



2018 October Sermon Series “Until the Whole World Hears”

October 7th - Message #1 – Our Commission

Getting the Nod

Drama Skit: World vs Christian: Prayer

The Christian missed his chance! Even though his prayer was biblical... his reality wasn't.

It has been said that what you think is real will determine how you live. So, what is your real? And how does that determine how you live?

- Does your reality believe in a world that was created? Or does your reality believe it was an accident that can only be described by evolving scientific explanations?
- Does your reality include a world that was created by God... or a world that needed and created a god?
- Does your reality describe a world through the eyes of Jesus, Richard Dawkins, or Oprah?
- In your reality... are you fine with the world as it is? Or is there something wrong with the world and needs fixing?
- **Is your reality a theoretical Christianity and yet practical atheism?** (That's saying you believe in God and Jesus... but you're living like He's not there)
- **So, what is your real? what we think is real will determine how we live.**

Joke about The King of the Jungle: A young lion wandered from his father to test whether or not the other animals would respect him as they did his father. As he approached some monkeys, he roared and asked, “Who is the king of the jungle?” The monkeys shouted, “You are!!” The young lion then roared, “And don't forget it!” The lion repeated this to every animal in the jungle and got the same response.

Then he came across a herd of elephants. Once again, he shouted, “Who is the king of the jungle?” One of the bigger elephants walked up to him, picked him up by the trunk and swung him around and around and threw him into the river. As the lion crawled out of the river battered and wet, he told the elephant, “Just because you didn't know the answer to the question... that doesn't mean you have to get nasty about it!!” **The young lion's reality was that he was the king of the jungle... even though it wasn't the truth!**

Transition: What the world thinks is real... may not necessarily be true! An example of that is in John's gospel...

Connecting Us

NLT | John 14:16-18 **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.**

Application: Jesus is telling His disciples that He is sending them the Holy Spirit... and He is real. The world will not believe He is real... but we will know He is real... because He lives in us!!! **Just because the world doesn't believe in the Holy Spirit, that doesn't make their reality true!**

Let's look at another reality of the Holy Spirit: NLT | Ac 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Application: Let's break this down... This verse is about Good News!!!

- The Disciples of Jesus have been through a lot. Their leader was taken from them by murder... and they feared the same as His followers.
- Then their Leader, now Savior, was resurrected from the dead. And has walked with them and witnessed by 500 other followers.
- This Savior, Jesus has now told them He is leaving... but not to worry... after He is gone... they will be given a comforter, because doesn't abandon His people.
- The Resurrected Jesus now shares the good news...

God's Take

The Good News:

1. It's not about a ritual... but a reality.

- It is clear from Jesus that what He is asking them to do cannot be done without the Holy Spirit coming upon them.
- Look at verse 5 in Acts 1... NLT | Ac 1:5 **John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**
- Baptism was and is a ritual. When you are baptized it affects your standing with Christ... but when you are baptized by the Holy Spirit it affects your purpose with Christ.
- When the Holy Spirit came eventually, the disciples were transformed!
- **Illustration of the Human Body:** The human body is a most remarkable machine. It can maintain a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees no matter what the weather is outside. Whether a man is at the Arctic Circle or the equator, his body temperature is about the same. There is an inner mechanism that makes the difference.
- **For the Christian the Holy Spirit is that inner mechanism.** When the surrounding is cold, He comforts us and gives us warmth. When the circumstance is hot and intense, He grants us peace and calmness of heart.
- **The Holy Spirit is real... not just a biblical theme! And He was given to every believer for an eternal purpose!!**

2. It's not about a program... but a power.

- Jesus says in verse 8, **“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”**
- It is not about a program but a power that is at work today.
- These disciples said to him, "Lord, are you going to at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" They were thinking in terms of timetables, schedules and programs. What are you going to do? When is this all going to happen? How is it going to happen?
- But Jesus said, "That is not for you to know – the timing, the schedule, the program – these are not for you to know. That's all in the Father's authority.
- **Your task is to be the manifestation of power, not the knowledge of a program. The Father will take care of that. We** need to exercise the power that is given to us, and the Father will put it all together and work it all out just right.

