

## ENCOUNTERING JESUS CD #5

We are going to start in John 16 verse 8 in just a moment; a little introduction, okay? John 16 verse 8. A verse that's been very precious to me in a very significant part of our prophetic history. We are here on our fifth session. On the third night, we are on a twelve nights of seeking the Lord and at the end of these fifty days of devotion, the last twelve nights we are seeking the Lord together. We are all gathering together and on the third night we did two sessions. So last night the fourth night we did something a little different. We talked about the end of the age just from the things that are happening in current events and from the scriptures so we didn't really tell prophetic history. So now it is our fifth night and we are right on track. It's our fifth time of telling the prophetic history because we told two sessions on Thursday night. So many of you stayed and I appreciate just the interest that was in your heart. I felt like the Lord touched a few people in the ministry time afterwards and really reenlisted them to the front lines. That's why I think why the Lord wanted it to be that way. But here we are going to look at a number of prophetic testimonies. Maybe five of them around John 16 verse 8. Now, this is a verse that will be new to some of you and even, maybe not, you are not that interested in it, but it is critically, a critical part of our future. It's a critical part of our promise and it's a critical part of the end time harvest. Jesus is speaking. John 16:8 And when He comes, when the Holy Spirit comes, the Helper of verse 7. Jesus is speaking about the Holy Spirit. He will convict the world of sin of righteousness and judgment. This is so much more intense than what most of us are thinking. When the Holy Spirit comes and what it means in our context because He's been present in the midst of the people of God since Pentecost. But when He manifests His power in given gatherings when He comes but when He manifest His power, I am going to add a few words, He will release supernatural power to pierce the human spirit in a way that you and I have never seen before. We think of our great future is in signs and wonders. And Beloved, our future is dynamically related in signs and wonders in terms of healings I am talking about. But let me tell you that there's something even more powerful and I want to underline the word MORE. More powerful than raising the dead. Something more powerful than blind eyes opening up. Its apostolic preaching anointed with the very substance of the Holy Spirit's life piercing men's hearts, women's hearts, and cutting them asunder like a sword. Has more powerful effect, not that we have to compare the two, but in history people see the miracles and a year later they are doing something entirely different. But through history when the spirit of conviction fastens upon their hearts the Word of God, like a barbed arrow that will not let loose, they are thoroughly and utterly convicted and converted supernaturally. Now, we want the two together but everybody knows about the miracles. Either tomorrow night or the next night, whatever, we are going to talk about four or five things or promising miracles. There is nobody who loves miracles more than I do. I am really into that but I am talking to a people who love miracles and I wanting to get your attention. Historically... in terms of equipping us to bring nations to the Lord, I am talking about the body of Christ, the us is the corporate body of Christ world wide, we have to get a vision for apostolic preaching. I don't mind get a vision for it. Meaning change our doctrine, and let's preach... let's only preach what Peter preached in those sermons in the book of Acts and let's get those three sermons down. That's not exactly what I mean although that's certainly a worthy thing to do. I am talking about we need a vision of where the power

realm will take us in terms of God's promise and God's plan for the end time church. The power realm as it is related to the speaking words. Now this is something that has fascinated me for twenty-five years. I have been an ardent student of the subject of apostolic conviction. Apostolic, I mean the level of conviction the apostles had in the early church plus some. That's what I mean. When Jesus spoke he spoke as one with authority from heaven. The hearts of a multitude were moved not because of his words, not because of the content his words were just so tender like they were moved by a poet; it is not that kind of a thing. It was because there was a power. There was an authority. The One that spoke in Genesis 1 and created was the One that was speaking in the mode of preaching and that same One is going to preach and speak and sing through His people. Now, this conviction is going to come through preaching. John 16:8. It is going to come through singing. Hebrew 2:11-12 Jesus is going to sing to His father in the midst of the congregation through the body of Christ. His is going to loose the songs of His heart, same as preaching. He is going to sing back to His Father in the presence of stadium's filled with people. It is called prophetic singing. It is Jesus singing in the midst of the congregation back to His Father in power. I just can't emphasize enough of the number of times the Lord has said that prophetic singing, the song of the Lord is really made of the same stuff as apostolic preaching. Meaning it's the words of God's heart with unction. One has music, one doesn't and they go together. Okay, let give you a couple of examples from history because if I don't tell you these examples from history you may not appreciate the stories and the testimonies I mean, the prophetic testimonies. And why do I want you to appreciate them? For one reason! I want you to get a vision to be one of these people. I have had this vision and I hope that don't sound like oh, aren't I'm something; I have had this vision but that's my point. My point is this. I had this vision for twenty-five years and it has been used of God. The vision to enter in to a supernatural realm of proclamation that has in the grace of God has sustained me. To press through years of fasting and prayer and it's because I know that I know on the other end of this thing there is a break through of power on utterance whether singing or speaking that will shake nations. That's the vision that I want twenty year olds to get. That's why I am telling you this to you and I am telling you my story because this is really motivated me powerfully over the years. Wow, this is really neat. It just strikes me again. You know how things just strike you? It was today, because it was on my son's, the day he was born. Luke's 24, he is nineteen. October 31<sup>st</sup>, it was his birthday. I just remembered. That was fun. I just put that together. My favorite church preacher through church history is a man named David Brainerd. I heard Jonathon Edwards, who is probably my second favorite preacher, but anyways, Jonathon Edwards. He talked about this man. I heard the stories of this man named David Brainerd. And I asked everybody who's David Brainerd? He died about 1747 maybe 1748 and was a missionary to the Native Americans on the east coast. He died at the age 29. And he moved in the power of God in preaching. I heard stories about him when I was 22 or 23 years old and I could not find a book on David Brainerd. So the hospital, the hospital Diane goes to, for Luke to be born, next to it is a seminary. This is my birthday too. I go into this seminary and there is the book. The original, I don't mean the original copy, but I mean the Jonathon Edward's memoirs of David Brainerd right there. I looked at the lady and said, "Unbelievable!" She goes, "Nobody's ever checked it out." I said, "Unbelievable!" Here it is October 31<sup>st</sup> and then something really unbelievable happened a few hours later, the birth of our little Lukey

