

Session 5 Apostolic Preaching, the Gift of Intercession, and the Harvest

Let’s pray. “Father, we ask You for the spirit of wisdom and revelation. We ask You for impartation tonight. We ask You for Your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Amen.”

Well, let’s look at our notes on the prophetic history. This is our fifth session.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANOINTED PREACHING AND THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

The Lord has given us some substantial promises related to powerful preaching, or powerful communicating of the Word of God, because it’s not only preaching. Preaching is just the word that I’m using. It includes singing, dancing, drama, media, and writing. It is whatever way the Word of God goes forth. There are five or six experiences that I’m going to share, but before I do that, I’m going to give you a five-minute foundational teaching. I’m going to teach a concept, because without this concept, these promises will not make as much sense to you. But if you understand this concept, this teaching will make so much more sense. I’m going to take a little from the Scriptures and a little from history, then the promises will make more sense to you.

Paragraph A. First, I want to say this: One thing that is not emphasized enough today in the Body of Christ is anointed intercession. Now, catch this: Anointed intercession is as much a work of the Holy Spirit and as much a supernatural gift as anointed preaching is.

When the Holy Spirit graciously gives us the gift of travail, the travail moves things in the Spirit far more powerfully than we can imagine. The Holy Spirit gives us those moments, and sometimes those moments go for hours where the heart of Jesus is opened up, so we actually receive. We enter into His intercession; then our intercession kicks into a higher gear and a whole new level. I am going to talk a little about that.

God is promising that He would give us the gift of prayer, which I have not seen at IHOP in ten years of meetings. We have met for ten years, and we are here at our ten-year anniversary. We did the calculation: We have had 87,000 hours of worship and prayer in the Global Prayer Room and 13,000 hours in the Justice Prayer Room and the Encounter God services. We have hosted over 100,000 hours of worship and intercession—that is an amazing thing. If you figure that throughout the years, there are about a hundred people in every prayer meeting. That is a million man-hours of intercession that has gone forth in ten years. That is a great point. But, that is not really my main point. I love that point; but as I look back at the ten years, there are very few moments where we have experienced the gift of intercession falling on us.

It is a gift that we have not understood, seen, or yet fully experienced, but it is coming. I want to take a moment and describe what this is about and the implications. It is dynamic in the Spirit when this gift is given to us. We are postured for it after ten years. The Lord has promised us this.

THE SPIRIT WILL SUPERNATURALLY PIERCE THE HEART AND CONVICT PEOPLE OF SIN

John 16:8: “When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and judgment.” Jesus promised supernatural conviction. He said that the Holy Spirit is going to convict the world of sin. This is an atomic bomb of power when the Holy Spirit convicts us. It’s not just a gentle wooing. He does do that, but Jesus understood that there are moments in history when the Holy Spirit convicts people in a dramatic way.

Thousands of people would come under the agonizing gripping conviction of the Spirit. During such anointed

preaching, people would wail, and cry out to God; it would radically change their lives. We have seen very little of that in America in the last hundred years; actually, we have seen very little of that probably anywhere in the Western world. This kind of reality has been attested to in the Bible and has shown up in history. During the First Great Awakening, or the Second Great Awakening, this was commonplace.

What we call revival today is often extended meetings with a bit of energy, big crowds, and we call it revival. I appreciate extended meetings with big crowds and added energy. I really do like them. However, the revival that God has promised us has a supernatural connectedness to the prayer room. We have not touched it yet; we have touched it for only a moment here and there. However, about 99 percent of the time, we have not touched this reality. I am waiting because I know where this is going in a short while. God is about to target us with a spirit of prayer and conviction; this revival will be like atomic power in its impact upon people when it happens.

THE SPIRIT OF CONVICTION BEING FULLY MANIFEST AS IN ACTS 2 AND ACTS 19

Paragraph B. History tells us the story when the spirit of conviction becomes fully manifest. I mentioned a minute ago the First Great Awakening, and the Second Great Awakening. I have the story here in Acts 2 where 3,000 people were pierced to the heart. They were cut to the heart. The fruit of it in Acts 2:42-43 is this: “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. Then fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles” (Acts 2:42-43). They experienced a quality of conversion that was radical.

It was not like they came forward and prayed a prayer with every eye closed, though it is fine to do that. But, I am talking about where they were caught asunder; they continued radically for years and years in the deep areas of their life. That is the power of the spirit of conviction.

It says in Acts 19:10, 20: “All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks . . . So the word of the Lord grew mighty and prevailed.” I love this: all in Asia heard the Word of God. In Asia, the Word of God prevailed. What does this mean? The power of the Word took hold, and it confronted multitudes throughout Asia in Paul’s day.

MY FAVORITE PREACHERS, MISSIONARIES. AND REVIVALISTS IN CHURCH HISTORY

Paragraph D. My favorite preachers, missionaries, and revivalists in Church history. I am talking to the young people mostly, but anybody who hears this, I encourage you to buy their biographies. I have read these biographies over and over. I am going to give you a few that really moved me when I was in my early twenties. I still read them, but I devoured them when I was between eighteen and twenty-four years old. I am talking about poring over these books for hours a day sometimes. I highly recommend the biography of David Brainerd, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, John Wesley, and Charles Finney. These were vessels through whom God set the nation ablaze with a power of conviction. Their biographies gave me a vision for where I wanted to go. As Lou Engle said, “When we read that history, it gives us a vision for where we are going.”

CAUSE-EFFECT DYNAMIC IN THE GRACE OF GOD IN DAVID BRAINERD’S MINISTRY

Paragraph F. Now, I am going to get more specific about our prophetic history. I want to highlight David Brainerd’s biography. I believe his biography is free online. It is one of the most profound stories. It is not easy reading. He was a missionary to the Native Americans in the 1700s. He died at twenty-nine years old, and his missionary career and his ministry occurred between the ages of twenty-two to twenty-nine years old.

The story of his impact throughout history since his death is quite amazing. Jonathan Edwards, one of the greatest Bible teachers and men of God in America's history, said that he knew no person more devoted to God than David Brainerd. Jonathan Edwards was describing the young saintly David Brainerd. This is Jonathan Edwards who said that he knew of no man who was his equal, or who surpasses him in piety and devotion to the Lord. I read that when I was twenty-two to twenty-three years old. Jonathan Edwards said this about a twenty-year-old man. I asked myself, "What is the big deal about David Brainerd?" Then, I read Brainerd's biography. I read it over and over. I read it near daily for about five years. Young people: I would really encourage you to do that. You can get it online. Most of their writings, stories, and biographies are free online these days.

