

"THE COVENANT YOU HAVE WITH JESUS CHRIST"

Hebrews 4:14

Dr. Paul L. Walker

W94093 C7

We had one of the greatest visitations of the Pentecostal Spirit that I have seen in many years. The Holy Spirit came down and lifted those pastors and their people to heights. I think I got saved in that meeting. I'm not sure, but I believe I did; I believe I did.

I have become a part of The Western School of Ministry. The reason I became a part of it was partly my idea. And when you idea then they make you fulfill that idea. I worked in the West during the 50s prior to coming here to be with you, in fact. West of the Mississippi - we aren't as strong as we could be, and we have a thousand (1,000) enrolled in The Western School of Ministry. We are taking The Western School of Ministry to the Pastors.

And so I am going to these seminars and ministering to pastors for a three-day seminar -- one night and two days and the Lord is meeting us in a very special way.

This past Friday I was in a seminar in Orlando and it was a specialized seminar in that we had together seventy-three (73) - or I guess eighty-two (82) of our top Pastors in the Church of God. It was a select group.

And Friday the Holy Spirit, in the morning service, moved in on us in a way that is unbelievable. And we came to a place of repentance. Because all of us felt the need for revival in this

country. The need for renewal and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. To break through the superficiality of just playing church and going through the motions and come into true discipleship with Jesus Christ.

It was an awesome sight to see eighty plus (80+) of us on our knees before God in repentance before Him and for almost two to three hours we prayed. The Spirit of the Lord moved through the midst of those men and through me as worked together under His grace in a marvelous way. That's what I've been doing.

You know it is an interesting thing. You just don't know what happens. You see -- when we come together in a place like this, this is not the Rotary Club. Somebody looked over and said, "It is not? I must be in the wrong place." It is not the Rotary Club. It is not the Lion's Club.

I was President of the Kiwanis Club at one time, or the Civitan Club at one time - one of the Club's in town. Those are good organizations and do a lot of good work, but when we come together this is the body of Jesus Christ.

See - this is a living organism. What happens in this group - the dynamics that take place in this group is different than any dynamic that takes place in any group anywhere. You just don't know.

STORY

A young pastor from Puerto Rico came up to me who was among that number that I talked about - said, "You don't really know me but ten or twelve years ago," he said, "I used to worship in your congregation every Sunday. I was going to seminary over in Cleveland."

"Every Sunday that I could, I came to Mt. Paran." He said, "The Lord put the call to the pastorate on my heart." And he said, "I took all of your materials, all of your tapes, and everything that you do at Mt. Paran."

He said, "I went down to Puerto Rico. My wife and I got sixteen people together to start a church." He said, "We have put into place everything that Mt. Paran does." And he said, "Now, ten years later, we have a church of four hundred and fifty."

He said, "We have trained up twelve young pastors. They have gone out and started twelve churches." He said, "You talk about one church in five locations. I have got one church in thirteen locations."

##

Well, praise the Lord in this place. Praise the Lord in this place. Amen....

Carmelita and I sometimes think that, probably, we are the most fortunate people who have ever lived. To have the privilege

of working with people like you. And through the years to have the kind of support that you, the congregation, have given to us. And that our pastoral staff has given to us. Young men like David Cooper and all the rest of our staff.

And the kind of flexibility, and the kind of missionary spirit that you have had to birth other churches; to put out money for other churches, and to birth missions, to give me the flexibility to minister in these ways.

ILLUSTRATION

For instance, about three Sundays ago, one of the reasons I wasn't here.... You had a special guest so I did not really need to be here. But on Saturday, the Lord laid somebody on my heart in another state. And I called them on Saturday.

There was a home about to break up. And I said, "Look, I am flying in there tonight and I am going to see you. I want you to come together and I want to talk to you."

So I went there on Saturday night and stayed up half the night with them, and again in the morning; leaving the ninety-nine to go look for the one lost sheep. It has been a reconciliation of that minister's home.

He still is in his pastorate. He still is in his pulpit. But the "old man" had to go and talk with him under those circumstances.

