

Partners In Courage, May 2015

The Generation Defined By Prayer

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

Text: 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Jim Cymballa, pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle, a great church of prayer, summed up the American church and America in general as “*a generation defined by prayerlessness.*” Such a generation is therefore defined by pride, independence and spiritual bareness—religion without power. It is a nation bound for complete and utter destruction and removal from the list of nations! Prayer-less American churches are bound for extinction and the removal of their candlesticks before God. We cannot play church. We are living like Jeremiah lived during the time when his nation was falling. His ministry went right up to and even through the fall and destruction of his nation, Judah. Similarly, we are living in the last days of our nation. You and I absolutely *MUST* be defined by prayer and NOT by prayerlessness.

God has prepared good things for those who love him. He said, “**I am going to prepare a place for you**” (John 14:2). David said, “**He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies**” (Psalms 23). But to those who are wicked he says, “**I am preparing a disaster for you**” (Jeremiah 18:11). That is what is prepared for our nation as a whole, absolute disaster because no nation has ever had so much light and so turned their backs on God as this nation.

1. MY JOURNEY IN PRAYER

I want to tell you about my journey in prayer, how it began. I went to Bible College just to get a miracle, not to become a preacher. In my second year I was reading the Bible during a study hall and I read the words of Jesus, “**Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you...I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, give me the glory that I had with you before the world began**” (John 17:1-4). I said, “He’s asking for the glory. Isn’t that wrong?” The Holy Spirit spoke to me. I don’t hear God speak to me very often. I have to read the Bible like everybody else and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. But when I speak somewhere I’ll take all the times God spoke to me over 40 years and put it in one Revival/Seminar because that’s the best I have to offer. So when I said, “He’s asking for the glory, isn’t that wrong?” God spoke to me and said, “Read it again.” Now as I read it again God enlightened my heart. I saw the motive behind the prayer.

Jesus had said, “Father, I brought you glory on earth by completing your work. I can’t bring you any more glory down here so I’m asking for a higher heavenly platform to stand on so that from there I may bring you even more glory.” The prayer is “Glorify your Son.” The motive is, “that your son may glorify you.” That went so deep into my heart.

Soon the Lord asked me, “Why do you want to sing that song tonight? I said, “I want everyone to see that I’m a good singer.” Then the conviction came. GZZZZZ. “That’s not the heart motive of Jesus!” I’d repent and say, “I want to sing so that you will be glorified.” Then the anointing would bond with me. Once he said, “Why do you want to sing a song that you wrote instead of one from the hymnal?” I said, “I want everyone to see that I’m creative, poetic and talented as well as being a good singer.” Then the conviction came. After a year God quit asking me, because that got so deep into me. It became my *life motive*.

If I could do just one thing for you, I’d try to get the heart motive of Jesus into you so that everything you did and everything you didn’t do, every beating of your heart was so that you might bring glory to God. Finally, Senior Day came. Every senior had to get up and say what they planned to do after graduation. One said, “I’ve been voted in as the pastor over there.” One said, “I’ve been chosen to be a youth leader.” One

said, “I’ve been given a choir to direct.” Then my turn came. I said, “I don’t know where I’m going to go or what I’m going to do. I only know the why. Where ever I go and whatever I do I will do it all to bring glory to God.” They knew the where and the what. I only knew the why. But the why is *vastly* superior to the what and the where!

Now when I began to work in a veneer mill I would pray, “O God, I want to bring you glory.” God used me to get a man supernaturally healed right there on the “green chain” in a veneer mill. One night I prayed, “Oh God, if all you let me do was to shine some pastor’s shoes I’d be so thankful. I want to do something to bring you glory.” Then a pastor called me and gave me a choir to direct.

I began to direct that choir and I was so happy that I had something to do with which to bring God glory. About two weeks later something felt strange. If you took a shower with your socks on it would not feel right. Something didn’t feel right. I said, “God, am I supposed to study music to become a great choir director? What is my ministry, anyway?” God spoke to me, “Your ministry here is primarily to be a soul winner.”

