

## ***Fasting: Shifting the Season in the Spirit***

### **INTRODUCTION**

There was one Anna who was a prophetess of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age. She was probably in her mid-eighties. She had lived with her husband only seven years. She was married at maybe fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen year olds and widowed at twenty-three or twenty-four. Now it was sixty years later, and she was eighty-four years old. “She did not depart from the temple, but served God”—she ministered to God—“with fasting and prayer night and day” (Lk. 2:37, paraphrased). “Coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of [Jesus] to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem” (v. 38, NKJV).

Those of you who have been around here for a while, you know that passage quite well. We’ve referenced it and looked at it many times. Anna is the first evangelist in the New Testament. She spoke of Jesus to everyone who had a heart for God, anyone who was open; anyone who was looking to God saying, “What is God saying?” She spoke to them about Jesus.

Anna is a picture of the bringing together of night-and-day prayer, number one, fasting, number two, and evangelism, number three. Night-and-day prayer is one of our real values. Well, obviously prayer is. Prayer is more than intercession. Prayer is worship; prayer is praying for the sick the prayer of healing. One form of prayer is prophecy. Prayer is much more than just intercession. Although it certainly includes intercession, it’s much more than that. She did more than pray. She added to her prayers that Holy Spirit intensity that goes along with fasting.

Here’s the point I want to make, because this is what God is doing in our midst. When fasting and prayer are joined together, it shifts things in the spirit realm. Things are shifted in the spirit realm. One seasons ends and a new season is birthed when fasting and prayer are employed in the grace of God under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I want to say this again; this is important: fasting and prayer together, when the Lord leads it and when He has brought His people together, is being used of God to cause a shift in the realm of the spirit. What I mean by a shift in the realm of the spirit is when one season closes down and another season begins over a people.

I believe that’s one of the great signs that the Lord is about to make a shift in the spirit, a shift in His purpose. He gets the people of God about the business of fasting and prayer. I mean, the idea to fast and pray comes from God anyway. Even the doing of it is an indication of the fact that He’s moving on a people. One of the great reasons I know is because great revival is coming. Because in the last five or ten years, across not only America but all over the world; far more in other places of the world: in Asia, in Africa, and in Latin America but in the Western world as well, in America and Europe, there’s this tremendous new emphasis on prayer. That didn’t come from Satan and it didn’t come from the flesh. There’s this sovereign, sudden, new preoccupation in the last five or ten years on the subject of prayer around the whole world in the Body of Christ. Beloved, that’s one of the greatest indicators that something is about to shift in the spirit. When God says His calendar is about to move, He gets the people on the earth into the realm of fasting and prayer. Normally they begin with prayer, and their prayer is part of what births them into the grace of fasting.

### **HOW DO WE KNOW WE HAVE THE GRACE TO FAST?**

Someone asked me the other day, “How do we know we have the grace to fast?”

I said, “The grace of fasting doesn’t mean you don’t feel hungry. It doesn’t mean you’re caught up into the winds of the spirit the whole time you’re fasting. It doesn’t mean you’re not weak. It doesn’t mean you’re not in a bad mood. It doesn’t mean you don’t have a headache. Really, the introduction to the grace of fasting is that you simply agree to do it.”

Really, that might sound a little simplistic, but it’s true. When a human being, seemingly out of nowhere, says, “You know, I want to do this,” where did that come from? It didn’t come from your flesh; it didn’t come from the devil. The very fact that you heard the call and said, “I want to do this” is the grace of fasting in an introductory way.

The other grace of fasting is a manifestation of the authority of God and the presence of God. That’s like the grace of fasting, part two, but the introduction to the grace of fasting is simply the agreement in your spirit that says, “I want to do this.” You didn’t want to do this a year ago or five years ago or ten years ago. I know for some of you there’s an exception to that.

The majority in the room here didn’t always have the enthusiasm to fast that most of you have right now. You didn’t have that enthusiasm five years ago or ten years ago. Where did it come from? That’s the grace to fast. I’m not talking about some kind of really heavy-duty, mystical thing, like there’s a swirl of an air current and now I know I have the grace to fast. I mean, you simply heard the call and you said, “I have to do this. I want to do this. I’m doing it. I’m going to do it.”

### **WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE THE ENTHUSIASM FOR FASTING?**

Beloved, the vast majority of the people in this room, when we gave the call in the last number of weeks, said, “I’m in. I want to do this.” I mean, the kind of responses I got were, in the natural mind, insane. They were insane to the natural mind, the kind of responses I heard. I thought, “This is unbelievable, a dream come true.” I mean, the amount of times I heard from you at IHOP-KC, or after the meeting, or walking around, or in the parking lot. “Oh, oh, oh, I’ve been waiting for this my whole life.”

I said, “Going without food for a few days?” No, think it all the way through. Where did that enthusiasm come from? Where was that awakened in your being, from what source? There’s a widespread agreement, enthusiasm, and grace to do this thing. There’s an eagerness in our spirit to give ourselves to this thing. Beloved, that’s the grace of God.

