



The Tongues of Fire: Part 2

HOLY FIRE

JOHN ANSWERED THEM ALL, "I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER. BUT ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I WILL COME, THE THONGS 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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What was my aim in Part 1 of Tongues of Fire?

I told you that the Spirit of God comes upon His people within context, and Part 1 was supposed to create a new curiosity and hunger inside of you—irrespective of where you think you are with the Spirit. **(Amen?)** Part 1 was not for me one of those messages where you say, “I can check this, I can check this... etc.” [as in points covered]. No, no, no. I wanted us to reimagine, based on how it was in the first church, how it looked when the Spirit of God came.

- So much so, that when we say that the Spirit of God came and in the last days will pour out His Spirit, we had a reference point too; and we can say, “If the Spirit of God truly came upon us, like He did in the day of Pentecost, then there should be awe in our lives. **(Amen to that?)**”
- So, my aim with you last week was for you to sit down and go, “I know I have walked with the Spirit of God, I know I have felt the Spirit of God, but I want what they had. I want that dimension that if people truly encountered me, they left with an impression of God and not my personality.” That was what Part 1 was.
- Part 1 was me trying to prove to you that if the Spirit of God really is there... let’s think about this logically for a second.

Who is the Spirit of God?

Well, what I’ve just said describes Him: He’s the *Spirit* of God. **(Where?)** In you! The Spirit, not of Angel Gabriel—we’re talking about the Spirit of the Creator Himself. You’re saying He dwells in you; and yet, people can meet you and not walk away with an impression that they’ve met God. That’s what I’m saying is the problem!

- I’m saying that we can’t get too busy for the Spirit of God to be Himself. We can’t be so self-absorbed and so encumbered by the world that we forget that we house God. And if we are just a temple of the Holy Spirit, all that we are is just the body—the vehicle that gets Him to where He wants to be (because He’s supposed to be driving the car). And whenever we get there, He exercises and expresses Himself.
- The Holy Spirit is a Gentleman—He doesn’t work like the devil. The devil controls and talks through you without your permission; he tries to use you without your input, and he takes over and you’ll find yourself doing things.
- With the Spirit of God, the Bible says that we even need to ask. He doesn’t overpower your will, and that’s where a lot of the problem is. When you place side-by-side those that God uses in dynamic power, one of the things you can honestly walk away from is selflessness.
- In fact, the Bible says, “*By their fruits, you shall know them.*” One of the fruits of the ones that are walking by God... mind you, I didn’t say the ones that are performing miracles left and right—I said the ones who are **(what?)** walking by the Spirit of God.
- One evidence that you should see in them as the fruit that is of God is selflessness. That’s how you know it’s from God: it’s selfless, it’s about God. It is not how their ministry sustains them financially; it’s about how their ministry, or that purpose God gave them, is transforming people’s lives.

- And how well they know they're doing is based on transformed lives—not in the amount of people in the congregation. **(Are we together?)** So, we're talking about the Tongues of Fire: that if the Tongues of Fire—rather the Holy Spirit—has come down upon you, the evidence that you are looking for is that your life creates awe and wonder.
- I am not saying that we don't have the Holy Spirit; I am saying that it is time for us to dig deep so that our lives may begin to resemble those that came before us. It's time for Christians to not just be behind a pulpit. It's time for us to be the doctors, the musicians, the lawyers; it is time for us to be the engineers—but when we are creating, they can see more than meets the eye.
- Because right now, for me, it feels like Christianity is literally all behind a pulpit right now. It really feels like Christianity is just on Sunday! I need Christianity to be at its best Monday to Saturday, and we just come together to give a report of how the Spirit of God is exercising His power out there [in the world]. **(We're together? That's a deal?)** That's where we're going with this. **(Amen?)**
- To give you more verses on this, I want to give you evidence of the things that I've said:

Mark 16:17:

¹⁷*And these signs will follow those who (what?) believe (how many of us believe?): In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents...*

So, who are the signs supposed to follow?

