

The Most Expensive Treasure

by Michael Howard

The word of God is the greatest treasure that we have been entrusted with, and we must be hungry for it and allow the Holy Spirit to work on it in order to bring life and transformation to our lives.

Duration: 1:17:42

Scripture: Psalm 139:23

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Obedience To God"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of being hungry for God's word and truth, being willing to impart not only the gospel but one's own life to glorify God. It shares powerful testimonies of God's protection, provision, and miraculous interventions, highlighting the need for a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit to be effective vessels for God's work. The speaker encourages a lifestyle of obedience to the Holy Spirit, sensitivity to His leading, and a focus on glorifying God in all aspects of life.

Transcript

Hallelujah, what a wonderful God. It's been a real blessing being with you. Thank you for being such a wonderful group of people.

I can see the hunger and that's thrilling for any preacher when God's people are really hungry for the word and hungry for truth. Something that I really sense the Holy Ghost is waiting to break loose in this place. I'm not saying that because I say things.

I'm saying it because it's real. And your pastor and his wife have really sown in this place. God bless you.

And there's going to be fruit and it's going to be soon real fruit. We want to see the outpouring of the Spirit of God and I know very well from my years in Africa how you sow and you sow and you sow and you sow and sometimes you never see the reap. And you know I'm not dissatisfied with that because the word of God is very clear that one sows another waters another reaps but it is God who gives the increase.

Amen and that's it's about his glory. I remember being in this farming community in Zimbabwe and I was a very young pastor 19 years old and they put me into this farming community that was a Dutch reformed community and nobody wanted to hear the word of God that's for sure. And I had a glorious number of five people in my congregation and I traveled those roads to those tobacco farmers.

I remember and I one of the things I really loved the only thing that I really enjoyed was standing in a tobacco barn sniffing that curing tobacco it's a wonderful smell I have to tell you. No I didn't smoke but and this was in the middle of the war years I mean and I was on an isolated little farm and it suited me because well it was a mutual situation because the farmer wanted somebody resident in this house that he had and my nearest neighbor was four miles away and uh and it suited me because he gave me the house rent free lights free and water free and so I spend my days just driving from one farm to another you know visiting every single farmer in the district about 200 farmers sharing the gospel with them just being with them sometimes at night when the when the terrorists would attack driving over those landmined roads and just doing whatever I knew to do to bring the love of Jesus Christ and in three years of really hard ministry I saw my congregation explode from five people to eight.

You go through those emotions of God have I failed and you know what kind of a preacher am I and uh and then I was moved to another district and that was the end of my day sojourning there and and the pastor that came in and took over from me in the space of nine months that little church grew from those eight people to 150 and uh and then just carried on growing to over 300 uh and and that was God and he was gracious enough to say that you know it was my sowing that had really done it and uh tonight I want you to turn with me to first Thessalonians in chapter two but you know what we're a team and it doesn't matter whether one sows and one waters and another reaps and God who gives the increase first Thessalonians chapter two this three for our exhortation was not of deceit nor of

uncleanness nor in guile but we were but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel hallelujah well this is the greatest trust that's ever been given to us come on beloved this is the greatest treasure that you have come on it's not your car it's not your house it's not your family it's not your treasures it's not your gold it's not your soul this word of God is the greatest treasure that has been entrusted to us are we really hungry for this word come on are we hungry for this word I can't encourage you enough to be hungry for the bread of life no we want to see Jesus you know everybody wants to see Jesus I tell you where you're going to see Jesus you're going to see him in the word as the holy spirit brings revelation of his word to you and he explodes the word of life

into you hallelujah oh as I study the word you know I believe me listen if you are into one of these programs of getting through the bible in a year throw it away now if you've got a bible going through the bible in 360 days throw it away you know I say okay lord I'm gonna study your word I'm gonna I'm just gonna read through well I get to the the very first verse and it's so explosive I can't get beyond the first verse that I'm reading no matter where I'm reading it you know you get to the butcher shop book the book of Leviticus and then and it's this blood blood blood blood blood and everybody wants to just jump over it let me go find something else that seems more interesting but beloved when you begin to dwell on that book oh it just explodes within you and life and it's like I can't

get reading past the first verse because I'm just caught up into the presence of God and it's just so fantastic oh God your word your word is dynamic your word is alive your word is powerful your word is the living bread I had some missionary friends and they went out to the mission field in the far east and they had nothing absolutely nothing no support money no support base and they ended up in and they literally didn't have food to put on the table but it didn't concern them because every day mother would set the table perfectly set the table three times a day and they the whole family would sit down to the meal and the father would open the word of God and he would read he would break the bread of life to his family yeah three children mother and father and in six weeks not one of

them lost any weight not one of them lost any condition not one of them was ever hungry not one of them lacked anything at the end of six weeks they were stronger and healthier in physical being than they'd ever been before yeah because God because they broke the bread of life you know we we're such grumblers and complainers I think about the children of Israel wandering through the wilderness God gave them manna every day well that's why I'm not concerned about the antichrist and the mark of the beast how am I gonna buy and sell I don't need to buy and sell he's gonna give me manna from heaven hallelujah he's gonna supply my needs he's gonna overshadow me he's gonna keep me the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night and beloved when we begin to get into this word we get