### **IT’S RIDICULOUS TO THINK WE CAN MOVE IN POWER WITHOUT FASTING**

Something is about to shift in the spirit for that to happen to Americans. I like how Kingsley Fletchers talk about it. As many of you know, he’s spoken at some of our conferences. He’s from Africa. He says, “I come to America.” I have a bad accent; everything is kind of like bad German with a thin Spanish undertone. All my accents sort of sound the same.

Anyway, Kingsley Fletchers came and said, “Here’s one of my biggest problems; one of my biggest problems with having come to America in the last ten years is the almost total inability for Americans to understand my African spirituality.” I love that phrase, “African spirituality.” That’s just a phrase he uses a lot. “I was raised with the mentality that everyone prayed and fasted. It was so normal for all the leaders to do it, and the people, and all the youth groups. In America it’s bizarre if you talk about this. In my African roots and spirituality over there it was bizarre if you didn’t do it, if you were Pentecostal or anything related to it.” He says, “It’s a bizarre

idea that you think you can move in the power of God and not have fasting as one of the foundations of your life.” He said, “It’s the oddest thing in America; people look at me like, ‘Why are you doing that? Why are you in so much strife and so much legalism?’ He says, ‘I don’t even get it.’ He says, ‘I’ve been here an x amount of years and I still don’t fully get where that came from.’”

Beloved, it’s not really African spirituality; it’s New Testament, kingdom of God spirituality, but God has already in His sovereignty looked down on our little group and said, “Little group in Kansas City.” I’m sure He calls us something other than that. He says “I’m shifting you in the spirit to the next season. Therefore I will set you about the work of prayer and fasting at a new level.”

I give a few messages on it and there’s this overwhelming crescendo, this crescendo that springs out of your spirit. “This is unbelievable”; “it’s a dream come true.” “I can’t wait,” “unbelievable,” “I’m signing up for ten fasting teams.”

I say, “You can’t, there are only seven.”

### **THE LORD WILL OPEN A DOOR IN THE SPIRIT OVER KANSAS CITY**

Beloved, this is an exciting day. The three pillars of Anna’s life were prayer, worship, and intercession. Again, prayer is worship; worship is a dynamic form of prayer. Intercession: the healing rooms are going to be birthed pretty soon. The prophesying teams under Kirk and Dee Bennett and others are getting together and we’re stirring that. That’s all about prayer, and there are other types. There’s silence, there’s contemplative prayer, and we have that going on at the school under the Berglunds, Amy of Bethany, and others. There are those who are really giving themselves to contemplative prayer and calling it forth. All of that is prayer; some of them are louder, some of them are silent, some of them are quieter, some of them are mellow, some of them are soaking prayer. There are all kinds of prayer, and Anna was one who was into prayer. Don’t imagine she was only into loud intercession. She was into prayer and all the types of prayer, along with fasting and evangelism.

The Lord is going to open the door in the spirit, not only at IHOP-KC but over the city of Kansas City, to the realm of evangelism. Beloved, we’ll see 300,000 unbelievers come into the kingdom. That’s a divine number. That’s a number from the Lord’s heart. He gave us that number years ago in a very powerful way: 300,000 new converts, which is the lowest number. I don’t know how far it will go but I know that’s the lowest number to believe for. There might be more than that. A door is going to open in the spirit over this city. We here at IHOP-KC will participate in that door, but it’s far bigger than just us, and everyone is contributing to it, not just us. But I know in our little world, in this little door, the Lord says, “I’m preparing to anoint you to speak of Him to all with power.”

### **NOW IS THE DAY APPOINTED FOR ENERGIZED FASTING AND PRAYER**

We don’t wait until the great revival breaks out before we do that; we do it now. Under Hal Linhardt we have teams that are being formed and they’re going out and people are doing it right now. We’re doing it now; we don’t wait until then. I tell you, when that anointed fire of God, and signs and wonders, when the *suddenly* of God breaks in, that sermon that reached five will reach 5,000. Beloved, it’s happening right now, but the part that excites me, the part that makes me so alive on the inside, that I don’t know that all of you are grasping, is that there’s a shift in the spirit over IHOP-KC. That’s why we have grace for fasting. The fasting isn’t producing the shift; the shift in the spirit is what’s leading us to fast. If I can just use human terms, the Lord

looks down at IHOP-KC and nods and says, “The time is here.” The day is here. There’s an appointment on the divine calendar and it’s now.

How do we know it’s now? A new grace is going to be released to you with fasting and prayer. In some ways the fasting and prayer makes the shift, but that’s not really true because the plan for the shift, the power to make it shift, is in God’s heart. He sets us to pray when it’s in His heart to make the shift, and that’s what has happened. I don’t know how many of you are aware of this thing that’s going on. This thing is so powerful, and is very real. My spirit is alive within me, and I said, “Lord, it’s happening.”

Do birth pains produce a baby or does a baby produce birth pains? Some people think that if you just try to rev up some form of birth pains, you’ll get a baby sooner or later. No, no, it’s the presence of the baby that makes the birth pains happen. There’s a conception in God’s heart, and that’s why we’ll enter into travail through fasting and prayer. The birth has already happened. The Lord says, “IHOP-KC, the shift is coming. There’s a conception. The baby is being formed.”