I got all excited! A soul winner! I thought I’d draw my spiritual six-gun, throw open the doors of the bar and bam bam—get all the sinners saved! I’d be the big soul winner. In another prayer meeting I asked God, “How many souls can I believe you for?” He spoke, “As many as the stars of the heavens.” That’s when I went out, tried to witness and fell flat. Then I came back and said very humbly, “How am I going to win as many as the stars of the heavens when I’m having so much trouble winning even one soul?” God spoke again. Notice, God is speaking when I’m going to prayer. When you go to prayer, you speak to God but you must listen to God. It’s a two-way conversation. God said, “Start with little children. They are the good ground of Matthew 13.” Anytime you put the good seed on the good ground it’s going to bear a crop. If little kids just sit there and don’t get the seed of God’s word they won’t remain good ground. When they are teens they’ll be hard, weedy ground that has to be plowed first, with the plow of repentance. All adults and teens have to be plowed. But not little kids. Just put the good seed on them.

I went wild with that. I worked so hard. Pretty soon we had an area of almost 200,000 people in a complete busing network. I could sign up kids on any street or alley and get them brought to church on time! We had over 1,200 kids we visited every week and brought in over 500 per Sunday for the last three years I was on staff. I worked and worked. Our pastor became kind of famous from all this church growth and was invited to speak at different places. While he was traveling, getting invited to speak places I felt left out. One day I said, “Dear Lord, five or six years ago you said my ministry was to be a soul-winner. I’ve worked really hard at that. Do you have anything else for me?” I was hoping he’d say, “Yes, I’ve called you to be an apostle.” But God said, “Yes! I’m calling you to become an intercessor.”

An intercessor is someone who can get an answer to prayer for him or herself and for others as well. That’s when God taught me, “If you’re going to be an intercessor you must have the sweetest spirit in the church. You can’t be angry. You can’t be judgmental. You can’t be bitter. You can’t be in self-pity, because that hinders prayer. You must be Christ-like in your attitude.” You can’t get a Christ-like attitude by your own virtue. God has to help us. Without him, we’d be grumpy, bitter, angry and critical and all of that hinders prayer.

So I have spent my life asking God to help me have a sweet spirit so that I could get answers to prayer for myself and for other people. Well, I kept wanting to bring glory to God. I wrote that book *THE HEART GOD HEARS* and I lived that message. But then my prayer changed, somewhere in the 15th to 20th year of my ministry I began to pray, “I want to bring you MASSIVE glory. I asked you to use me to bring you glory and you started using me. But I’m not satisfied with bringing you some glory, or even a lot of glory. I want to bring you MASSIVE glory.”

I prayed that for several years. Then one night I got what I call a “fax from God.” God communicates in different ways. When a fax comes in you hear the machine printing it. Then you have to read it. This came to me like that—and I sort of had to read the fax. Here’s what God said, “The desire to bring me massive glory is actually a call to prayer because you can never bring me massive glory unless you keep your spirit sweet so that you can open a door for me in prayer. Then I’ll come through the door and do the really great and massive things you could never do.”

Now if something in your heart says, “Oh I’d like to bring God glory—and then something in your heart says “I’d like to bring him a lot of glory” then perhaps something in your heart says, “I’d like to bring him MASSIVE glory like that little lunch that was given to Jesus.” That little lunch could not do anything massive in itself but it got used to bring Jesus massive glory. *If you feel that—that’s a call to prayer!*

Then God said five other things: There are five ways to bring glory to God. Basic glory is like your thumb—you live a sweet spirited life, gentle, kind and loving. You have a Christ-like attitude. Added glory is when you win a soul. Then there are two of you to bring God glory. Multiplied glory is when you train a leader. Disciples were multiplied in the days when the apostles turned the deacons loose to minister and lead.

When Peter preached thousands were “added to the church.” But when they trained leaders and turned them loose the Bible says, **“In those days the number of disciples multiplied”** (Acts 6:7 KJV). Your fourth finger represents great glory when you open a door for God in prayer. Your little finger represents “compound interest glory” where you live a life of faithfulness. A little bit at a time—you do a nice thing one day—you open a door for someone, you let someone into line in traffic, just little things piling up year after year after year with occasional miracles here and there. Eventually, it has an exponential curve.