###

But you see if I didn't have that kind of support from you, I wouldn't feel comfortable in doing that. But, then you know, one of the reasons I came back is I'm hearing too good a reports about David Cooper's preaching and I thought I better get back in this pulpit.

And I appreciate your cooperation with him very, very much.

You know I don't know why I even ever put a sermon title in the bulletin. That's probably one of the most ridiculous things I've ever done through the years. I'm going to finish all of these spiritual laws for successful living -- we are going to get all of them in. But if we don't finish them here we will do them in heaven. We will get them done.

But this morning at 9:00 I came prepared for T"he Law of Commitment", and I've got a good forty minute sermon on "The Law of Commitment" that you will hear sometime, but you won't hear it today.

I just feel led to talk to you a little bit about the covenant relationship we have with Christ.

I feel led of the Lord to pray for you and some of your hurts and some of your difficulties and some of your problems today. Every once in awhile we come together and the pastor takes on the priestly role. That doesn't mean I'm a priest, but we have the priestly role. All of us are priests. We are called, "The Kingdom of Priests," in the book of Revelations. There are times when I just feel like I need to take you to God and we need to make the covenant relationship come alive.

One of the things I've noticed in talking to pastors all across the country and I've probably bene with over 400 of them in the last four weeks -- some of them personal counseling, but mostly in seminar situations where we have questions and answers and dialogue. So often they live beneath the privileges that God has given to them as we all do.

In Hebrews chapter 4 verse 14 it says

We have a high priest who has gone through the heavens and is even at the right hand of the Father. Therefore, we should hold firmly to the faith that we possess. We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have a high priest who has been tempted in every point even as we are tempted and yet without sin. Therefore, with

confidence we can come into the throne of
grace where we can enter the throne of God
where we can find mercy and receive grace to
help us in the time of need.

If we are honest here this morning there are many of us who
need the mercy and need the grace to help us in the time of need.

One of the great thrills I have had is to be able to tell
people there is mercy and there is grace for you in the time of
need.

I was flying back from Orlando Friday night and I was seated
beside a man who began to talk about the problems that he had and
what he was going through. He said he was a Christian and
belonged to a church but it wasn't very meaningful to him.

I had the privilege of sharing with him mercy and sharing
with him grace and to pray a prayer with him before we landed and
to hear him say - I don't know what has happened but I feel like a
burden has lifted. Because we have something special to share. Do
you believe that? Mercy and Grace. Mercy and Grace. To give
mercy and grace to people.

I want you to prepare yourselves for the Word today and then
I want you to be prepared to come to the altar. I'm going to call
the elders after a bit. We want to anoint you with oil.

The bible is very clear -- "If there are any sick among you" and we use the word "sick" as a broad term. It covers every individual.

If there are any sick among you we call for the elders of the church, we anoint with oil. That doesn't really do it. That is a symbolical preparation for what comes -

The prayer of faith (it says) shall save the sick.

James says - it is so important to have the prayer of faith. I believe the prayer of faith could be prayed here.

Three Sundays ago on Sunday morning I was in Tokyo, Japan, preaching in our church there. I felt led of the Lord to just give a call for healing and so we called several people up and it was interesting -- the congregation was made up at that particular service and they had three services there on Sunday morning.

That particular service was made up of mostly young people. I just felt the leading of the Lord, and after that service was over and the altar call was given and the Holy Spirit visited us in a very special way.

A young lady came up and said, "I'm healed of ulcers today." She said, "I know I'm healed; I know I'm healed."

Well I went on from Tokyo and then to Togoyo and then on to the Yamaha Resort where we had the seminar and the conference. And her pastor came in the latter part of the week and he said, "You know that girl went back to the doctor and had the G.I. series run and said the doctor said, "We don't know what has happened to you but there is no sign of any ulcer anywhere." Said, "That healing has been confirmed."

"With His stripes we are healed." Do you believe that?
"With His stripes we are healed."

Didn't He say on the cross - "It is finished." That meant that your work is finished.

"He is our peace." Let's get in the key of F please. Stand with me please.

Prayer

There is a covenant principle in God's Word that is important for us to understand today. It is at the very heart of the law of commitment. And it is at the very center of the law of commitment.