boy. But it just so happens, at this very day it strikes me. This is beautiful for me, I mean. Anyway, I read the life of David. I asked them if they would Xerox this. The lady goes, "The whole book?" I go, "Would you just please? Please? I would pay you anything." And she did it! She gave me the book. She Xerox it and gave it to me. And I read that book and I have had it for years. I began to read the life of David Brainerd and oh my goodness. Oh my Goodness! The power that hit this man's life when he would preach! He would be out in the wildness speaking through a drunken interpreter. A drunken, one of the tribe's men that he paid that could speak English and the power of God hit in these, he called them the heathen. They know nothing of the God of the white man. They never heard of the God of the white man as they called him. The power of God descended and they would be on the ground groaning and travailing having never heard the gospel, never been to a meeting through a drunken interpreter. Fifty of them, forty-three of them, this happened over and over, would be on the ground sobbing and weeping, soundly converted. Jonathon Edwards did the research later, ten years later, again, that is not exactly ten years but some years later some of the converts were men and women of such, he called them singular devotion that he knew almost nobody who had the devotion of the convert's of David Brainerd. And then of course the comment of it is, or the reason for it is because of the power upon this man's preaching. David Brainerd, of course the famous story of him; one day the spirit of intercession came on David Brainerd. He was out lying in the snow. He had tuberculosis. This is why he died at the age of twenty nine years old. He lived out in the open with tuberculosis. He had such a crushing burden for the Native Americans. He said, "I do not care." Jonathon Edwards took him in like a son and lived in his house in the last eighteen weeks of his life. His daughter nursed him and he died in his home. Jonathon Edwards, the famous revivalist and Brainerd became intimate friends. Edward says, "I know of no other man that is equaled the young Brainerd in piety, in purity, in holiness, and abandonment to God." But he would tell the stories of how Brainerd would be out in the snow and be there four and five hours under the burden of travail. Sweating and the snow was melted around him. He was sweating, coughing up blood but the burden of God I don't mean something he contrived laid hold of him and the next day the power of God would hit a tribe and maybe one hundred eighty or one hundred ninety people would be there and the multitudes would be converted relative to the number of the tribe, a high percent. And then years later, the fruit was astounding. That even some of the great awaking that was sweeping through New England, the native converts were the most devout, ten years later under the preaching of Brainerd. I began to read this. You know, Brainerd was 24,25,26,27. I was maybe 23, why I was 23 at the time. I was 23 years old because I was 23 when Luke was born. I began to say, "Oh my goodness!" I was sick. I was absolutely sick. I was ruined with the vision to have this. Then I read about Jonathon Edwards. He did the same thing. You heard the story. The famous story when he preached on Psalm 7 verse 11; sinners in the hands of an angry God and how he preached on hell. He read it. He wrote it all down you know twenty pages whatever, read it by candle light at a night meeting. They didn't have electricity. He looked out and the people in the church were ... it says their hands, you know, the white knuckled thing. You know what I am saying? They were gripping and loosening their strength and they were screaming and wailing as he read this famous sermon. This happened many times, I don't mean just this sermon when Jonathon Edwards would preach and he said the same thing. Edwards and David