healthier and stronger the bread of life sustains us uplifts us encourages us blesses us feeds us is a dynamic in our lives this is my trust we've been entrusted with the greatest treasure the world could ever have been given amen we better stop looking at this word as just another book now it's a book the physical thing is a book but I want to tell you the substance behind it and when we allow the blessed holy spirit of almighty God to work on the word you see genesis chapter one the spirit and the word the spirit brooded over the waters spirit brooded he's brooding over the waters of this place tonight he's brooding over the waters of the people that are seated here he's brooding waiting for you to come into alignment and to come into agreement and beloved when you come into agreement

with the word of God the spirit and the word bring come together bring an explosion of life that's exactly what he wants to do he wants to explode life into this place he wants to explode life into you but he's got to have something to work on but we've got to get the word inside the word is working naturally in me the word is abundant in me the word is passion in me the word is alive in me hallelujah and the spirit comes and rests upon you the vessel that carries the word oh hallelujah oh what a mighty God but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel even so we speak not as pleasing men but God I'm sick of men pleases come on beloved don't please anybody but him no matter how much you have to offend your brother your sister your mother your father your husband your

wife please him never offend him amen you know either we're going to please men and we're going to offend God or we're going to please God and we're going to offend men that's how it works when you do what God wants you to do you're going to offend men the problem in our modern societies is that we are men pleasers that we're afraid to offend men better to obey God that's what the early church said better we obey God than man hallelujah better we please God than man better we obey God than man better we do for God than man we'll get there even so speak we not as pleasing men but God which trieth our hearts for neither at any time used we flattering words as you know nor a cloak of covetousness God is witness nor of men sought we glory neither of you nor yet of others when we might have

been burdensome as the apostles of Christ but we were gentle among you even as a nurse cherisheth her children so being affectionately desirous of you we were willing to have imparted unto you not the gospel of God only but also our own souls because you were dear unto us we were willing to have imparted unto you not the gospel of God only but our own souls because you were dear unto us beloved I want to tell you tonight that if Jesus Christ is so alive in you and so passionate in you and so on firing you then as you go up you are going to be affectionately desirous of whosoever you minister to amen it's not about me as I said last night listen we don't have any love for the heathen won't sit there tonight and tell me I love the unsaved no we don't Christ loves the unsaved Christ died for

the unsaved when I go out to the mission fields of the world one of the things that I have seen over and over that the that the heathen love their sin they love their wickedness they love their confrontation of God

they love who they are they really don't want to be saved amen we go there and what are we doing we are presenting the glory of God that's what it's about that we present the glory of God you and I are vessels of the glory of God let men see the glory of God and let the glory of God touch them let the glory of God change them let the glory of God undo them let the glory of God melt them we are here to magnify our God to glorify our God hallelujah I I think that we've we've been teaching the church so wrong let's go out there and get people saved no let's go out there and

manifest the glory of God amen let's go out there you know because when I started focus on let me get somebody saved let it's it's about me it's about my ministry it's about my calling it's about my efforts it's about who I am no beloved it's about God and who he is hallelujah it's all about him being affectionately desirous not me Christ in me Christ in me so desirous that his father be exalted that his father be glorified that his father be magnified that his father be uplifted amen father make them one even as we are one wow hallelujah and so it doesn't matter what circumstances we find ourselves in I remember at the end of the Rhodesian war when these terrorists were running around the country thousands of terrorists and they were all put into these camps supposed to be re-education

camps and uh you have to understand these were absolute thugs these were men who had no respect for humanity whatsoever the things that they had got up to you just cannot even believe they were going to visit village and and and they would make a wife cut off her husband's lips and eat them um and so there was a camp near where I had a church and one day the holy ghost said to me yeah I want you to go down into that camp ten thousand terrorists in that camp I want you to go down in that camp and I want you to preach Jesus I said oh boy lord so I took my little car one day and I drove down into this camp and when I when I got to this camp here were just these terrorists everywhere and you could just feel the hostility you could feel the anger you could feel the hatred and some of them were

marching some of them were running some of them were doing all kinds of things and and I and there were masses of them and I thought you know they could turn my car upside down smash it to pieces and pulverize me and nobody would even know except God so I made my way to the headquarters and there was this real nasty terrorist yeah what do you want and I started to just talk to him and uh I started to talk to him about communism and Karl Marx and dialectic materialism and all those wonderful things that you know that I'd studied and he was totally taken aback where did you learn all that yeah you see I also know it and and as I began to share that he began to warm up and it's like okay well why don't you stop and eat with us and it's like no I really don't want to eat with you but I don't