Proverbs chapter 16 verse 3 - it says -

Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed."
And there is a law of commitment that we will talk about at a later date.

But in order for us to understand the law of commitment we have to understand our covenant relationship with Jesus Christ. God has established a law in His Word that never changes. That law is that the covenant is a reciprocal agreement. God says - If you will do certain things then I will do certain things. If you will come in certain ways then I will work in certain ways.

The reason so often we don't receive the Lord what we have need of and we don't see Him work in ways that we want to see Him work is because we don't see our side of the covenant. And all we have to understand is that the Old Testament is called "the old covenant," the New Testament is "the new covenant." And when Christ came He said -- "I am giving you a better and a living way."

For instance when you really look at it from the Old Testament to the New Testament we know that He is saying - if you will fulfill the call then I will make you a blessing.

For instance, in Genesis chapter 12 verses 2 and following, God said to Abraham - "I am giving you a call. I want you to leave your country. I want you to leave your people. I want you to leave your father's household. And if you will go to the land that

I have pointed out to you then here is what I am going to do for you. I am going to make you a great nation. I am going to bless you. I am going to make your name great and you will be a blessing. If you will fulfill the call then I will bless.

That is exactly what God says to you and me in the covenant today. If you will fulfill the call that I have put upon your heart to follow my Son, Jesus Christ, then I will bless.

In this same regard if we look at Exodus chapter 20 and verse 12 - in Exodus chapter 20 God gives to us the Ten Commandments that He gave to Israel at Mount Siani as you recall.

The Ten Commandments are the most important thing that ever happened to the United States of America. Our total Western Civilization, our Western Judicial system, our Western Legislative System, our Western Executive Branch, and all of our morality and all of our ethics and most of what we have in all areas of our society was based on the Ten Commandments. It became the catalyst that brought the great nation of America into being, the greatest nation that history has ever known and we have been privileged to live in that nation.

The problem that we are having today is that we have departed from the Ten Commandments. It is no longer the foundation of our morality. It is no longer the foundation of our ethics. We have taken it out of our schools. We have taken it out of our

courtrooms. We have taken it out of our judges' chambers. We have taken it out of the White House. We have taken it out of the Congress and we ask ourselves, what is the problem. We have forgotten that covenant relationship.

In Exodus chapter 20 verse 12, God said, "If you will honor yhour Father and Mother then I will give you long life on the earth that I have appointed you to."

Now the reason we are having so much problem today about family values is that we have forgotten, "Honor your Father and Mother." We have forgotten the importance of the home and even the most liberal are saying - Now we have got to go back to the family. Well, why did we ever get away from the family? That's what I want to know in the very beginning.

And what God is saying - I want you to come back to that family value where we know that the very integral part of any social order, the very integral part of any church order, the very integral part of law and order happens where there is a father and mother and children that live by - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah. Hallelujah be to God.

God says - "If you will honor your father and mother" if you will have family values then I will give you long life upon the earth.

We got o Psalm chapter 37 verse 5 and the Psalmist in their beautiful chapter that we read so often says -

Commit your ways rust in Him and He will do certain things - he said -

I will make your righteousness shine as the dawn and I will make your cause of justice to be like the noon day.

You come back up to verse 3 he tells us there -

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pastures.

If you will trust and commit then I will fulfill your needs.

If you will roll all of your needs and your burdens and your problems upon me then I will fulfill those needs.

So if you commit and you trust then I fulfill your needs is what he says to us.

Or, go to Malachi chapter 3 verse 10 - he says -

Bring all of the tithes into the storehouse in order that there might be food in my house. You test me in this and you prove me in this. If you will tithe, you wait and see if I don't open up the floodgates of heaven and I will pour out a blessing on you and you will not

have room enough to receive it. It will overflow and then I will pour out the blessings.

If you tithe I will pour out the blessings." That's part of the covenant. We come into Him -- if you do your part then I do my part.