Brainerd tapped into reality. Well, then on the other side, there was Whitfield and Wesley over in England doing the same thing. Entering into powerful prayer and a power of conviction where multitudes, thousands {here is young George Wesley, 22 years old} ten thousand, twenty thousand would come and the power of God would descend like a blanket and they would wail, scream, and cry out and the same thing with thing with Whitfield. Wesley, Whitfield, Edwards, and Brainerd all just in that cluster together in that same general time. Two on this side and two on that side and of course Wesley and Whitfield came over here many times. They all operated in the same power. The east coast of America and England was set ablaze by apostolic preaching. They never had seen anything like it at this level. I was, of course when you read Edwards it leads you to Brainerd and then Brainerd leads you right to the other ones. And then I just lost my appetite for life. I just read there stories night and day, night and day. I said, "God, I just got to do this. I got to do this." I am not down on how things are. I am very grateful for everything God has given us by the grace of God but I had a burning vision. I would have a little bible study. Most of them were pretty boring but every now and then I would have a lively little bible study that I would lead. Somebody would say, "Oh, this is awesome!" And nothing could cure my heart from the vision of having what Brainerd had. I said, "I don't care. Nothing... nothing will satisfy me until stadiums are filled and eighty thousand are groaning after the preaching. That's the only vision I will be satisfied with in terms of preaching." I don't care if there is five thousand and they go, "WOW, what a sermon! Man that move me!" That means nothing to me honestly compared to where God has spoken to my heart and were going, where the end time church is going. Then, right after that in the wake of that, these four guys I stumbled into Charles Finney. Oh my goodness! About one hundred years later. Charles Finney, in my opinion, his theology is disastrous but his anointing was stunning. Stunning! One of my favorite men of all of history was Charles Finney. The reason I believe his theology was disastrous because I preached it for years. No, I did! And I just locked so many hearts in a religious spirit. Then I had to unlock them. It was kind of like my seminary experience. I got so excited by the power on his ministry that I assumed that because he was anointed he understood doctrine. Because being anointed and understanding doctrine aren't exactly the same thing. But in the early days I thought they were. And then I had to work my way back through all of the issues and thinking through. It was so heart breaking to think Finney had made a mistake. But anyway, it is many year later and I love Charles Finney desperately. When I am in heaven I will say, "Charles Finney! You so impacted my life!" Charles Finney would go into a factory. This is a famous story most of you know this. You will want to read the biography of Charles Finney. You really, really do want to read these biographies. I read all of these when I was in my twenty-third and twenty fourth year. I read them over and over and over in two or three different versions and different people's biographies of them and their autobiography. Anything I could. I just lived on a steady diet of these guys. We have to get that kind of vision back. Now, years later, twenty-four, twenty-five years later, I can see it was a sovereign set up because the Lord was wiring me for something to be completely ruined for business as usual in the realm of preaching as well as in realm of miracles, as well as in the realm of speaking prophetically from heaven; all three realms. Not just one. Charles Finney would go into the factory. This is one... oh... there is so many good Finney stories. I used to preach. I would bring the Finney books and read like an hours worth on Sunday morning and you know. People would just go like, "You know,

you need to get a bunch of guys that are doing what you are doing and just go tell them these stories." Okay, so... Charles Finney, one of the famous stories. You will want to read these stories! He walks into the factory and the power of God is on him. It says... He goes, "I look up. I fastened my gaze upon the workers. One lady's hand begins to tremble. I've not uttered a word yet. Her hand begins to tremble. Others gather around." He says, "Before long..." And I don't remember the number because it has been a few years since I have read this story but I have read it publicly a number of occasions. "All of sudden, there is several hundred there sobbing on the floor." He says, "I have not yet opened my mouth. I spoke as though a hammer came from heaven and shattered their hearts like a rock. I trust they were hopefully converted." He left them and for hours they were left there and the whole factory was shut down. He left and for hours, five and ten hours later they were left there under the power of God because the preaching of a weak man with apostolic authority. He went to New York City in 1857 and this is what he says in his biography. Charles Finney was a lawyer who got converted and God just baptized him with fire and power for preaching. You know I don't know how many people in church history have entered into the realm he entered into. I know Brainerd did. But Finney carried this for years. In 1857, he went to New York City and he says, "In eight weeks..." I believe... It's conservative to say I believe it is accurate to say, this is Finney's language, something like that. He says, "Five hundred thousand converts in eight weeks." Sixty thousands a week were being saved according to his numbers. Someone said, "Well, what if he exaggerated?" Okay, thirty thousand a week were being saved. Say he doubled it. It was only thirty thousand a week. No microphones. Open air preaching. The power and the authority was from heaven. I would love to give you story after story of the few examples through history of apostolic preaching. It is heavenly. It is powerful. It will cut a city; it will cut a nation in two. Finney said, Edwards said, Wesley said, Whitfield, Brainerd, they all used the same language. They said it was like my words became like a hammer that chattered the rock of human resistance. They would use language like "my words were like fire and the hearts of the people were like grass" and they were effortless in their ability to even resist the power of the Word. All of them were on the floor. They would use language like "my words were like a sword that pierced and cut asunder the human heart." Beloved, were talking about more than an inspirational meeting where you walk out and go "Man, I liked that! I am going for it now!" I am talking about something. Here is the power of it. The word of God, the truth of God fastens on to the human heart and it drives them, if I can use that word, to abandonment and it has a permanent impact on their life. Meaning it goes on for month and months and years not just something that was for the weekend. We need a vision for apostolic preaching in the house of God. And until you get a vision for this you don't press for it. You don't press for it. I love what Dwayne Roberts said at one of the meetings. He said, "I decided..." Whether it was about a year or two ago. You said, "I got to get authority in my life. I don't have authority in my life." We realize that everybody in the name of Jesus has a certain measure of authority inherent in being born again. But he was talking about a manifestation of power in his preaching. He said I don't care what it costs me I am going to find a way in this next season to touch the realm of authority when I preach. That's getting a vision for this. Now, I am going to go to the stories because I think some of you, "Okay, that John 16:8, okay that works." IHOP, what we have to have is a vision for this. Okay, so now I am a David Brainerd, who is just my... Brainerd and Lake you know and Bernard of Clairvaux