If you put those together you have a fist—massive glory to God! Hold your thumb up and say, **“Basic Glory.”** Now your fingers represent added glory, multiplied glory, great glory, and compound interest glory. Now make the fist that knocks the devil out and say, **“MASSIVE GLORY TO GOD!”**

God is bringing me back to this. For twenty or more years I’ve been praying, “I want to bring you massive glory” and at this stage of my life I say, “Lord, are you going to let me live to be 200-300 years old? At the rate I’m going, I’m bringing you glory, but it hasn’t exactly been *massive*. I can say that 3,000 people have been baptized in the Holy Spirit in my ministry, thousands have been saved and hundreds have been healed. But it still doesn’t feel massive to me. So the Holy Spirit is saying, “Remember what I told you? The desire to bring me massive glory is actually a call to prayer. You can never bring me massive glory unless you open a door for me in prayer.”

Oh, who is going to bring God massive glory? Is it going to be someone with a doctorate degree? Is it going to be someone who is the most handsome or beautiful? Is it going to be someone with the highest IQ? Or is it going to be someone who thinks, “I can’t do anything apart from you, so I’m going to pray that you will come and do something massive.” I tell you, it’s going to be those common people who go to prayer that bring God massive glory!

Will it be the people with their Chrystal Cathedral? No! The Chrystal Cathedral went out of business. It went bankrupt! It no longer exists! It won’t be the church with the fanciest building or the fanciest pews. The church that brings him massive glory is where the common people pray! Now lift your hands and praise him because you can be used to bring God massive glory! It’s all about him! You can open a door for God!

2. IF THERE IS NO PRAYER, THERE IS NO FRUITFULNESS

Jesus said, **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing,”** (John 15:5). In Jim Cymballa’s new book called STORM he tells how Hurricane Sandy knocked all the lights out in Brooklyn, New York. The lights were out for several days. He says that’s what the American church is like, the lights are going out. You hear that America is 70 to 80% Christian? He says those are false statistics. He said their surveys show that only 8% of Americans are Bible believing Christians really serving God. He likes the scripture that says, **“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations”** (Isaiah 56:7). Now, in the New Testament, we are the house of God. We are the temple of God. What is supposed to be our definition? Well, we are a house of prayer for all nations. We pray for everyone. We pray for the whole world to be saved. So our identity should be prayer. We are the house of prayer.

Over the years I’ve tried to study leadership. So often I’ve read a leadership book and I’d get sick of it. Of course, leadership is tremendously important. Our nation doesn’t have right leadership and look what’s happening to it. Someone says, “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” I believe that’s true. But so many of the leadership books talk about the techniques of leadership rather than connecting with God.

They teach the techniques of leadership rather than how to connect with God. And so, almost all the leadership teaching and almost all the church growth teaching of the last 30 years has done nothing but disconnect the church from the power source and has given us a bunch of techniques with no power! We've had more teaching on church growth while the church has been declining. The early church didn't have any of that stuff. But they had a lot of prayer and God was doing something MASSIVE through the people who prayed. Hallelujah!

I have a new two-part sermon called THE SEVEN PILLARS OF LEADERSHIP: vision, communication, people skills, character, competence, boldness and a serving heart. Anything that has to do with leadership will be supported by one of these seven pillars or fit under one of these seven categories. But if you unplug from God you'll end up with leadership like that which opposed Jesus. Pull up the word "leaders" on a Bible concordance and most of the references will say, "The leaders opposed him."

If you don't get your vision from God you'll be a blind guide! If you don't get your communication skills from God it won't count. **"Unless the Lord builds the house those who labor labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city the watchmen stand guard in vain"** (Psalm 127:1). Your people skills, are they going to be just empty charm or are they going to be sincere love, patience, gentleness, kindness and goodness? Everything that has to do with leadership must be plugged into God!

**** The Lord gave me this illustration: If you had a beautiful chandelier, gold, crystal and jeweled it would be spectacular. But suppose it was not plugged in? During the daytime, you could walk in and the daylight would reflect off of the crystals. People could see the beautiful chandelier. People would say, "Oh my. Look how it reflects the sunlight! Look at the beautiful jewels and gold. Isn't it pretty? Isn't it amazing?" But let's say it got dark and the night was moonless. You could walk into the dark sanctuary with the great chandelier and not even be aware it was there! That's the American church! A beautiful chandelier! Of all the nations of the world our churches are great structures with beautiful sound systems and all kinds of shiny stuff—not plugged in, for the most part.

