

Family Matters

An encouraging word from Pastor Dave

March 2009

The following article is the three-part message I spoke to the gathered membership and friends of New Life during our annual meeting on Sunday, February 8th. The three parts include a call to action and a promise from the Lord. I will comment after each section.

Just as the trees in your region are alive but sleeping, and just as the warmth of the spring sun awakens them, so will I awaken my church as she keeps the fire of intercession burning on the altar of their hearts.

*"The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."
Lev 6:12-13 NIV*

Praying for others is a directive from our Father that releases His Rulership and Authority into our world and "stays" the forces and plans of our enemy. In this first part of the "word", He promises to awaken His Church from a dangerous, slumber-like state of reaction giving us a heart that is proactive and on "full alert." Jesus' Bride will be responsive and influential.

Just as the branches of the trees look lifeless in the winter time, as my church seeks to live filled with the (fire) of my Holy Spirit, so will I manifest the fruit of righteousness, peace, and joy in their lives – fruit that had previously not been manifest.

*"Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."
Eph 5:15-19 NIV*

A Spirit-filled life is a life empowered to "be Jesus" to the people that surround our lives everyday. Being Spirit-filled means to bear the fruit of peace joy and hope – a rightness or soundness to our lifestyles in the midst of chaotic circumstances. Instead of being crushed by life, we stand strong and tall in the face of it and all while loving the people who surround our daily lives.

As you commit to do the work of the ministry as I have directed – I will remove the roadblocks in front of many unbelievers and make you to be stepping stones – a pathway of life for them to believe and receive.

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."
Eph 4:11-13 NIV*

Being a follower of Jesus means to be involved in service to others. In the third part of this "word" our service will result in the removal of roadblocks and the establishment of "freeways" of life. People coming to know Christ as Savior and Lord will be the fruit of our obedience of being ready, willing, and available for Him to use in reaching out to them.