SUPERNATURAL GRACE TO FAST FOR DAYS BEFORE HE PREACHED

But I noticed a cause-effect dynamic in Brainerd's story. I would study how there was a cause-effect when Brainerd was anointed in prayer; then, after the time of prayer, he was anointed in proclamation. It was this amazing dynamic where he experienced being anointed in prayer. He described times and encounters that I had never read about.

For example, there is one of the famous stories that many know, though this happened a number of times. David Brainerd was in his twenties. Well, he died at twenty-nine; so he had to be in his twenties. He was out in the snow because in the 1700s not everyone had a hotel to go to check into during his or her missionary journeys. He was out in the snow up in New England. He was so gripped with intercession that he spent three to four hours in intercession in the snow, groaning and travailing with the anointing of God.

THE BURDEN OF TRAVAIL HITTING BRAINERD TILL THE SNOW MELTED AROUND HIM

He was sweating so profusely that all the snow around him was melting. He had tuberculosis; so he was coughing up blood. They describe the scene: the snow was melted, and it was red with blood, but Brainerd wouldn't let go of this because God would not let go of David Brainerd. He was crying out for the salvation of lost souls under the authority and the unction of the Holy Spirit. I would read these stories about Brainerd's life and the other guys as well that I mentioned. They all talk about this. I said, "What is this about? The gift of anointed praying?" I am not talking about the gift of anointed preaching, but the gift of anointed prayer.

Brainerd would talk about when that grace for travail would fall on him, how he would go preach, and the power of God would fall in an awesome, terrifying impact. He would preach to the Native Americans through an interpreter, but the only interpreter who he could find for a period of time was a drunk. The interpreter might be able to speak English, but he did not love Jesus at all, and he just did it because he needed the money. So Brainerd paid him because he was the only guy who could speak both languages.

Brainerd would talk about the power of God hitting him in prayer, and he would preach through this drunken interpreter. The Spirit of God fell in such power that the Native Americans were wailing and weeping. What David Brainerd said was that they were soundly converted. The stories are amazing. I was twenty-three to twenty-five years old reading this; I said, "I have got to have this." I set my vision, not just for anointed preaching. I said, "I am going to live with anointed intercession. I want the gift of supernatural intercession. I do not just want the gift of supernatural preaching with power. I want power in prayer where Jesus opened His heart, and you enter into it." Now you cannot just do that because you want to, it is the gift from God. But, when it comes, it has an amazing impact on the lives of people, particularly on unbelievers.

GOD SHOWED ME THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOINTED PRAYER AND WINNING SOULS

Paragraph M. Now, I am going to begin the story. You can read a little more about these other guys. I would love to see you get into them, to get the picture as the picture is best told from the Bible and from history. Today, very few are talking about this. A few people here and there discuss this.

You go back to study the First and Second Great Awakenings, and this was commonplace in their experience. So my spirit was stoked; these stories fed the fire of my spirit. I was in St. Louis. We were there for seven years pastoring a church. It was in the spring of 1982. What happened was on one Saturday night; we had a little prayer meeting. We were praying for the Sunday meeting; there were about five of us there.

For the first time, I was just in normal prayer saying, “Lord, break in with power.” It was actually a boring prayer time. There were four or five of us. It wasn’t lively at all; suddenly, for the first time ever, the spirit of travail came on me. The spirit of prayer is a biblical concept. I began to groan, as it says in Romans 8:26 with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26: “Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Travail is the anointing of God. It is not a contrived thing where you watch someone do it, so you try to do it as well. I am not talking about that. I have seen people do that, and that is OK. However, that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about suddenly where there was unction, weeping, travail, and groaning. The Spirit of God was on me, and it was bigger than me. I do not know what was happening. It went on for an hour. Beloved, I would pay a million dollars for an hour of that, if you could buy it with money, but you cannot. It is worth gold. An hour in the spirit of travail is worth gold, trust me. Being a student of Brainerd, Wesley, and Finney, I knew that these men had these experiences.

I said in my mind, “Travailing and weeping, I wonder if this is what happened to Brainerd? I wonder if because I am travailing now, tomorrow there will be power?” I did not have an interpreter; I was just preaching myself. I wondered if the same thing would happen. I was on this bit of a holy experiment.

So the next morning, I didn’t even tell the four or five guys. They were pacing around the room. I was up on the stage, kneeling down, weeping, and travailing. Of course, I don’t typically get on the microphone and tell everyone that I am in travail, as I just give myself to the Lord. So they didn’t even know it.

For an hour, I was just groaning under travail, and something was happening inside of me. I said to myself, “Lord, let’s see what happens tomorrow.” I went with such anticipation. I was twenty-six years old, and I was living in St. Louis, pastoring a little young adult church with about five hundred young people. I got up to preach.

Then for the first time, in a congregation of about 500 people, there were 100 to 200 people weeping during the service. Never had this happened before. You know, normally maybe one person was touched, or maybe even two people. I was hearing weeping, and I could visibly see and hear sobs and cries in the congregation. Now, this was the night after this travail. I thought, “Wow. Brainerd was onto something. There is a cause-effect dynamic.”

I found out later that it is not exactly scientific in the way that you would like it to be. There is mystery to the move of the Spirit. I gave the altar call. I had never had a time where people were just crying out loud in a service. So, I gave the altar call. Typically—I gave it every week—we would normally have one or two people every single Sunday get saved. That was so exciting to see someone saved every single Sunday. This Sunday, twenty people were saved—not one, or two, but twenty. We had never seen that—that number. Most of the people in our midst were saved.

I was preaching on prayer and revival; most unbelievers did not come to a church that preached on prayer and revival a lot. Twenty people were saved that morning, and a number of them were weeping out loud to Jesus at an altar call with nobody coaxing them or helping them. I left that meeting and I said, “I got it, I have stumbled on to something. This is real: anointed intercession ends up with anointed manifestation of power.” This Brainerd equation—of course it is a reality that is in the Bible and verified through history—is true: get anointed in prayer and watch out what happens. You don’t have to be a preacher, as you might be a singer, a writer, or it might even be in drama. There are many ways in which the message goes forth. It might be one-on-one communication.

MAY 1982: THE SAME THING HAPPENED

I was going to move to Kansas City about six months after this. But about two months later, in May of 1982, on a Saturday night, there was the same little group of four or five of us praying for the meeting the next day. The same thing happened. I was over in my little corner, weeping in travail and groaning for lost souls. The key thing I understood was that it was related to lost souls. It was not just related to having a lively church service, but it was connected to lost souls. It was related to the lost and the harvest. Here it happened again, and I was in travail for an hour.

You cannot make travail happen. You cannot fake it, as in some of the Pentecostal revival meetings where they hid some onions in the napkins. They can put the onions up there and get tears in their eyes. It wasn’t that kind of deal. I was up there and it went on for an hour. I didn’t measure the time. I said, “Lord, I want to be a part of this. I want to be so connected to You; this is a part of my life and destiny.”

