



The Tongues of Fire: Part 1

HOLY FIRE

JOHN ANSWERED THEM ALL, "I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER. BUT ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I WILL COME, THE THINGS OF WHOSE SANDALS I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNTIE. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE."

LUKE 3:16 TNIV

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When you see “Tongues of Fire,” do you think we’re talking about speaking in tongues?

Though that’s a part of it, the idea of “tongues of fire” is the idea of the presence of God; and it’s time that we start to discuss the idea of the presence of God— the Holy Spirit. When we talk about, “Let’s move in the Spirit” or when someone says, “I’m in the Spirit,” typically the idea of being in the Spirit comes with a little hype because you *feel* something. I’m talking to people and I am trying to egg us on into this new realm that God has asked me to push the church into and lead us in understanding; so that as He begins to move through us, in us, and to do of His good pleasure, we’ll have an understanding every time I say, “Let’s move in the Spirit” or “The presence of God is here.”

- I want us to all be united together; not like this side got their ideas from YouTube, the other side got their ideas because they were in the Pentecostal church for so long, and the back of the church got it from somewhere else.
- So that when we say, “We’re in the Spirit,” all of us are thinking the same; and in this church, we’ve all got the same idea. So that we’re all moving at the same pace and understanding what we are doing in the church and what the Spirit of God is doing through us.
- So “tongues of fire” is where we’re going. Now, it is very interesting that right now— and I think now more than ever— the body of Christ, I believe, is now opening to this idea (“tongues of fire”); and I even feel like society itself is very curious about this idea of being spiritual.
- And I feel like we as the body of Christ, too, have ideas of spirituality that I think are not too beneficial— such as we end up receiving the Holy Spirit, and the next idea that comes to our head is power; but the problem is that the power is out of context. We use power out of context.
- And we don’t understand that the idea of the Holy Spirit comes within a context; that before God anoints you, there has to be something to anoint— it’s not just your head. In fact, you’ll notice that with every anointing that comes down, what precedes the anointing of the Holy Spirit is the gospel message of Jesus.
- Wherever the gospel is preached, that’s when signs and wonders should follow. In other words, if you want to see the dynamic power of God through you, there must be a solid foundation of knowledge of the Word of God.
- Without that foundation, He has nothing to empower; because what He empowers is His name and His Word. That means that if you do not look like Him, there’s nothing to anoint. It’s not just this idea of, “I want to use him— and because I want to use him, here’s some anointing. Go get used.”

- Now, some of us take the gifts that God has given us as the ideology that we are anointed to do something. Anointing comes with instructions; ***“the giftings of God are without repentance.”***

Do you guys notice that there was a difference between God empowering His disciples with gifts; and then they were different when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

It's not the same thing. I could have gifts to heal, but that doesn't mean that I am Spirit-filled and am going to heaven— the book of Matthew tells us that. And many will say on that day, “I cast out demons in Your name, I healed the sick in Your name, I evangelized in Your name, I did A, B, C, & D...I started podcasts in Your name... and 350,000 subscribers came, etc.”

- Some of us believe that it is the Spirit of God that is with us when it's just our gifts that are talking. No, I'm “gifted.” But when it is that you have received the Spirit of God, there is a context by which your life follows— by which you must fit within this context for your gifting to bring forth the will that God has begun before you showed up.
- Everybody's gifting is a continuation of the gifting of the last generation. Whatever your calling is, is not unique to you— it is a continuation of what God started with the previous generation.
- Everything that we do today can be traced back to when He began with Abraham; Abraham can be traced back to Adam. When God created from the foundations of the earth to redeem the earth, the process of redemption began when creation began.
- So whatever you think your calling is (and you felt all special when you showed up), you are just a continuation of what God had already been doing. You came in a context.
- So in the West, this concept doesn't sit well because the West is more individualistic: “God uses me, I impart on people, [I live] my best life possible.” No, that's why we're seeing a lot of anointing problems in the West.
- Especially in the West, when the anointing hits and people start ministries right away, we see that the anointing has become personality-centric. It's around individuals as opposed to being around a movement that God is doing.
- Even those that came in the past and moved in signs and wonders did not covet their anointing as if it was them alone that God was using; they were willing to understand that they were part of a community.
- And so if I am an Evangelist, the other person is an Apostle, and the other person is a Prophet, we understood that without this fivefold, we would be wasting our time and would be growing lopsided.
- That means ministries are typically lopsided today when they're around personalities— that's my problem now. And this is why we're not as prolific nor as explosive as they were. There really is a problem.

