention. You say, well, we don't need any radical people. What do you think it's going to take to turn this nation around? Exactly what it did in the book of Acts.

It's going to take some people getting radicalized for the Lord Jesus Christ. Can I get an amen? That will say, I will not be silent. I will not be quiet.

I will not shut down, let up, give up until I blow up or go up. I am committed to be a demonstrator. Can I get an amen? Jesus, the Bible says, went about healing all that were sick and oppressed of the devil.

He began to both do and teach. A lot of church people are comfortable with teaching. This is probably self-serving to some degree, but I wonder where in the world, dear God, where in the world are all the preachers? In our movement, you can't find many that'll get up and preach.

They all want everybody to like them. I don't get bonus points and I get to heaven because I got your like. Can I get an amen? I want you to like me.

I'm not being arrogant, please understand me, but I recognize this very clearly. There must be a difference in the pulpits of America where the men and women of God are not ashamed of the gospel, but will declare, thus saith the Lord, and let the chips fall where they may. Come on.

As I was listening through the book of Acts over the past few days, it dawned on me that the apostle Paul was a demonstrator. At Philippi in Acts chapter 16, the Bible says in verse 35, and when it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeant saying "let those men go". And the keeper of the prison told Paul, the magistrates said "you can leave and go in peace".

But Paul said, now I'm about to question somebody's civility and mentality. They're in prison. They've been beaten with many stripes.

They have been through all kinds of stuff. And the leader says, if you promise to not get loud about it, you can just go home. And Paul sat there with his shackles on and said "ha!".

You with me? He became, watch this. Paul said, "they have beaten us openly uncondemned", being Romans. "They have cast us into prison.

Now they want to put us out privately. No dice, baby." Well, he said, "nay, verily."

No way. But let them come themselves and fetch us out of here. You don't know what that, that my friend is somebody that says, I am not afraid to demonstrate.

I'm not going to let this thing be tucked out, hid out, put away. I'm a child of God. And what they did was wrong.

And what they did must be made right. Don't try to sugarcoat it. Just deal with it.

Paul knew his rights and he demonstrated them for the interest of evangelism. He said, listen, "I'm not going to win this town if I go hide." Elijah, I've been reading Elijah, man.

I'm telling you, I'm so excited about Elijah. The more I read about Elijah in first Kings and second Kings, the more I get excited about the walk that he had because Elijah was a

demonstrator. The more I read about him, the more I realized he was a radical fanatical that went against the current, the tide and everything that was coming at him.

Watch this text. If you remove the public demonstration of Elijah, you make a pretty boring preacher out of him. And so it is with the church.

Come on. Well, 'I just feel comfortable at my church.' If you're backslidden and you feel comfortable, your church is a failure.

If you're lukewarm and you don't feel that unction of God, this church is a failure. We're not here to make you comfortable. We're here to light your fire, to reach your world because we're running out of time.

Harvest, come on now. Elijah, one of the greatest demonstrators in the Bible. Watch what happens in first Kings chapter 18.

You know, this text, Elijah in verse seven, as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him and he knew him and he fell on his face and said, "Art thou that my Lord Elijah?" And he answered, "I am. Go tell thy Lord, behold, Elijah is here." Verse 15 and Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts liveth before whom I stand, I will show myself to you today, King."

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him and Ahab went to meet Elijah. Verse 17 and it came to pass when Ahab saw Elijah that Ahab said, "Are thou he who does trouble Israel?" What kind of trouble you causing? Did you get up this morning? The devil say, oh my Lord, somebody's out of bed that's blood bought, sanctified, holy ghost filled, fire baptized, somebody's saved and they're up in the living room. Are you the one that troubles Israel? Verse 18 and he answered, "ha! Big dog, I ain't caused no trouble, but thou and thy father's house in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed Balaam. Now therefore sin, gather to me all of Israel under Mount Carmel and the prophets of 400 of those who worship Baal, 450 and the prophets of the groves, 400. I know where they're at. They're all at Jezebel's table."

He said, "you find me those that are eating at the table of the world religion and get them to the mountain because this thing's got to come to a head. We can't go on like this no more. So you summoned all of the prophets of Baal, get all 450 of them.

I know where they're at, but you get them out here and you go get Jeze's boys. She's made eunuchs out of them because she doesn't want any life." That's what the world does to the church.