You. This is Bible that I am reading: *And these signs (not maybe, not sometimes) will follow those who believe; (and what is it?) in my name they will cast out (say it together) demons.*

- How many of us did demons cast out? We didn't cast them out, they casted us out—meaning some of us just have dreams and it's over! For example, when I eat bread, I have nightmares—and I had two this week. I am gluten sensitive, and this sensitivity is spiritual; I saw demons walk in my room and said some things, and for the first time, I felt casted out.
- They jacked me up; because for the first time [in my life], I felt too weak to pray—they won! God then had to put me on fast mode. So, it's either we cast them out, or **(what?)** they cast us out.
- Because if you remember the Spirit realm or the previous series **(what did I tell you?)**, when you became a Christian, you took a jab at Satan in the face. You punched him, and you're like, "he's never going to attack me." No, you attacked him first.

I told you this [before] when you became a Christian...

Satan was over here, and he thought he already won; and Jesus came down from Heaven and said, "I want it back." He hit him and took the keys of hell and death; and when you became a Christian, you go back there, and you just keep hitting him.

- And so, when he hits you back, he's just trying to take back what he thought was already his. A lot of Christians just want to hit and don't get hit back. To not get hit back, you need to know how to cast them out.

This is not just casting demons out of people.

It's casting them out of your territory—casting them out because they're the prince of the air. The enemy is the prince of the air—they control the atmosphere, and they are territorial spirits.

- [For example], you just go to work and you're sitting there and just don't know why on that day you just feel gloomy. They know that if you can't focus, you can't function like Joseph and Daniel and be excellent.
- If you can't be excellent, you can't shine the Spirit of God that is in you. So, what do we do? Mess that one thing up! And you, [on] that day, [say], "Oh, I just don't feel like it. I don't feel good." It's like everything's going down [hill], and then you start confessing your defeat: "I woke up on the wrong side of the bed, I just don't feel like it."

Guess what?

He casted you out of your own territory. When it's going south, you must become like a prayer warrior; when your mood tanks, you tank the devil's mood. Somebody must win today.

- Every day, somebody must win; how many wins you have under your belt says how successful the Spirit of God was through you that year.

How many days have you given up?

Satan tries to play with my mood the most—ask my wife. Here I go with my diet: when I eat wrong, I can't see well and my left ear starts popping. Literally, if you want to kill me, just give me a piece of bread—my entire emotions tank!

- I begin having a feeling of terror, like something is bad; and then I start [here we go], "Lord, why do you keep letting this happen to me?" When I get to that level, I've signed off the day already.
- This is the reason why when Job started complaining, what did God say to him? He asked him a question. And I'm not telling you to do this— I'm telling you what God said, and then I'm going to explain it.
- He says, *"Wait, do you even have the right to speak about the day like that? You did not even command the morning."* That's what God was saying. Some of us interpret that as we should command the morning. No, God was asking Job, *"Were you the one that commanded the morning, or did I?"*
- Job cursed the day of his birth because of pain, and God came back and gave him about a good forty verses [chapters or so], I mean a lot of chapters to the end. He cursed the day of

his birth, and God literally looked at him and said, *“Who gave you the right to even talk about the day you were born?”*

- *“Did you know how to arrange the mountains or even the sun on the day you were born, for you to even think you have a right to sign off the day? The day doesn’t even belong to you—it’s not for you to give it away.”*
- All you are is a vessel, get ready to fight. *“And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with (what?)...”* That’s not speaking in tongues.

I told you this [before]: The Bible has two tongues.

There is glossolalia, and then there’s actually the gift of speaking in a new human language. The one that happened on the day of Pentecost [the Bible says] is that everybody heard their own language being spoken.

- That means, if there were Chinese there, the disciples were speaking **(what?)** Mandarin. By the way, there’s an Azusa revival museum; and during the day of the Azusa revival, people were writing in Chinese— actual Chinese characters.
- See the movie, “God’s Generals”: it’s about William Seymore, and they show some of the pictures of what people were doing during the Azusa revival. They literally were speaking other languages and writing in it when the Holy Spirit fell— that was only about 100 years ago. **(Amen?)**

Mark 16:18

¹⁶*they will take up serpents...* [He didn’t say you should go take up serpents— because if it bites you...].

- There’s a whole religion that does that— they go and take up snakes and start dancing with them. It just bit the leader and he died; he did it for a while, but he died.
- He [Jesus] didn’t say to do that. Now, when Paul was shipwrecked and a snake bit him, he didn’t die. It’s saying that when you enter the place of serving God, the evil which can arise to stop you can’t stop you without God’s permission.
- I want you to see that sometimes protection comes from God within the context of service, when you’re walking by faith and not in the flesh. **(Alright?)**

¹⁶*and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them.* Go read a lot of books on early Evangelists that went to Africa, Fiji, etc.; and go read those books on how indigenous people literally would give them poisons, or they would say, “If your God is real, drink this; and if you don’t die, then you can preach Jesus.” And they would drink it and they didn’t die!