How do you know? Because travail will start, and fasting and prayer is part of that travail. The birth pains are the result of the presence of a real baby. We’re not out just beating the wind, trying to go through the motions to produce a baby. God has already caused the conception to happen.

I’m saying, “Lord, this is really good that You’re doing this. This is good. This is good.” You couldn’t talk a group of people into fasting. Maybe for a month, maybe for three months; I mean if you really “beat the tar out of them,” you might get them to go for three months, if you just pushed them night and day on the subject. I mean, you really can’t just make it happen, but I believe God has given this invitation and there has been this crescendo in our spirits. There’s a yes. Yes, there’s weariness. Yes, you’re hungry at 3:00pm, 4:00pm, and 5:00pm.

You say, “4:00pm! I was hungry at 10:00am!” OK, those dimensions are still there, but you know what? There’s a yes in our spirits. Where did that come from? That’s a token from heaven that there’s a shift taking place in the spirit.

Last week, May 7, was the third birthday of IHOP-KC. We’re three years old as of May 7. For our third year birthday the Lord is releasing fasting teams. We have seven fasting teams, one for each day of the week. The Tuesday fasting team is for the whole staff. We needed a leader for the Tuesday team and I said, “I’ll do that one. The team is already full.” OK, so I’m the Tuesday leader. That’s kind of cheating but that’s one of the privileges. Anyway, I’m leading that fasting team. I just told them that today: “Hey, I’m going to lead that team.” We already have 200 signed up. That’s a good team. We have a Wednesday team; we have a Thursday team. People have committed to be on the team for a whole year. The majority who signed up for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, also joined; they didn’t think about it this way but they said yes in their spirit to the Tuesday team. Because the Tuesday fast team is a team; it’s just the whole staff doing it together.

### **THERE’S AN EVIDENCE OF GRACE IN OUR WILLINGNESS TO FAST**

Beloved, the Lord has granted us the most gracious gift. I don’t know that we understand what He gave us when we had thirty, forty, fifty, say yes to fast on every one of these teams. A few hundred said yes to Tuesday. Many on the other teams are fasting two days a week. I’m not trying to make a big point of this: “Oh, you sure are something.” That’s not my point. My point is there’s an evidence of grace in this. We’re Americans; we

don't do this kind of stuff. This is evidence of the grace of God. This is a miracle! This is miraculous! This isn't Africa, this isn't Asia, this is America and we're doing it. This is the sign that the second coming is around the corner. No, that's a joke. I'm kidding! No, this is really massive. It's not in our culture; it's not in our heritage. Most of us were raised in churches where it wasn't even talked about. Our favorite people, our heroes in the kingdom didn't do it. The books we read, the people who wrote those books didn't do it. The stories that we told were never about it. It's not in the culture of the American church, but God is supernaturally birthing it into the American culture. Our little group is one little down payment of that. We're Americans and we said yes to it.

The Lord is saying, "I'm in your midst. Don't you see what's happening? There's a shift coming in the spirit and you're part of it." This thing is the pattern of Luke 2:36-38; this is what had to happen before the first coming, and it has to happen before the second coming. It has to happen before the second coming! There must be a people all over the earth who are absolutely radical about prayer. Whatever form of prayer: the loud type, the quiet type, the musical type, the nonmusical, the soaking prayers over the sick, the prophesying type, prayer, prayer, prayer, prayer, all manner of prayer. I don't care what kind of prayer they do; just pray! Some people are really into healing, some are a lot more into prophesying, some are more into silence, some are more into shouting, some are more into crying with tender worship. All of that is prayer! Go for it! Don't compare or judge saying, "This is better." It's all the heart of God moving different facets of His personality of prayer upon the Body of Christ. Go for it!

I go to a place down the road and they're into prophesying. "Well, we don't really do that prayer thing." I say, "Well, you're kind of doing it right now. You just don't know it." They're speaking from God's heart under the inspiration. If they would close their eyes they would call it a prayer meeting; if they open their eyes they call it a prophesying meeting. Where I'm sitting it all kind of looks like IHOP-KC to me. Everyone just has his or her eyes open. That's the only difference really; maybe a few more, but there are a lot of similarities. It's exciting! I guess really what I'm doing, since we had a big birthday celebration and I'm feeling pretty happy, I'm splashing in the water right now. I'm like a little four-year old just splashing in the water. I don't really have a message; I just want to talk. No, I really mean it. I don't really have a message; I'm just kind of up here going for it.

Someone says, "What are you talking about?" I'm so excited about what happened last week. That's what I'll talk about. "Well, what are the key points?" I don't have a clue. I just want to splash in the water and I want to get many more people wet. A lot of you are already wet, but I want to just splash the water on you. This is exciting! Three years and the Lord says, "I have a birthday present for you: I'll give you fasting teams."

Some people say, "Oh, that's going to be tough."

I say, "Forget that tough part. Do you know what that means? That means there's a shift in the spirit."

When God says "fasting teams," that means there has already been a decree in the heavens about this place. Do you understand what it means that God said fasting teams? This is really good news, if you had eyes to see even a little! I don't see that much but I see a little, and I see enough to know that when God says "fasting teams," something has already been decreed in heaven. Fantastic! We're doing it. These teams of people are signing up for one year. We're going May 7 to May 7. We'll re-sign up every year at around that time. I'm encouraging you, and we did it this week, if you're on that fasting team to try to go to those three prayer meetings on the day you're on that team. Try to go to all three of them. If you can't, you can't, but at least try. Just do what you can.