you know you don't have a choice sometimes and that particular night they were having the real delicacy of the entrails of the ox and you know what they do is they just take all that guts out and they you know clean just squeeze out all the muck and then just throw it all in a pot together boil it up and it's nice and green and smells and you know and that's their delicacy and it's like okay you're gonna have delicacy with us and yeah I sat down to delicacy with them and and then they asked well what do you want to do and I said well I'd like to I'd like to bring some movies I didn't tell them what kind of movies I'd like to come and bring some movies and so the door soon opened and I would go down there every week and show them the cross and switchblade and all those wonderful movies and

then I asked then I said to them could I have a crusade and what's a crusade so I explained it and yeah yeah you can have a crusade and so we we went into this camp and we I borrowed the brand new truck of a friend of mine and we we set decked it out with the music equipment and singers musicians interpreters and everything and we went down into this 10 000 terrorists and uh we started to praise and

sing and dance and jump and then people came I mean they just came and some somewhere in the midst of our worship some of them started to get really angry just the spirit of of anger and spirit of discontentment and started just to flow through that whole crowd and then I started to preach and I sensed this anger and as as I'm just about to get into my message they started throwing every

kind of thing that you could imagine bottles stones sticks and I said oh my god I'm dead dead and my little interpreter was just a little guy and he was about to take off like the road runner I grabbed the whole of me if I die you die you're not getting my musicians disappeared everybody was gone it's like it's just him and me standing in front of this massive crowd of angry people and I I just said let's pray and I just bowed my head I'm not I'm not even concerned about this crowd it's like god if I'm going to be stoned to death if I'm going to be speared to death then I want to go praying and I've got this interpreter I'm holding on to him by the the scruff of his neck you're not going anywhere and as I'm praying and it's like I don't even know what I was saying I'm just crying out to

god god I noticed that not a single thing was hitting me and as I opened one eye you know looking around this here at the bottom of this truck the back bed of this truck was a a pile of stuff stones and and bottles and whatever just piling up and they kept on throwing stuff and it just landed as if there was a barrier between me and the projectiles and then I opened my other eye and it's like now I'm getting bold and and so I just started to really pray out across and then this wave of the spirit of god came right across that whole crowd and I saw these natives these angry natives just every one of them their heads were forced down they were bowed down like this in the presence of god not a single person was moving not a single person was doing anything they were like that for about five

or ten minutes and this presence of god and the next thing I just saw these tears falling from every eye these hardened criminal men murderers killers just weeping as the presence of god just melted and undid them that's god being affectionately desirous not me christ being so affectionately desirous beloved of them he was willing to have imparted not the gospel of god only but his very life he came to win me hallelujah he came to this earth to win me being affectionately desirous of me hallelujah and beloved if that's what christ did for me shall I not do it for others can I not give my life for others as christ gave his life for me as his whole purpose was to glorify his father and win me lead me captive for his glory what a god what an incredible god so does it matter where we go does

it matter what what he's called us to do does it matter really if we lose our lives does it matter no jesus came he set his face steadfastly towards calvary you know you think about if you read the word of god how many people try to get jesus off track they they wanted to take him by force and make him a king they wanted to make him a general of a of a terrorist army to fight against the romans they wanted to make him this they wanted to make him that the thing about it he healed the multitudes it didn't move them remember what he said you didn't even come for the miracles you came for the free bread yeah how many of us are here for free bread how many of us are here for miracles how many of us are here for his glory so nevertheless that's my whole purpose my whole objective yes of course

it's wonderful to see souls get saved you know the salvation of souls is the glory of god right that should be our our purpose huh god be glorified as these souls are saved god be glorified as these people are set on fire for the lord god be glorified in everything that we do god be glorified in everything that i am be glorified in my business be glorified in my family be glorified in my wife and my husband and my children be glorified lord in everything that I do because you are worthy we were willing to have imparted not only the gospel but our own lives yeah because my life and the gospel is one amen my life and Christ is one my life

and the Holy Spirit is one my life and the father is one people ask me where do you come from right out of the heartbeat of God I met a young man in

Indiana several years ago he was 11 years old he was cycling home from school and a semi overtook him with a trailer towing a trailer the trailer was swinging caught him on his bicycle he went under the back wheels of the semi the wheels went right over his head burst his head open his brains lay on the pavement and he was dead and he said I watched I stood looking down on my body and I watched as the ambulance came I watched as the police came I watched as my mother came and said I descend and I was tapping my mother on the shoulder mama don't cry for me I'm not dead I'm alive but she couldn't feel me and he said as I was looking at the scene I watched him put my body in the bag and zip it up and put it in the ambulance and at that moment just like I was telling you the story of the

native in Sudan he said I felt somebody tap me on the shoulder too and there was a huge angel said come with me took me and we flew through the air in exactly the same way as I described past the Sun he said put your hand in the Sun so I put my hand in the Sun it wasn't even hot as we flew across that dark plane he said again in the distance I saw this tremendous light coming towards me and then I saw the city just emerging on the horizon going up and up until I couldn't see any higher and as we came to the the gates of the city one of the gates open of its own accord and Jesus walked out to meet me this is 11 year old boy and Jesus took him by the hand and said come in took him into paradise and he said all the magnificence of paradise but the thing that was so incredible was the river