Now the night is coming! As night falls on America the church is irrelevant! Nobody can see it because it's not letting off any divine light! Now a little ugly lamp, plugged in, will be a whole lot better than an unplugged chandelier. The devil might tell you, "That's what you are! You are just an ugly little lamp." You can say, "Well, that may be so, but you know what? I'm plugging in!" Hallelujah!

Don't let the devil tell you that you are no good because you can plug into God. Perhaps your church is a plugged in church, but we want to do this all the more. We want to pray all the more. If your church could become a great praying church, and you could get other churches in your area to be praying churches with you your city can become a city of refuge. When calamity hits America people will be running to the protection of God over certain cities like that.

**** My wife lost her mother on March 1st. She spent three years running in-home nursing care for them 24 hours a day, in charge of food, the staff and the medicine. Finally her mother died and her dad was taken away to an adult care center. Then he fell and fractured his hip. Bonnie had to clean out the house—all kinds of emotional stuff was going on. One day I was giving her a ride and she was crying. She was stuttering and could hardly speak. She said, "Pray for me Wes. Pray for me. I'm just so sad." All of a sudden the Spirit of God came upon her. She started to pray real fluently in tongues in a language that sounded like German or Russian. She couldn't have possibly made that up. All of a sudden she stretched out her hand and began to prophecy. She about blew out the windshield. God spoke through her and said, "Yea, mighty warrior!" He called her a mighty warrior. He said, "I'm your all sufficiency. Draw near to me. I'm your strength. I'm your comfort. I'm your power." And then she prophesied this, "Bad times are coming, but I'm your source. I'm your protection. Come into me. Press into me."

After she prophesied I said, "Wow. God spoke to you like he spoke to Gideon." That's what he said to Gideon and called him a mighty warrior, even though at that time he was hiding in a wine cellar trying to thresh out a little wheat. I said, "I'm glad God told you hard times are coming. I've been wanting to tell you that but I haven't felt like I could." Then she had a vision of a pan of cake batter being put into an oven to turn it into a beautiful cake. God said the hard times that are coming will be like that oven. The church is like the cake batter. In its present state it's not reaching its destiny or fulfillment. It's going to have to be put

into the oven. What's going to happen in the oven? Oh, the church is going to pray because suddenly they are going to get desperate. They are going to have to rely on God when there is nothing else to rely on. And suddenly they'll turn into something beautiful, powerful and Christ-like!

We don't have to wait until we go into oven to pray. But how many of you know the oven is coming? You can't stop it! The trials and tribulations are coming. The devil thinks he's a big devil right now. **“But greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world,”** (1 John 4:4).

Later that day God spoke to Bonnie a third time. She went to a park to pray a little more and God said, “Dwell in me.” God is saying that to each of us. God is saying, “I'm your sufficiency. I can make you a mighty warrior. Bad times are coming. I'm in control. I'm going to use it to turn you into something awesome and beautiful. You are going to reach your full potential, your full destiny as you rely on me. The secret is to dwell in me.” Let's praise God! Hallelujah!

3. PRAY OR ELSE

That's what God spoke to my wife. Now here is what God spoke to me. I made a sermon called PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY, OR ELSE. One day God beamed a ray of light into me and I said, “I've got to pray for those in authority or they are going to get us all killed.” I knew, “That's right.” The Bible says, **“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth,”** (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We pray so that first of all, we may LIVE.

I have failed in praying for those in authority. Almost my whole life I would try and after getting discouraged I'd think, “I'll have to wait until a good one gets elected and then I'll pray for him or her.” My personal opinion is that almost none in the Body of Christ prays much for those in authority. The devil says, “Don't pray for those in authority because they are wicked” but the Holy Spirit says, “Pray for those in authority because they are wicked!” They can't get an answer to prayer! You'll have to get an answer to prayer. If they are going to get an answer to prayer they'll need a co-signer.

**** If you don't have any credit, but you want to buy a car, you'll need a cosigner and on the basis of their credit you can get the car. God showed me that this actually happens. The King of Israel, a descendant of Ahab and Jezebel, was a wicked idolater. He got (good) King Jehoshaphat to go to war with him against Moab and they got the King of Edom to go with them—three kings against Moab. But they got lost in the wilderness of Edom and ran out of water. They were all in danger of thirsting to death. It was a crisis and they needed an answer to prayer. Someone said, “The prophet Elisha is here.” He didn't live in the wilderness of Edom. God must have sent him down there for such a time.