- **So, what is this POWER that Jesus mentions?** It is the power to witness, the power to proclaim the Gospel and see lives changed. (Dunamis – dynamite)
- **There is no way to oppose it**, no way to overthrow it, no way to stop it. Every obstacle thrown in its path can be turned into an opportunity to advance His will.
- **We see that in the Gospels, in Acts and in church history.** We see that today in the lives of people we know. The Holy Spirit changes lives from within and not from without.
- **Illustration of the Sailboat Versus the Motorboat:** John Ortberg shared this in *The Life You Always Wanted* (p.55-56): It's like a motorboat and a sailboat. A person can operate a motorboat without assistance given the right equipment and effort. Operating a sailboat is different - it is dependent on the wind. The operator of a sailboat does whatever enables him to catch the wind.
- **Illustration of Tony Evans in the airport:** One day I was in an airport rushing to catch a plane. I was sweating and puffing when I looked to my right and saw a man walking half as fast as I was but going faster. He was walking on a moving sidewalk. When we walk in the Spirit, he comes underneath us and bears us along. We're still walking, but we walk dependent on him.
- **The Holy Spirit is Real...** and with His presence comes power... but we cannot overlook His purpose...

3. It's not about some propaganda... it's about a personal presentation.

- Jesus is saying to His disciples, "The world will be changed, not by propaganda but by witnessing."
- Christians are not to be like salesmen going out to peddle a product, nor are we recruiters, going around trying to get people to join our religious club.
- When a church becomes more like a club, canvassing for funds and membership, it loses its power.
- We are called to be witnesses. "Witness" – means it has more to do with you, than with an organization. A witness talks about Jesus and what He has done to their lives.
- **The Holy Spirit's presence is real... His power is real... and our purpose is real... sharing Christ's love out of a life that has experienced it!**

Transition: Is the Holy Spirit real to you? Do you want to be more than someone who knows the Word of the Lord... but become someone who knows the Lord of the Word? Then seek His P.O.W.E.R.

Taking It Home

Seeking the P.O.W.E.R. (The source of your purpose)

P - Pray for the Infilling

As a believer You have Him already... now give Him the Lordship of your life.

O - (Determine to) Operate under the power of the Holy Spirit

Invite the Holy Spirit daily to lead you and empower you through the highs and lows.

W - Be a witness opportunistically.

Let God open the doors to divine appointments... in which He will equip you for it.

E - Extend your horizons.

Your first horizon is Jerusalem... No matter what you've been told, that means witnessing, reaching and impacting the spiritual needs of both your family and church.

Your second horizon is your Judea... this is being aware and being a witness in your state and country and being a witnessing example throughout your culture and society.

Your third horizon is both Samaria and the ends of the earth... look to the spiritual and urgent needs of the world and nations and witnessing to them.

R - Reach out with what God has given you.

Ask God to open your eyes to His purpose; lead your family to heaven; get involved in sharing the Good News everywhere you go; and if you can't cross the oceans to a lost world... help to send others financially... prayerfully... joyfully.

Transition: Let's close with a story about Oswald Chambers...

Relevant Conclusion

Illustration of the Barrenness of Oswald Chambers: As a young man, Oswald Chambers, who wrote the materials that became 'My Utmost for His Highest', battled a persistent sense of barrenness in his Christian life. He finally wrote: I was getting desperate. I knew no one who had what I wanted; in fact, I did not know what I did want. **But I knew that if what I had was all the Christianity there was, the thing was a fraud.**

At a little meeting in Dunoon, a well-known lady was asked to take the time after the meeting. She did not speak but set us to prayer, and then sang, "Touch me again, Lord." I felt nothing, but I **knew emphatically my time had come.** I rose to my feet. Then and there I claimed the gift of the Holy Spirit based on Luke 11:13. NLT | Lk 11:13 **So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."**

Chambers said, "I had no vision of heaven or of angels; I had nothing. I was as dry and empty as ever, no power or realization of God, no witness of the Holy Spirit... **But then I was asked to speak to a meeting and forty souls came out to the front!** I came to realize that God intended me, having asked, to simply take it by faith, and that power would be there. I might see it only by the backward look, but I was to reckon on the fact that God would be with me."

From that point on, Oswald Chambers ministered with extraordinary power. His words and writings have touched people around the world, especially when he taught, as he frequently did, from his favorite verse, Luke 11:13.

And when Oswald died in Egypt during World War I, at the age of 43, an old Australian soldier whom he had led to Christ had a Bible carved in stone for his grave. Its pages were tuned to Luke 11:13. (Contributed by: A. Todd Coget)