of life and he said Jesus took me to the banks of the river of life and said jump in and he said I was terrified and there was nothing that Jesus could do to get me to jump in the river of life said so Jesus jumped in and he said jump and I'll catch you so when Jesus said jump and I'll catch you he said I jumped and he said Jesus caught me and then he just let me slip down into the waters and he said you know what I could breathe like a fish underwater he said it was wet all around me but I never got wet he said we rolled on the bottom on the pebbles on the bottom of this magnificent river he said Jesus and I played together he said I could just breathe the whole time we didn't have to come up and after a season Jesus said I have to go and do some other things and he handed me over to

an angel and this angel took him on a tour of heaven and at what seemed the end of a day in heaven this angel said I'm taking you up to the throne of God but one thing I have to tell you whatever you do you may not look on the face of the father and he said every listen to this how contrary this is to our human nature everything within me passionately longed to obey come on if you love me you will absolutely obey me come on we're such rebels aren't we somebody says don't look the first thing we do is look somebody says don't go there the first thing we want to do is go there don't touch and we touch that's one of the things about it don't touch you know the first thing you tell a kid don't touch they're gonna touch it no matter what you say no matter what you do they're gonna touch it but

he said if we sing within me long to obey and said then he took he took me up to the throne of God and he said there was there was the throne of God it was so big I couldn't even see to the top and the robes of God cascaded down incredible robes and sitting there seated at the right hand of God was Jesus waving at me and he said then Jesus got off his throne walked right into the side of God totally disappeared came out on the left side of God and there was a vacant throne and he sat down on it and waved to me again and then he got up walked back into the side of God completely disappeared where did Jesus come from out of the bosom of the Father come on beloved out of the bosom of the Father came out on the right side and sat down on his throne again and he said he said to the angel he

said the little boy said to the angel ah whose throne is that that vacant one and then you said you know no no that's belongs to the Holy Spirit and he said so where is he and the angel said he's not here he's on the earth he's on the earth you realize beloved that the blessed Holy Spirit of Almighty God has been a prisoner on this earth for 2,000 years to the will of the Father he's a prisoner he's a prisoner for your sake and my sake you know Jesus Christ came he set his face steadfastly towards Calvary beloved that we might be saved that we might be redeemed by all such great love and yet the Holy Spirit has been a prisoner here for 2,000 years by the will of the Father that lost men may be redeemed to a living God without the Holy Spirit no man can be saved come on come on if there's

anything that we need in our churches today it's a revisitation of the power of the Holy Spirit it's a revisitation of the life of the Spirit it's a revisitation of the dynamic of the Spirit that's what we need oh we call ourselves Pentecostals but we're so far from the works of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost hallelujah the power of God came down I know you want to know the end of the story more concerned with that than what I've been saying so after after after seeing this incredible scene but so passionately longing to obey God Oh to God that nature was within me that nature was within us beloved that we were just passionately long to obey God I don't want to do anything that's gonna offend you I don't want to do anything that's gonna put you at

odds with me I don't want to do anything that's gonna offend the Spirit of God I want to tell you the more that I come to know the Spirit the more that I find he's a tough taskmaster he wants his pound of flesh he's not gonna let you get by with anything when he puts his finger on your life he beloved he wants and he demands that the issue that he puts his finger on you sort it out because you're going nowhere with God until you do yeah it is our it's really our when you only to get by we think that we can put it on the backburner of our lives he's never gonna let you forget I tell you don't you dare make a promise to God that you have no intention of fulfilling God says we're gonna give a count of every idle word that we speak and an idle word beloved is a promise that we make that we

don't back up with an action now Oh God I promise you I'll give Oh God I promise you I will go Oh God I promise you I will do and then we conveniently forget the promise that we made but the Holy Ghost of Almighty God will never forget the promise that you made and in due season he's coming to get the promise well the angel took this little boy to the gate of heaven and said go back and he sat up in the mortuary alive completely healed nothing wrong with his mind absolutely whole his brains were on the pavement outside don't forget totally whole that's the power of God he fearfully and wonderfully made us for his glory you know what you're not just by happenstance you're not just by chance beloved he crafted you he crafted you sometimes we we may think well who am I in this great mass of

humanity he's counted the hairs of your head he knows you by name you are precious in his sight you are his delight you are his peculiar treasure whoo I was telling the interns this afternoon do you realize on the face of the earth seven billion people on this planet right now we just passed the seven billion mark if 20% and that's a lot 20% of all mankind is truly saved that's only 1.4 billion people yeah that's 5.6 billion people who need to know Jesus Wow Wow amidst that amidst that seven billion people he's called you out of your family he's called you out of your tribe he's called you out of the city he's called you out of the nation to be his peculiar treasure for his glory Wow what a God and it doesn't matter where you are he knows where you are he's called you by name you're the

apple of his eye you're his delight hallelujah you're the song of the Lord it's time to change our thinking stop looking at yourself as a loser start looking at yourself as a treasure the treasure of God for his glory I