- For example, where I'm about to start is from an angle that introduces us to the concept to lead us forward; and this is the angle that I see that will take us through. In June 1987, this is where the newspaper carried the story that Billy Graham packed a stadium, and approximately 70,000 people across three days decided to show up to hear the gospel of Jesus here in America!
- This was approximately 36 years ago, and so there's this idea in America— and even the newspaper carried it— that Billy Graham filled the stadium. I remember when I attended an event at another stadium and they were trying to push it— they said there were 25,000 people.
- I counted, and there were empty spaces (**showed slide**), though they said there were 25,000; but when you looked around the stadium, there appeared to be only about 8,000! About 36 years ago, we were filling the stadium with 70,000 people!
- In 2017, there were so many people who came to see Reinhard Bonnke that they couldn't fit them all in a stadium. 1.7 million people showed up to hear about who? Jesus.
- 1.7 million people across five days— and no one went home! There are YouTube videos where the crowd gets so hot that steam rises, and they had to bring hoses out and douse people— because nobody went home for five days!
- Again, 1.7 million people— and he had preached to 88 million people so far!

So what angle am I coming from?

So for the next three slides, I packed the verses there because I want to read along with you. So we've seen Billy Graham's numbers and we've seen Reinhard Bonnke's numbers. Am I talking to you guys about numbers? No. I am talking to you about when the Holy Spirit gets introduced into a concept and the Book of Acts also talks about it:

Acts 2:41-47

⁴¹ ***Those who accepted His message were baptized*** (on day one of the Holy Spirit coming; this was the day of what? Pentecost. The day the Holy Spirit came, they were baptized) ***and about three thousand people were added to their number*** (On what? Day one)."

- So remember, if I'm not talking about just numbers, what am I really trying to help you understand here? What I'm trying to help you understand so far is that wherever the Holy Spirit is, there will be curiosity and awe created by which the Holy Spirit is so attractive that on day one of the appearing of the Holy Spirit— if you're really moving in the Holy Spirit— He is attractive and not repulsive.
- The way the Bible introduces the presence of the Holy Spirit from day one is that He attracts the world.
- Now, this is kind of contradictory to how we have perceived the move of the Holy Spirit today because now I find Christians saying things; if you ever ask me about this question, you know that I'm never going to agree with the next two statements that I'm going to make:

- This idea that “The world is getting darker; Jesus take me now” or “[Jesus] come back soon!”

Have you ever heard that?

You know how people say, “Jesus is about to come back now,” or “No, I *need* Him to come back now.” So that what? *You* could escape, and *they* go to hell?

- You’re trying to run away from what? Preaching the gospel? No, we’re going to be here! I’m going to ask God, “Tarry longer. Keep us here in this mess!” Because we got work to do, right? But the second idea is that we are now creating ministries for Christians— about Christians and Christian issues!
- And then when you ask us why we’re doing that, it’s like, “Man the world is so dark that they don’t even want nothing to do with Jesus anymore.” So, it’s almost like, “We’re going to keep doing us; and if they happen to see it, they happen to see it.”
- There’s a problem there. Because the anointing of the Holy Spirit is such that as soon as He came here, He was meant for those who wanted nothing of Christ to see Him; He wasn’t meant for those who were already saved.
- Even though there are gifts that work for us, the gifts originally came for us to step out of the upper room into the streets so that they can see our “madness” and be surprised about it.
- Because that’s what happened: when they stepped out, people said they were drunk. And yet all heard of their languages, and then they heard the message, and three thousand people came to know Jesus on day one!
- There’s this idea that the world today is darker than it was then. No, no, no, listen— that’s not theologically correct. Do you know why? The Bible says that the last days will be as the days of Lot’s days. Back then, it was darker; that means that if we’re not there yet, the end hasn’t come yet.
- That means it was worse when? There. So, this idea that it’s darker for us than it was for Paul is not true; there was more idolatry then than there is now. Back then, part of worship in public in Corinth was to have sex at the altar. At least I have not seen this yet on YouTube! That was the problem they had in Corinth; we’re not there yet.
- We’re still with the itchy ear syndrome. When men are pushing down doors in public to sleep with guests, that’s when we’ll know the end is coming.
- The Bible says all that we’re seeing right now is just the beginning of birth pains— not the birth yet. The rumors of war and all of that, those are the alarms that the baby’s coming; the baby isn’t here yet.
- Because the Holy Spirit has restricted it from moving forward. We need to understand these things.