Another thing we're asking is for everyone, if you're on one of those teams, not to sit at one of those tables and do a Bible study. During those three prayer meetings sit in that middle section so we're all together really warring.

I'm on the Thursday fast team and there were forty or fifty of us there. I remember the last few times we did the three-day fast on Thursday; the day after was like a graveyard. I remember I walked in and said, "Boy, it's awfully quiet at IHOP-KC today." After we did three wild days for the Global Bridegroom Fast, then Thursday there were like two people. Even the one man was just playing the same two chords on the piano with his eyes closed. We were barely making it. I was happy. I said, "Hey this works for me."

The Lord grades so easily. The Lord looks down and says, "IHOP-KC gets an A." There were only two men, with the one just hitting a chord kind of like he was stuck. The Lord said, "I'll give you an A for that one." The Lord grades really easily. He liked it; I liked it.

I went in Thursday, the day after, and it was our first prayer meeting after three long days and we were all kind of tired. On Thursday, though, there were fifty people in the first three rows ready to go. We were definitely tired; no one was pretending otherwise. We were all tired, but beloved, it was happening. I looked at Deborah and said, "This is a miracle. Look at this. This is a miracle."

Then Friday I went to Orlando, but before I went to Orlando I slipped in. There they were at ten o'clock. Allen Hood is the leader of the Friday team, and about forty or fifty were in the first few rows. I don't know the exact number; I just peeked in but I said, "It's happening."

Today, normally on Sunday afternoon everyone is getting ready for the Sunday night meeting and this, that, and the other. There was a whole company of people there in the first four rows warring in the spirit and going for it. I said, "Lord, we're Americans! The second coming is around the corner." No, I'm just kidding! "This is truly amazing! What meaneth this?"

The Lord says, "I'm about to shift something in the spirit over you. That's why you guys are doing this. I'm going to make it not an odd thing to do."

They won't be talking about African spirituality, though I honor that concept; they'll be talking about kingdom spirituality, and all over the world they'll be doing it. Not just in Asia, Africa, and South America, but they'll be doing it all around the Western world before it's over.

Why? "Because I will meet you and I will release power." Fasting, prayer, and evangelism—those three things go together. When you say *prayer*, you have to say *prophesying* and *healings*, because that's all part of prayer. When you get those things going you have to feed the poor. You have to feed the poor. You can't have the whole picture there without feeding the poor. In the next few months we're releasing Mercy Food and Clothing. We're working on it right now. We're getting a building for it. We will be launching the healings rooms sooner rather than later; I mean, hopefully in the next three or four months we'll launch those. The prophesying teams are being put into order. The evangelism teams are being stirred up and put into order. We're planning and we're thinking about these things. We're moving forward. I say, "Lord, this is good. You're about to do something."

He says, “That’s exactly what’s going on. I’m about to do something.” It’s the shift in the spirit.

### **ANNA PRAYED IN THE TEMPLE DAY AND NIGHT FOR SIXTY YEARS**

Just one little word on Anna. One of the most amazing verses in the whole Bible is here in verse 37. She did this till she was eighty-four. I mean, she didn’t quit when she was eighty-four; that’s just when it was recorded. She might have gone on for ten more years. Beloved, stop for a minute and think about sixty years. Sixty years later there she is. I mean, when Anna was twenty-four, thirty-four, forty-four, fifty-four years old; you would check in and she would be saying, “Jesus, break through in power!” Night and day she prayed, when she was thirty-four, when she was forty-four...

The family comes to Jerusalem and says, “Let’s have a Christmas party. Lets have Thanksgiving here. Anna we can’t get her here. She’s really into this new thing she has been doing for forty years. She’s fifty-four now and it doesn’t look like she is going to wear out.”

Sixty-four, seventy-four, eighty-four, and then the *suddenly* of God comes and she beholds the God-Man in the flesh. Suddenly, the fullness of God in human form is there in front of her. Beloved, the fullness of God upon His church is coming. She had this perseverance, because she lived before this audience of One. She didn’t say, “Well, because I’ve done it this long I should get to be at that conference, and because they’re new they should be at that conference.” It wasn’t anything like that. I’m sure she had a few friends and I’m sure her friends couldn’t have cared less. They’re not mentioned. I just know the Lord enough to know, and I know humans enough to know that the Lord gave her a few friends. She couldn’t have made it without a few friends. There was undoubtedly a little company of women through the years. Maybe that company changed, maybe after ten or twenty years one of them moved on or something, but I have no doubt that there was a little company with Anna. Unbelievable! This is fantastic!

### **GOD IS TRAINING US TO LIVE WITH A HEART OF ANNA**

She lived before an audience of One. Beloved, God is training us to live with a heart of Anna. We want to do all the forms of prayer, healing, worship, prophesying, all of them—the quiet, the silent prayer, all the forms of prayer. We want to do fasting and we want to speak of Jesus to everyone who will listen to us. Then we’ll feed the poor. All kinds of things are happening.