I said to myself, “Saturday night—we are in prayer travailing, and I believe that we will see this happen again tomorrow.” It had happened two months ago for the first time in my life on that Sunday morning. I didn’t say anything to anyone again. I started preaching. The same thing happened, and we had about 500 people there. One or two hundred people were tenderly weeping; or several of them were where you could hear them out loud from the pulpit. I was watching for them, and the same thing happened where about twenty people got saved. I was ready to go. I said, “I do not care what it costs me; I am going to abandon my life into this kind of reality.”

BOB JONES’S VISION ABOUT A MOVEMENT

That is when I met Bob Jones the next year, and Bob Jones was talking about a youth movement. I didn’t care about a movement; I wanted thousands to get saved in stadium meetings. Bob Jones was talking about a movement. He was talking about a whole new way to live life together in the kingdom of God under the anointing. I thought, “I do not know about movements and anointing, leading up to the coming of the Lord.” That was the sort of thing that was on his mind. I was into evangelistic meetings with power in them. We really had a disconnect on that, and I thought, “Bob, I love all this movement stuff. But, that is not really what I am into. I am into raw power evangelism. That is really what I am into.”

He said, “Well, you will see, as there is more to the kingdom than that, but that is very important as well.” So the first day that I met Bob, he said, “You are an intercessor and a youth pastor. This youth movement will have power evangelism.”

I liked that part. I leaned forward, and I said, “I am listening.”

He said, “You will pray for Israel.” I did not know about that. He talked about a bunch of singers and musicians. I loved music, but I was not a youth pastor, singer, or musician. I did not get that part, nor the part about Israel. But I liked the power evangelism.

APRIL 1983, EASTER SERVICE

Now, I was in Kansas City in April 1983. That was my first experience with Bob Jones. You have to understand that those two experiences in St. Louis were so significant. On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1983, this was my first Easter in Kansas City. I had only known Bob for a brief amount of time. This was April. I had known him from the first of spring when the snow melted, and that was about two weeks earlier.

I did not know Bob Jones well yet. I knew that Bob Jones would tell me secrets in my heart that I would speak to my heavenly Father the night before. He would know the secret vows of my heart. I knew Bob Jones was of God, but we still hadn’t really operated together. It was April 3, 1983: I will never forget this morning. It was six o’clock in the morning on Easter Sunday. I thought, “Maybe we will get a few hundred of people in our new church. Maybe we will have ten to thirty unbelievers because it’s Easter. I want to see the fire of God break in on them. I have a vision to see preaching that confronts the heart of sinners under the power of God.”

I wanted them to see the pleasure and the delight of wholehearted repentance, because the kingdom of God becomes bright in their understanding by the power of God. I wanted to see people thank God for the opportunity to repent, not just giving Jesus one more chance in thinking that, “Jesus, You better come through with the money this time or You are out.” I did not like that popular attitude that is going on in the kingdom of God, and in a lot of places in the church world.

SIX O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING, EASTER SUNDAY MESSAGE

Well, it was Sunday morning, at six o’clock in the morning. It was six o’clock in the morning, and I woke up. After a ten-second prayer of, “Lord, I ask You to break into the service in a few hours,” the spirit of travail hit me. I was groaning and travailing within ten seconds. It was a pure gift of God. You never know when travail is going to come. I am not talking about contrived travail; I am not talking about a bunch of guys getting in a room and trying to make it happen, I am talking about the pure, real genuine move of God on the human spirit, communicating the heart of Jesus in intercession and imparting it to you.

I was there at home for two hours groaning, travailing, and crying out for lost souls. The unction of God was on me. I was thinking, “I did this in St. Louis twice.” It happened for an hour each on a Saturday night. I had been two hours under the unction of God. We must realize that it is not that the hours earn the salvations—that is not the point—but the hours indicated to me the reality that God was actually imparting this. It was a sustained reality.

I was excited. I drove in the car to the church. I was weeping all the way. I could not stop weeping in the car. I was weeping for lost souls. I got to the church about nine o’clock in the morning, and the service was at ten. I

went to my office groaning, pleading, with unction and with power. It was ten o'clock in the morning, and the hour went by in a moment.

They knocked on the door. "Mike, the service starts in one minute." It was Easter Sunday in a brand new church, as we were only four months old. They asked, "Are you coming out?"

I said, "No, just start." They didn't know what was happening inside. I travailed until eleven o'clock. I could not stop. I guess that I could have stopped, but I did not want to quench the Spirit, as the spirit of travail was on me so strongly.

It was now eleven o'clock in the morning, and they knocked on the door. They said, "The worship is done, and we are waiting."

I said, "I do not quite know what to do." It is so precious, to have this power on you in prayer. So, I regained my composure. I went up there, but it was late. My eyes were swollen up. I couldn't even figure it out, but after travailing from six to eleven in the morning I was wrung out with fatigue. But it was effortless in the sense that I did not drum it up. It was given as a gift. I said this in my heart, "One thing I am sure of—and I may not look good, as my eyes are swollen up—I may not be organized, but I know one thing: the power of God is going to hit this room like I have never seen it before."

I had seen it twice in St. Louis when the unction of prayer comes in that supernatural dimension. I'm not talking about faithful prayer; I'm talking about when the supernatural unction hits in prayer and the power hits in preaching. So I got up there and they gave me the microphone. Nothing happened. After ten to fifteen minutes, nothing happened. It was one of the most oppressed meetings that I have ever been in. I was confused in a way that you cannot imagine.

I was so convinced it was the Devil that I stopped. It was Easter Sunday in a brand new church, and again these guys had been there four months, and they didn't know me, and I didn't know them. I said, "In the name of Jesus, I take authority over this spirit and break it."

I thought, "Serious revival will break out that morning, and I will not be stopped by a little oppression." I had created this equation in my mind in this Brainerd cause-effect, that travail precedes a Holy Spirit outpouring. I had read the stories of all the men who were involved in the First and Second Great Awakening, and this happened in their lives many times. I thought, "Something amazing is going to happen." I went for about fifteen more minutes. It was so oppressed; I quit the message early. It was so bad that I could not do the message. I cut it short, maybe fifteen minutes short. I said, "There you go, you know, amen." I was really discouraged. I could not bind it, and it would not leave. I was in pain. I said, "If anybody wants to give their life to Jesus, I will give you another moment or two, and then raise your hand." Nobody raised his or her hand. It was really oppressed. So I said, "Amen. Anybody who wants prayer, come up." Nobody came up.

So I was up there. People were milling around. There were maybe 100 people up front, and they were all talking. It was a big altar area. I was sitting up there on the platform, getting my notes together. I didn't want to talk to anyone. I was wrung out from the five hours, but I was really perplexed. I asked the Lord, "What happened? Lord, I love you, but I was positive this was going to be the most dynamic thing I have ever witnessed in my eyes of power in preaching for souls. There were about a hundred people down there and

maybe five hundred came to that service. I just thought that You and I were really going to get at least a hundred of them saved.”