- Go and read those books. I know there is controversy around Livingston because he was a “white Evangelist colonial”; but if you have the time, read Livingston’s book on how God sent him to Africa to evangelize in Africa.
- It’s unbelievable. He lost his wife, lost children; he himself went back and became so sick that he was carried on mats from village to village to village to preach. And the way he died was... every evening he would pray, they would take him off the bed and put him on his knees because he loved to pray—only on his knees.
 - There are stories of people who prayed on their knees so much that the cartilage in their knees disappeared, and they had to have surgery to repair them.
- So, on the last day that he was on his knees praying, a person came to check on him and said to others, “Livingston is really praying today!”
- He kept checking on him and two hours later, he said the same thing: “Livingston is really praying today!” On the third hour, he said, “Too much prayer”—and when they tapped him, it turns out that he was dead! He died on his knees while praying. This is how it was back then when they saw the power of God!

¹⁸*It will by no means hurt them, they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*

Mark 16:20

²⁰*And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working **with them and** (what?) confirming the word through the accompanying signs.*

So, what made the Word of God stick in the minds of people [besides having wonders that followed]?

In fact, the Bible tells us that the gospel is followed by signs and wonders. In other words, if you want the signs and wonders to follow, the prerequisite is understanding and being willing to preach the gospel. **(Are we together?)**

- If you’ve ever felt that urge inside of you, that you want to just hit the streets and preach the gospel, that’s because God is ready to do signs and wonders with you. He’s ready. Because it is in the place of the gospel that God approves Himself.
- A lot of us, while we are in the room, want an angel to show up and say, “Oh, you can heal now!” And that’s when we find sick people and we try [by the laying of hands]; no, the signs and wonders follow where the gospel goes.
- When you have a heart for the salvation of people, that’s when the anointing falls. **(Are we together?)** So, I’d like to talk to you about the “Principles of Desperation.”
- For a lot of us, whenever we’re told to seek the giftings of the Holy Spirit or when we want the Holy Spirit **(right?)**, we jump into it as we start having a desire for it and will say [to God], “Fill me up now!”
- Then we’ll go through the process of waiting to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a principle of desperation that is absolutely needed. *Absolutely* needed.

I want to put this principle of desperation into context:

You must know this first and be desperate for God's anointing in context. However, beforehand, let's talk about these principles: Rules of warfare, rules of the game, and the hope of a farmer.

Let's see where I got this from...

2 Timothy 2:3-7: Rules of Warfare

So, the context here is that Paul was talking to Timothy and was sending him forth to do ministry. He was sending him forth to his purpose, he was sending him forth to serve the Lord and this is the advice Paul gives him. And he says:

2 Timothy 2:3-7

³*You therefore **must** endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus* ["must" is not a request, he's talking to people who have an inkling of walking with God].

- He gives you the context of the hardship; and what makes it hard is because you are a "good soldier of Jesus Christ." (**Are we together?**) What makes it hard is that you're a good soldier.

Now, let's define hardship.

Hardship is not swearing to poverty (like making a covenant to poverty); it's not suffering unnecessarily. What makes it hard is the last phrase [in 2 Timothy 2:3-7], which is, ⁴*No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of **this** life, that he may be pleased with him who enlisted him as a soldier.* You, therefore, must endure hardship because you have marching orders.

- What makes it hard is that you find yourself in the place of obedience; and because you are a good soldier, what a soldier does is stay to the cadence— even though there are things in life that you can even be entangled with.
- *"Be ye not conformed to this world but be transformed (**how?**) [by the renewing of your mind]."* He's saying that's not easy, that's hard.
- He's saying, because I'm a good soldier, I must endure the hardship of obeying the voice of God. So that means that wherever God has sent [me] as a soldier, I am destined to fight the fight as a soldier in obedience to God. And that's the only time I am considered (**what?**) a good soldier.

So, what are the rules of warfare?

The rules of warfare: this is where your desperation for God must begin. Your desperation for God must begin and be predicated on the idea that no matter what He tells you to do, you make up your mind that you're going to be a good soldier.

What does that mean?