was the same way in France but let's not go there. It's the same kind of deal. Signs and wonders and conviction to thousands of people he would preach to in the open air in the eleventh century, okay, twelfth century. Brainerd was my guy, he was my guy. I got my book on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1978. I got two gifts. The big gift was my son and the little gift was the book and the little gift was good but a good gift too. So I began to read it and I said, "[I am going to be a David Brainerd. I am going for it and no man is going to turn me back.](#)" Because you know what? If you press into this you will run into leaders that will get all nervous because you are not satisfied with the status quo and they will get disturbed because you are disturbing them if you are not happy with what's happening. As long as you only want a little bit more they don't mind but if you get like really resolute about this it's disturbing. The underlining statement is you mean it is not good enough like it is? I mean a little bit better, of course, but come on – give me a break. I want to say this. It is my passion to raise up young men and young women that have the vision of David Brainerd and Finney for preaching. Now we will get behind you and push you into this. We will push you into this because I have wrestled with so many guys through the years who wanted to steal this. Well, you know, you got to be practical. I don't want to be practical! I see John 16:8. I have seen historical records that are verified through many people besides these men about their lives. I've got to do this! I don't want to be practical. It's not practical for the world to live in sin with no anointed preaching around the earth except for a few rare occasions. So I began to read Brainerd and here is something I really discovered about Brainerd. It was an equation. Now, equations are never fully perfect but when Brainerd would have a release of prayer, a release of authority in prayer. When this spirit of groaning, I don't mean the made up groaning where everybody gets in the room and says tonight we are going to groan. Okay... then we groan. I have been in a handful of prayer meetings over the years where we are going to call groaning meetings, travailing meetings. We all get in and we do a couple of minutes of warm up music. We turn the music off. Okay, now we are starting and everyone goes for five, six, seven, eight minutes as long as they get a groaning sound. That's not what I am talking about. I am not even against it. I will take any kind of prayer meeting. No, I will. I will take a prayer meeting but that's not what I am talking about. I am not talking about where and I lead a few of those to be honest. I tried to jump start it actually. There you have it! I was going to keep the guy anonymous but it just slipped out there. You can go seven, eight minutes, you can go fifteen minutes due to strength, you know, if you get a bunch of rowdy guys in the room but it is over when it is over. And it likes there you have it. That was kind of pathetic, you know? Although I believe it touches God's heart. I really do. I am talking about not the "[We scheduled the groaning and we come and groan](#)". That is not what I am talking about! I am talking about when God schedules it and God lays hold of us and then we have a manifested authority to lay hold of God. Now, we can lay hold of God anyway but when there is a manifest where we are cloaked in the presence in intercession and our intercession entered into Hebrews 7:25, intercession of Jesus of at the right hand, we tap into that life flow and now God has gripped us and now we grip God. And it is a whole different dimension. So Brainerd would talk about this and it would happen to him. On Friday morning, then on Friday afternoon the Indians would gather he would preach and the power would descend. Brainerd would tell you when he preached there was no power at all on him and he would go into more ardent fasting and prayer. Once you touch it you can't live with out it so they say. I haven't really touched it but I

trust the testimonies of history and I believe it. I believe it! Here I am in St. Louis and its 1982. We come to Kansas City at the end of 82 in November. From January to November. I am a Brainerd fanatic. I am telling Brainerd stories on Sunday morning. We have had two solemn assemblies. They are only three days; three day solemn assemblies. We used Joel 2 and Daniel 9 same old, same old which is good. If it isn't broke don't fix it. Daniel 9 and Joel 2 works. We would get together and we would cry out for the power of conviction to hit the church. So I am in this context and those solemn assemblies were I think meaningful to the Lord that we did them but I don't remember anything remarkable happening. But it was in that context our whole gathering there in St. Louis in which that church is still going. And matter of fact right after this fifty day thing is over on Thursday I go there Friday and I am with them. They want to jump in full blast with everything we are doing here. They are still going twenty-five years later, a group of five hundred. Still about the same number back then and they have maintained the fire. They have been leading near daily prayer meetings for years and years and years. So I just say that is an honor and a testimony I have had. I have been there a number of times over the years with just inner reacting with them and knowing that they have lead prayer meetings out of the twenty-five years. Many of the years, every day I am just so proud of them that they stayed with it. The Brainerd, the Finney, and all this kind of thing, some of the leaders still maintained that in their heart. I remember one Saturday night. Here it was. I don't remember, maybe, March 82'. We got our little four member prayer meeting. We are up there and the first time in my life the Spirit of travail sovereignly from heaven hits me. Supernatural, a full Brainerd thing and I am there. Suddenly, it seizes me. I don't know what is happening. It is powerful. I begin to weep. I am real quiet about it but it's on me and I am groaning, groaning, and I am thinking what is going on. It goes on for thirty minutes to an hour, I don't know. I say in my little mind, "Oh my goodness. This is a Brainerd thing." It's going to happen tomorrow and I am so excited. And tomorrow it did happen. It did happen and I didn't tell anybody even the guys I was praying with. I was over there and they just left and I just stayed there. The time was up and I am going to keep going and it just stayed on me for not long but thirty minutes to an hour. I didn't say a word. The next morning I said, "God, I got to check this out." Here I am in the prayer lab. I preached the same old message I was going to preach. About five hundred people present and about, first time it ever happened, maybe one or two hundred of them were noticeable weeping in the middle of the sermon. I am preaching. I have authority. I am aware of it. It is not at the level of the Finney or Brainerd because I am really watching it. Maybe one hundred, I don't know, two hundred, I don't really know but all over the congregation they were weeping. You could hear them and I called an alter call. Normally we would have one person get saved on Sundays which I love that. One person, one whole person... that works for me! But twenty-five, whatever the number, some big number, they came forward. I said, "Oh my goodness! I can do this! I like this!" I went up and prayed for them and afterwards people said, "Man! That was good service!" I am excited! I have tapped into something. Oh, I have something that is real. I am, maybe, twenty-six or twenty-seven years old and I am going I like it. I have tapped into something real. Then a month or two or three whatever later, I don't remember, it hits again on Saturday night. Same thing! I just did my Ephesians 1:17. There is five of us there and I am pacing in our little room. "Lord, release the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Lord, you know, spirit of wisdom and revelation." This is back in 1982 and I remember this thing