I went down to the altar call, but most of the people were talking. I didn't know many of them; I was a new pastor in town. There was one lady and three other people I noticed of the hundred walking around who were talking and just loving on the kids. I thought “Easter this. Easter that. They are having a great time.” I was in pain. I was in great pain.

A friend came up and said, “Hey bro, good work.”

AN UNUSUAL SURPRISE AS THE POWER OF GOD TOUCHED PEOPLE

I thought, “Just be quiet; please, do not say that to me. Do not say, ‘Great work.’” There are times when you can't even bear flattery, as it is too painful. So, I noticed this guy here, and this lady there, as there were three of them in this crowd. Again, this crowd was mingling and talking; the crowd was not organized. They had their eyes closed. There were strangers standing there, and I went over to the guy and put my finger on him. I was so discouraged, I said, “Lord, in the name of Jesus touch him.” I whispered it or muttered it. “Whatever.” I didn't really think anything would happen.

I touched the man, and this man collapsed on the floor and went down under the power of God, crying out for mercy. I looked at that, and I said, “I don't know what just happened.”

He was weeping, “Oh Jesus, forgive me.” It was just like in the revivals. Some people turned around and looked. I said, “I'm not sure what happened. No, no I mean it.”

He was crying out loud. “Give me mercy, please forgive me God; I am asking for salvation.” Wow. So, I walked over about ten steps, and there was a lady. And I whispered to her and said, “Would you like prayer?” She nodded her head, as her eyes were closed.

So I went up to her because everybody else was talking and fellowshiping. I touched her. She collapsed. The same thing happened where she was wailing, crying out that Jesus would forgive her, “Forgive me. Oh God, I ask for Your mercy.”

I said, “Where did this come from?” Then, one other guy came over here. My faith was stirred up. One more guy had his eyes closed. I laid hands on him, and I said, “In the name of Jesus.” Now, I had a bit more faith and feeling now. I said, “In the name of Jesus, touch him.” The same thing happened where he collapsed. He fell flat on his face. It was not one of those gentle times. He was weeping and crying for forgiveness. I have never seen people cry in a meeting for forgiveness. They were total strangers in a meeting. I had seen saints do it in a prayer meeting. I thought, “Oh my goodness.” The auditorium was about half this size. Bob Jones was way over in the corner. Again, there were about five hundred people there at this time. It was Easter, and they were all talking. He did not know what was going on because of everyone milling around up there.

I had only known Bob Jones for two or three weeks from the first of spring. So I walked back there, and he had gathered a little group of about six or seven guys together, and they were all sitting around in a circle. He was getting to know these young people, and he was telling stories. I went back there, and they were having a great time.

BOB JONES' VISION OF A FISHING BOAT

Paragraph Q. Bob Jones said, "You have had quite a day." I looked at him, and I did not know how much he knew yet. As the months unfolded, I realized that he probably knew what he was saying. He said, "You had quite a day today."

I said, "Yes, I sure did."

He said, "I saw it all in the vision last night."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "You were all set to go fishing today, were you not?"

I said, "Bob, I was really set to go fishing today. You do not even know." He did not know about my two experiences in St. Louis, and he did not know about my Brainerd equation. He did not know how I had watched it work twice in St. Louis. It was powerful in the relative sense of my own little world. He said, "I saw you in the night visions. You and the Lord went out in a fishing boat."

I said, "Really? Tell me." These five to seven people were sitting talking to him. Again, we didn't even know each other. Bob looked at me and said, "I saw you. You and the Lord were in a fishing boat last night. And there was a net in the boat." The net meant mass evangelism, where you throw the net in the stadiums and lead thousands to the Lord.

He said, "You grabbed the net. You wanted a big harvest today." I knew this was true because he didn't know what I had done for five hours or the equation I had in my mind. He said, "The Lord grabbed your hand, your arm, and He said 'No, not today, but it is coming.' And he put the net down." I was really listening at this point.

Bob Jones said, "And He gave you a fish hook, and you went over the side, you swung the fish hook three times, and it pierced right through three people." Now, he could not have known that had happened, as out of all the people, Bob Jones could not see anyone. Even the people up here who were mingling around up front were not paying attention to the people who collapsed.

Bob Jones said, "The Lord is going to give you three souls today. I mean powerfully, so be alert the rest of today." He did not know what had just happened. I said, "Bob, this is remarkable. But finish your story." One thing that I have learned is to let prophets tell their whole story. I do not want to tell part of my story and then mix any of it up. I want to hear the whole story. He said, "The Lord told me to tell you, 'Not today. You do not have the authority to throw the net today, but it is your destiny. And the day is coming.'" He said, "With these young people, when they come, the Lord said that he would give 1,000 times the power that you see today with the three people who just got saved."

It was Easter. When I went to these three, I put my finger on them. I said, "In the name of Jesus." I whispered it. I was so discouraged, but it was like a sword went through them. They were waiting for instantaneous salvations. The Lord said, "Tell him that I am about to throw the fishing net." In the dream, the Lord grabbed my hand and said, "You cannot throw the fishing net, but you can have the hook today." But God said that He

was going to send 1,000 times the power; that is what happened in these three people whom I touched in the days to come.

“In the Lord’s timing, He is going to authorize you to throw down the net. I am talking about the young people,” Bob Jones said.

Look at the end of paragraph R here. Bob Jones said, “The Lord told me that He set you up to understand this vision.”

I said, “I have been so set up. God has set me up with what happened to me in St. Louis. The Lord prepared me in my reading, in my Great Awakening days, and my evangelistic days. I was so set up to understand what you are talking about right now.”

He said, “Well, the Lord is going to send 5,000 young people who have a vision to understand this apostolic preaching and who understand the power of intercession.” I don’t mean just dedicated intercession. We are really into dedicated intercession. I believe in dedicated intercession, but that is not what I am talking about. I am not talking about keeping our sacred trust. But you need to keep your sacred trust; I am talking about something so much more. I am talking about entering into a realm of power in prayer that brings a release that cannot be ascribed to man’s abilities at all. It is an anointing; it is a gift that is supernatural in every sense of the word. He said, “I am sending you 5,000 young people who will have a vision for this. They will not take no for an answer. They will understand the authority of prayer, and they will understand the power of this kind of preaching.” We are not talking about crowds; we are not talking about marketing to get a big crowd there to say, “We had a revival.”

FIVE THOUSAND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A VISION FOR APOSTOLIC PREACHING

We are talking about the type of things that happened during the First and Second Great Awakening in America in the 1700s the 1800s. It will be far beyond that which happened in the book of Acts. Beloved, this is in our destiny. This thing is coming.

