

CHIEF MINISTRIES

February 2010

Come Holy Spirit! Come soften our hearts!

Without the Holy Spirit actively moving and working in our lives, we will become stagnant, murmuring, complaining, spiritually obese Christians, (I use that word loosely here). Crying like the Israelites in the wilderness, (I assure you that's where you'll be found) saying "Feed me" "Give me more". The next level is exercising your faith! How many times have you heard men say, "I'm not going down to the church because it is full of hypocrites"? My dad would say, "Well, I'd rather go to church with a few hypocrites than to go to hell with all of them!" Spirituality and revival should be within. *For in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).* People around you aren't rejecting spirituality, I feel they are rejecting Christianity because they look at our lives and say "You're a Christian?" or "If you're a Christian, I don't want any part of that." Yes, I know people will use any excuse they can grab a hold of, but, if you're not living the victorious Christian life – I don't care where you're currently living – then perhaps it's time to ask ourselves "Why not"?

Move! Go with the Spirit! It won't lead you wrong! Do you consider the Spirit in what you say? You should! How about what you do? You should! The wind of the Spirit is always moving. We must be willing to spread our wings and S.O.A.R. (be Sold Out And Radical) with that wind or we will get left in the nest. *Fear not! For I am with you says the Lord! (Matt 14:27-31). But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is you command me to come to you on the water." He said "Come". So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me". Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him.* Peter's experience could only take place when he decided to move out of his comfort zone.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible (Heb 11:24-27). Sounds like he saw the wind like Peter, saw the invisible! They were willing to move out in faith and persevere. They may not have known what the future held, but they knew Who held their future. They were authentic, they were passionate, they were warriors. They learned to go to the next level! John, one of the twelve was in the upper room when he received the Holy Spirit in greater measure. Jesus had promised him this and breathed on him. At the last supper, he leaned on Jesus and heard Him breathing. Imagine being so close to the Lord that you could hear Him breathing! God's intent from the beginning, when He breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life, was for us to be carriers of His presence. When we are filled with His "pneuma" (Greek for breath) we are not self-absorbed or fearful but walking with God and others in transparent love. Don't hide from God because of guilt. Real guilt is due to real sin. Exaggerated guilt is due to the combination of real sin and the work of the "accuser of the brethren" and false guilt is the result of lying, condemning spirits. I John 1:7 gives us the remedy: *If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin".* So run to the light! Stop the religious masquerade while you're at it! Deep – seated hurts from the past make it easy for us to pretend all is well while holding the Lord, the lover of our

soul, at arm's length. Having a form of godliness yet denying the power of God because we want to hold on to what we've been through? Why? Jesus is our healer! Let Him probe and lance our wounds to allow His light to penetrate our being. Expose it. Surrender. Forgive. Sow blessings to others. This is the way out of the masquerade – remaining open-faced before God releasing mercy and forgiveness for past hurts.

By the way serving God is not a spectator sport. There is no “cautious observer” position on God's team. Fear not! Remember? We are to be God – pleasers. Forget about what you will look like, or what others will say. You're going to get those crazy comments from the peanut gallery anyways. Usually those spectators turn into the judge of the games. First, you get a wrinkly ol' prune face, then put on the old cloak of criticism. You have your ten points by which you judge everything around you. You leave a particular gathering or event and say “well, it could have been better, if only.... But you offered nothing other than your cow – sized tongue to help it be better. Truth may hurt for the moment but when prayed and spoken with the motivation of love, it cleanses and sets free. How many of us imposed limitations on our lives because of what society says? Hello! Any ex-cons out there, those currently incarcerated (they say we'll be back), sex-offenders? We must not believe the lies of the devil about ourselves.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 says, “*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete*”. Words not in alignment with the will of God will attack our mind. Even authority can plant those thoughts. They can confine us in boxes with low ceilings and false expectations. Don't believe evil reports. One chaplain once told me “I can't use you, you have an aggravated charge”! I went to my cell, hurt, but I refused to believe God didn't have a plan for me, prayed about it, and was moved to the adjoining unit the following week where God did great and mighty things through this ministry! God's grace looks great on any of us if we'll wear it with humility and honesty. Stand up and fight men of God! Do what is right at all times. Moses looked forward to his reward, so can we.

A prayer over you: Father I present this lovely person before you right now. You know his walk. You know who he is. You know where he has been. You know his name. You don't just tolerate him, You love him and come passionately to draw close to encounter him. You know what he hides behind, yet You come searching him out. Come, Lord.... Embrace your beloved.... I present this hungry soul to You. Even as You spoke to me some years ago, I now pray over him: “I will keep coming with waves of My presence upon you until I make you into all that I have destined you to be”. My Father, I bring this person before you now and ask for waves of your great love to flood his being. Open a door in the Spirit for him, Lord, and let the wind of Your Spirit blow across his life. May the waves of Your presence wash over him and draw him close to You. In Christ's name I pray. Amen

The next level men is a revolution of intimacy, full of passionate, consecrated warriors who love the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit and live with the character needed to carry the gifts.

He's positioning us, remember?

Onward & Upward!

Chief

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Christ's

Heart

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