That I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it, I am going to do it—whether I understand it or I do not! Not every soldier at this moment understands what Putin is doing. **(Did you hear me?)** Did you hear what's going on in the news? There were 25,000 soldiers who turned against him. Not every soldier understands why they need to fight that fight.

Do they agree with it?

No. Did everyone agree with the Iraq war? No. Did they fight? Yes. What makes you a good soldier? The fact that you have marching orders; the fact that you believe that your commanding officer knows more intel than you do.

- The fact that you know that you're fighting for a kingdom; the fact that you know that you're fighting for people who, on a normal day, you would not fight for. Part of your desperation for God must be hinged on the idea that whatever hardship stems from obeying the voice of God, it is fair game. Because **(why?)** you've made up your mind that I will be a good soldier.

But what does the idea of soldier mean?

War. We've just talked about spiritual warfare. If you are going to be a servant and a soldier in the army of God, you must make up your mind and know that not only are you going to be a good soldier, but you're going to be a soldier that sees the battle to **(what?)** the end.

- Can you now see the problem with being a soldier and that the only reason why you're fighting is for your own benefit? You're not a good soldier because you're fighting for yourself and your family and your gain; you're a good soldier because you are of Christ, enlisted in the army of God, and you're doing it to please God.

So why do you fight?

Why are you fighting in the Spirit? To please God. That's it— to please God. That's the rule of warfare. If you ever want power over the kingdom of darkness, this must be your mindset. When Satan can tell that you do not give up, he'll stop messing with you.

What Bible verse proves what I just said?

"Resist him, and he will flee from you." He'll try to rearm and come back. Remember, the Bible actually says that when Jesus finished his [Satan's] temptation, the Bible says he [Satan] left Him [Jesus], but only for **(what?)** a season.

- Satan will try to reload (he goes off to reload); but he never wins when you've made up your mind that "whether I understand what God is doing or I do not, you're not getting me."

- This is why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, “O king, we are not careful to [basically] say no to you because our God is able to deliver us; and even if he doesn’t, so what?” Good soldiers! **(Amen.)**
- You must know the rules of warfare, and *that’s* the rules of warfare. When Satan can see that you have the potential of giving up (**yeah?**), he will not stop— he will keep nagging you.
- I don’t know why the Spirit of God keeps telling me to belabor this point. If Satan can see that on Monday through Thursday you are strong, all he must do is wait for the tiredness of Monday through Thursday to catch up [tire you out] and for you be waiting for Friday.
- And he knows that you do not fight as strong on Friday— so he will make sure that all he does is tire you out Monday through Thursday, and wake up with you on Thursday. Satan is brilliant.
- I know we say, “He’s stupid.” Yeah, he’s only stupid because we walk by the Spirit; but he does research. The Bible shows us that he researches for years— he’s figured it out.

Job said this:

“Even if God slays me, yet will I not bow.” Job said that, *“Even if God slays me, I still won’t give up!”* Even if who slays me? God, not the devil. Because some of us, when we feel like God is not standing there... you know, the “footprints in the sand”? You know [joking], “Oh there were two, and all of a sudden, there was one.” Why was there just one? “Because He was carrying me.”

- Some of us are like, “Where are you?” and we just stand around waiting and we’re like “No, I must see God walk with me” (**right?**); and Job says, *“Even if it is God that is my enemy, I will still keep serving.”*
- If that is not your rules of warfare, don’t expect anything from the Spirit. The way the Spirit realm works is on definites.

Where is your heart, what verse proves what I just said?

“Don’t be double-minded; the double-minded man will receive nothing from God.” The spirits live on absolutes; where your heart is, that is absolutely what will happen to you. **(We’re together?)**

2 Timothy 2:3-7: Rules of the Game

Then Paul tells Timothy, ⁵*“And also if anyone competes in athletics* [if anybody is athletic and he is competing], *he is not crowned unless he competes according to (what?) the rules.”*

- He’s not saying you can’t compete, but he’s saying don’t expect a reward if you wrote your own rule.

What does this mean?

You can't write your rules; you can't decide which fight you're going to fight and which one you're not. Notice the absolute statements [in what I've just said]: "No one engages in warfare and entangles himself (**right?**)" Also, "if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes (**what?**) by the rules."

Do you know the rules of the game?

What are the rules of the game of Christianity? Again, it goes back to the same thing: obedience. The rule of the game is obeying—in other words, you can't write your own rules and relate to God, and expect what God said will come to those who live by the rules.