JULY 1988, GOD’S PROMISE TO DRAW US AS IN JOHN 6:44

Roman numeral II. Five years later, it was July 1988. Bob Jones was at a Bible study one Saturday night with some young people. There were less than 100 young people. He would occasionally go to them, and they would get to ask him any question they wanted. They loved it. Everyone would be so excited that Bob Jones was coming. He did this a few times a year; it was a big deal.

He announced something. He said, “I am going to tell you what Mike is going to preach on tomorrow,” which was Saturday night. By then, it was five years later. They understood by now that this could really be real. He said, “He is going to preach on the gospel of John. I have not heard him preach on John for a while, but I guarantee that he is going to preach on it tomorrow.”

They were smiling and laughing. He said, “He is going to receive a visitation from an angel tonight related to salvation of souls and intercession. An angel is going to visit him tonight. My guess is Mike will not even know it is an angel. But he is coming nonetheless. In this visitation, Mike will receive a promise about intercession and about souls.”

A PROMISE ABOUT INTERCESSION AND SOULS FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

I did what I normally do on a Saturday night. Then at 2:30 in the morning, I was suddenly awakened. In less than ten seconds, I was instantly awakened from a dead sleep.

The power of God was resting on me discernibly. I was travailing in prayer within ten seconds of being dead asleep. That qualifies as “an angel woke me up.” Actually that is true: Bob Jones taught me that. He said, “When you are in a complete dead sleep and you are instantly awakened and the presence of God is on you, it is an angel. I don’t mean that you wake up and you’re restless. I mean that the anointing of the Lord is on you, and you are instantly alert. The power of God is on you. You didn’t just wake up. Though you didn’t see the angel, the angel is wrestling with you.” When that happens, you want to pay attention. You want to say, “What do you want, Lord? Here, I am Lord.”

I have used that and employed that a few times over the years. I would wake up and suddenly the power of God was on me. I said, “Angel, I know you are here. Holy Spirit, I know You are here. Jesus, You are looking at me. Here I am.” Things happen when angels come.

Well, that happened a few times, but I thought, “Wow! What is going on?” Bob said that that was an angel, but I didn’t realize it. It was 2:30 in the morning, and, within ten seconds, I was travailing like I did at Easter time five years before for souls in Kansas City. It went on for about an hour. I mean, when is the last time you woke up at 2:30 in the morning—of course, in the night watch, maybe that was your lunch break!—when was the last time you were instantly woken up by the power of God in intercession, while travailing for the soul of a city? That has got to be the power of God. So I was sitting there. The Holy Spirit talked to me after this hour. I was thinking that I didn’t know why this had happened. I got from my bed to the living room in travailing prayer in about ten seconds.

Paragraph B. The Holy Spirit spoke one word to me. He spoke to me from John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws Him; and I will raise Him up at the last day.” The Lord highlighted this phrase: “I will draw them; I will draw them.” The Holy Spirit said, “I will draw you into the power of prayer, and I will draw souls into the kingdom. It will be a sovereign work; I will anoint you in prayer, and I will anoint you for leading souls into the kingdom.”

JOHN 6:44: “I WILL DRAW THEM”

“I will draw them,” He said, and it will be sovereign and fully the work of God. In the human sense, we have to give ourselves to the work. But God promised that the work will also be fully sovereign, as when the Lord spoke to me and woke me from a dead sleep. I’m not talking about self-induced tears. The Lord waking me up was a gift from God; it is a present that falls on us from heaven. Through John 6:44, the Holy Spirit was saying, “I will draw you into this, and I will draw this people into this.” So during the ten years of IHOP, I have only seen it corporately just a little, here and there. I have seen it on some of the individuals. I have experienced it a few times individually. Out of these 100,000 hours of prayer with approximately 100 people praying at one time, that is a million hours. I said, “Lord, we have not entered in yet. I love the faithfulness of the people in this community, but I want more than faithfulness. I want faithfulness plus a supernatural dimension in prayer, not just faithfulness in prayer.” But I believe faithfulness is critical for being in the position for the supernatural gift to operate. It is like we are building an altar, but God is going to send fire on it.

Again, I'm not talking about stirring people up emotionally and getting five to ten people together to say, "Hey, we are going to make this travail thing happen." I'm not talking about a self-induced thing. I'm talking about something no man can produce. It is a sovereign gift from God. What the Lord was saying is that it will be sovereign in that hour and in the future of this movement. "I gave it to you within ten seconds of waking up from a dead sleep. It will be a sovereign work of God; then I will sovereignly pull people in, and draw the people in with great power."

NOEL IS COMING, MARCH 1984

Roman numeral III. Tonight I'm talking about preaching. Again, preaching also includes singing, musicians, and the whole communication dimension of the kingdom; this includes the technology part of it and the media part of it. There is power that will go forth wherever the Word of God goes forth.

It was a Tuesday night in March 1984. We had our midweek service on Tuesday night for a number of years. Bob Jones heard the audible voice of the Lord that morning. He told me, "The Lord says, 'Noel is coming. Noel is coming.'" So Bob Jones came to the Tuesday night meeting and there were a couple hundred people there. Bob walked up to the microphone. We all knew him now. It had been a year after the 1983 solemn assembly. He said, "Noel is coming. Noel is coming."

I said, "What is that?" I said, "That sounds like a Christmas song." I actually really thought that it sounded like a Christmas song.

He said, "Well, it is the song of the Lord, but it is more than that. As a matter of fact, I want you to lay your hands on the song birds." That is what he called all the singers; he always called them songbirds for years. He still does. And JoAnn McFatter and Julie Meyer were our two main singers. He said, "Go lay hands on them, and they are going to start singing the song of the Lord tonight."

So I went to JoAnn and Julie, and their eyes were huge. OK, the whole 200-300 people who were there were watching it. I prayed a simple prayer: "Lord, release the song of the Lord." Actually, it was a bit awkward. Bob pronounced it, they were up there, and they were both phenomenal singers. But the Spirit of the Lord touched them, and it was the first time they sang prophetic songs.

PROPHETIC SONG BIRDS

Both of them sang about five songs. You all know Julie, and she has been operating in that from that night—from the night when it was prophesied that "Noel is coming." JoAnn McFatter—some of you know her, because she is well-known in some circles, and she has gone on in the last twenty-five years, and the Lord has blessed her and used her in so many ways. She has such an excellent spirit, and she is an amazing woman of God. JoAnn McFatter is a faithful woman of God whom the Lord has used to touch so many throughout the years. But it began that night with both of them, so we're excited. The "Noel" came, as God launched prophetic singing. It happened, and JoAnn and Julie have been singing prophetic songs ever since that night. It was a true word.