- So the Bible says, ***“They were baptized, and 3,000 people were added to their numbers that day.”*** Now, not only were they added to a church; but the Spirit of God was also so influential, and so life-changing, and caused an awe in them so much, that ⁴² ***“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”*** It didn’t say they devoted themselves to the *apostles*. It was to what? Their *teaching*.

Do you know the difference?

They gave into *God* through them, not to *them*; we’ve switched this around today. ⁴²

“...teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Unity in a church is the side-effect of the move of the Holy Spirit.

- Wherever the Holy Spirit is not, you can’t force unity. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit moves so greatly on day one, that people who were idolaters, people who were sinners, people who were evil in nature see Him— and they want what the apostles had.
- Because when you say the words, “signs and wonders,” I want you to know that the “wonders” happen in the person who saw it. So, God is doing the signs through you, and what you’re doing is causing wonder in somebody else.
- The move of the Holy Spirit is supposed to cause awe and wonder so much that they want to follow what you have to say; but what we’re doing today is, “Follow what I say, and I will show you wonders”—and the wonders can be anything.
- Like someone telling you, “Just drink this gallon of water for 15 days and you’ll see spirits.” I found out that people were chugging anointing oil! Every time you see a decrease in the workings of the Holy Spirit, symbolism increases.
- Whenever you find people finding more meaning in substances or tangible materialism, it is the absence of the full working of the Holy Spirit; because if the Holy Spirit is fully at work, there is less significance in materialistic objects.
- But if you have to create the signs and the wonders yourself, you will give more prominence to symbolism. That’s why we have a lot of different types of denominations.
- ⁴² ***“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship...”*** So not only did they receive the word of God, but they also hung out together, ***“through the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*** That’s how a healthy community looks!

Acts: 2:41-47

⁴³ ***“Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs...”***

- So everybody was filled with awe. The beginning of the context of the Holy Spirit coming is in their natural selves. ***“The Kingdom of God is not in words but in power.”***

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What is the power?

That means that I cannot really preach the gospel if the gospel does not have the ability to change the heart of the individual. This has nothing to do with miracles yet, I'm talking about if I am preaching the gospel right now— understanding that preaching the gospel itself is a miracle, as it is ***“the righteousness of God revealed”*** (Romans 1:16-17).

- In it is the revelation of God revealed: ***“from faith to faith... the just shall go by faith.”***
If you are able to preach, the way you know that it was of the Holy Spirit is the ability to change a heart— because the Holy Spirit gives you those words to give out, by which He changes peoples' hearts.
- This is why He empowers even your testimony; your testimony becomes a message in itself because of the workings of the Holy Spirit.
- Now, the reason why the Bible says what it says next is because the Bible was trying to tell you about the extent to which if the Holy Spirit was really here, people act in a certain way.
- Now, the reason why I'm taking my time to talk to you about this is because I want you to compare what we consider to be the move of the Holy Spirit with what I'm showing you here (see Acts 2:41-47).
- Because the Holy Spirit's movement is not just a feeling that you have (it is not a hype); it is a community-changer. He is a community-changing Spirit.
- So, the next time you say, “I am being moved by the Holy Spirit,” compare it to these verses and see if it has the same results.
- ⁴⁴ ***“All the believers were together and had everything in common.”***
- Now, look at the power of the Holy Spirit! ⁴⁵ ***“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”***

Well, let's talk about this...

I've only spoken of tithings once in this church. For those who remember, what is the percentage of tithings in the Old Testament? It was 30%, not 10%; 10% was only one type. There were three tithes: a temple tax, a tithe that you had to save every three years, and one every seven years. There was also a mandatory party that you had to save for. Additionally, there was a giving that was specifically designated for the poor. And all of that was considered to be a part of tithing. For some reason, we just held onto the 10%.

Why is this verse so powerful?

⁴⁵ ***“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”***

Because even with that levy of tax on their heads, the Holy Spirit was able to get them not to focus on themselves but to focus on others— the move of the Holy Spirit!