King Jehoshaphat said, “He's a good guy. He used to serve Elijah. Let's get him.” Now when the prophet came, the King of Israel said, “We need an answer to prayer. We need a miracle.” But Elisha said, “If it wasn't for King Jehoshaphat I wouldn't even look at you! I honor him, but you? I wouldn't pray for you or even look at you!” Then he said, “Bring me a minstrel. I'm in a bad mood and I need to get back into the Spirit.” So the minstrel played some praise music and the Spirit came upon Elisha.

He prophesied, “This is what the Lord says: Make this valley full of ditches. I'm going to send water without rain or flood and it's going fill those ditches. You'll water your troops. That's a small thing. I'm also going to give Moab into your hand.” (See 2 Kings Chapter 3) And the great miracle happened. The water came supernaturally and filled the ditches. The Moabites said, “That's blood” because they saw the sun shining on it which made it look red. They said, “Those kings must have killed each other,” so they left their armaments and ran to the plunder—and then that was the end of them.

How did the King of Israel get a miracle? He had a co-signer! When you live right with God you can co-sign for some of these officials. The governor of California needs prayer. They say that all of California could be out of water in one year. All of California. They say it will be catastrophic like the Dust Bowl. Whole cities like LA, no water. Wow. No farm products. The wells are going dry; the land is sinking as they pump all the sub-water out. The reservoirs are almost completely dry. Will the governor be able to get an answer to prayer, a pro-abortionist like him? Probably not! He needs a co-signer.

What did our scripture say, “If I send a drought, if I shut up the heavens—if my people! We are the people and we need to humble ourselves, repent, and pray so that we can co-sign.

4. FOUR OTHER THINGS CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE PRAY FOR WICKED LEADERS.

God taught me something else. When you pray for a wicked leader like Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed about the wicked leader of Assyria who wanted to come down and destroy the nation of Judah—I don’t know if you realize it, but it feels like our current President is trying to destroy America. I don’t want to be political at all, but when you have a leader that’s trying to destroy a nation—God spoke to them and said, **“I’ll put my hook in his nose and put my bit in his mouth and I’ll make him go back the way he came,”** (2 Kings 19:28).

How do you lead a bull around, a 2,000-pound bull? You put a ring in the bull’s nose and a little girl can lead the bull with a small cord. She can make the bull go where he doesn’t want to go because he has a ring in his nose. A hook is even more painful, and so when God says, “I’ll put my hook in his nose” it means “I’ll make him go where he doesn’t want to go.” A bit goes over the tongue of the horse, then you pull down, the bit comes down on the horse’s tender tongue and it makes him stop doing what he wants to do. So God is saying, “I’m going to make him do what he doesn’t want to do and I’ll make him stop doing what he does want to do.”

Now if we don’t pray, then the devil will do what he wants to do and he won’t stop doing bad. But God still has a hook and God still has a bit if people will pray. God is speaking to you! You are needed; you are vital, your prayers are important! You are the door openers for God. You are the key to our nation having one last revival.

**** Then God gave me the story of the little widow who tried to get the unjust judge to give her justice in her case. She wore him down and finally he gave her because he said, “Otherwise she’ll wear me out with her continual coming” (Luke 18:5). God said, “He did the right thing from the wrong motive because somebody wouldn’t give up.” So when we pray, they might end up doing the right thing even if their motives are wrong.

**** Then the Lord gave me the example of King Herod. He said, “You don’t have to pray judgment on bad leaders. Pray good prayers for them. If they are not worthy of the good prayers it will hasten their judgment.” The case in point: the church prayed for Peter to be released. They prayed that King Herod wouldn’t kill Peter as he had killed James. When Peter was released from prison by the angel he went to the house where they were praying, knocked on the door and they couldn’t believe it! The servant girl said, “Peter is at the door!” They said, “That’s impossible. It must be his angel.” So I do not believe they were praying, “Dear God, please send an angel to help Peter escape from prison.” I believe they were praying, “Lord, please tell King Herod not to kill Peter.”