So, ten days later, I went to the citywide pastors' meeting. There were about fifty pastors on Friday mornings, and it was about ten days later. Noel Alexander was there for the first time. Some of you know Noel Alexander. He is from South Africa and has a beautiful accent. I love it.

I said, “Noel, just talk.” His accent was so beautiful. So, Noel had been up all night in prayer. He was glowing. I don’t mean glowing, I don’t want to exaggerate, but he had brightness in his countenance. I was walking into a big auditorium. There were about five or six guys, and this new guy was talking. He was animated, and he was moving his arms. He was talking; I thought, “I have been to this prayer meeting. I have been to this citywide prayer meeting for some time now, and I have never seen this guy.” He was very excited, so I walked up there and stood around the circle. There were six to seven pastors. He said, “I tell you the truth, the power of God is coming to this city, but it will only come through night-and-day prayer. The Lord will give the power of intercession.” And I thought, “This is love at first sight. I love this guy. I love this man.” I looked at him, and then they gave the announcement: “OK, time to start the pastors’ prayer meeting.” So they broke up. I had not said a word; I said, “Hello. My name is Mike, what is your name?”

He said, “Noel.”

I said, “You are a man!”

He said, “Excuse me.”

I said, “You are a man! Amazing.” He looked confused. I was struck. I said, “You are a man.” He had a presence on him. So after the pastors’ prayer meeting, I said, “Who are you?”

He said, “I am in this city, in the Nazarene church, and I have one thing on my mind—souls. Crying out night and day for souls. Luke 18: night and day for souls. That is all I care about.”

I said, “Unbelievable.” I said, “Can we get together, like tonight?” He gave the most beautiful answer I have ever heard. He said, “I cannot.”

I said, “Why?”

Oh, I love this answer. He said, “Because I have a prayer meeting every night, and I will not miss it for anything.”

I said, “Oh, I love you. I love you. I have a prayer meeting tonight too. That is perfect. What a great answer.” He was the only man I had met who went to a prayer meeting every night and passed up every social engagement to keep his prayer commitment. I had never heard of a person who did that. I asked him, “What about after your prayer meeting?”

He said, “I would be happy to get together, I would love to get together.” So we got together. Our prayer meeting went seven to ten every night, so he came over at ten o’clock at night, and we talked. He brought his wife Mieke; and Noel and Mieke and Diane and I, the four of us, talked until two in the morning. Oh, I was so excited. I said, “You know it’s two o’clock in the morning; we’ve got to go. I have a meeting tomorrow. It’s early; it’s at eight o’clock in the morning. It’s a march down at the Plaza for the Soviet Jews who are being persecuted. I am going to go march because there are a few thousand who are going to march. I know it’s two o’clock in the morning, but do you want to join me?”

He said, “I would love to join you.”

I said, “I will meet you at the Plaza.”

MARCH TO SUPPORT SOVIET JEWS

So we went to the Plaza. I was so excited about this guy, this glorious comrade. I had this comrade. So we were marching and talking. There were 1,000 people there. We were marching, and Noel asked, “What are we marching for?” I was telling him all of the Bob Jones stories. We were preoccupied from the night before. It was interesting. This was just God’s poetry, as God writes things in parables with poetry. The next day in *The Kansas City Star*, there was a big picture: “Christians March for Soviet Jews.” There was the picture: Noel Alexander and me in *The Kansas City Star*. It was funny because we were in the middle of the crowd. For some reason, the photographer got in the middle and took the picture. I do not know why, but it was there with Noel and me; it was documented on April 1, 1984. In that Sunday morning newspaper, Mike and Noel were there together standing for Israel in *The Kansas City Star*. That was just divine poetry. I imagine the Lord looked down and saying, “I did that one.” I think the Lord loves to do things like that.

But that’s a secondary point. I said, “Noel would you like to meet this man, Bob Jones?”

He answered, “Yes. I would like to meet him right now. Or I mean today if possible.”

I responded, “We could go meet him.” I said, “You know, in my experience with Bob, he already knows we are coming.” That is true with Bob Jones.

TWO PRESBYTERIAN PASTORS MEET BOB JONES

This happened many times, as in five or ten times. There were so many times when I would bring a visitor over and he would know about it. Let’s put the story on pause for a moment. There were two Presbyterian pastors who wanted to meet Bob Jones. I said, “Well there is this one guy, Bob Jones.”

They asked, “Can we meet Bob Jones?”

I said, “Yes.”

“Can we meet him today?”

I said, “Well, yeah! Probably.” I said, “Come with me so that you’ll witness this.” These two Presbyterian pastors came, and I picked the phone up. I told them, “I did not know we were going to talk about this. And Bob does not know you were coming, and I did not know you were going to want to see Bob. This is a completely unplanned meeting. Watch this.” I picked up the phone; I dialed Bob and said, “Hello Bob? Yes. Yes. OK.” Click.

They said, “What was that?”

“I said, ‘Hello Bob?’ He said, ‘Two of them?’ I said, ‘Yes.’ He said, ‘Presbyterians?’ I said, ‘Yes.’ He said, ‘Bring them over.’ Click.”

But I told Noel, “He might know we are coming. But, I am going to call him anyway.”

I said, “Bob, I am going to bring a friend over.”

He said, “Bring him over, I have already seen him. I am going to put a mirror in front of him.”

Noel said, “What did he say?”

WHEN BOB JONES MET NOEL ALEXANDER

I said, “Let’s go. Let us just go.” So I was driving over to the house with Noel. Noel told me the story. It is about a twenty-minute drive to Bob’s house. He said, “I am going to tell you, Mike. You told me all the Bob Jones stories last night, but I am going to tell you now my story. I want to tell you about a prophetic experience that happened. The most dynamic thing happened in my life. It happened in 1979. I was in Colorado Springs.” That was interesting, as God had called us to do the house of prayer in Colorado Springs, and Noel had his most dramatic experience in Colorado Springs. There is this Colorado Springs connection. There were about four to five more Colorado Springs connections. But that is another story for another day.

NOEL CALLED TO INTERCEDE FOR SOULS AT COLORADO SPRINGS IN 1979

He said, “I was in Colorado Springs in August 1979. And the Spirit of the Lord touched me, and I went out in the middle of the night. I saw this vast valley of flowers. I was looking over the whole valley, and I could see Pike’s Peak with millions and millions of flowers. And the Lord called me to intercession this night in a sovereign way. He called me to intercession. And God said, ‘Noel how many flowers do you see?’ And I answered God and said, ‘Lord, millions.’ And God said, ‘Do you have faith?’ I answered, ‘Lord, yes. I believe.’ The Lord told me, “As many flowers as you see, that is how many souls you are going to lead into the kingdom. Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.”