can't bring any glory to God if I keep looking at myself and say who am I what am I why did God save me what's this all about amen but I can tell you now you will never have a love for the last we were willing to have imparted not only the gospel not because my life is this gospel but my very life why because I'm not coming to you with empty words I'm not coming to you to preach just a gospel just a message beloved I'm coming with that message that is backed up with a life of substance in Christ Jesus that's not about me it's about him it's about his magnificence it's

about his glory it's about his beauty we should be able to say to people be followers of me as I am of Christ hallelujah so another if I'm gonna put up a standard I better live that standard it's really sad today that the church doesn't have a standard we flop around like a fish out of water we don't really have the standard of God's Word we don't have the standard of the Spirit our mentality our attitude because of the humanism that is invaded us is that anything goes anything will do I want to tell you not anything will do for God not anything will do I get so jealous when I read about Mary taking that alabaster box of ointment and smashing it on the head of Jesus and letting that went and just run down all the way down him his garments right down to his feet and all the critics now you

could have sold that for 300 pence and given it to the poor Judas you hypocrite liar oh you've been stealing out of the bag all this time you think Jesus didn't know he was stealing out of the bag you know why Judas thought he could steal out of the bag because there was so much money going into that bag don't think Jesus was poor I tell you people were giving giving giving there was so much abundance of wealth that people were giving that's why they said that that's why the high priest was getting bent out of shape because the coffers of the temple were getting lower and lower and lower all the money was going to Jesus so Judas thought well it doesn't matter nobody's going to notice how much I take amen oh beloved what an incredible God that we serve I came to impart not the gospel only

but my life my life is an endorsement it's a standard amen we should every one of us seated here tonight we should have the objective of being a role model of Christ to somebody when you whether in your workplace whether in your school place whether in your university with it within your family it doesn't make any difference I remember in the midst of the war in Rhodesia I've been out and we we lived in these protected camps and things were so bad the terrorists were everywhere it's one particular day I had I had two young men two natives that I really loved one whose name was Kizito and the other one was Lazarus and I remember saying to this Lazarus just Holy Ghost came out we were just talking and I said to him Lazarus you're going to come forth from death and the very next day they

went out on a mission and the terrorists got them usually when they got any of the natives that worked for the government they really tortured them and they ran both of these young men they ran like the wind and Kizito tripped and fell and they got him and they beat him to death with with machetes and and and and just pangas of wood beat his skull in but Lazarus escaped and he he ran all the way back to camp when he got back I was so incensed I'm gonna go chase these terrorists and got back after a long afternoon got into my camp and and these these camps were fully alarmed the fences they were surrounded by big fences and fences were alarmed and I was really tired as a I was about to go to bed and I said has anybody checked the fence no suddenly the alarms going off as the fence was

tested so you got to go now and check this fence and it's maybe about two miles in circumference and right down in the dark corner at the bottom of the fence I had the sense that somebody's watching me from outside of the same fence isn't it wonderful when we got the Holy Spirit as I walked around I came up to the top and and there was a water well near nearby just outside of the fence and I found this fine copper

wire wired up the alarm to the fence and that's why the alarm was going off and these terrorists thought that we would just get fed up we wouldn't find it and we'd switch off the fence because they had planned an ambush so I went to bed that night and about midnight suddenly all hell just broke loose there's just rockets and mortars just landing everywhere explosions and I

rushed out of my my little cottage and as I rushed out of this I just saw this hail of bullets coming towards me and suddenly I was thrown to the ground and pinned down and I was mad because all I wanted to do was fight back and I'm trying to move my head I'm trying to lift it to see what's going on and I'm pinned down by my neck and my legs and somebody's just like holding me there and after a while of just being pinned down and and this you know everything's being fired at our camp suddenly I'm released and as I roll over and I look this is this is huge angel just smiled at me nodded his head and disappeared well I wasn't happy I was angry and the next morning I saw where there was a short and a short short wall on my veranda on my my veranda where where I had ran out and the whole wall

was literally blown away by this barrage of bullets and rockets that had hit it and if I had lifted my head just a fraction above the wall it would have been taken God's been completely wrong that's the glory of God now it wasn't just sparing me because you know because he had a mandate because he has a mission hallelujah I was like I want you to be a light even to these terrorists in the darkness and there's one thing that there's one thing that absolutely amazed them is that when you had no fear I was telling you about this farm that I lived on and I had a fence around this farm and and but it wasn't electrified and I would drive in there at all kinds of hours of the night and I had no gun I had nothing I just had the protection of the Lord and at the end of the the terrorist war when

these terrorists were put in camps one of the grouping places was on my neighboring farmers farm and this this group of a couple of hundred of these terrorists gathered together waiting to be picked up while they were there this neighbor of mine started talking to them these terrorists said who lives in that house over there you know that that's a pastor why what's the problem no we went to ambush him every many many times and every time we went to that farmhouse to ambush it the whole house was surrounded by huge soldiers in white shining armor and we were so afraid we would run away we can expect God to do the spectacular we can expect God to do the miraculous we can expect God to come through when we are about his business hallelujah that's what he's looking for but it be about his