Because you see when we come together it is not just to receive from God. When we come together it is not just to receive goodness and glory and blessings from God. We come together to be more able to go out of this place as the Church scattered and to give to the world what it needs what we've got to give. And we say we have the three things that you've got to have. And you can't live this life until we give this to you. What we have to give you is -- faith and hope and love, but the greatest of these is love. And when everything comes unraveled and you lose everything in life -

These three things remain faith and hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Amen, amen and amen. That's the thing we have to give.

But you see we can't have the blessings of God He says, "Bring them into the store house and then I pour out the blessing."

There is a great scripture in Luke chapter 6 verse 38 - it says -

Give and it shall be given unto you.

Not just ordinary giving, but in the giving there is the receiving here. You give and I give, he says.

Give and it will be given unto you, full measure pressed down, shaken together, running over.

And it will be poured out in your lap like you are not going to have room enough to contain it.

And when it begins to say that then it says -

For the measure you give that is the measure by which you will receive.

The scale that you use in your giving, that is the scale by which you receive. See - that is the covenant.

God gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish.

So we give in order for Him to give.

Give and it shall be given unto you.

If we give then we receive. That's the covenant blessing.

So when you come to receive from God you are saying - this is what I will give. This is what I will do. This is what I will share.

But then when you look at Mark chapter 11 verse 25 it says - When you come to pray and you got anything against your brother,

you forgive that brother His sin so that your heavenly father can forgive you your sin. If you forgive then I will forgive.

You see one of the great problems we have today is that we have people who are caught in bitterness. They are caught in anger. They are caught in rage. They are caught in brawling. They are caught in slander. They are caught in malice. And our hearts are filled with such walls and such scales that the Holy Spirit comes against them but He can not break them down because we will not release them .

One of the greatest thrills I have is seeing people receive those big walls and release those big scales and to see the power of the Holy Spirit come and minister to them and set them free and make them whole.

In my office I have a cemetery and in that cemetery people come and they bury their past and they bury their hurts and they bury their bitterness.

As you know I'm up on the third floor of the ministry building and I have the big windows there and we can look down on IBM which is always a joy to look down on IBM.

I looked out the window this morning and I could see Stone Mountain. I looked at Stone Mountain and it always makes me to know that God is at work because we are built on part of Stone Mountain. We took it literally when Christ said, "Upon this rock

I will build my Church." And we are built on a rock right here.

In fact, when you go out that door under that exit and you walk that hallway, there is no foundation there. It is right on the same strain of rock that comes out of Stone Mountain because Stone Mountain is up that way but it is underneath all of Atlanta. Maybe that is what makes Because such a great city. I don't know.

Because what we say in spiritual terms - "Upon this rock I will build my Church," and we say - "Jesus Christ is the rock of ages and all other ground is sinking sand." Don't we say that? "On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." Do we believe that? Do we really believe that this morning? Do you believe that this morning? Do you believe that God is that way?

But then what He says in Acts chapter 16 verse 30 -

What must I do to be saved?

The Philippian jailer asked, in verse 31 - he says -

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall
be saved.

Believe and I will save. Believe and I will save. If you believe then I will save.

I wonder this morning in this congregation of 2,000 plus - sitting in this sanctuary here - probably 2,200 perhaps - I wonder

how many persons here that just really never settled the question.

The Lord is saying - Look, if you believe the covenant relationship then I will save. If you fulfill the call, I will make you a blessing. You honor your father and mother I will give you long life. You really trust and commit and I will supply your needs. You really give of your earnings and you pay your tithes - I am going to pour out my blessings. If you give by the same measure you give that's the measure by which I will give. Then he says - if you forgive then I will forgive. Then he says - if you will believe then I will save. And in Acts chapter 2 verse 8 it says -

Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And if you repent and you live a life that of repentance and sanctification before me then I fill you with the Holy Spirit. And I will really make you to understand what First Corinthians chapter 6 verses 19 and 20 mean -

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you which you have of God. You are not your own you are

bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God
in your bodies.

And He says - so if you repent and you will receive the Holy Spirit - Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you will receive then I will -- give you the Holy Spirit.

What about Matthew chapter 17 verse 20 -

If you have the faith of a grain of a mustard
seed you can say to the mountain - 'Be moved
from here to there,' and it would be moved.