started. Romans 8:26 Groanings to deep for words. I just knelt down and I went into a corner. I said, "You guys I am just going to stay here a little bit longer. Just don't even go." I didn't tell them the last time or this time. I am just wanting to... I am so focused on it. I am not interested in making it a display thing. And it hits me again – thirty or sixty minutes. It's Saturday night again. I get up there Sunday morning. It is a few months after that one same thing. About twenty, thirty minutes into the message, been a forty-five minute message people start to just gently weeping. Just gently not outward cries but you could hear them sniffing, coughing. Maybe and again I didn't count, but maybe a one hundred of them. A few people, one or two people knelt down by their chair in the congregation and started weeping. You could just see their bodies moving and I said, "This has only happened to me once ever!" It was after the night of one these groaning sessions. The same thing. A bunch of people get saved. Maybe ten or twenty, I don't know the number but more than the normal one or zero. I mean it was record breaking except for that one day. You know the day that it happened a few months earlier. People afterwards were saying, "This was a great service. Wow! Things are really picking up!" And it happens one more time. It happens three times in St. Louis. Then in June, this Augustine prophet, a guy comes by and says he hears the audible voice of the Lord. In essence, when it's all said and done, you are going to Kansas City and there is going to be a lot of young people. And then the summer of 1982 I go on a long fast and then I go to Cairo, Egypt and the Lord speaks it, "Night and day prayer is essential." So I come to Kansas City and I am wired. I can't wait! I mean I got a great six months behind me, the audible voice of the Lord, the extended time of seeking the Lord, and the experience in Cairo, Egypt. We come here with every day prayer meeting; 7 to 10pm every night. And so I am ready. I am just waiting for this arrow of intercession to hit me. You can't make it happen. It just comes when it comes. There is no way to make it happen. It is so sovereignly initiated by God. Now, the big day happens. The big day happens. Oooh, I love this story. I love it and I hate it. It's a great and terrible story in my little heart. Okay, it's Easter 1983. You know we have been at the church three or four months since December we started. It is Easter, April 83'. I wake up on Easter Sunday. It's maybe six or seven, I don't know what time and I just kneel down. I don't kneel that much. I mostly walk or sit. And so I knelt down and I said, "Lord, I just want you to just... Here it is Easter and it is our first...you know I got a little congregation." I got three, four hundred people here probably going to be five or ten visitors. I'd like somebody to get saved today. That would be really great. And I said, "Lord, I just want you to bless it". And groaning-travail falls on me from heaven. I mean within a minute. It's this Romans 8:26; groaning with groanings to deep for words. The Holy Spirit is helping you. And it goes on and I am not going to get the times exactly right but seven o'clock to eight o'clock to eight-thirty, whatever, it goes on for awhile. Way longer than the St. Louis thing. It has like birth pangs. It grips you for two or three minutes really hard. It's like it grips your body then it relaxes for a minute or two then it grips you again. It is coming from heaven not born of the earth. It is not born of zeal. It is not born of effort. It is not born of anything. It is a sovereign thing you can not produce. Finally it lifted for four or five minutes. I had been sobbing for an hour or two, I don't know how long. I mean weeping and travailing. The only time of intercession was those three times in St. Louis of the four or five years I have been doing it hard. I think oh my goodness this is all the fruit. So I get into the car to hurry up and get to the church. I get there before anybody and I go into the back room. I

just knelt down and go, “Lord” and it hits me again. It hits me and maybe its 9 or 9:30, I don’t know. You know I could be missing the time frames up here but it hits me again. I go for an hour in my little office in that new little church. The guys are knocking on the door, “Hey, can we do...” I don’t know to do? I have never been in public where this has happened. “Oh, do what you want to do.” So I slipped out in some back place because we were at a Fox Hill Office Park at a Hundred Ninth and Row which was a executive business building actually. It was kind of a wild place to have a church. It was just newly being renovated on the inside. There was a couple of construction sites way over at the other end. So I went over there just in the construction site and knelt down on some dry wall. It hit me for an hour or hour and half again! My strength was so wrung out. I am talking it might have been three to five hours total. The other ones were thirty minutes. My eyes were swollen, my strength was gone. I have no strength! This was exactly how Brainerd would talk. And I would say, “This is really the real deal!” And finally the worship is gone. You know it’s Easter so you don’t want to go so long but it’s gone forty-five minutes to an hour and guys are looking everywhere for me. I am tucked around a piece of dry wall. A whole stack of it just lying down and the guy goes, “You know we did one more song like five times... Are you coming?” I said, “I am coming.” I went into the bathroom and washed my face and I looked a mess. So I get up there and I preached. I start... I am so sure... I am three for three and I have Finney and Brainerd and Wesley. I know its God’s way is my point. There are stories. I know its God’s way! Five minutes, ten minutes, it was oppressed. It was oppressed! I have what I call sermons that are dead and those that are double dead. This was double dead! I have faith because I know what just happened. I say this was the devil and I stop and in the name of Jesus, you know, break this open. I go for another ten or fifteen minutes and it is so bad. A spirit of oppression and I am not exaggerating to be funny. It was so bad I stopped fifteen minutes early. It was horrible! I am really hurting. I am sitting there... standing there and I said, “Okay, you know, I am just going to cut this a little bit short. You are here and it’s a new church.” A few of them said, “Praise God!” No, for real they did. This is not a joke. This is painful...funny but it was painful. I am so confused. Nobody knows what has happened to me. No one knows about my equation of St. Louis. It’s not something I preach about. It was something I was doing; all my little internal math. You know I got all my little things I am studying and how this thing works. So I can go for the rest of my life doing this. I am heart broken. I am sick. I am up there and I said, “If anybody wants to just come forward and say, “Lord, I would like to be touched by you.” Why not? And so nobody came. So I dismissed them. Again the three, four hundred people were kind of mingling around this little building. It’s a building that seats about seven hundred. So Bob Jones, this new prophetic guy, just met him. Okay, we just had the first of spring when the snow melts in March and its April. So I just have known him. But I believe that he is from the Lord. He is at the very end of the building so he doesn’t see me and I don’t see him and everybody is mingling around up front. It’s maybe a building three or four times the size of this one. And I was just up there and the people were all talking. “Hey, my name is this” because the church was so new they didn’t know each other. There were three people standing there four or five feet apart. Strangers, they were just standing there. They were coming up to answer that if... hey, if you want God to even touch you just in case come on up. They didn’t come up immediately but they came up at the five minute bar. So I am talking to new people and a guy has his eyes closed and I go up to