business it doesn't matter if it's just your workplace it doesn't matter if it's your school place be about his business for his glory we were willing to have imparted not only the gospel but our own lives amen how many of us are are willing to go to the ends of the earth for Jesus don't put up your hand and don't do it because I tell you he'll come to you come for you at a moment that you expect not yeah now I've made promises to God and God comes to get that promise in the most inconvenient time the Lord couldn't you choose a better time no we better be on Holy Ghost program and then Holy Ghost program you know how many of us tell God to wait I have to commend you in this congregation about your cell phones really it's really very different here than anywhere else I go in America people

always jumping up running out answering the cell phone you know what an insult that is to God yeah really like hold on God you wait I'm talking to my friend what you're telling God wait while I deal with this issue you're telling God wait while I talk to my friend you're telling God wait I'm going out because if I'm preaching the word you should be listening to it amen now there's nothing I hate more than a cell phone in the in the in the sanctuary be careful if your cell phone rings I'll come and snatch it from you and smash it amen you know you how many of us are doing something and you get that fleeting moment of the Holy

Spirit and he says stop what you're doing I want you now and you say oh Lord let me just finish this let me just finish this you know you're cooking for your husband

and you're standing at the stove and the Holy Spirit comes all over you and you say let me just finish this no let the old goat wait for his food he's not gonna die no man you know it's like no no no switch off the stove take it off go to the room and say God what is it I'm all yours I'm all attentive Lord to what you have to say I'm all attentive to what you want to do I'm all attentive beloved I want to tell you if we would start to discipline our lives like that we're gonna find the Holy Spirit coming and captivating us more than ever before we're gonna become super sensitive to the Holy Spirit yeah no driving down the road and you know the Holy Spirit comes into the car and he says pull over and praise me can I stop here Lord what are the cops gonna say you know what let the cops come

and say you know what what are you doing sir why you stopped here well I'm really praising God why don't you jump in the car with me and praise him with me I'll tell you he'll get in his cop car and he's gone well pull on pull along I want to tell you we're so concerned about what people are gonna think say and do instead of obeying super sensitivity to the blessed Holy Spirit we want God to use us in some great ministry we want to preach to thousands we want to go to the foreign mission field and be used of God but we can't even be obedient to the moving of the Holy Spirit in my life right here where I am come on God says just stop what you do I want your attention no it's making an exercise in this next week and I'm gonna obey everything that the Holy Spirit tells me to do you're

driving along this is stop at that house knock on the door and just pray for the person Lord you've got to be out of your mind what are they gonna think who gives a stinking hoot what they think yeah no use school go up to your teacher lay hands on and pray for she needs it when we cast out those devils all the spirits of humanism come on Oh what will what will they say what will they think what will happen beloved God's looking for a people that never so lined up with him there's no difference between God and me I'm so passionate to know him I'm so passionate to be intimate with him really I would I would pray tonight this would be my prayer for all of you here father visit everybody in this place and baptize them with the fullness of the love of God the fullness of the father the

fullness of the father Jesus's greatest mission calling was to lead us to the father amen not going to heaven forget about that God wants me to be in the bosom of the father God wants me to be in the heartbeat of Almighty God I want to tell you if you want to be an intercessor if you want to touch nations you better carry the burden of the heart of God you better carry the passion of the heart of the father you better know the will of the father for your life in every given circumstance and the only one who can reveal that is the son because he comes out of this part of the father and the only way that son's gonna reveal it to you is by the power of his blessed Holy Spirit beloved if we if we need to specialize in anything today in the church it's he's the Holy Spirit because if we want

Jesus Christ the healer if we want Jesus Christ the Savior if we want Jesus Christ the deliverer if we want Jesus Christ in all of these aspects and natures beloved we've got to glorify the Holy Ghost and when the Holy Ghost is glorified in our midst he will manifest Christ he will glorify Christ he will uplift Christ hallelujah wow can we say that we're specialists in the Holy Spirit I want to tell you one of the amazing things about Pentecostals is they so far from being specialists in the Holy Spirit anymore friend of mine was telling me in Ohio you know when I when I call people pastor when I call people in my church forward to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost I said what do you say he said come forward and I'll pray for you to receive the power of the Holy Spirit I said and what

else because I want to tell you now this is how I say it you want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit come forward I'm gonna lay hands on you I'm gonna pray for you and you're gonna receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and you are going to speak in other tongues does that offend you too bad why should it offend you that's the Word of God on the day of Pentecost beloved I don't care what wacko doctrine you've been listening to I don't care what kind of wacko teaching you've been coming under he hasn't changed he's the same for the last 2,000 years the blessed Holy Spirit is gonna fall on you the same as he fell on the day of Pentecost and when he falls on you all you've got to do is open your mouth and speak in other tongues they heard in their own language in which they were born

