
FROM THE SEATS TO THE STREETS

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We are in that hour where the Lord is transitioning His Church from a sitting posture, awakening her from her state of slumber. We sit in Sunday services and maybe even Wednesday night service to receive the message from the minister and then go home and continue business as usual. The Lord wants us to stand, get out of the pew, go outside of the four walls of comfort, and give out to a lost and dying world 24/7.

I remember the Lord speaking to me one Sunday morning during a church service, while we lived in Dallas, Texas. **“I am more than the God of the pulpit!”** In other words, God’s power and presence was not to be contained only in a traditional church setting—inside a building. NO! “I am so much more,” says the Lord.

In 2010, having moved to Blairsville GA years earlier, the Lord spoke to me again while sitting in a church service: **“From the seats to the streets.”** I spoke this to the whole church and the Spirit of the Lord called and began to move people to renew their commitment to Him and lay aside those things that had distracted them from the call of God. People were coming forward and repenting but the presiding minister swayed the people contrarily by saying, “You do not have to do that...” The Spirit of God was quenched as well as grieved and the service transitioned back to status quo.

Needless to say, I could not believe what had just transpired. Have our churches become a form of godliness but denying the power thereof? Or is a lack of maturity in leadership and our not really knowing God’s ways leading His people astray?

In January of 2011, the River Church in Tampa Bay, Florida aired on CTN (Christian Television Network) for 3 hours a night, stirring up the church to get out and witness. It emphasized that each member of the body of Christ has their assigned position from the Lord. Each person can impact the world and not just the five-fold ministry. This was such a confirmation to what the Lord had spoken to me a few months earlier **“.....from the seats to the streets...”**

Oh, I pray that everyone reading this article is never content with just sitting in a pew anymore! The hour is too precious to be wasted on our own personal comfort zones. We must obey the command of the Lord for what is about to come upon the earth. We were born for such a time as this. I choose to delight no more in just “receiving” while the main focus is on what blesses me and makes me feel good. I no longer want to be a self-centered Christian. This is not what Jesus died for.

I’ve had to deal with feelings of inadequacy in sharing the gospel with a stranger. Yet, as I began to step out, the Lord proved He was with me. I began to see that the people coming across my path were divine assignments. Even a person calling a wrong phone number or a sales call on the phone was an opportunity for divine interaction. My greatest hindrance was fear and we know where that comes from.

2 Timothy 1:7 (AMP): “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.”

Also, at times, I wrestle with not wanting to be inconvenienced. I have my day planned: I've got to go to the grocery store ...I have to get home to do laundry....get dinner ready....this is my one day off...etc.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (AMP): “Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own, You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own]. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.”

I have repented to the Lord numerous times for not seizing an opportunity because it was an inconvenience to **my** schedule and **my** plans. “Oh Lord, forgive me for not taking the time to pray with that high school student who was taking my groceries to the car and was down trodden that day.” He was failing his science class and needed a special touch from you. I missed an opportunity to bring heaven on earth. “No more missed opportunities Lord” because I was *bought with a price* to declare the goodness of God.

I present a challenge this day. Join with me as I commit to no longer being silent, no longer will I live only for myself, and no longer will I be content with the status quo, but I will make a difference where ever I go because the love of God compels me. AMEN.

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