

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

I believe the Body of Christ is on the edge of the greatest revival ever

If we are going to be a part of this revival we must have a desire for "more" and an understanding of the culture that will usher it in and maintain it.

More miracles, healings, deliverance, glory, power, more ministries and churches planted, more of the presence of God

Mark 16:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- Jesus never meant for miracles to be an end in themselves
- He meant for them to be an invitation into The Kingdom of Heaven

In our churches we find people that can identify with one or both of the brothers in the story of the Prodigal

A transition is taking place

The pool of Bethesda is a picture of the church and fivefold ministry as most people know it

John 5:2–4 (NKJV) One angel

Ezekiel 47:1–12 (NKJV) The River

The river represents the grace and power of God

- It flows out of the sanctuary
- It gets deeper the further it flows

Ephesians 4:7–13 (NKJV)

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" ⁹ (Now this, "*He ascended*"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- The fivefold is to equip, train and send out to the world
- Releasing multitudes of angels and manifestations of the grace and power of God

Sent Ones:

John 17:18, 20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ As You **sent** Me into the world, I also have **sent** them into the world.

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

- Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our faith
– **Hebrews 3:1**
- When Jesus promoted His disciples from learners to leaders He didn't call them patriarchs or priests, He called them **apostles (sent)**
- We do not all hold the office of Apostle
– **Ephesians 4:11 some**
- We are all sent ones!

The generals, (apostles) were to transform the legal, financial, educational and all other systems so that the new land would be like Rome, even to the emperor himself, should he decide to visit

Simply gathering for a service for two hours on a Sunday is not synonymous with transforming the culture of a city

Statistics prove that cities with some of the largest church attendances (with the exception of only a few) also have the highest crime rates, poverty, poorest health, most divorces and greatest number of abortions, per capita

“The difference between those who do something and those who don’t is that those who do something...do something!”

– Banning Liebscher

It is important to realize that along with apostolic mantles and strategic missions, it will also take unreasonable courage to break away from the crowd of powerless religion and into the realm of seeing a global awakening!

- Movements never define people
- People define movements

Without a 42-year-old black woman in 1955 refusing to sit in the back of the bus, after a long day, there may have been no Civil Rights Movement

- Rosa Parks was not part of a movement, she was the movement
- That movement is still moving
- Later, Rosa wrote, *“Without a vision the people perish, but without courage dreams die.”*

One of the main reasons people don’t act is the tremendous sense of inadequacy

- It’s easy to inventory our weaknesses and disqualify ourselves
- It’s in our weaknesses and lack that God shows Himself strong
- He only asks us to be willing to offer what we have

John 6:1-14 The Fishes and the Loves

- The crowd didn't eat rice and beans because the boy brought fish and bread
- Jesus multiplied what the boy had, not what he didn't have
- God doesn't care about what you don't have
- He only cares about what you do have

Many of us try to tell God why they cannot carry out their divine mission

- I'm too old...too young...too dumb...too ugly...
too uneducated...too weird...too weak
- I was born in the wrong family
- I was a prostitute...a thief...a murderer...and adulteress
- I've been divorced
- I've had an abortion
- The list goes on and on

Judges 13-16 What about Samson?

- This guy was dumb
- He had no friends and terrible relationships
- His girlfriend ties him up three times, and tells him that his enemy is after him, and he still spills the beans!

Yet, Samson's greatest victory occurs following his greatest defeat!

2 Kings 22-23 King Josiah

- Not old enough to cross the street alone, much less become a king – eight years old
- Talk about a chain of generational curses
- His grandfather (Manasseh) was the most wicked king in Israel's history
- His father (Amon) walked in all the ways of Manasseh
- Yet Josiah led Judah in one of its greatest revivals and brought the nation back to God

John the Baptist

- His clothes were NEVER in style
- He ate locusts
- Jesus said no one greater had ever been born

Rahab

- She was a prostitute
- Helped Joshua conquer the Promised Land
- She becomes the great-great-great-great grandmother of Jesus

David

- Committed adultery and murder
- He is called “a man after God's heart”

Noah

- He got so drunk after God used him, he took off all of his clothes

So, you never finished High School?

Acts 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

- He had just preached the one of greatest, boldest messages ever – Acts 3
- His shadow healed people – Acts 5:15
- Stories like this go on and on throughout the Bible

God is famous for accomplishing extraordinary things with ordinary people!

Line from Braveheart:

William Wallace to Robert the Bruce, who is trying to convince Wallace and his tattered army of misfit soldiers to compromise and make peace with England by joining the “Clans”

“Men don’t follow titles, they follow courage!”

God is looking for men and women to stand with Him, in this hour when the political spirit seems to reign supreme and the media crucifies anyone who doesn’t agree with them

- Will you lead and make a cry for righteousness and the Kingdom?
- God is looking for believers who have something to die for

Matthew 16:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- Everyone's life is terminal
- We are all going to die
- The question is, what did I live for?
- Did I just take up space and suck air?
- Or did I make a difference?
- Did I fulfill my destiny?

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NLT)

¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

- When we lose our fear of death, we move into new realms of impact
- When we deal with the inevitable, we can actually do the impossible

Ancient Roman Saying:

“A coward dies a thousand deaths, but a brave man dies only once!”

There are many things in life that masquerade as courage, but in truth it is just fear wearing a mask

Maybe you're that person that says you don't care what others think of you

- It sounds bold and courageous
- Most of the time we're just afraid that people won't like us if they get to know us
- It's easier to reject others before they reject you

Then there's the person who does all the talking

- You can't get a word in edgewise
- Most of the time these people are terrified of being controlled
- They won't let anyone speak into their lives

How about the Rageaholic?

- If you stay mad you don't have to feel fearful

Then there's the Brainiac

- If I'm smarter than everyone else I don't have to deal with my insecurities
- As long as I can outthink everyone, I won't have to be afraid of them

Courage is just fear that has said its prayers!

Esther demonstrated real courage

- Haman, hated the Jews and especially Mordecai
- Haman convinces the king (*not knowing that Esther was a Jew*) to exterminate the Jews
- Mordecai was Esther's cousin and the one responsible for her becoming queen
- He finds out about Haman's plot and dresses up in sackcloth, mourning and wailing at the king's gate
- Troubled and scared Esther tries to calm him down

Esther 4:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?”

- When will we stop assuming God will use someone else?
- He wants to use you
- You were created for this!

Esther 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”

- She was stressed out, but she refused to let her fear dictate her future
- She enters the palace and appeals to the king
- He hangs Haman on the very gallows he prepared for Mordecai
- Esther rescues the Jews!

There are always giants waiting for us at the border of our destiny

- We need them
- The process of conquering them is what prepares us to prosper in the Promised Land
- It is fear and trembling that pushes us past the Goliath's in our lives
- Without a Judas, there could be no Calvary

The Apostle Paul courageously endured imprisonment, stoning, beatings, and shipwreck

- Left for dead more than once
- Finally beheaded

He told the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

Later wrote to the Philippians

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- Courage does not mean that you're not afraid
- Bravery is often demonstrated in the face of fear
- Fear is a common, human emotion
- Brave people are not immune to it
- They press through it to greatness
- When we face our fears and conquer them, we can capture our destiny

2 Corinthians 4:8–10, 17 (NKJV)

⁸ We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory