

WAITING FOR SUCCESS

Bruce Montroy

What comes next is very important: I am sending what My Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until He arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high. Luke 24:49 (MSG)

What a great promise! Equipped for success. Imagine, God's power for whatever we need to get the job done, and all we have to do is wait for the Holy Spirit to clothe (NASB) us. Power!

What kind of power? Power to say to the confused – this is the way, walk ye in it! Power to say to the lame, “Silver and gold have I none but such as I have I give you... rise up and walk.”

As the believers waited in the upper room after Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit came with great power. They were filled with Pentecostal Power! They all spoke with tongues as the Spirit gave utterance and the city was shaken with the power of God.

In short time the over-flowing disciples were castigated for their exuberance and they retreated, and re-waited and were re-filled with power from on high. They spoke the Word with boldness!

A group of dedicated Gentiles waited for a word from God (Acts 10) and were clothed with the same Spirit of Power the disciples received on Pentecost. The older saints were astonished that they received the Holy Spirit without rituals or induction.

As injured and tortured witnesses lifted their voices in a Philippian jail, waiting on the Lord of Glory for their needs to be met, the place was shaken with the power of God. And so the stories go through out church history. Seminars are great and higher educations is nice but waiting for the Holy Spirit's endowment with power is where true success is to be found.

Waiting for the Holy Spirit to pour out His power may not mean we will irradiate sickness or tap into the wealth of the wicked in unlimited fashion. It does mean that the Father will be pleased with us and that we will hear Him say one day soon, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into My rest.”

You see, there is a broad way that leads to

destruction and a narrow road that leads to the Father's promised abundant life and eternal blessings. The grooming of the flesh has the appearance in worldly wisdom but falls flat on making heart change. True conversion is only possible with the Holy Spirit's power. We cannot make converts with seminars, gimmicks, user-friendly techniques, and “safe” meetings. Self-help seminar techniques might stir up enthusiasm but one must be born again of the Spirit!

There is a real concern that if the Holy Spirit is allowed total freedom He just might scare people off. After all, He's not a tame lion! Don't you have to laugh when someone says that the Holy Spirit is a true gentleman. Apparently they haven't read the Bible. Some might consider Him rude for what He did in Egypt, with Korah and his rebellion, to the walls of Jericho, to King Saul when he prophesied himself naked. And what of Annias and Saphariah or Elymas? Recall that God's ways are not our ways.

And God's idea of success isn't how big your church is, or if you raise someone from the dead or a huge budget. His orders are to:

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. Psalms 27:14 (KJV)

And leave us not forget:

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:29-31 (KJV)

The Old Testament shows how God honored those who waited on Him. The Gospels and Acts reveals the fullness of Abba's power is manifested on and in those who wait for the Holy Spirit's endowment with power. And today, the aching of the hearts of the saints is for more of Father's presence. It comes from waiting on His Spirit! Pressing in for more of the Holy Spirit!

Some churches are dying; others are splitting at the seams. One thing I hear all too often from believer that



attend both – we ache for a genuine move of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is to be found where He is honored. User-friendly gatherings will probably shy away from giving Him too much latitude, knowing His reputation for scaring some off, causing others to mock saying “you’re drunk,” and for heaven’s sake, turn some into fanatics!

The Day of Pentecost may have looked weird to some but for the hungry, it was life! Waiting and pressing in for more of the Lord’s power will fill your cup and satisfy your soul like nothing else. You may not be able to leap tall buildings and the bullets of trials might sear your flesh, but the presence and closeness of the Almighty Triune God will bless you as nothing else in your entire life!

Lord, send the power!

SHOW US THE FATHER

Pastor Don Tjiema

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be good enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work."

As people hang around you, do they notice the presence of God Almighty? How would they do that, you might ask? Well, through our speech, joy, hope, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, and most importantly by our love. We convey the God we serve by the way we appear and in our conduct. Do others see the love of God working in and through us?

Peter writes, *"Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in ALL you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"*

So it could be said, as Jesus Christ is being revealed through you, God's grace is given to you. God blesses those who show His love to others. What are the necessary actions to be taken on our part? We must prepare our minds for action; to be self-controlled and to set our hope fully on the Lord; to not live in ignorance, and to be obedient. And be holy, because God is holy!

But how do I accomplish being holy, am I now to be in a performance relationship with God? The answer is

no, you are imputed holiness through belief in Jesus Christ and you then conduct yourself as if you are in God's presence at ALL times. This will help with preparing our mind and in our actions as well. If you continually put yourself in God's presence, like Jesus was always in His Father's presence, you will show others the Father as well!

"Show us the Father and that will be good enough!"

This is truly what the world pleads.

Be blessed to be a blessing,

THE LIFE

Pastor Ronda Ehlert

I just got back from taking our high school graduates, and college age students to Del Mar, California. Spirit West Coast is an annual event over there. It's where several top Christian bands and singers all get together in one place, and for one price you can hear them play. It was a nice event, however the more enjoyable part for me was Del Mar itself. They like to call it the Village of Del Mar, in an effort to keep it a smaller community, and not like other towns or cities in California.



Saturday morning we walked to the downtown area and had breakfast at a small bagel shop on the corner. We sat outside where we could watch all of the people and cars driving by. It was interesting to me to hear the comments of the students as the corvettes, Jaguars, BMW's and more stopped at the corner at a light. Seemed as if most were teens or college students that were driving them. Someone said “I could really get used to the life here.”

I understood what he was saying. Things for us seemed so relaxing. From our outside perspective it appeared that these people really had it going on. They had the money, the cars, the beautiful town to live in, most likely a beautiful home, a beach to walk on everyday, and more! What a life!

Another student said “Its just the luck of the draw. Some are born into money and never have to worry about it for the rest of their life.” A very true statement. Some have money, others have some money, other's have no money. Some live in gorgeous “villages,” and other's live in small towns like what we drove through to get there.... Wenden, or Hope, AZ. Its just life!

John 10:10 b says *"I have come that you might have Life, and Life more abundantly."* So many look around

and want to know where the “more abundantly” of life is. Most people that I know and talk to are struggling for find the “abundance” of the life, let alone the MORE abundance.

But does that verse apply to the physical abundance that we witnessed in Del Mar? Are they experiencing the “Life more abundantly” that John 10:10 speaks of? I don’t think so. I think that verse has very little to do with our physical need and wants or even need for finances. I think it has so much more to do with the Life we live in Him, and Him in us! To be longing for and desiring all the He is, and all that He has for us. His Life is worth it, His life is satisfying, His life is what we long for and can’t get enough of. It’s His life that should so satisfy us that we need to tell the world! It may not always be easy - but it is always satisfying!

PLAN B?

Sally Bates

I always wanted to be chosen for a team when I was a kid in school. I was nearly always the last one picked, for a lot of reasons. Mostly because I couldn't run fast, but also because I was a quiet kid who spent a lot of time under the lilac bush in my Grandmother's back yard. I liked horses better than people.

So, if I was on a team at all, it was usually on the losing team. I learned at an early age competition isn't all about winning . . . it's about losing well and being a good sport about it. And, at 60 something I think that was a better lesson than how to win and be the "A" team. I thought the "A" team looked like the Pom-Pom Squad or the cheerleaders at our assemblies.

I was at a graduation ceremony recently and listened to a man ask the Biblical question, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" I looked at over a hundred kids on the field and asked myself "Can anything good come of these kids?" Of course it can!! If they apply themselves and find out where their gifts and callings are and go for being the very best they can be at whatever calls them forward.

Not all of them will play professional baseball, if any. Not all of them will start and maintain a productive business that will benefit them and the community they live in. Not all will go to college, and not all of them will live to be 100.

But that doesn't mean they are settling for "Plan B." I wanted so much to tell all of them, your life is Plan A in the eyes of God, and He will not settle for Plan B as long as you reach for what He has for you and don't settle for less. But don't set yourself up as a failure if you don't make a million the first three years out of college.



I am not a professional barrel racer, or cutting champion. But that doesn't mean I'm living "Plan B." I am not a famous author, or guest speaker across the U.S. But that doesn't mean I'm living "Plan B." I didn't make it big in Nashville, but God is using what voice He gifted me with in many places, and they are definitely not a part of "Plan B."

Do we really believe in our heart of hearts that we are living Plan A where we are today? Is our faith such that we trust the hand of God to guide and direct us into the plan He has and had for us in such a way that we are exactly where He wants us to be? Well - if your life is a "wreck" and you are living a miserable existence in an abusive relationship, or your home is filled with arguments and strife, you probably are living "Plan B." Plan A is available . . . but it may be making the very best of where you are and ceasing to see it as less than and turn it around to be more than!!

Too many of us have become "spoiled" in what we think is necessity, when in reality we have a lot of provision in what is honestly luxury. Look at how the rest of the world lives! They truly may be existing in Plan B . . . but Plan A is always the same. It is a life such as what God planned for us when we were created. It requires diligence and hope. It requires keeping in mind that if we do the very best we can to be obedient to the Word of God and present the Fruit of the Spirit in everything we do, we are living Plan A. It will produce a life that is a fruitful vineyard.

