

Session 5 Apostolic Preaching, the Gift of Intercession, and the Harvest

I. ANOINTED PREACHING AND THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

- A. Anointed intercession is as much a supernatural gift as anointed preaching. Jesus promised that the Spirit would supernaturally convict the people of sin. Anointed preaching that supernaturally pierces hearts is even more powerful than raising the dead. It is very rare in the Church today.
- ⁸ *He [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 manifest, the Word took hold of the hearts of people until they were powerfully converted as seen in Acts 2 and Acts 19.
- ³⁷ *When they heard this, they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter... "What shall we do?" 38 Peter said, "Repent... 41 that day about **three thousand souls** were added to them. 42 They **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine**... 43 Fear came on every soul (Acts 2:37-43)*
- ¹⁰ *All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks... 20 So the word of the Lord **grew mightily and prevailed**. (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. My favorite preachers in history are **David Brainerd** (1718–1747); **Jonathan Edwards** (1703–1758); **George Whitefield** (1714–1770) and **John Wesley** (1703–1791). They all lived during the First Great Awakening in America (1730–1755). Also **Charles Finney** (1792–1875) who preached during the Second Great Awakening (1790–1840) and **John G. Lake** (1870–1935). The east coast and England were set ablaze by apostolic preaching during the First Great Awakening.
- E. I read the biographies of these men over and over. Their stories gave me a vision in my early twenties to be used by God to bring unbelievers to salvation with supernatural conviction. This vision has helped me to continue through the years with fasting and prayer.
- F. I read David Brainerd's biography near daily for almost 5 years. I noticed a cause-effect dynamic in the grace of God in Brainerd's ministry. When God granted him supernatural grace in prayer with groaning (Zech. 12:10; Rom. 8:26), then power on his preaching followed. This was related each time to evangelism. He wrote of lacking power in his preaching when his prayer life lacked power. He embraced more ardent fasting, prayer, and connection to God until power came back on his prayer times. I set my vision to have supernatural intercession unto anointed preaching.

- G. Brainerd lay in the snow for 3–4 hours under the supernatural burden of travail. He sweat so much that the snow melted around him as he coughed up blood because of his tuberculosis. The next day, when he preached to unbelievers, the power of God fell on them. Even when He preached through a drunken interpreter, the power of God fell on the Native Americans. Many of his converts were deeply devoted because of getting saved with such power.
- H. He 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.
- I. 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.
- J. George Whitefield and John Wesley were operating in the same power of conviction in England. George 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.
- K. Charles Finney was a lawyer who baptized with fire in his preaching. In 1857, he preached in New York City and saw 500,000 converts in eight weeks, or 60,000 new converts a week.
- L. We need a vision for apostolic preaching. There is a measure of authority inherent in being born again. It is our mandate to raise up young men and women with vision for apostolic preaching.
- M. In the spring of 1982 in St. Louis, God showed me the relationship of anointed intercession to preaching to win new souls. One Saturday night in March, for the first time, a spirit of 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. So, tomorrow I will see an unusual release of God’s grace to win souls 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 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.
- 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 travail came on me again for another hour. The leaders shouted through my door that the 10:00am service was starting. The grace of prayer continued on me past 11:00am. My eyes were swollen from weeping. I was late in getting to the pulpit to preach. The 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 front.

- P. I noticed three visitors standing alone 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 standing with her eyes closed and said, “Would you like prayer?” She nodded. I put my hand on her and she collapsed to the ground weeping and groaning, “God, please forgive me, give me mercy.” The same thing happened to the third person.
- Q. Bob Jones was speaking to six people sitting in chairs at the back of the sanctuary. Bob 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’ (referring 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. It was very powerful.”
- R. The Lord told me to tell you that ***He 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 send you 5,000 young people with a vision 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.” At 2:30am that morning, I was suddenly awakened from a sound sleep. I instantly began to travail in 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 prayer, then I will draw the harvest in great numbers through them.” I understood that it would be as much of a sovereign work of His Spirit as me 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 on that day.

III. NOEL IS COMING: MARCH 1984

- A. On March 20, 1984, Bob heard the audible voice of the Lord, “Noel is coming. Noel is coming.” So, that night at our Tuesday evening service he said, “Noel is coming, Noel is coming.” Then he told me to lay hands on the songbirds (singers) to release the prophetic song in our midst. Julie Meyer and JoAnn McFatter sang their first prophetic songs. They each sang five songs.

- 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 he had written on it: "***When Major General Alexander comes, it will begin the government of this movement.***" Some of Bob's friends later told us, "We have been waiting for Major General Alexander for years." Bob said, "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." 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 our midst.

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

- A. In July of 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. 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."
- C. There were many accusations and complaints on the journey as the Lord was testing the faith and patience of all who were involved. 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." The Lord said, "You will not go over the cliff no matter what your accusers say."
- D. Then the Lord gave Noel Alexander \$1,000 and said, "Sow ***this money into the harvest and I will multiply it 1,000-fold.***" Noel said, "That is a million dollars." The Lord said, "This is a token of the prosperity that I will release if you will trust Me and give when I say to give."

- E. The Lord said, “If you sow that million dollars into the harvest, then I will release a million souls and will give you a 1,000-fold increase. ***I will give you a billion dollars to sow into the kingdom.***” The Lord said He would confirm it that day by having a millionaire call him. John DeLorean (1925–2005), the famous car manufacturer, called Bob from New York. Bob spent that morning digging in his garden. He found a cast iron bus with seven windows on each side.
- F. 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.*** 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.