- So, the Bible is trying to say that when the Holy Spirit really moves, He changes even the characteristics of the community— where they leave the realm of self-absorption, and become concerned about the wholesomeness of the community. That’s what it means for the Holy Spirit to be in a place!
- That’s a miracle— for everybody to sell. And the reason for saying this is that it’s not like they had fewer needs than California; they had mandates from the government and God Himself, and they were still willing to be about the community.
- The temple still existed, by the way— because you found that some of them still went to pray at the temple, and there were still taxes being collected.
- ⁴⁵ ***“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.”*** They had church every day, not once a week (sometimes we saw them once a week); but the move of the Holy Spirit was so strong that they couldn’t do without being together.
- By the way, the presence of God is such that the Lord says, ***“Where two or three are gathered, there I am [in the midst of them].”*** The Bible said what about the tower of Babel? *“If I do not confuse them, there is nothing impossible with them.”*
- There’s more power in community than being alone. That is why Paul says, *“Do not neglect the gathering of the Saints.”* I am speaking to those who believe that all they need is to have their own relationship with God, and they don’t need to attend church or the church community.
- ⁴⁶ ***“Every day they continued...”*** because the presence of God moved within a community setting. This is why sometimes if you’re reading your Bible, when they needed a message from God, they needed to be together because God would speak to somebody.
- A lot of minds will be changed through this series; you will have a different perception of community than you’ve had before. This is why Christianity has become so hard: we’re doing it alone.

Yes, your salvation is yours with God.

But without the community— read your Bible— the Bible literally says that one of the punishments for people who refuse to repent from sin is to kick them out of the community so that Satan can harm them alone because they are not under the covering of each other.

- There are rules to walking in the Spirit, by the way— it’s not one person on top who has all the anointing, and everybody else gathers around them. That’s why you often hear of pastors succumbing to adultery!
- The ones who fall— go and read their bios— were alone at the top, and everybody followed what they said. They were “the anointed of God!”

- The people involved in Ravi Zacharias' ministry, what do they keep saying was the problem? They said when Ravi spoke up and said, "No, it's not that way," nobody questioned him.
- Now, let me clarify that there is still reverence; but in your spirit, you should get confirmation from the Lord, and there should be an order and chain of events by which you could ask questions. There's order to questions, too, though; but we'll talk about that at another time.
- ⁴⁶ ***"Every day they continued to meet together... they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."*** Glad and sincere hearts; "glad" meaning they were happy to be there.
- Make sure you're happy to be in your church because if you're not, you're under duress. The Spirit of God cannot move with you or for you if you're not happy. Please understand that!
- ***"I was glad when they said [unto me], 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"*** Your heart matters when you're going to church. It really does! There can't be a blocking in the realm of the Spirit because God can see the heart when it has something in it— and that affects everybody else.
- So your heart has to be glad and sincere that you are there, because that leads to praising God and enjoying the favor of the people (*see Acts 2:41-47*).
- For you to feel favored in a church, you've got to be glad and sincere and praising God; because the favor that you receive from each other is hard to give to people who do not have the right attitude.
- You just don't know who's going to back-bite, because some people always have something to say about everything (i.e., criticizing others)— and I can't be "glad" in a setting like that!
- In fact, when you find that type of atmosphere, that's evidence of the absence of the Holy Spirit because when we come together by the Holy Spirit, you come for God— and you can't love God if you don't love people.
- So if you always have something to say about people, you've got something to say about the God that created them— because you become a hindrance in the realm of the Spirit.
- ⁴⁷ ***"And the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved."***

If the Spirit of God is in a place, why are they being saved?

It is because the people and the unity amongst them were so mysterious that people wanted to be a part of it. They wanted to be a part of it, so they added and added. This is the move of the Spirit!

- If the Spirit of God is really moving in a place— if He is *there*— the Holy Spirit creates an attraction and an awe. Your life becomes one of signs and wonders if the Spirit of God is there. The evidence that you are living by the Spirit of God is that something changes about you!

Let's talk about who the Spirit of God is...

How many of us understand that the Spirit of God has His own personality? How many of us know that He's not an "it"? You know how some of us will say, "I felt *it*"? Felt *what*? He's not a dog or an object; He's a person. This is one thing that I hope in the first two years with me you understood!