the wonderful works of God come on I have no apology to make to anyone for the blessed Holy Ghost come on fill me come on overwhelm me come on saturate me come on empower me come on lift me up come on fire me come and give me passion I need to know my Savior I need to be like him hallelujah and if you haven't got that beloved I want to tell you you're missing out when I call my students at the school come on 200 kids just come forward I just said I'm gonna pray for you to be received the baptism of the Holy Ghost all I want you to do is open your mouth and speak in tongue and it's like the little birds they just open their mouth and they all start talking in tongues I come to the Western world and anyway how am I gonna do it what's gonna happen and you think you watch people's mind start

working it's not about you all the Holy Ghost needs is you to be a vessel through whom he can speak come on Oh beloved let's get the fire of God let's get the fire of God we were willing you know you can't impart your life to the last and dying of the nations of the world unless you've got substance amen unless you've got something to give unless you've got bread to feed cast your bread on the water yeah I watched people come to the mission field you know what they can't even share the most simple things of the Word of God you know why there's no passion there's no fire of the Holy Ghost but I want to tell you when you've got the fire of the Holy Ghost and the passion of the Holy Spirit when you've got the Spirit of Almighty God all he wants you to do is open your mouth and begin to speak

I know wonderful missionary friend he's gone home to be with the Lord way back in then in the 1930s when you know Africa was still so wild he was living down in Cape Town South Africa and he got a message from some tribe upon the Lake Victoria in Uganda please come and preach to us he doesn't even know how on earth that letter came to him nor who even wrote it so he got in his car and he drove now 4,000 miles no roads cutting tracks didn't even know where he was going half the time just trusted God and and reached Lake Victoria asked around ways this tribe and he was directed to the tribe when he got to the tribe of course there was nobody that could interpret there's nobody who could speak what did he do he just stepped out in faith and started speaking in tongues and he was amazed how

these natives were absolutely spellbound by what he had to say and then then they would go for a meal and they were amazed that he couldn't even ask for the salt in their language he was speaking their language in tongues he was glorifying God these these natives were undone every one of them ended up being baptized in Lake Victoria every one of them ended up being filled with a Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues themselves hallelujah though I speak with the tongue of men and of angels beloved now there's a tongue of angels there's a tongue of men I don't care what tongue I'm speaking in I can change from one tongue to another depending on what I'm praying and how I'm praying and what the need is God switches me from some dialect in China right across to India from here to there and

everywhere I speak in hundreds of tongues hallelujah well and we've got so religious we don't need this is the 21st century we're educated now we're educated dead come on beloved I want to tell you I've been

asking God God what is it about this wonderful congregation you are God said he wants fire to fall in this place real fire you know but I want to tell you there's such revival coming there's such revival coming it isn't just gonna happen God needs instruments Lord I'm your instrument yeah I'm your instrument here am I Lord I'm willing to impart not just the word but my life that supports that word with substance with power with strength with life hallelujah I I never forget you know when I was really young one of my friends were playing I'd take my tent I'd go down by the river and

I'd spend three weeks just sitting in my tent reading the Bible praying to God I never forget when I one time when I reached Psalm 2 ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession I know that as I read it was that these words just leapt out of the page and grabbed a hold of me like wow Lord do you really mean that and God said ask of me and I said Lord can it really be possible that that if I ask you he said ask of me and I said Lord the heathen for my inheritance and God said I said ask of me and I kept on making all these statements and asking all these questions and finally God said when will you listen ask me I said God give me the heathen and the outermost parts of the earth for my possession and he said

finally yes yes come on beloved it's not just for me it's for anyone who will seek him who will desire him who will passionately go after him no we have a mentality today that God is gonna dump a pie from the sky on me you know God bless me bless me bless me amen we got we got problems we got financial problems and we all we may be in the work of God and we want to do this and we want to do that and we need this amount of money and we need that amount of money and you know what we expect God to open this great bowl and dump it in one great dump all on us doesn't work like that I've never seen it happen never seen it happen as we press into God as we press into what he's got and into who he is we start to possess amen and we start to see God doing the miraculous and the spectacular we were

willing to have imparted not only the gospel not these words my life my life now please I want anyone to get under condemnation but you know it's sad that in the last day last generation I can say that people from the third world have been telling the first world we don't need you to come and be missionaries all we need you to do is apply the tools for us to do the work that is not true take it from me that is not true there's nothing that the natives of Africa are happier with that when I'm prepared to go in amongst them and live Jesus Christ yeah and lift them up just as Christ came and lifted me up to go in and lift them up to the throne of God because he's invested in me life wisdom knowledge power the spirit love it you you can be the you can be the the youngest Christian and if you

got the power of the Holy Ghost you're way above others who don't have it come on say you know this is something so wonderful as the Holy Spirit shines on this word and explodes it to you becomes living becomes dynamic becomes powerful becomes life then I say Lord I'll go wherever you want me to go I'm willing to impart my life to whosoever whether it's in the jungles of Africa whether it's in the concrete jungles of America whether it's to the Russians or the Chinese it doesn't make any difference God is looking for a vessel will you be that vessel Lord fill me with your power Lord make my life to be such an example such a testimony and I'm not just gonna speak empty words when I speak your Oracle yeah everybody wants to hear a prophecy today everybody wants somebody to lay hands on them