- The Bible is trying to say that's its senseless to expect the crown if you refuse to live by the rules. So, before you become desperate for the Holy Spirit, these are two things so far that you need to be sure.

Do you know the rules of warfare, and are you willing to endure it all?

Are you willing to play the games by the rules? Question: how many of you have ever awoken and said, "The Lord wants me to fast this week"? And two minutes later, you want to get a croissant. But God says, "Wait on Me." That's the rules of the game for you for that day.

- The largest church building in the world right now is in Nigeria, and it seats 100,000 people at once— with an overflow of 100,000. It's a big golden dome and Enoch is the pastor's name. He spoke about how they got that big: he woke up [one day], and God told him to fast indefinitely for 90 days.
- He declared a 90-day fast in the church and everybody in that small church, needed to come three times [to church] in a day—morning, noon, and night—for 90-days straight, fasting. That's what God said he needed to do, and they did it; then they exploded into the largest church in the world.
- Yonggi Cho [A South Korean Christian minister] was the one to do this before, and now it's a Nigerian [minister] in Abuja, Nigeria.

Can't God just do it? Won't He do it?

He will do it, but all things cost as a soldier. I mean, we saw results after our October fast; that's why the church started making sense— and that was just 30 days. Before that, about eight of us were looking at each other like, "Atlanta is not that bad, Texas is looking pretty good." But God said, "No you're not [going anywhere]!" We were experimenting.

- There are rules to the game. When God needs you to fast (**yeah?**), stop thinking it's about you. When you start to see the bigger picture and how you fit into that and how your fasting connects with Him—if you could see what God is trying to give you—you'll stop contending with Him.

- The caramel stops tasting so good. We fast in our house sometimes to the point where eating breakfast makes us feel guilty. It's just the cost of it. You'll see Christians say, "God will do it, won't He?" No, He will—He said He will (**right?**)—but go look at the Bible and see what He told Abraham.

Did Abraham ask to be the father of many nations?

No, he just wanted one. God was like, "No, you're going to be amazing!" He [Abraham] was like, "Oh, okay." "But the cost is 25 years of continuous prayer that you want one [child]; and then when I give you one, I want you to kill him."

- It's the cost of greatness! He said to Joseph, "You're going to be amazing! Everybody—sun and moon, mom and dad, everybody—will bow down before you, too. I just need you to go to prison for 14 years!"
- He didn't ask for it, but it was too late; he woke up in prison, and the Bible puts flowers on it—he was excellent for 14 years and he was the leader [in prison].
- Daniel fasted. *That* was hunger! That was hunger—they didn't want to go into idolatry, so they were starving themselves! God was just doing miracles and making the starvation look good on them.
- Oh, and part of you being excellent, go and sleep with the lions—cost of greatness. How many of us pray, "God, make me a giant in your kingdom?" He'll answer you. He is *pleased* to answer you. But if you don't pray it, because He loves you, He'll drive you to pray it.
- Ask Jonah, ask them—those that were starting to complain; they found themselves awoken. Moses, how many times did he refuse? Did he go? How many times did Elijah say no? And look at the gymnastics God put him through!
- He fed him, He made him go in the strength of that food for three days, He hid him in a rock, He moved with earthquakes, moved with fire, moved with wind; and then He goes, "Alright, just get Elisha in your place; but you're not going to keep living, you're going to die."
- I know a lot about free will, but I also know a lot about God's free will; that's what we don't like—when God is free. You've got to know the rules of the game; you can't write them, you've got to compete in them.
- You can't just be desperate for the Holy Spirit without knowing you have rules to follow. Therefore, God's mercy comes and doesn't even anoint us like that; because if you know the price of being anointed...
- Last one: then He says, "Put water to fire."

2 Timothy 2:3-7: Hope of a Farmer

The **hardworking farmer** must be first to partake of the crops. [What does that mean?] If you're going to be a soldier, and you're going to be an athlete, you must know that there is a benefit that will come from it—because as God benefits from what you do, you will be lifted in Him.