But King Herod wasn’t listening. So God had to spring Peter with a jailbreak. Now two weeks later, what happened to King Herod? He spoke, the people praised him and said, “It’s the voice of a god,” he took the praise to himself, an angel of the Lord struck him and he was eaten by worms and died. That means the worms of hell came up and possessed him and took him to hell. The Bible says in hell, **“Their worm never dies”** (Mark 9:44,46).

No one had to pray judgment on King Herod. You do not have to pray judgment on wicked leaders. Just pray good prayers. “God, show them your will. Show them what is right. Show them the difference between right and wrong.” If they are unworthy, that will hasten their judgment and downfall.

**** God can (#1) use his hook, (#2) use his bit (#3) cause them to do the right thing even if their motive is wrong and (#4) hasten their judgment if they are unworthy of good prayers prayed on their behalf.

5. GOD TOLD ME THAT WE ARE TO PREPARE FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

I have an entire sermon about storing food, having a way to purify water and different things we are to do. I was getting ready to preach that sermon (the evening of Feb. 22, 2015) and the Lord spoke to me again. Here’s what he said, “I have a WORD for America, one word—DISRUPTION.” He said, “It’s a lot better word than DESTRUCTION. I could give America destruction right now but instead I’m going to give

America disruption in the food supply, disruption in their energy and give America disruption in many different areas.” He said, “You need to prepare for times of disruption.” Then he said, “When these times come you are to use them as joyful opportunities to win souls.” We are to thank God that it is only disruption and not destruction. Then God ended with this. He said, “Don’t give me disruption in your obedience, in your fellowship, in your praise, in your prayer life, in your holiness, and in your thankfulness. He beamed these scriptures into me: “**Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong. Let the vile continue to be vile. Let the one who does right continue to do right. Let the holy person continue to be holy,**” (Rev. 22:11). You see—no disruption. Then Hebrews 13:15, “**Through Jesus, therefore let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that openly confess his name.**”

Many of you know, we are giving God disrupted praise. I, for one am. I’ll say, “Thank you Lord, I praise you Lord” and then I’ll walk around with kind of a grumpy face and I’ll look at my face in the mirror and say, “Whoa, you don’t look so good.” Are we continually giving him the fruit of our lips? No, no, no. We praise him and then we go along being grumpy, sad, fearful or whatever so that there is a big disruption in our praise. Then we’ll give him some praise again. How many of you could wave your hand and say, “I’m with you. I can relate to that”?

See, if you want God to protect you in times of national disruption he said, “Don’t give me disruption.” We need to concentrate on not giving him disruption and he’ll protect us, he’ll help us and use us. And through it all, we’ll turn into something beautiful and reach our destiny.

The last verse was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “**Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all situations for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.**” You see, there should be no disruption in our rejoicing, in our prayers and in our thankfulness. No disruption in our holiness, no disruption in our righteousness.

We want our whole identity to become that of prayerful people. Have prayer meetings. The American Church (in general) refuses to come to prayer meetings. Have a potluck, have food—people will come for food. Have fellowship and games, people will come. But that’s the church that’s not plugged in!

CLOSING

I’m going to end with this: Michael Boldea is a prophetic man that once in a while has a prophetic vision. He’s very careful. He doesn’t want people to chase him around asking for a new word from God, so he rarely publishes one of them. But if you go to his web site, www.handofhelp.com, you can read several of his prophetic visions. Recently he had a prophetic dream. In the dream he was walking down a street that had been leveled, as if hit by a tornado or a huge bomb. Nothing was left but the bare foundations. Everything had been swept away. As he rounded the corner of a street in a city that had been completely destroyed he saw a white house standing. It looked like it had been charred by fire. He could hear an uproarious prayer meeting going on as people inside were fervently praying. It was the only house left standing.

He woke up, then went back to sleep and dreamed almost the same dream again. This time he’s walking down the same street but it is before the calamity. The other houses are standing, dogs barking, kids playing, everything was normal. But as he rounded the corner of that street he saw that same white house. Now it is not charred. It is white. It has its porch swing. It has its picket fence and everything looks nice. But from inside the house came the sound of a very loud prayer meeting going on. That’s the house that stood.