Always look to Plan A and never say you will accept Plan B as the fulfillment of your life. But also keep in mind that what we see as Plan B just might be something that we have established in our minds as less than what we wanted, but exactly what God has for us to live.

Plan A - Plan B. I'm living Plan A. Not where I thought I would be, not where I dreamed of being as a kid, but certainly a fruitful vineyard. It is my job to love this vineyard and care for it with God's Grace and strength.

FEEL THE ANOINTING?

Linda J. Humes

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." 1 John 2:27

Have you ever walked into a church and felt the anointing? Have you listened to a song and felt the presence of God flowing over you? Has someone laid

hands on your shoulder as you were deep in prayer and felt the power of God shoot straight through you like a charge of electricity?

Have you reached out to caress an old worn Bible and felt a tenderness in your hand? Have you ever placed a prayer cloth over your head or around your shoulder and felt a calm pass through you? We all have "God Moments" when there is no doubt about His presence. But, have you ever felt the anointing in the little things?

I've been told that people can tell when others are praying for them, it's the anointing crossing the distances we cannot. The anointing can go into the battlefield with a soldier, into a prison cell, into a hospital room or into a classroom with the person in prayer sits in an office or bedroom miles or countries away.

Recently someone gave me a small knitted blanket with a bag of donations, one I suspect was knitted for a baby boy (it's blue!). When I touched it I could feel the anointing of loving prayer, likely spoken as each row was knitted. I keep it in my travel bag, what comfort and peace it brings, no matter where I am.

I wonder if we leave that same anointed feeling as we walk through our daily lives. Does the accident victim feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit as we whisper a prayer in passing? Does the stranded motorist feel the angels of protection, placed in prayer, as help is summoned. Does a hurting person feel the hug of God as we fold them in our arms and pray? Does the inmate feel "something" as they open the letters of encouragement mailed off with a seal of prayer? How much do our prayers make a difference?

I can only give as much anointed prayer as I have worked to receive through personal time with God. I can only share the anointing I have been filled with through hours of prayer. How much do I want to give? How much do I want to make a difference? Lord, use ALL of me.

Lord, God, let me never forget that the comfort I can share may be the only moment of peace in a person's week, month or year. Let me be like that small blue blanket, stitched with love, that still feels like and smells like the anointing of God. Draw me continually into prayer. Amen.

SPEAR MINISTRIES ON THE "OUTS"?

Norma Montroy

I have had some tell me that we simply have to many "outs", meaning the Outreach, the Outpouring and the Outpost. What is the difference? Well I'm glad you ask! Several years now we have endeavored to have Friday or Saturday night services, that have been meant to encourage the body in liberty. A time of

refreshing! We have had speakers, individuals testimonies, awesome times of worship all the time being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His leading.

We call that the "Outpouring". Most of us coming from different church bodies and not wanting to replace, but to enhance! We still have those periodically. Our next "Outpouring" will be June 11th @ Word of Life Assembly Chino. More than 50 teens will just be coming home from a week of camp. Can you imagine the fire and Holy Ghost energy that will be present?

The "Outpost Outreach" is twice-monthly and is an outreach into the Prescott Community. We use the parking lot of Banners n More, pull out a barbeque grill, slap the hamburgers on, and let the aroma of barbeque and the Holy Spirit bring in those from the community. Our goal is to win the lost in a non-obtrusive way. Many times the teens from Chino will have their band playing, sometimes we have puppet shows, and simply sit and eat with people, showing that we care.

Last outreach we fried up 85 hamburgers, and lost count of hot dogs. It was my joy to watch Spears outreach team enjoying themselves with the people, all the time making inroads into their lives. As of yet we have no great numerical figures to report, but we will!!!

Our latest endeavor has had a slow start, but we are believing that it will be a blessing to many. Oasis Ministry Center, is on the main street of town. Many drive and walk by daily. Our vision is that it will be just that, a ministry center used 24 hrs a day if needed to meet the spiritual needs of people. We would like to see workshops, Bible study groups, intercessory groups, and the list can go on. The center is reserved and used on a donation basis, so that it is affordable. If you have been looking for a place give us a call. We have a small mission statement, with a pastoral reference and the place is yours!!!

Spear Ministries goal is to minister, to enable others to minister, and to be a blessing in anyway we can to the body of Christ. An oh how we thank those of you who have stood with us through the years. Your kindness, encouragement and generosity has been a huge blessing. Thank you!

Remember, all of our writings are available on line and free to download and share with others. Send your friends and/or those in need a link to the site. Hard copies can be ordered for a nominal fee to cover printing. Again, thank you for standing with us.

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