- The Bible says, *“Hope never maketh ashamed”*—meaning that hope will never fail. So just like a farmer goes to the farm and plants—and knows for a fact that if it grows, he will have something to eat—the Bible is saying, *“God is not unjust to forget the labor of love.”* That’s what the Bible says.
- Whatever you sow, you will reap. In other words, if you sow like a farmer—with the hope of a farmer—you will eat like a farmer. But the counter to this is to become like that man who was given talents—and what did he do? Buried it.
- So, for those that bury it, it’s this mindset they have: *“It’s too costly serving the Lord, He demands too much, I’ll just rely on His grace. So, I’ll live the way I want, and His grace got the rest.”*
- Paul says, *“Shall we continue in sin and expect grace to abound? God forbid [he says].”* **(Why?)** Because not only can you not write the rules; but as a farmer, your hope is in the fact that you know that as you understand the rules of warfare and the rules of the game, God will never forget you in His rising— because He will raise you up in Christ, the Bible says. **(Amen?)**

In summary, there are three things to consider:

1. The rules of warfare
2. The rules of the game
3. The hope of a farmer

That’s what your hope and desperation for God need to be predicated on. **(Amen?)**

⁷Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

- We spoke about understanding in church before, and we spoke about it during Bible study. I will have to break this down later because this is a whole sermon. He’s saying to consider what I am saying because if you can consider it— and then you start to live like a soldier, live like an athlete, and have the hope of a farmer— you have entered the realm of fearing God.
- Because no matter what happens, you’re not going to give up the fight; no matter what happens, you’re not going to write your own rules; and no matter what, you’re going to hold onto the hope that is in Christ Jesus.
- Because of the fear of God, may He give you the understanding in all things. It’s easier to fight the Christian fight when you understand *why* you are fighting and with *whom*, you are fighting **(Amen?)**. That’s why he said that.

The Principles of Desperation:

Must be predicated on our dedication and our wholesomeness, giving ourselves to the Lord **(right?)**. Now, this principle of desperation is very important because in the following verse, you will see that you even need this to desire the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts:

1Corinthians 14:1

¹Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.

Earnestly—he didn't say casually. He says **(what?)**, earnestly. *Ye have not, because ye ask not.* Matthew 7:7: *Ask and it shall be...* Another verse in the Bible says, "Ask in My name and I will **(what?)**, give it to you; ask for anything in My name and I will give it to you." But it must be according to the will of God.

- One of the things He wants you to ask for is the Spirit of God and the spiritual abilities that come by the Spirit of God. But you can't just ask, it must be **(what?)** earnestly. The Bible gives us an example of what asking earnestly looks like in the book of Luke.

I want you to read this chapter because God (Jesus) was telling the disciples how asking looks. Let's read the first verse:

Luke 18:1-8

*¹Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose **(what?)** heart.*

Why would you teach people to pray, and tell them not to lose heart?

What does "lose heart" mean? Being discouraged, giving up. Why would Jesus tell you to ask in this manner? Because He's trying to tell you, "I don't answer you immediately when you ask, I may take my time."

- He answers, but it may take time. Sometimes the answer is in the waiting; the waiting is not a "no" or a "maybe" — the waiting is just the process to develop you to be ready for the "yes."
- So, there are processes here.

Then He talks about the woman:

²There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying "Get justice for me from my adversary." ⁴And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor man, ⁵yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

Then the Lord said, *⁶"Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out to Him **(what?)**, day and night...?"* He could have honestly said day, but by putting in night, what was He saying? He said day AND night because He's saying, "You pray till I answer!"

Look at verse 6 again: *⁶Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He **(what?)** bears long with*

*them?” Who’s He talking to? He’s talking about Himself. **And shall God not avenge even though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them (what?) speedily.** That means, as soon as I am ready. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on earth?”***

Why did He say that?

He’s saying by the time I’m coming back, people will no longer pray long—they won’t have the heart to pray long. They pray once and their discouraged (**why?**) because they don’t believe in Me—because they don’t have faith.

So, what am I talking about here?

The principle of desperation. If it is that you are craving the Spirit of God, your desperation must be seen in your prayer for the Spirit of God. It is a thing that you must do in His presence (**what?**) day and night. And because He told you to ask for it, I honestly believe God waits to see our level of desperation.