Friend, I want to be part of that. I want to be identified, not as part of a prayer-less generation but rather as the Psalm says, “**This is the generation of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob**” (Psalm 24:6). I want that to be my identity. I want that to be your identity. If we are just an ugly little lamp, I want us to be the one that’s plugged in!

There are bigger ministries than mine. There are famous ones on television. Not everyone on television is a quack, but there are an awful lot of them that are. Fancy chandeliers. Let’s be real. Be humble, pray, depend upon God and God will do the really great and massive, MASSIVE things.

Let's lift our faces and our hands up to God. Hear what the Lord said to my wife. "You can be mighty in me. Come to me. I'll be all you need. Bad times are coming. I'll use them for your good. You'll fulfill your destiny as you depend upon me."

Hear what the Lord said to me, "Disruption is coming. Prepare. Use the disruptions as joyful opportunities to win souls, thanking God that it's only disruption and not destruction. Don't give me disruption."

How many would just acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is saying, "Son, Daughter, how about your praise? Has it been disrupted? How about your prayers? Has it been that you only pray once in a while with lots of disruption in-between? How about your walk of obedience? How about your fellowship with me? Is it once in a while with disruption? *Would you dwell in me so that there is no disruption? Let me protect you. Let me love you. Let me bless you. Let me guard you. Let me provide for you. Let me give you joy when other people are fearful and when other people are hopeless.*"

LET'S TELL THE LORD, "Lord, I want to be one of those people who dwell in you. I'm going to need a lot of grace. I'm going to need a lot of coaching, a lot of your spiritual help. I can't just be religious and do that. If I could have done that in my own strength I would already have done it. Lord, I need you to coach me and remind me, when I'm being grumpy, to start praising you. When I am being ungrateful I'll need you to remind me to start thanking you. If I'm being unholy or unrighteous help me to quickly repent and do what I know I should do.

ALTAR CALL FOR COMMITMENT: The Bible says, "**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful**" ([Colossians 4:2](#)). To devote yourself to prayer is to say, "You know what? I've got to be a man or woman of prayer! No matter what else happens, I must be identified in a prayer movement. If the pastor calls a prayer meeting I'm not going to find some excuse not to go. I want to help my pastor make this church the most plugged in church in this state. We may not be the biggest chandelier but we want a bright light."

Now tell the Lord, "That's what I want! I want to be part of a church that prays and sees God move miraculously." Now look in your heart. Can you say in your heart, "I'd like to bring God glory. I'd like to bring glory to God." Maybe there is enough love in your heart to say, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if somehow my wee little life, my short little life, my tiny little life could somehow bring God massive glory?"

And God says, "IT CAN, HONEY. IT CAN! Give yourself over to me like the boy who gave his lunch to Jesus. I can do the great and massive things. Be my door opener. Pray for all the leaders no matter how wicked they are. Pray for everyone. Pray for all nations. Be my house of prayer. Be my house of prayer."

Now if you are hearing the call of the Lord, say to him, "Oh, with all of my heart I know that I could never be an effective minister without being in utter dependency upon him and casting myself upon him in prayer and asking him with all my heart to lead me and guide me and anoint me and use me. I could never do anything great apart from him. But oh, somehow, by his great grace, I wish—I hope and I pray that I might be used to do something wonderful. I will devote myself to prayer."

Lift your hands up right now. If you need to repent, do so. Otherwise, lift your faces up to God and begin to praise him. Hallelujah. We're going to dwell in God! Hallelujah! Oh, Hallelujah! We're going to dwell in him. We're going to pray. I'm going to pray. I'm going to pray when I get back to the motel. I'm going to go to bed praying and wake up praying. I'm going to pray throughout my day and talk to the Lord, saying, "Let's do everything together, Lord." Hallelujah.

Oh God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus, right now. I come before the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way, made possible by his blood and his resurrection. I'm asking you to shine your face upon this church. I'm asking you to raise up leaders that won't be the false kind of leaders that think they can do it in their own strength and their own wisdom. I'm asking you to raise up the humble. You said that if we'd humble ourselves you'd exalt us. We ask you to raise up true leaders that are lightly esteemed in their own eyes, that are very humble, who say, "I can't do anything unless I abide in him. I've got to abide in him. He said if I'd abide in him I'd bear much fruit." Raise up those kind of leaders, God, men and women who love to pray, who love to spend time with you."