him and I said, "Would you like prayer?" He just nodded his head. I had never seen him before. I put my finger on him. Now listen to this! I put my finger on him. My finger... I didn't say... hardly a word. I put my finger on him and said, "Now Lord." And when I did it he fell to the ground. He dropped sobbing. I took a step back. I hadn't said anything! I just said, "Now Lord." And he went ohhhh and he went down with heaving sobbing. Unbeliever. First time at church. I knelled down and said, "Are you..." because I got the theology but... I said, "Are you okay?" And he doesn't answer. He is sobbing. I am worried not thinking I am anointed. I am thinking I am totally oppressed right now. I am going, "Are you okay?" He doesn't answer. He just sobs. And he was going, "Jesus...Jesus..." That is the oddest thing I have seen. I went over here and I was just talking. A guy said, "Hey, I am first time here... Good to meet you. Neat little church here." A lady is standing there and her eyes are closed and same thing. I go up to her and I said, "Would you like prayer?" She nods her head. I put my finger on her forehead. She collapses to the ground and starts sobbing and groaning saying, "Mercy, Please give me mercy." I kneel down and I kind of getting it and I am saying, "You want Jesus to give you mercy?" She says, "Please Jesus!" She is sobbing. I go what is going on here? I have no grid for this. Then another moment or two, you know, people are all mingled. Maybe there is a hundred people mingling up there because it's a chatting time and there was nobody who came for the alter call. So these guys are just standing, they don't know anybody except maybe the man who brought them. So I walk over here there is another man and same thing. I put my hand on his chest and I don't say a word except for you know can I pray for you. Same thing. He collapses and starts sobbing. I look back and now its twenty minutes. I am really observing this. Everybody is still talking and they are in this crowd on the floor and everybody is walking over them and they are weeping. I am going I have never seen anything like this! So, I look at the back of the room and there is Bob Jones with about six or seven people sitting around in chairs. They are sitting in the very corner. So I go back there. They wanted to get out of the walk way because Bob had some things to share with them. I said, "How are you doing, Bob?" He goes, "Well, you have had quite a day today, haven't you?" I said, "Well, exactly I have had quite a day!" He goes, "Oh, I know, I have seen the whole thing." Now, remember I am new with Bob. We had the "First of Spring". I go, "What do you mean you seen the whole thing?" He says, "Oh the Lord set you up to go fishing today, didn't he?" Now he doesn't know what happened and he doesn't know about my St. Louis and he doesn't know about my equation and he doesn't know anything. I said, "You know Bob?" Because I still had pain in my heart. I was still hurting and I was super tired from the five hours or the three hours or whatever it was. But I was perplexed by these three groaning people still laying up there. And he said, "The Lord really set you up for some fishing today, didn't he?" I said, "He sure did! More than you know." He goes, "Maybe I know more than you know!" I said, "What do you mean?" He says, "Well, the Lord took me in the night visions last night. Took me in the night visions with him and I saw you. I saw you today. You and the Lord were on a fishing boat. A little fishing boat. And you were so excited because the Lord put a net in the boat. The Lord put a net in the boat." In other words, the Lord was the One who anointed me and set the thing up for this day. He goes, "You grabbed the net and the Lord grabbed your hand and said, 'You can't throw the net today!' That is massive evangelism. You can't! You were so disappointed. You were really disappointed today!" I said, "Bob, more than you will ever know. You don't even know what happened to me