### **THE LORD IS SUMMONING THE SIMEONS TO RISE AND TAKE THEIR PLACE**

Well, since we’re right here in Luke 2, look at verse 25, at Simeon. Simeon was one of the senior saints. “This man was just and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Lk. 2:35, paraphrased). I don’t want to go into this because I will spend a whole session it. Simeon was an elderly man, and he was eagerly watching, working, and praying for revival. There’s whole company of Simeons across the land: men and women, the senior saints, who have maybe retired from their secular employment, but God is about to “re-fire” them up for His revival purposes.

One of the things the Lord has really been stirring on my heart lately is to begin to receive His strategy to call this company of Simeons, the men and women around the nation, to stand up and enter into their place. I’ve had a few little Holy Spirit spurts in the last few years at conferences where I would take ten minutes and talk to the Simeons. I know He wants us to go from just ten minutes a few times, maybe once or twice a year. I would have all the senior saints that want to work, that want to wait for the consolation of Israel. They want to work for it; they’re eagerly working for revival. They’re believing for it. They’re doing everything they can to see it happen.

I don't mean they're all in the prayer room in the same way that Anna is. They're in all manner of waiting, and working, and watching, and praying for the move of God.

I'm just saying this as a little down payment; we'll talk about it in the months to come, but He wants us to find His strategy to call this company of Simeons, both men and women, into their place in the Body of Christ. There needs to be a clear voice, many of them across the land, that tells them that God isn't finished with them; that their best years are yet ahead and their eyes are going to see things that they never could have imagined. But that's for another day. I just wanted to bring it up, because we were right there. Simeon was staring right at me, so I thought I would talk about it for a second.

### **HANNAH PRAYED TO THE LORD AND HE GAVE HER A CHILD**

In the last few minutes here, let's go to 1 Samuel 1. We'll talk about Hannah. *Hannah* is the Hebrew name for the Greek name, *Anna*. They're the same name. This is a tremendously important passage of scripture for IHOP-KC. The Lord highlighted this in a very important way. I just want to take the last seven or eight minutes to tell you the story of how He highlighted this. This is really important. You can read the story on your own. Hannah was a barren woman who lived in Old Testament times, around 1100 BC. Again, in the New Testament, it's Anna; they're the same name. She was barren and she was in incredible anguish. She wept (1 Sam. 1:7); she was grieving (v. 8). Verse 10 speaks of her bitterness of soul, her anguish.

Beloved, the Church is barren right now. Not entirely; we do have many things to be thankful for. I don't want to be so aware of our barrenness that we forget to say "thank You" for the measure. We always want to say "thank You" for the measure—always! Great things have happened in our city in the last fifty years. There are a thousand congregations in the Kansas City area. There are places over in the ten-forty window where there aren't a thousand congregations in a city this size. It's amazing! It's a miracle! There are a thousand congregations, and even more, who name the name of Jesus with a gathering of people every single week. They say, "Jesus." That's awesome! I don't look at that and say, "Oh, that's nothing."

The Lord says, "Go look at other places of the earth. I have more for you, but say 'Thank You' for all that I've done in the last fifty to a hundred years in this city." We want to be thankful for what the forefathers in the spirit have given us in this city; for what we have inherited.

At the same time now, compared to what God wants, we're barren. In verses 7-10, we see anguish, bitterness, and grief; and it doesn't really begin to touch you until you understand what God wants for this city and this nation. When you get God's vision for the city and the nation, then the pain starts. You say, "If that's God's plan, then what's happening here?" We never want to be angry about the smallness. We can be burdened and bitter until the birthing comes.

### **THROUGH INTERCESSION, ANNA HELPED BIRTH A SHIFT IN THE SPIRIT**

This is the Hannah of the Old Testament, and she has the same anguish as the Anna of the New Testament. The Hannah of the Old Testament birthed a child named Samuel, a prophetic child. The Anna of the New Testament birthed in the spirit what was a part of the coming of the Lord. She was part of the spiritual participation with the Lord sending His own Son. This little gal was twenty-four years old. Now we're going back to Anna in the New Testament. She was widowed. She had been married to this man for seven years. She liked him, and she said, "Oh, this is the man I want to spend my life with." Boom! Suddenly, he was gone. Instead of going one way she threw her being the other way, into God. For the next sixty years she became a handmaiden of the

Lord. The Lord said, “I will use you, Anna, for something far beyond your namesake in the Old Testament, Hannah. She birthed a prophetic child. You will birth in spirit; you will do part of My purpose in bringing forth a new shifting.”

Talk about a shift in the spirit! Beloved, do you think the God-Man stepping into human history was a shift in the spirit? There was a major shift in the economy of God in the world. The Son of God is now in a manger; He has flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity. Beloved, there was a shift in the spirit, and this little lady who was a heartbroken widow at twenty-four, heartbroken in love, was now eighty-four with a sixty-year legacy of the fire of God. There was a shift in the spirit, and the God-Man came.