So Noel was telling me this story as we went. Noel was weeping, and I started weeping. We were both weeping in the car. We were a wreck. It was so tender and so moving. He told it in full detail. He said, “I am committing my life to intercession for these souls. I do not care what it costs me. The Lord asked me, ‘Do you have faith?’ I answered the Lord, ‘Yes Lord, I am going to believe for this many souls.’ God then told me to take my shoes off, for the place was holy ground.”

Then, as Noel finished the story, we walked up to Bob’s house. Noel had obviously just been weeping. We walked in. I said, “This is Bob Jones.” Then I said, “Here is my friend.”

He said, “What is your name?”

He replied, “Noel Alexander.”

Bob said, “That is what I thought it was, or that it was going to be something like that.” He had a piece of paper in his hand. It wasn’t like he ran into the back room and made something happen. He had this piece of paper in his hand, an old envelope with his handwriting on it. It was dated from 1976. It said, “When Major General Alexander comes, he will be the beginning of the government of this youth movement.” Bob Jones said, “You are a major general in the Spirit. When Mike said a man was coming, I knew this was the Major General Alexander. What is your name?”

“Noel Alexander.”

Bob answered, “There you have it.” He had it in his hand. He said, “I am going to put a mirror in front of you today.” I was thinking, “Oh boy.” But it was such a tender moment. Bob Jones said, “I am going to put a mirror in front of you. And I am going to show you what you already know. You are like a man that the Lord has set before a vast valley of flowers. And the Lord says, ‘That is the number that you will lead into the kingdom.’”

Noel and I were so touched. We were silenced. Then Bob said the next critical statement; he said, “And the Lord says, ‘Take off your shoes, for this is holy ground.’” The three of us were weeping. So Noel joined us. And when Noel joined us, it was so powerful.

That happened in March. It was October when he joined us, because he was still in the Nazarene Church, and he had just finished seminary; he had things to finish. When all the issues were finalized, he joined us in October.

PRAYING THREE TIMES A DAY

We had been praying every night from seven till ten for two years, from 1982 to the end of 1984. When Noel came, we said, “Let’s increase the prayer meeting. So we made a covenant together—Noel and I—that we would do three prayer meetings a day, and so there were six hours of prayer a day. We would go to them all. We would each take one off. I took off Monday morning, and he took off Sunday night. We went to all of them together. We made a covenant that we would do this for a few years. We had a time frame laid out. Noel was the comrade I needed most. We prayed for six hours a day for two years every day. I was getting weary just having strength. And God sent Noel Alexander, and this man strengthened my spirit, for he had more fire than I had for intercession.

We prayed morning, noon, and night. Every single day, Noel and I locked in. Others joined us. I tell you: that was the bridge that kept this movement rooted, that anchored this future IHOP movement. It was fragile. The numbers were small, and Noel came in with fire and strength. Noel had the dynamic dream, and he joined us in October.

DECEMBER 1984, NOEL’S DREAM WITH 7,000 SOULS ADDED INTO THE KINGDOM

Now it was December 1984. He had the prophetic dream, and in the dream, the Lord showed him that the day is coming where seven thousand new souls will be added to the kingdom in Kansas City. Beloved, we are waiting for a day—and it won’t be one week—of 7,000 souls. There will be a day where there will seemingly be no end to it. That is what will happen in this city. That will happen in the cities of the world, but I know it will happen in this city.

THE BUS WITH SEVEN WINDOWS: A PROMISE OF THE GREAT HARVEST

Roman numeral IV. I want to tell one more story: the bus story. It was July 1988. Now Noel had been with us for about four years. Bob Jones had a vision of a bus. It had seven windows in it. He saw our staff in the bus. The bus spoke of this youth movement and the great harvest. And this bus story was linked to intercessory giving, not just intercessory praying but actually giving money. There is prayer, and there is money. Both of them go together. There is a generosity of finance, and a generosity of intercession and prayer. These are both forms of intercession that go together for the harvest. It is not just one; both of them are necessary.

Paragraph B. Bob was describing the bus story. “Jesus is driving this bus. All the leaders are in it—all the leaders of the church.” In the big picture, this same root system was the early days of IHOP. There are two stories going on in this bus vision. I will just take a minute on the first story. I love the first part of the story;

Jesus is driving the bus, but no one knows it is Jesus, for they see only the back of Him. When He drove downhill really quickly, He would take the curves. All the people watching would say, “That bus is going to go off the cliff; I don’t care what anyone says. That driver is out of control.” Then when He went uphill, He went up really slowly. So the people in the bus were saying, “What is wrong with this bus driver? At the pace that we are going, we are never going to get there.”

So the people on the outside said, “They are reckless and out of control” because of how fast they went down and how fast they took curves. When they went uphill, the people on the inside said, “It is so slow. We are never going to get there. We might as well quit.” Then the bus came to a stop.

“YOU WILL NOT GO OFF THE CLIFF NO MATTER WHAT YOUR ACCUSERS SAY”

Paragraph C. The Lord got out. And He said, “This bus is totally under control, and I am leading this bus.” He was talking about this movement. I love this about what Bob said in paragraph C. These are his words in the second sentence. Bob Jones said, “Let me tell you something about the way the Lord drives the bus,” which means the way God leads the movements.

John Wimber had a few dreams with “the bus,” and it was the whole Vineyard movement. The bus could be a picture of a whole bunch of people going on a journey in the symbolic language of a parable. The bus symbolizes the movement. Bob Jones said, “The man driving the bus, of course, is the Lord. He has the most unique ideas. If we really understood what He was doing, there’s hardly a leadership group in the earth, including us, that would agree with Him if we really knew what He was going to do.” When we make decisions, we make decisions almost always about how to get more comfort, more money, and more honor. Almost all decisions that all of us make, whether church decisions, ministry decisions, business decisions, or family decisions, almost all of them can be boiled down to three pursuits: how to get more money, how to get more honor, and how to get more comfort. And Jesus makes decisions based on how to get more humility, more obedience, and more glory for God. And the decisions are constantly crosswise.

So the Lord was driving the bus, and the Lord showed him that this is the way that men would do it. They would go downhill slow and uphill fast. But the Lord does it exactly opposite: He scares us going downhill quickly, and then He wears us out, wearing out our patience, by going uphill slowly. But God has a different goal. His goal is to produce humility, confidence, and connectedness with His heart. That is one part of this bus. I love that part, but that is not the part I want to focus on here.

So the bus stopped. The Lord turned around. Now everybody saw that it was the Lord driving the bus. They said, “Oh, You are the bus driver.” Because everyone was complaining about how He was driving because they did not know that He was the Lord. There are a lot of lessons for all of us, for all of our personal lives, ministry lives, etc. I mean all of us can relate to that.