today.” He goes, “Oh, I do know because the Lord put the net in your reach and then grabbed your hand and said, ‘No, not today’”. He said, “Then what happened and I don’t know how this is going to work out. Maybe it’s going to happen this week.” Because they were all back there talking. He said, “He gave you a hook, a big ole hook. About a foot long with a big hook on it. You knelt down on the side of the boat and you gave three strokes in the water and you pierced three fish right through instantly.” I just did that! I just put my finger on three people and they went down like an arrow shoot through them. He goes, “And you pierced them right through the heart and they were soundly converted. I know it hadn’t happened yet but I think you are going to watch it happen this week before it is over.” I said, “Bob, you just don’t even know what’s just happened to me!” He said, “Let me tell you what the Lord told me to tell you. The Lord told me to tell you He is raising up this youth movement. And what ever authority he gave you with those three, that hook those three times. This is the actual word he told me. I saw him. I saw him with eyes. ‘I will give this youth movement one thousand times the power to pierce hearts in the day I release them. They will throw the net and the net will break because the multitudes will come in such power.’” He says, “And the Lord told me He set you up to understand what I am talking about.” I said, “Bob, you don’t even have any idea what you are telling me right now.” He said, “Mike, you don’t have any idea what I am telling YOU right now.” Because he doesn’t know how deeply clear this was to me about intercession and fasting and groaning and conviction. And Finney and Brainerd, he didn’t really even know those names. He knew more of the Pentecostal history. He said, “Well, I don’t really know that much about them.” I go, “Oh these are my heroes.” There it happened that day and he said, “Let me tell you this! When the Lord releases this young adult movement, this youth movement they are going to have... This is the actual word the Lord gave me. This is an actual number. He said I will give them one thousand times the authority that you had to pierce the hearts of people instantly with one word. They will pierce the hearts of multitudes and the nets will break because the catch will be so great. Whatever you do you don’t leave!” He always called it the house of the watchful and wise because that’s what the Lord called it. He said, “Don’t you leave that place of prayer; the house of the watchful and the wise. That’s the only place this net is going to be released in fullness is in the house of the watchful and the wise.” So that was that day. Okay, now, oh I love that story but oh it was painful. Beloved, it’s coming. I am envisioning an army of five thousand of these young people. Beloved, I like us old more than older than young people too. I want to do it too but I see an army of five thousand twenty year olds. They got a vision for apostolic preaching. We have sowed it into them and we are going to press them to move into this thing. They are not going to be denied until they break through into a realm of power, a realm of power in their preaching. Okay, so that was April 1983 so totally exciting. Now, let’s fast forward a few years. March 1984. We are at one of our meetings. It’s Tuesday night, I can remember it as sure as can be. I can remember this meeting! Bob Jones came up. He got up and he said, “Noel is coming! Noel is coming! Noel is coming!” and he sat down. But he goes, “There is more to it than that but I don’t know what it is. I don’t have any idea what it is. I just heard it in the dream this morning. I heard the audible voice of the Lord. I heard it. Noel is coming. Noel is coming.” I said, “Maybe it is just prophetic songs.” He goes, “No, it’s more than that. I heard it by the audible voice of the Lord. There is something going on here.” Okay, a week goes by. I go to the city wide prayer meeting and Noel Alexander comes. Most of

you know Noel Alexander. He is just a total comrade in the spirit to me all these years. I go to city wide prayer meeting a week later, whatever, a week or so and I walk in at nine o'clock in the morning. March 1984. Maybe there is forty or fifty pastors there and there is this new guy standing straight off a Reinhard Bonnke meeting; a Nazarene pastor who didn't believe in the things of the spirit. Went to a Reinhard Bonnke meeting and was so impacted by the Reinhard Bonnke meeting; he sought the Lord and the spirit of God fell on him. This is on a Friday morning. On Thursday night, the Reinhard Bonnke meeting was like a week before but he was so in turmoil the whole week of God I got to touch the power of God because he wouldn't have any familiarity at all with any thing charismatic. And so anyway he was in turmoil all week; a deep man of prayer. So on a Thursday night he is by himself and he is just... "Oh God, Oh God, Oh God..." I mean the power of God fell on Noel and he began to speak in tongues. This was really outside of his comfort zone and outside of his friend's comfort zone. And so this hits him at maybe, I am saying ten o'clock at night. It was in the evening and he stays up night long for ten straight hours or however many hours until nine the next morning. He stays up all night speaking in tongues. And Matt said, "Go to that charismatic city wide pastor's meeting." He goes, "I don't even know one." He goes, "Go!" So I walk there at nine and Noel was there. His face lit up like an angel. A little exaggeration but I mean a brightness on this man's countenance. He had been up all night and the power of God resting on him. He sang in his beautiful, I mean beautiful South African accent. He sang, "I told you the truth. The power of God is coming and He will shake the nations. He is calling for night and day prayer. I care nothing for anything." I said, "I love this guy!" I walked up to him and he is talking to eight or nine of them with energy and fire. I listen to him outside of the circle of this six or eight. I am falling in love by the second. I go, "I love him! I love him! I love him!" And Noel says, "I don't care, this... all churches and churchanity... it means nothing if we don't press in..." And he is a brand new guy there who's been speaking in tongues for ten hours. And so then.... And so then... I go up to him and I go... They say we have to start the meeting and it's nine and I only heard him four or five minutes. I was so excited! I said, "Hello, my name is Mike Bickle." He goes, "My name is Noel." And my first words I said were, "You are a man." He goes, "Yes!" I go, "No, I mean you don't understand. Noel is a man!" That is what I said, "You're a man!" He goes, "Yes!" We laugh about that. We have laughed about that for years. Man, my wheels were turning. Oh my gosh! So I said, "I have got to talk to you." He says, "Okay!" Someone said he had been up all night. He said, "I am full of the power of God I don't need to sleep right now. I am ready to go." And so I said, "Okay." So we talked for a couple of minutes. We get our phone numbers. He said the most endearing thing I have ever heard. Not the most endearing thing in my life but very endearing. I said, "Noel, I got to talk to you tonight. I can't wait." He said, "Me either." I said, "I have a meeting tonight." He said, "So do I." I said, "What time is your meeting?" And he goes, "Well, for about a year now we meet every night for intercession and I won't take anything except for that prayer meeting." And that was what I was doing too. We had been meeting for eight or nine months. No, what did I say? Did I say March of 87? I messed up! It was March 84. This was March 84! What am I doing in here? Okay, March 84! Okay and so I go for the last eighteen months and we have been doing it every night. So have we. I said, "You can't meet because you are having a prayer meeting?" I go, "This is fantastic! What if we meet tonight?" So we did. Ten o'clock and we stayed up till one or two in the morning. And then I said, "Hey, we have to meet again