If you have faith -- then I will remove the mountain. If you have faith then I will remove the mountain.

I would not be remiss to say that probably many of you sitting in this congregation that there are mountains that are imposing in your life.

You look out there and you don't think you can get over it because it is too high. You can't get around it because it is too wide. You can't get under it because it is too deep.

And you hear me talking about a covenant relationship and you hear me talking about faith as the size of a grain of a mustard seed which is smaller than your little finger nail - almost the size of a pinhead. If you had just that much faith you could move the mountain.

ILLUSTRATION

A young man came to me with his wife in tears just this past week and said, We owe you and your church a dept of gratitude. We have never told you, but they were in their late thirties.

Said - we started in the ministry when we were in our twenties and we pastored a little church and God prospered that church and blessed it. We had been there about five years and everything was looking good but Satan got in the midst and the church got torn up. We got in a big division and said, a lot of people left and we were very disheartened and discouraged.

My wife had to go to work to help supplement the income and said, the church was in such turmoil that it turned off our children and our two little children who were growing up got to where they were nervous wrecks.

And then they said, we had an adopted teenager - two adopted teenagers that we had adopted together with our children and our two adopted teenagers got into the drug culture. We had taken them from a broken home and we had nurtured them and they were coming up in the church and being a part of it, but being teenagers they got into the drug culture.

And then my wife - with somebody at work because we were so discouraged - had an affair. She was so guilt ridden when she came home she confessed it and I said, that was just the nail in my

coffin. So we left and we moved to because and I thought I would get a job.

We were estranged and the kids were away from us and my wife and I were not hardly speaking. I got so depressed I got suicidal.

Then we started coming to your church on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights. For a few weeks we just sat there and the Holy Spirit began to work and we got into the worship and the next thing we were in the altar and the next thing we were anointed with the oil of the elders and the next thing the healing took place. The next thing

TAPE IS TURNED OVER

I got reconciled. The next thing our kids got delivered out of the drug culture and we were ministered to as a family and we were restored. The next thing the call to the ministry came back and we went back into the ministry about seven years ago.

Said, we started out with about 200 people. We now have 800 in the church that was torn up.

When we went in there we went with a whole new attitude because the mountain was removed by the faith of the living God.

###

Amen. Now - that is what the Lord does and He does it right here in this congregation every Sunday.

You say - I want something from God. I want God to do something for me.

Well, what is it going to take? If you fulfill the call, He says - I will make you a blessing. If you honor your father and your mother I will give you long life. If you trust and commit then it is that I will supply yhour needs. If you will give then I will give to you. If you will forgive then I will forgive you.

If you believe then you will be saved. If you repent then you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed then I will remove the mountain.

What kind of mountain are you facing here today? Some of you are facing the methionine of depression, the mountain of depression.

Just a few weeks ago a man sat in my office who was one of the most prominent ministers in this city. If I told you his name you would know it. I won't tell you. He left a very prestigious pulpit because of depression. He was completely depressed. The Holy Spirit seemed to give me some inspiration in that counseling setting and I was able to share with him some of the depressing times that I've had and how the Lord helped me through those depression times. And there are certain things I've learned from some of you as you came to me depressed and I learned more about how you handled it than I could handle it.

He said, I wish I had heard this years ago. Well, he is on the course of recovery. He is moving forward in a super way. But it was a big mountain. That mountain is melting.

You might be coming with a mountain of physical ailment and you need to be delivered and made whole. "With His stripes you are healed." "With His stripes you are healed." "With His stripes you are healed."

Maybe there is difficulty in your home and there is estrangement between your husband and your wife but you bring it here. You bring it here.

"Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there," is the name of an old gospel song.

Well let's be honest shall we? If you are wondering a far off and you don't know Him. He is not Lord of your life for whatever reason, whatever entanglements have come between you and Him and the Covenant is not in tact. You haven't committed every way to Him therefore, your plans are not succeeding, bring it here. Bring it here. Bring it here.

Be made whole. Be made whole. Be made whole.

As our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed.

Tape Closes