So the Lord turned around and gave \$1,000. The bus driver turned around. Noel was in the front seat. He said, “Here is \$1,000, Noel. This is a token of the prosperity that I am going to give this movement. This is just a token, if you will obey Me with it. I am giving you a chance. If you will obey Me with this money, there will be great prosperity.”

“SOW THIS MONEY INTO THE HARVEST AND I WILL MULTIPLY IT A THOUSAND FOLD”

Paragraph D. The Lord said to Noel, “Here is a thousand dollars. If you will sow this money, if you will give it into the harvest, I will multiply the \$1,000, and I will multiply it a thousand times.”

Noel said, “Well that is \$1,000,000. If you give me \$1,000, and I give it to the harvest, You will multiply it times a thousand and I will have a million dollars.”

And the Lord said, “That is right.”

“THIS IS A TOKEN OF THE PROSPERITY THAT I WILL RELEASE IF YOU TRUST ME”

Then the Lord said, “If you give one million dollars away, it will lead one million people to the Lord. And I will give you a thousand times that in return.”

Bob Jones said, “The Lord is going to give us a billion dollars if we will obey Him.” A billion souls! You obey the Lord, and the Lord gives us the harvest; the Lord is so rich, and He is not just kind; He is not just smart, but He has a lot of money as well. God is kind and God is smart, but the Lord is really rich also. I mean really rich. The Lord wants people to obey Him. He said, “I will give you \$1,000. Noel, if you will just sow it into the harvest, I will multiply it a thousand times. I will give you a \$1,000,000. If you sow that into the harvest, I will give you a million souls, and I will give you a thousand fold return.”

Bob Jones said, “That’s a billion dollars that we’re going to give.” So Noel was in this bus and he was excited. Then the Lord turned around in this dream.

Bob Jones said, “I was there.” Every time I said, “Bob, tell me that one dream,” he said, “That was no dream; that was a visitation.”

So the Lord told Bob Jones, “I am going to confirm this to you, Bob. I am going to have a millionaire call you, and I am going to give Noel Alexander \$1,000.”

So Bob came out of this experience and said, “Wow. We are going to give a million dollars to the harvest. God is going to give Noel \$1,000; we are going to give it away, and He is going to give us a million dollars. We are going to give it away, and then we are going to give a billion dollars. This is awesome. And souls. And intercessors!”

So Bob was out digging in his garden that morning. Bob is a real gardener; he has always loved gardens. I would go over to his house, and he would be digging tomatoes, potatoes, and all these things. He loved his garden. Normally, he would dig down a foot or two and do different things. I never fully understood his garden world. He would explain stuff, and I would say, “Well, whatever.” So Bob went down two or three feet. He was preoccupied with this vision. He went down and he hit something, which made a *clink, clink* sound.

“What is that?...”

BOB FINDS A MODEL BUS IN HIS GARDEN

Bob Jones pulled out this cast iron bus. He had only just had this experience. The cast iron bus from his garden had seven windows on it. He said, “Well look at that.” He saw it and he said, “This is remarkable. I was just in the bus.”

Now again, this is God’s poetry. What does God care about a bus, or giving us one? I mean, the dream can be a true prophetic dream without digging up a bus in your garden. Some people say, “Wow. That is awesome. That is just divine poetry.” It’s as if the Lord is smiling, saying, “I knew you would like that one!”

A MILLIONAIRE CALLS BOB JONES THAT DAY, CONFIRMING THE VISION

So Bob said, “What do you know? It is a bus! I was just on this bus.” His wife came out and said, “Bob, you got a phone call. It’s from New York, it is a guy named John DeLorean, or something like that.” Some of you will know the name John DeLorean. He was one of the manufacturers of famous sports cars. He was a very wealthy man. This millionaire called Bob within an hour or two and says, “Hello. Bob, this is John DeLorean. I am calling from New York. You know, I heard about this and that.” I do not know what happened, but they had a dinner together. Can you imagine, Bob Jones from the hills of Arkansas talking with John DeLorean who was an entrepreneur of world-class sports cars? They had a meeting in New York, in John DeLorean’s setting.

Bob told the story and we marveled. The millionaire called. Bob was so excited. We had a staff meeting that day, and I remember it was on a Monday. Bob Jones came walking in. He had this dirty, old cast iron bus.

I said, “What were you doing? Digging in your garden again?”

He answers, “Yes.” I was kidding; I was joking. It is this dirty, rusty, old bus.

I asked again, “You were really digging in your garden again?”

He answered, “Yes. The Lord was with me, you will see.”

I said, “Are you going to show us at the staff meeting?”

He said, “Yes.” So this was fun.

I said, “OK guys, we have a lot to cover today, but we are going to have a moment of ‘show and tell.’ Bob is going to bring the bus. Bob, tell us about the bus today.”

Bob Jones said, “Well in this bus, the Lord is driving it...” and he gave the whole story.

He said, “Don’t worry, the Lord is controlling this movement.” That was a beautiful thing. We were listening. He said, “And the Lord turned around and gave Noel Alexander a thousand dollars. Noel, he is going to give you a thousand dollars right away.”

You’re not going to believe this; it was in his pocket. He said, “I received a thousand dollars today in the mail, right before I came to the staff meeting.” Noel Alexander received a thousand dollars from the U.S.

government. Noel said, “I am from South Africa. What are they giving me a thousand dollars for? I have no idea what this is about.”

BE READY TO SOW ONE MILLION DOLLARS INTO MISSIONS

Bob Jones said, “I know what it is about. You had better sow into the harvest.” Noel did.

Bob said, “God is going to give us a million dollars now. He is going to give us a million dollars for this thousand. And if we give that million away, He will give us a million souls. One day, He will multiply the million times a thousand, which is a billion dollars.”

So at our next big conference, Bob pushed me on this to take an offering, because the Berlin Wall had just come down. The Berlin Wall came down in November 1989; so this was the summer, in June 1990. It was our big conference and Bob said, “This is the time. Let’s take an offering for the Soviet Union, for all the believers who have been in prison. Bibles have been illegal. Let’s take the offering. Noel gave a thousand dollars, there was the bus, this is the hour.” He pushed me hard, so I took this offering.

WE TOOK A \$1,400,000 OFFERING TO BUY BIBLES IN THE SOVIET UNION

Our church had given \$200,000 only a few nights earlier. I took the offering; our church gave \$200,000. We went down to the conference. The conference gave \$1,200,000. This was a week later. So within a week, \$1,400,000 came in. Bob Jones said, “You had better give that to the Lord.”

We gave it all to Russia to buy Bibles. Beloved, there was a million dollars. There are a million souls. There is an anointing of intercession. There are 7,000 souls a week; there is the gift of prayer and the gift of power. There will be 5,000 apostolic young people preaching.

Amen. Let’s stand.