- If you want to summarize the first two years of this ministry, all I tried to tell you is that Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit of God each have their own personalities— and they're not *your* personality. You don't cast *your* personality and make it *His*.
- As exemplified in the Tuesday Bible study, you're starting to see Jesus' personality. Literally, John 2 says that His mother and brothers followed Him and followed His ministry. And there were times when they wanted to talk to Him, and He would literally look at them and be like, "That's not my family; *you're* my family!"
- Imagine if your older brother keeps denying you at the door, and then you're supposed to go, "That's my Savior" — and he's your older brother. That's who James was. The brothers and sisters of Jesus followed His ministry around; that's why Mary was there, too, when He was crucified.
- His mother actually followed Him around; and yet, the guys didn't even find it needful to write about her (except in certain situations). That's what I'm trying to tell you. So if the Holy Spirit has His own personality, who are you in relation to the Holy Spirit?
- I hope you all understand that in relation to the Holy Spirit, all that we are, are temples of the Holy Spirit.

What does that mean?

"It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me."

"If anyone will come after me, [let him] deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow me."

Wait a minute, does this mean that all I am is the housing of the Holy Spirit?

- Okay, if that is true and the Holy Spirit is inside of me, He determines what I do; that means it is no longer *I* that do it, but the *Spirit of God* that does it. That means it is not my personality that comes through, but whose personality? The Holy Spirit's. It's Jesus— the Spirit of Jesus is the Holy Spirit.
- So then you start to find out that wherever the Holy Spirit of God is, the reason why He creates awe is that His personality comes through you— because your personality wasn't good enough to save anybody.
- You might be the only Jesus somebody sees. Do you know why? Because *He* shines through you! This is why we're frustrated a lot of the time: because we're trying to *do* Christianity. We're not letting Him live as Christ *through* us. It's different.

It's this whole idea of, "I've got to get closer." ***"Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you."*** But the idea of how we always think of getting closer is, "I've got to do something" when it's actually Him living through you. *Him* living through you! Sometimes we feel like our lives don't manifest that great power. That's because He hasn't *chosen* to manifest His great power through you— big difference! The presence of the Holy Spirit creates an attraction and an awe. So if the Holy Spirit is inside you, let me show you how deep this gets:

John 16:13

¹³ ***"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth."***

When the Holy Spirit comes, ***"He will guide you into all the truth."***

What is the only way you know how to live the truth?

Because you have the Holy Spirit. So, all you do as the housing of the Holy Spirit is obey the Holy Spirit. You don't invoke, you don't rise up, you don't "live you" and then you just find yourself in His presence— it is either you live in Him or He in you, or He's not working with you.

- ***"He will guide you into all truth."*** Now listen to this: ***"He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears..."***
- I need you to understand what this means: if the Holy Spirit is inside of you, the job of the Holy Spirit is to be the Spirit of God in you— to bring into manifestation what the will of the Father is.

So why is the Holy Spirit inside of you?

To give you power or anointing? That's not the context; the context is to enable you to fulfill the will of the Father.

So why do you want the Holy Spirit?

To fulfill the will of the Father; to guide you in the will of the Father. But what does this mean? *If He speaks not of His own; but only speaks what He hears*, the Book of Genesis tells us this: Before God said, ***"Let there be light,"*** what preceded it?

What preceded that verse?

"The Spirit of God hovered upon the water." Suddenly, you find out that if the Holy Spirit is inside of you, creative potential lives within you, waiting for the voice of the Father.

- If the Holy Spirit is doing it through you, He heard the Father say, ***"Let it be done."***

What does that mean?

You can't just be moving "in the Spirit" at will; He moves you in the direction of the instruction of the Father— the Father's will. ***"Those that will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven are only those that do the will of my Father in Heaven."***

How do we do that?

When the Holy Spirit is within us— hovering upon the waters— the Father says, *"Let it be."* You're the physical embodiment; but this is why He says, *"Be like Christ with the mind of Christ"*— because the Holy Spirit only dwells within the embodiment of Christ.

- If I am not as Christ, He can't be in me. ***"Behold I am a new creature. Behold all things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*** The first job of the Holy Spirit is to remind you of that which He said.
- Therefore we ask Him to baptize us in the Spirit; because when you said, "Come into my life," He brought you to life to now be dead to yourself and alive in Christ.
- We ask for baptism so that He can start to use us like Christ was used. ¹³ ***"He will not speak of His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."***
- So, this is the job of the Holy Spirit within context: it is to empower you to be that which is the will of God, but the will of God Himself is to cause you to become attractive.

So how do I know I am filled with the Spirit?

I live the will of God, and my life is attractive— it does attract attention. I'm not looking for attention, but it attracts. Either way, either for the good or for the bad, it will attract a person's attention because the Spirit of God is here to create awe through us— through the signs and wonders.

