

INSIGHTS

Winter 2019



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THE Spirit & Power OF Elijah

40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF MINISTRY

There is a wind of the Holy Spirit blowing right now all across the Body of Christ. With it is the sound of the rain of God's blessing that is increasing in the hearts of hungry, listening believers.

This has been a pattern of God for centuries: He ignites His family with vision for His plans. The chaos of the days may contradict that vision, but it will not stop it.

In the days of Elijah, Israel had been led into some very dark times. With King Ahab and Queen Jezebel bringing every kind of wickedness into the nation, there was trouble everywhere. God used Elijah to challenge that trouble and bring change until everything was on course to allow God's plans for Israel to once again flourish.

It was similar in the days of Jesus. Israel had been without the voice of a prophet in the land for 400 years. Then the voice of John the Baptist started the shift as Jesus came on the scene.

Of course, Jesus changed everything.

In more recent times, we have seen the cycles of chaos continue to stir up trouble throughout the world. When I look back on

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my own experience during my adolescent years, I see so much of the same upheaval threatening the world today as I did then.

The Jesus Movement of the late 1960s through the early 1970s swept thousands of people into a radical relationship with Jesus. It was during this move of God that Vikki and I separately found Jesus and became believers.

During this time, people were coming to know Jesus across societal boundaries—from the rebellious young generation to the White House staff—and all were being referred to as “Jesus Freaks.” At that time, I was one of the once-rebellious, now-saved, long-hair ex-stoners of the day, and I thought

the “Jesus Freak” moniker was just because of the way I looked. Later I found that it was used to identify those who had chosen to give first place in their lives to their personal relationship with Jesus.

The upheaval of the Viet Nam War, the instability of governments, the heavy drug use, and the anti-establishment sentiment were all converging to capture the minds of a generation and to control the spiritual climate. But God was using the Jesus People and the ongoing Charismatic Movement to set a different course that would turn the tide. The message of faith in God’s Word and the authority of the believer was building a new kind of believer. The Body of Christ was beginning to stand in a renewed place of power.

Throughout the decades since that time, God has continued to reveal His Word through His family and refine the focus of His assignments for each of us. Today we are the voices God has risen up to speak His Word and release His power.

We are part of the generation who now carry the anointing described by the angel of God when he was speaking to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. When describing this anointing that would precede the ministry of the Messiah, the angel spoke some startling words:

He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

— Luke 1:17 NKJV

The spirit and power of Elijah is upon the Body of Christ today. Our assignment precedes the coming of the King of kings, and we are making ready a people. We are becoming people who are prepared.

The spirit and power of Elijah is the dynamic and explosive power of the Holy Spirit moving through believers in this day who are sold out to God. Every believer has the supernatural deposit of God already within his or her inner man. Each has a part to play in making ready and preparing a people to stand strong and fulfill God’s plan and purposes in their generation.

- “Make ready”—fit and outwardly ready. Able to deal with the conflict and chaos of the day.
- “Prepared”—inwardly strengthened and spiritually ready to stand firm, exercising their authority and remaining unmoved by the strategies of the kingdom of darkness.

This has been God’s assignment for Vikki and me throughout the past 40 years. When we stepped into this ministry in January 1979, we knew God was sending us to this generation. We didn’t know the details, but we were clear about our purpose. We were to take the message of faith and grace wherever He led us to feed people with the meat of God’s Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The message and the spiritual power that delivered us from a teenage spiritual wasteland and planted us into a radical relationship with Jesus became the foundation of everything we were called by God to do. Over the years, He has reminded us that He would use our early days in the days to come. Those early days were a time of discovering the greatness of God’s Kingdom, the covenant in His Word, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the passion to pursue it all.

- We discovered that faith in God and His Word changes things.
- We discovered that God’s grace transforms people.
- We discovered that our rightstanding in Him is a free gift we receive at the new birth.
- We discovered the power of sowing seeds. Galatians 6:7 in the *Phillips* Translation says, “A man’s harvest in life depends entirely on what he sows.”
- We discovered that God’s Word is final authority. His Word is His covenant with us, and we are His beneficiaries.
- We discovered the unchanging laws of abundance.

- We discovered the power of partnership in ministry.

These discoveries represent the dynamo power that fuels the life of faith. These are the truths that changed Vikki and me. These are the truths that have empowered us to fulfill our divine commission to declare the spirit and power of His Word to this generation.

These 40 years of ministry have been made so much more effective because of the faithful partners God has connected to this ministry. Partners are people who have received from the ministry and decided to stand with us to reach others. Every month they plant a seed-faith offering into the ministry and pray for the work God has given Vikki and me to do.

Partnership is vital to God's plans in every ministry. In Paul's letter to the Philippian congregation, he told them how important they were to his own ministry.

For I want you to know that the Philippian church was the only church that supported me in the beginning as I went out to preach the gospel. You were the only church that sowed into me financially, and when I was in Thessalonica, you supported me for well over a year. I mention this not because I'm requesting a gift, but so that the fruit of your generosity may bring you an abundant reward. — Philippians 4:15–17 *TPT*

The fruit of your generosity to this ministry is seen in the lives of men and women of all ages being transformed by the ministry



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of the Word. A partner's fruit is seen in the impact of the ministry they give to and support in prayer. There is an abundant reward that every partner should expect:

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

— Philippians 4:19 *NLT*

This fruit-producing partnership promise is also in Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church:

Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity! Yes, God is more than ready to overwhelm you with every form of grace, so that you will have more than enough of everything—every moment and in every way. He will make you overflow with abundance in every good thing you do.

— 2 Corinthians 9:7–8 *TPT*



UPCOMING MEETINGS

HATTIESBURG, MS | JANUARY 13–15

Victory Church | 1208 East Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401 | 601-544-8485

JONESBORO AR | JANUARY 20

Awaken Church | 2101 Fowler Avenue
Jonesboro AR 72401 | 870-938-0522

FORT WORTH, TX | JANUARY 22–24

2019 KCM Ministers' Conference
Fort Worth, TX 76071 | 817-252-2700

BROOKLYN PARK, MN | JANUARY 26–27

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55423 | 763-315-7000

LANCASTER, CA | FEBRUARY 10–11

Antelope Valley Springs of Life | 456 E-Ave K-4
Lancaster, CA 93535 | 661-972-9072

CADDO MILLS, TX | FEBRUARY 17

New Life Church | 3636 FM 36 South
Caddo Mills, TX 75135 | 903-527-3099

PUNTA GORDA, FL | FEBRUARY 24–27

New Life Family Worship | 28330 Belmont Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982 | 941-639-1700

COLUMBIA, MO | MARCH 24–25

Family Worship Center
4925 E. Bonne Femme Church Rd
Columbia, MO 65201 | 573-441-1140

This is one of the key concepts in God's entire Kingdom. If you are a partner with this ministry, Vikki and I want to thank you for helping us. We pray for you and know that the fruit of all we are doing is fruit laid up to *your* account as well. God will abundantly supply your life in every area as you are obedient to do what He says.

If you are not yet a partner with us, I invite you to join today.

Make this ministry part of your own ministry to multitudes of people. Maybe you will not go personally, but we will. We'll do it together.

A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows.

— Galatians 6:7 *Phillips*

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