Beloved, we have the same thing happening in principle. He is coming! The God-Man is coming again in clouds with glory with the armies of heaven, but He’s coming when the Church is in fiery intercession crying out as a Bride, “Come!” Whether it’s worship, prayer, or intercession, “Come!” It will happen worldwide, in all the nations. There will be millions in China because of the leadership of Andrew and Miriam. God has given them that role. All over Latin America, all over Africa, they’ll be crying, “Come!” Prayer is becoming high and fiery with a new level of authority. He’s going to come again like He did in Anna’s day but not as a babe in a manger. He’s coming, though—radical, stunning! A shift in the spirit is coming in the big sense. I want to be a part of it. I want to be caught up either way it goes. I don’t want to be caught up; I want to be a part of the Anna dimension ahead of time. Simeon may not have had the same manifestation of the prayer life that Anna had, but Simeon was critical in it. He was working hard, and he was devout. He was working and watching for the visitation of God. We’ll call it *revival*.

### **THE REVIVAL WILL BE LED BY THE YOUNG AND THE POOR**

Anyway, let’s go back to the Old Testament. Here’s Hannah again. She was barren. Verse 11 is probably the most important verse in this chapter, Hannah made a vow. She said, “Lord, here’s how it will go: You give me this child; You give me revival.” I’m going to put it into twenty-first century language, into our setting. “Lord, You give us revival and we will give it back to You,” number one. Number two: the revival is going to be a youth revival. I mean, there are going to be many senior saints getting saved, but because of the sheer numbers of the human race, it has to be youth and it has to be the poor. Why? Because the majority of people on the planet are young and poor. It’s not because God loves youth more; but there are so many of them on the earth compared to all the other ages. A youth revival is coming. The Lord has called us to work together and preach Jesus to everyone who will hear, but the harvest is going to be young people, ages ten, twelve, fourteen, seventeen, and eighteen years old. They’re coming in. They’ll be coming in by the millions. They’ll be coming into the kingdom of God worldwide. There will be a billion coming in before it’s over. The Lord says in our little portion of it, “I want you to give this thing back to Me.” There are massive ramifications to that; we looked at it at the staff meeting and I don’t want to go into it now. Giving it back to Him: there was a vow, and we made that vow on May 7. We all came together for about a half an hour and we committed ourselves in the spirit to this.

### **THE NAZARITE VOW: LIVING A LIFE OF UNIQUE ABANDONMENT BEFORE GOD**

Number two: she said he would have a Nazirite vow. She vowed that no razor would come upon him, and that meant she would raise him as a Nazirite. Of course, the most famous Nazirite of the Bible was John the Baptist. What Hannah the barren woman does with Samuel is what Elizabeth does with John the Baptist. It’s a similar story. Elizabeth was a barren woman who had a baby. He was dedicated as a Nazirite. The Lord is saying, “I

want you to promise that the revival will be Mine, and, number two, I want you to promise that you'll raise the offspring like a Nazirite."

We don't mean we'll take them all back to Number 6 and teach them not to cut their hair. That's not what I mean. Being a Nazirite meant being uniquely separated. Even out of all Israel, they had a unique abandonment to God. I'm not saying, "Don't shave." Maybe they won't. Maybe one will and the other won't. I don't care about that part. What I want is the spiritual principle, the abandonment. That's what God raised up with Lou Engle, who is calling young people all over the world. He'll be with me in Germany, or I'll be with him in Germany. We'll be talking to young people, and he'll be calling them to an abandonment unique in history. Not to be better than the man down the road today, but to forget the last 1,000 years and move on into something that hasn't been normal for the last 1,000 years of church history, a unique abandonment.

### **THE NAZIRITE AND THE SHULAMITE MUST COME TOGETHER**

Beloved, we have committed to raise offspring. We'll teach them that fasting and prayer is normal, not something extraordinary. We'll train them up as Nazirites in principle. Again, I'm not talking about the various Numbers 6 details of the Nazirite; I'm talking about the unique dedication. We'll teach them at fourteen, sixteen, and eighteen years old that fasting and prayer is totally normal for someone who loves Jesus to do; to prophesy and move in the spirit, to command demons to leave, and to evangelize. The Lord says, "I want you to raise them up as Nazirites."

Lou Engle got a word. Chris Berglund and Lou Engle have been best buddies for the last twenty-plus years. They had this whole series of prophetic dreams that are really fascinating. The sum of it is that the Lord told Lou through Chris—through the Lord, to Lou—you know, they get all mixed up together there—that the Nazirite and the Shulamite have to come together, that the message of the Song of Solomon, the Shulamite, and the Nazirite, radical dedication, must come together. What Gary Weins just said about Taiwan was that some of them were saying intercession by itself, being the Nazirite, being the fiery, radical, dedicated intercessor, without the Shulamite, without the intimacy, the energizing of our spirits through active intimacy with God, isn't going to work. It's that energizing of our inner man that comes through the message of the Bridegroom. We're committed to raising them as Shulamites and Nazirites.

I tell you, this man Samuel came forth in chapter 3. Just read chapters 2 and 3 and you'll get the whole story. He came forth prophesying. In chapter 3:19-21, God established him as a prophet in all the land. "None of his words [fell] to the ground" (1 Sam. 3:19); that means he was 100 percent accurate. What a statement! That's a staggering thing. I mean, that's amazing.