"Bring them to the mountain." If you're going to call them the mountain, you better get ready to demonstrate. So 850 prophets show up.

Everybody in Israel is watching and Elijah says, "here's the deal. We're going to make a sacrifice and the God who answers by fire, let him be fire, but there shall be no fire underneath it because I know your trickery and I know your pranks and I know the way you play. You don't have anything real, so you got to fabricate it.

So I'm going to put it on the test. There'll be no pipes underneath pumping fire into it. We're going to let God deal with this." Still with me? Everybody shout, where are the demonstrators? So Elijah watches all this take place. 850 prophets, 450 eunuchs, and the others that were standing there, prophets of Baal, and they're all screaming all day long, "oh Baal! Baal!" Nobody answers.

Of course they don't. And Elijah feels sorry for them and offers to help them. "Fellas, perhaps your God is sleeping." I'm not making this up. Read your Bible. It's full of fun stuff.

Maybe the Bible says he's relieving himself. Elijah asked that. That's a demonstrator.

That'll say, listen to me, your God cannot answer you because he's made up by man. He's the devil and he's defeated, so get your eyes off him. And when they were done, Elijah prayed and God sent a fire down and met them on the mountain.

Can God do it again? I said, can God do it again? He was only one man. He was a man on a mission.

And when he had finished, my God, do it again. When he had finished demonstrating, the people of Israel cried out, "the Lord, he is God. The Lord, he is the God."

What separates our God from every other God is the demonstration that he performs to the body of Christ on a daily basis. There comes a time, my friend, where hearing is not enough. Some of y'all know enough about God, you could write a book.

You don't need to, he's already done that. But you could. The problem is you're silent.

See what I mean? Your testimony is a demonstration. My dad, you may have heard me share this story, but my dad, Pastor Derek can verify this. My dad had gotten saved in 1988 on March 28th when we tried out for the church in town.

And in 1989, dad began to get really sick and began to lose a lot of weight. And the doctors went in to do a biopsy and they did their biopsy and they came into the room and they said, we regret to tell you, but you have stomach cancer, spleen, liver. It's probably multiple places.

We only know where we saw it. So they sent him home and dad on the way home, the doctor told him, said, anything you want to eat, go ahead and eat. We plan on being back here next week.

We're going to do an emergency surgery. They said, with surgery, you may make it six months. Dad told mom to make, to stop and get a gallon of buttermilk.

Something about an alcoholic drinking buttermilk. It just don't seem to make sense. But dad told mom, he said, get a gallon of buttermilk and get, bake me some cornbread.

Cause it's the only thing he had to taste for. So they cooked that cornbread up and he smashed it down a glass. You've never, I've never ever done that.

I'm not talking to you. I'm talking about the real deal. Smashed it down that, in that glass of milk and dad just ate buttermilk and cornbread.

Hardly anything else for a solid week. Dad put on 15 pounds. He went back to the doctor that next week.

Went in to do the surgery. A little while later the doctor walked in the room and said, I have no idea what in the world's happened. All I know is what was there last week ain't there this week.

And all we found was scar tissue. Now, it is your demonstration. My friend, your, your testimony is a weapon.

Joshua was a demonstrator. I'm closing. Remember this big, big march they put on? They blocked the streets.

I guess that's where the idea came from. No, they were peaceful. Just a bunch of worshipers walking around quietly.

I got a word for you. Always get nervous when Pentecostals get quiet. Because they know something you probably don't know.

Just a bunch of worshipers walking around quietly. But who could argue with the effectiveness of it? The silence of last week's march is about to give way to the blowing of a ram's horn and the host of Israel just declaring the Lord is God. And the walls fell down flat.

Look at neighbor and say, that's some kind of march. As with any movement, there are counter marches, protesters, counter protesters. I believe there's a place for divine demonstration.

I believe we need to get it back into service today. If, if, if I'm driving down the road, if I'm driving down the road and I have alarms going off in my car, I should not blame my car when it breaks down, when the alarm's been going off continually. The reality is the church has alarms going off.

Low power. We're like Fred and Barney. We just keep peddling.

Where's the power of the demonstration of the gospel? I'm not asking where's your neighbor's power. I'm asking you where your power is. I believe there's a place where you do what Jude said, earnestly contend for the faith.

Paul said, our faith must not stand by the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Thank you for joining us today. We hope you've been blessed by today's message from Pastor Dwight Jones.

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