- You are empowered with a new personality and the ability to create awe in people.
- So the move of the Holy Spirit has creative potential; but truthfully, the next time you say, "Holy Spirit, come inside of me; come and dwell in me," what you're saying is "the death of me."
- One thing the Holy Spirit taught me when I first became a Christian is that God does not have roommates. He can't live inside of a body with Satan, and He can't live competing with you.
- The Bible says, ***"He [the Holy Spirit] does not contend with man."*** He doesn't. So when your will is alive and He has to go up in there, the first thing He's not ready to do is to say, "Alright, let's start using this person"; because what happens is if He anoints you with your will, you will be anointed to do your will.

So, what is the first thing He's got to do?

Break yours. So, the next time you're like, "Fill me up, Lord," what you're really saying is, "The death of me, Lord." That's what you're really saying. "That I may live out Your personality"—and that's a prayer He's willing to answer, quickly.

- There are some prayers in the Bible that God tells you He's eager to give you an answer for. One of them is to ask for wisdom. He says, *"I'll give that sparingly— just ask, please."*
- Another one is, "Fill me with Your Spirit"— because He says, ***"I am sending you the comforter, please ask."*** ***"Ask anything in My name, according to My will, and I will give it to you."*** But the process of answering that prayer is the end of your will and the beginning of His.
- That's where we are in battle. This is why some of us are asking, "Why won't He just manifest Himself?"

Have you seen people who are dead to their will?

For example, when you plan things and they don't go as planned; He has to break your will— He *has* to. Don't ask for the Holy Spirit if you're not willing to be broken. Please, don't. Do you know why? Because the only reason for the Holy Spirit is for the will of God to be fulfilled.

- Why do you need the Holy Spirit if your own will still exists? Why? You just need your spirit because it's your will. The Holy Spirit only brings the will of God to pass. He only responds to, ***"Let there be light,"*** from the mouth of Yahweh— only.
- He doesn't even speak of Himself. The Holy Spirit doesn't even speak of what He wants to say; He only says what He heard the Father say. There goes those who feel like they can command Him or send Him on a journey to go do something.
- The Holy Spirit's job is to bring the motives and desires of God to pass. Now, there are people who would say, "The world has changed," or "We saw crusades in the past; but, you know, there's online now."
- Someone told me, "We will never see those stadium-packed events like Billy Graham's anymore because times have changed, and people are now more spiritual. People are more Christian— it's just, you know, we just won't see it."
- In my head, I was like, "But Burna Boy filled a stadium of like 80,000; so people still do gather! What are you talking about?" I was like, "If Burna Boy just did it, then people still gather; so what's the problem?"

Let me tell you a little bit about how this works:

Humans are persuaded by things that seem mysterious that cannot be explained or is beyond them and their capacity to understand. This is why Jesus came doing miracles— because the idea is to do something that proves something exists beyond what you've got.

- But if you read the Book of Exodus, when Moses came and put the snake down to convince them, what did they do? They matched it.

So how does Satan fight?

The way Satan fights is if God can create something that creates awe, he [Satan] creates awe to cause people to be stuck in the middle of which awe is more awing. The reason why the gospel message works is, yes, the Holy Spirit goes out; but it is the mystery behind how you convince them [people] that sin was dealt with that is supposed to change their hearts to understand that there is salvific value in what you're saying.

- So the problem is not that we're not able to fill those stadiums again; it's just that we don't look "wawu." There's nothing impressive about us anymore. That's the problem. Burna Boy looks more impressive; he looks like he can offer more than we do.
- Because we are stuck now— like I've said before— evangelizing ourselves. I mean there's a carousel of membership in LA. Everybody has been to everybody else's church now.
- And so, the problem is we are not as attractive because we've got so many things that have filtered out the power of the Holy Spirit. We're too busy for Him.
- In fact, the reason why we have filtered it is because a lot of us don't know the rules of warfare. I'm not talking just about spiritual warfare.
- There's a verse where Paul uses this terminology to help us understand what we're even doing as Christians. A lot of us don't understand the rules of warfare— the rules of the game itself. There's a reason why I used the word "game"— Paul uses it.
- And some of us don't have the hope of a farmer. Paul says that, and I'll explain that to you next week.

But I want you to understand that if you are claiming that the Holy Spirit is there, then you must be attractive. Because what verse proves everything I've just said today? ***"A city on a hill cannot be hidden."*** If there's fire, it must be seen; if it is not being seen and you claim to be, then you've filtered Him.