In 1983, we started the church here. We had a twenty-one day fast in May of 1983, at this very time nineteen years ago. Well, actually it was before May; it was in March when I first met Bob. It had to be the first day, because then I didn't see him for a few weeks. I remember the first day I met Bob, I thought, "This is the strangest experience I've ever had in my life." Then I didn't see him for a while and it was a few weeks till I talked to him again. It had to be the first day, because right when I met him, he said, "1 Samuel 1"; he said, "That's your history and that's your story."

He talked about 1st Samuel 1 half a dozen times, that there was this Hannah, this intercessor, bitter of soul, and she birthed a prophetic baby. Bob Jones said he saw a banner over me the very first day I met him. He said, "I

saw a banner over you and this banner is your future. It was written by the finger of God, with the words *prophetic* and *intercession*.”

I said, “Prophetic! I don’t even know anything about that.” I had read one book by Kenneth Hagin on prophecy and to be honest I didn’t even fully understand it. I said, “I don’t know anything about the prophetic. I like intercession; I’ve read a bunch of books about that, and I’m into that.” I said, “I don’t know anything about the prophetic. I’ve only read one little booklet about it.”

He said to me, “It doesn’t matter. That’s your whole future, prophetic and intercession.” He said, “1 Samuel 1: you’ll be that intercession.” He didn’t mean just me personally, although I will partake of it personally. He said, “God is going to raise up a people who have the intercession of Hannah”—which is Anna—“and God is going to bring forth a prophetic anointing that produces a harvest like unto David.” Because Samuel the prophet, the little baby prophet, grew up and became the one who released David.

Bob Jones said, “God’s purpose is to raise up a praying people who release the prophetic anointing and it results in an offspring, in a youth revival that has a heart like David, a whole army of Davids all over the world who love God like David did.”

I said, “Wow! OK, I’ve never heard anyone talk that way. That was odd.” I liked the intercession part. I didn’t get the prophetic part.

Then here it was, nineteen years later; it was the third birthday of IHOP-KC, May 7, 2002. The whole team was there on Tuesday; we were all fasting and praying. We were all there, and Rhonda Calhoun had a dream. Most of you were there. She said, “The Lord spoke to me in a dream last night and said, ‘1 Samuel 1.’” I’m just going to paraphrase, because we’ve only got two or three minutes left here. She said, “1 Samuel 1 is about Hannah the intercessor and the prophetic Samuel.”

I thought, “Rhonda’s been around for the last eight to ten years, but this prophecy from Bob Jones came twenty years ago.” I asked her, “Do you know anything about that?”

Bob Jones talked about the Samuel prophecy a bunch in the early days. As a matter of fact, we got the idea to have a piece of property named *Shiloh* because of this passage of Scripture. Samuel was raised at Shiloh. We called it *Shiloh* in the original vision statement in 1983. Shiloh is where the young people learned to prophesy because of intercession. All of that’s written down in the papers from 1983. I was looking through some papers some time ago and just smiling and thinking, “Oh, man that was a long time ago.”

And here’s Rhonda Calhoun, almost twenty years later, telling me the Lord had told her, “1 Samuel 1.”

I talked to her and said, “Did you know about this?”

She said, “No, I knew nothing about this.”

This is really what God is doing. There’s a shift in the spirit. The shift in the spirit is that He’s about to release the prophetic. A funny little thing happened this weekend. I love these kisses; I don’t want to minimize them, nor do I want to make them too big of a deal. I was in Orlando Friday night and Saturday at the house of a

friend. I was sitting there on Saturday morning talking to them and the lady had her Bible open. She has one of those NIV Tyndale “through the Bible in one year” Bibles. I was sitting there, and what’s today? It’s May 12th so I guess yesterday would have been May 11th. I said, “Hey, how are you doing? Oh, you’ve got your Bible open to May 7.” It was the Tyndale Bible where every day has the date on it and it goes through the Bible in one year. I said, “Why May 7?”

She said, “Oh, we had a lot going on and I left off on May 7.”

I said, “Oh, interesting. May 7 is a really special day for us. What passage of Scripture is May 7?”

I looked over at the reading and it was 1 Samuel 1. She said, “Oh, it’s about Samuel and Hannah. It’s really neat; it’s about an intercessor and the prophetic.”

I said, “That was nice, Lord.” I was a little tired getting on the airplane and I thought that was just a nice little kiss.

She said, “Yes, it’s a really important story. Here it is on May 7; it’s about Hannah and Samuel.” She said, “You know all about that, about David.”

I said, “Yes, I know the story. I’ve read that chapter before.”

### **THE PROPHETIC BIRTHS INTERCESSION; INTERCESSION BIRTHS THE PROPHETIC**

I’ll end with this. It’s more than a corporate anointing to have a company of people who are going to give themselves to intercession and birthing the prophetic. The prophetic births intercession and intercession births the prophetic. It’s the chicken and the egg: which come first? Who knows? I know one thing: that intercession launches a prophetic anointing, but it’s more than a whole bunch of us entering into fiery prayer, anointed prophesy, and a shift in the spirit. There are a whole bunch of children like Samuel.