tomorrow." He said, "Absolutely!" I said, "Although I got to go to this walk, this march." He said, "I will march with you." I said, "Good!" So we are marching with a couple thousand people in this Christian march down by the plaza. We are walking and I am telling him story of this and he is telling me stories and oh man we are loving it. It's so phenomenal! Now it ends up the march is a march for Soviet Jews to be released from prison. And they take a picture. A big picture and put it in the front page one of the sections probably the religious section and it's me and Noel. It says, "Soviet Jews" and me and Noel are there. We were in the middle so we could talk because in the front there was too much noise and the camera guy came in the middle and the next day our meeting was documented in the section of the Kansas City Star. So I said, "Noel, Come with me. It is important! You got to know this. Come here on the phone with me." I call up and say, "Hello, Bob? Mike here. I got a friend here I want to bring over." He says, "Bring him over. Tell him only this. I saw him this morning and I am going to put a mirror in front of him. I am going to show him his past and I am going to show him his future. I am going to put a mirror in front of him." Okay, so in the car I say, "Noel, his going to put a mirror in front of you." He goes, "Like a real mirror? I go, "No...No... He is going to tell you something that is going to be like looking in a mirror." He says, "Okay, that's good." So I get over there. And I am driving over there, twenty, thirty minutes and Noel says, "Let me you before we get there the most dynamic thing that have ever happened to me. It was in August 1979. The power of God fell on me and God called me to intercession in 1979." I said, "Me too!" Our histories were exactly the same. He goes, "I have been pressing into this thing because it is 84' now and for these five years." I mean our lives are so tracking sovereignly. I said, "Noel, this is amazing!" He says, "While I was in Colorado Springs and the Holy Spirit, it was two in the morning, tells me to pull off the side of the road with my family sleeping in the car. I pull off and I go out in a valley of fields. Everyone is sleeping so I get away with it but I stand out there and I heard the voice of God. I heard his voice! He said, "How many flowers?" I heard this from the Lord There was this vast valley of flowers. "How many flowers?" and that is all he said to him. He said, "Lord it is impossible to count." And the Lord said one more thing. He says, "This is the number of souls you will lead into the kingdom." And he sobbed in that open field for an hour. Got into his car and his family are asleep and he drives them on. He drives through the night whatever he does and goes to the hotel somewhere. I think it is important as even Colorado Springs so he is telling me this and Noel is weeping in the car. We pull up to Bob's house and he is saying, "Can you give me a minute here. I got to get myself composed." We walked in. Bob pulls out this 1976 back of an envelope with coffee stains and yellowed. He said, "What is your name?" He goes, "Noel Alexander." I go, "This is Noel!" He goes, "Yeah, yeah it is more than that." And on this coffee stained, yellowed envelope that he had saved since 1976 and it is now 1984, it had on the back of it written in Bob's handwriting 'When Major General Alexander comes, than I am going to begin to assemble this youth army.' You are a Major General in the spirit. Let me tell you. I have been waiting for you because I have given this word to two or three people through the years." Bob would verify it and say, "Remember when I told you guys the General Alexander word? The Major General Alexander?" Some of his older friends when they met me and Noel in 84' when met us because they knew Bob back in 1975 and 1976 they go, "Oh, we have been waiting for General Alexander for years and here he is." So we walk into the room and that is moving and Noel is weeping already. I am weeping. It is

powerful. Bob says, "This is a sovereign moment. Let me tell you this." Oh no wait...Noel is in the field and the Lord said one more thing to him, "Take off your shoes for the place you are is holy" when He showed him the open field. I forgot that. It's very, very important. So Bob says, "Here's the mirror I am going to put in front of you. This may sound a little poetic but the Lord means you to take it so literal." And Noel looks at me and I think I don't know. He says, "This may sound a little poetic but you are like a man that is standing before a vast field of flowers. The Lord told me this is the inheritance that you will lead into the kingdom through intercession. You may not understand that." Of course we are finished! Noel had just told me that in the car and that is the most serious experience he has ever had. And then Bob says, "And the Lord told me to tell you guys when you gathered. I knew there would be a gathering today. This will mean something to you. Let's take our shoes off. For the day, this day before the Lord is holy because God is going to make you guy's partners in intercession. You don't know what this is going to look like but the Lord is going to complete what he began with you. It will bring a harvest of souls beyond anything you can imagine." Amen!