and prophesy I said the Lord I was in Minneapolis a few years ago and preached the word and and this young lady came running up after the sermon he just gotta have a word for me pastor you just gotta have a word for me I said yes honey it was the one I preached if you weren't listening you missed it I know you just gotta have a word you know in one of those strange situations the Holy Ghost said to me just give her

a word give her any word be careful so I laid hands on I just started to speak you know whatever came to my mind I'd say just give her a word whatever she wants yeah and oh she wasn't happy with the word she really wasn't happy with the word she walked to the back of the sanctuary with her shoulders bent and really she was angry because you know what it was the word that God

wanted her to hear so the next night she's back again oh you just gotta have a word you just gotta have a word and God said give her a word I said Lord this is crazy he said just give her a word so I laid hands on her and I started speaking and whatever came to my mind oh she's dancing hey praise the Lord you know that's exactly what she wanted to hear and as I'm giving this word you know I'm just marveling and she turns and she you know flakily dances down the aisle and I'm standing there looking at this young lady and thinking when is the penny gonna drop she gets to the door and she stopped and then she turns and she comes rushing back and she says I'm confused I said I bet you are and the Lord gave me the word Balaam's business Balaam's business the first night God spoke the word he

wanted her to hear that night he spoke the word she wanted to hear God told Balaam don't run after Balak and the treasures that he had but you know when when Balaam went after Balak what did God say carry on go go love it be careful when God says no and you still keep on and on at him you know what God's gonna turn around and do okay go go do what you want he'll give you what you want and send leanness to your soul don't play around with the Almighty God it's a serious business he wants us to be such living epistles I remember when I was a really good young Baptist I bless them I left my hometown and I went to university in South Africa and when I got to the University town first thing I did as a wonderful Christian was to report to my new Baptist pastor and the first thing he said to me

where is your letter of transfer what he said where is your letter of transfer I said what are you talking about I haven't I don't know what you're talking about well you're supposed to bring a letter from the pastor of the church that you were in so that I know that you are upstanding I said pastor if you don't see that I am upstanding too bad for you see I'm beloved we should be able to discern people immediately yeah our spiritual zero in and discern people immediately I should be looking at you and saying yeah what a lovely spirit oh yeah there's something seriously wrong get your act together I meant what does Paul say you are our epistle not written with ink but written on the lively tables of the heart not in stone beloved like the tables of the law but in fleshly tables of the

heart we should be able to read one another and what we read is wonderful what we see is glorious what we discern is powerful what I know is his love his nature his character his beauty his grace his mercy his goodness his faithfulness his truthfulness everything that he is hallelujah I can see it written on your heart oh that's why it's so important that we careful we keep our lives in order don't get into gossip don't get into backbiting don't get into fault-finding don't get into this you know you may not agree you may not like oh so what so what give it to God God I don't agree well God I don't like this well God's gonna tell you a whole lot of things he doesn't like about you yeah you know you start you know you start fault-finding somebody you take it to God let me tell you let me

give you one word of advice beloved if you're finding fault with somebody take it to God and start telling God all about their faults yeah don't run to somebody run to God isn't he the source of everything so next time you want to backbite fault find your brother your sister your pastor go and complain to God and I'll tell you what's gonna happen God's gonna slap you upside the head so quick that you won't know what's hit you he's gonna tell you what about you before you presume to take the little stick out of your brother's I look at that big log that's in your eye amen Wow sorry Lord keep my big mouth shut keep my

heart clean keep my channels pure Lord because what I am your living epistle yes I am your living epistle you are the living epistle of Jesus Christ tonight when

you go anywhere people are gonna read you like a book now when you're getting sassy and you're ungracious and unlovely and you're whining and complaining let me tell you people are reading you is this what Jesus is about because if this is what Jesus is about I don't want him I've got enough of that at work I've got enough of that in the world I don't need this what I need is the graciousness the love the goodness of my wonderful Savior you are our epistle what a mighty mighty God Lord I'm willing to impart not only the gospel but my life that endorses this gospel this gospel that changed me to be who I am this word working mightily in me that filled me with life and that more abundant thank you father let's pray Oh God you're so wonderful you're such a gracious incredible merciful holy

God I'm asking you tonight that you would inspire us fire us I pray God that you would that you would lead everybody here so captive Lord you put us on a track the same track Lord that our one desire would be to glorify you the Lord as we reach out to the nations ask of me ask of me tonight says the Lord and I will give thee the heathen for that inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession Lord am I willing to go into the midst of Mongolia China Russia lose my identity identity separate from those that I love to be your instrument to lay down my life willing to impart my life to preach this for the privilege for the privilege to preach this gospel Oh father stir up each vessel here tonight I pray Oh let us reach out for your blessed Holy Spirit like we've never done

before the Holy Spirit I'm asking you to seal this place seal it for your glory your honor find a resting place here blessed Holy Spirit come and let us hide behind you blow into this place with a fresh new wind of life power substance turn our lives upside down in the mighty name of Jesus and for his glory amen

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