Bob Jones used to say, “It’s not just a corporate anointing”; he would always talk about Dominion Christian School as his bank account. He said, “There’s going to be a whole company of little boys and girls who enter into this thing.” He said, “It’s not figurative, it’s not a corporate type and shadow.

There will be Samuels who are ten and twelve, who are five and eight and fifteen, who come right out of the loins of these promises.”

I remember I used to think, “Wow! That’s really something.”

He said, “I don’t care what you old people do. I like the elementary school because that’s where the future is with God.”

When the Lord sent Lenny and Tracy here with a mandate in the spirit, it’s not just that they love children; it’s not just that they’re good with them. It’s more than that. They have a commission; they have authority from heaven in the realm of children. That’s different than just loving children or being good at it, or being organized and efficient. They have an authority that God gave them as gift, and then God sent them here. I said, “Lenny, what this means is massive.”

Beloved, we're seeing people, little Truman and Jonathan Hamil, and all kinds of little guys and gals. I can name eight or nine who are eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve years old, and they're beginning to touch the beginning of this Samuel thing. It's not just that the twenty-, thirty-, forty-, and fifty-year olds, that whole gang, are entering into it both figuratively and even literally. It's that ten-year olds are going to slip into this thing by the sovereignty of God. I'm looking across this, and already a few of them are breaking forth.

You know, Truman was talking and Jonathan and some of the little gals got on the microphone. I was talking to someone and they said, "Oh, that was so neat."

I said, "No, that's not the right word. *Neat* isn't the right word. I don't mind that you said it but that's not the right word." It's *profound*. They have authority. It's profound. It's not cute; it's not neat; it's real! This thing came from heaven.

Amen. Let's stand.

### **MINISTRY TIME**

I just wanted to splash in the water a little. That felt really good. Happy birthday to us!

O Lord, we love You. O Lord, we're excited about the shift in the spirit. We say, "Yes, we're in." Lord, we love it; we're weak and broken human beings, Americans with no heritage to do this. No one in the generation before us told us this was the normal will of God. We discovered it and wrestled with it. We thought it was radical, we thought it was bizarre, and now we're finding out that it's historical, normal Christianity. They're doing it all over the world. God, thank You for remembering us. We want to go there. God, I ask You for all the little Samuels, the little eight- and ten-year olds.

I want to ask all the parents who have twelve-year olds or under if you have something stirring your heart. I don't mean that you thought about this once, but you have something in your being about your child moving in this. Maybe they're twelve or thirteen; I want you to come on up here. We want to pray for you. We want to pray that the real, little Samuel—not just symbolically—comes forth. We want to pray that real Samuels come forth. If you've got something and you say, "You know, when this little girl or boy was in the womb, or when they were two, there was this moment where it touched me and I said, 'Hey, this is real.' I dedicated them to the Lord, but more than that, I think they'll move in this." If you're actively working together with them for this, I want to pray with you.

Oh, little Cassie, she gets on that microphone and it's amazing. Little Cassie gave me a tape and said, "Mike Bickle, here's a tape. I need it back by tomorrow because I'm going on a trip."

I said, "OK, OK."

She said, "I want my grandmother to hear it."

I said, "What is it?"

She said, "You have to hear this tape. I did it. I prayed harp-and-bowl intercession." Dead serious, she said, "I have to have it back by tomorrow because we're going out of town."

I said, “OK, OK I’ll give it back to you.”

She said, “Listen to it!”

I said, “I will; I will. I promise.”

An hour later she said, “Did you hear it?”

I said, “Cassie, I was sitting in the prayer room.”

She said, “Go hear it right now.”

I went out in the car and heard it. I did. I said, “Man, with authority like that...” There she was on the tape praying, “Jesus, I want them to be saved! I want dreams and visions!” She was going for it.

I gave it back and she said, “What do you think?”

I said, “I’ll talk to Nick Syrett and we’ll get you in the studio.” No, I said, “Cassie, this is real.” The exciting thing is, it didn’t dawn on her that it wasn’t. She didn’t say, “I know.” It was like, “OK, so give me something new.” It was so real to her that this was real.

Amen. Let’s just wait on the Lord for a minute. Lord, we’re serious about this. Lord, I thank You for the Talmage girls and the Crowell girls and all these ones who have been so there, so given. There are so many. Lord, we ask You, we ask You. I think of little Abby Bennett. I think of the fire in that little girl’s spirit—the fire in Abigail. There’s a real fire there. Lord, this is Your gift to IHOP-KC. This is the real deal. Here we are, Lord; we ask for the children. Lord, we want to raise them; we want to believe You for them to break through. We want to do our work and we want them to do their work together for the breakthrough for the next generation.

Lord, we ask for these little ones who are just one and two years old. Some are even still in the womb. Lord, we ask for the little ones yet in the womb. Lord, I pray for Jason and Trish, this little one that has been conceived. Bring forth a little Samuel, a little prophetic child. Bring it forth, Lord.

Lord, we take our stand; we want to be Hannahs, we want to be Annas, we want to be Simeons. We want to labor in fasting and prayer. We want a shift in the spirit for a prophetic company of five-year olds and eighty-year olds to come forth in this place.