- When I first started reading the Bible, I didn’t hear from Him for 6 months straight; I was so desperate to hear God, that I would sit at my table and literally take my pen and just copy the Bible onto paper because I didn’t hear anything.
- But I said, “You will talk to me, I will be spoken to; You said You speak to Yours, so I want to know You.” There are days I was feeling so dry and frustrated, but I was over here copying the Bible. I remember the exact day that as I was going to go and copy the Bible, I looked at the verse I was about to copy and I was like, “I get it.”
- Then I wrote what I got, and from that day, He never stopped [speaking to me]. I get the Bible now just by looking at it—but it took six months of just saying, “No, You’re going to talk to me. You’ve talked to Abraham, You’ve talked to Isaac, You’ve talked to Jacob, You’re going to talk to Bullus!”
- “Not because I’m forcing You, but because You said in Your Word that that’s what You do. You said I will cast out demons if I believe; the next time we see one (in fact, let’s go and find one), it’s on sight. Keep the same energy.”
- No, like if you don’t have that same desperation, it doesn’t work. Because the desperation causes you to remember why you were given it in the first place. It prepares you for battle, and let me give you the verse which proves what I’ve just said:

Luke 16:10

¹⁰ He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.

- If you’re not trusted with the little information you have, God can’t trust you with the big one. You must be desperate for it; it’s not praying meekly. How does your prayer look?

How did Hannah have her baby?

To the point where the priest said, “You’re drunk.” Desperation. Why did God make His own disciples sit in the upper room for ten days? When you count the days of Pentecost and if you take away the forty days that He was with them, it’s about ten days. Waiting.

- Why did He have to make them sit there for ten days? Because apparently, when He died, what did they do next? The Bible says Peter went back to do (**what?**) fishing—no desperation.
- God says, “**Until you become desperate, and you believe what I have, you can sit there until it happens—nothing will happen.**” Until they sat there in the upper room for ten days; but then they said, “Today.”

What happened?

He came. That’s the only way they were able to open the door and go out. The anointing comes with a desperation in the heart to serve the Lord. If you don’t have desperation to serve God with power, nothing is coming.

- Because if He anoints you and you just sit there [doing nothing], the anointing is what kills you—it eats you alive.
- Asking for anointing is asking for trouble because it eats you alive! Imagine just sitting there with the gift of healing.

Why would He give it to you if there’s not going to be sickness all around you?

Seeing it will mess you up because they’ll be attracted to you. (**Amen?**) If you want the anointing to make wealth, what will be attracted to you? [Poverty.] Thank God you know. If you have two, [What did He say?] “**give one.**”

- So, you asked for the anointing of wealth—that means you’re activating the principle of giving away half. When you’re not willing to give away half, the anointing cannot activate.

What is the secret of giving?

Billionaires. What is the secret of wealth? They’ll tell you: they give it away. Rick Warren gives away 98% of his income and he’s still a millionaire. That’s where we get the whole idea of “*give, and it shall be given.*” If there isn’t room to receive it, you can’t give; but the room is created by the giving heart—the secret to wealth. (**Alright?**)

Homework:

I want you to read **Acts 10** and **Acts 8:26-40**.

These two stories are examples of what desperation does in the sight of God. There is so much desperation in the hearts of individuals such as Cornelius and the Ethiopian Eunuch that God gives an assignment to His servant to go and find the “desperate heart.”

- Next week—if the Lord allows me to revisit this again—I want you, as you read Acts 10, to see how the Bible describes Cornelius as a man that feared God, loved God. He gave alms to the point that the Bible said, *“He’s giving, and his prayer became a memorial in the sight of God.”*
- It was so powerful that God remembered Cornelius (who was not even a Jew); but the anointing did not fall on him. As I’ve told you, the anointing must fall into context—and it must fall into context of the truth.
- The anointing only falls on the truth. Cornelius prayed and was so desperate for God, but God did not pour out His anointing (go and read it); God had to go and reveal to Peter to come to the house to preach the truth before the anointing fell.
- If there are things wrong in the theology, in the mindset, in the conviction, He will fix it first. Your desperation will attract (in the Spirit) the person required to fix it. There must be impartation before the anointing happens—it only follows the gospel.
- The same thing with the Ethiopian eunuch: he read it (the Spirit of God could have revealed it to the Ethiopian eunuch), but He [God] made Philip run from one city to the next. He was running next to a chariot; then God told him to “sit down and explain the gospel to him.”
- That’s when he was baptized, and the Spirit moved. The Spirit doesn’t fall because you ask; your prayer will even attract first the context that you need to receive the anointing.
- He must first get you to understand the basics of the Scripture before anything else can fall on you. It’s not as easy as saying, “Just come.”
- No, what precedes His anointing is His Word; If His Word is not settled, there’s nothing for the anointing to settle on. **(Amen?)**