

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL HUNGER – MIKE BICKLE

Transcript: 11/28/81

Developing Spiritual Hunger, Part 4

INTRODUCTION

I want you to take these verses and I want you to study them. I haven't shared these four messages because I like hearing myself talk. There's a burden in my heart, in my spirit, that I want to communicate to this people. It's this right here. Here are the points that I've made, one, two, three. You won't find them one, two, three on the notes. I can only give you a very brief sketch of what we've talked about in the last three to four sessions. If you're interested, we have everything on tape.

I'm going to briefly review everything we've looked at. I've made it very clear with many scriptures that it was God's desire, it was God's purpose, and that God is willing to give Himself totally to His people. God is willing to give His power, His authority, and all of the privileges that He gave His own Son. He gave those things to His people to the measure of the stature that belongs to Jesus Christ. There's no power that God gave Jesus that He's not making available to His people. There's no privilege that God gave His own Son that He's not making available to the people in South County Fellowship. There's no authority that Jesus has that He hasn't shared with us. We're sons of God in the full sense of the word. It's a very difficult thing to grasp with our minds. It's a very difficult thing to cultivate in our spirits: the knowledge that we are as He was in the world (1 Jn. 4:17). You don't have that one, so write that one down in your notes. As He is, so are we in the world: in the same way that Jesus walked the earth, with the same privilege, the same authority, the same position of sonship. God has given that to His people.

I really want to go into that, but I've talked enough for three solid weeks, and you've heard it many, many times. Ephesians 3:19 becomes the focal verse of the whole series here. God desires that we might be literally filled up to all the fullness of God. Colossians 2:9 says that Jesus was filled with the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:19 tells us that it was God's intention and desire. We're not twisting His arm; God is the One who came up with the whole plan, that His people would be filled up to the fullness of God; that we would walk in that fullness in terms of power, in terms of character, in terms of glory.

Now the knowledge that such glory is awaiting us, that God has made available a tremendous glory for us to experience, motivates us to want more of God. That's not something that condemns us, but it motivates us to want to go sit before God, to wait in His presence, that we might be a people who literally, literally live up to the fullness of God. Now how many of you want to live up? Don't be charismatic; you have to say yes to this thing. Do you believe that God's desire is for us to live in the fullness of God? All that there is of God, that He gave to His Son, He wants to give to this fellowship right now, to us as individuals.

I want to ask you this. Is the fear of God coursing through your heart when you say that? OK, that was the first point. It's the privilege that all the devils desire. It's the privilege that Lucifer, the highest archangel, sought to take by force, and it condemned him to hell, and God gave it to us as a gift. The devil wanted it with all his might. He wanted the status that God gave us as a gift. As a matter of fact, not only did He give it to us as a gift, but He pursued us, ran us down, got us into a corner, and revealed His Son to us, and He says, "I have glory to give you now. I have the fullness of Myself to give to you. The devil lost his eternal standing because of it, and I'm giving it to you as a gift."

GOD IS NOT RELUCTANT TO GIVE HIMSELF TO ANY SOUL THAT SEEKS HIM

Now, I want to say this. This is good news. This is the gospel. The devil has told us a lie, and it's just the opposite of what I'm saying here. It's this point right here. God is not reluctant to give Himself fully to any soul that seeks Him. Let me say that again. Father God is not reluctant. He's not resistant; He's not unwilling to give Himself fully to the soul that seeks Him with all its heart. It's just the opposite. God is desirous to give Himself to people who don't even want Him. Sometimes we come before God in prayer, and we say, "Oh God, oh God." We have the attitude that we have to sort of twist His arm to get Him to give us something.

He says: "No, no, you've got it all wrong. I had to pursue you and knock you upside the head to get sense in you to let you know that I'm trying to give it to you. From the day you were born I've been seeking to share My life with you fully."

GOD LONGS TO REVEAL HIMSELF AND MANIFEST HIS LIFE THROUGH US

So turn to Hebrews 11. I know you're in James 4, but that's OK. Go to Hebrews 11. You're right next door to it. Go a few pages towards Genesis 1. This is all basic and I've got to get through this because this isn't my point. This is all summing up what I've shared in detail. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6). I've defined the fullness of God as this, that God wants to reveal Himself to us and then manifest His life through us. First He wants to reveal to us His character. He wants to show us His love, His holiness, His glory, His wisdom. God wants us to behold Him as a person beholds another person. He wants us to become aware of the power that dwells within us. So He first reveals Himself and His power to us, and then He turns around and desires to manifest it through us. The very character of God that He reveals to us, He wants to express through our own lives. The power that He lets us know dwells in our spirits, God desires that it be manifested through our flesh. Then, when we lay hands on people, the power that dwells in us will flow out of us into people's bodies. It will cause disease to leave people's bodies. It will cause demonic holds to be broken over people. The very countenance of our face, as we live in the presence of God, brings the knowledge of God everywhere we go (2 Cor. 3:18). We've read it many times; we've studied it in detail. God desires to do this.

A burden of my heart is this. I still believe, although I've said it a thousand times, that some of you, deep in your spirit, aren't convinced that God is willing. You still believe because of some reasoning in your religious education or a lie from the devil that God isn't willing to give Himself fully to you. The reason we don't believe it is because we've never seen it. Isn't that right? When I look around Christendom, when I look around Christianity, I don't see very many people living in the fullness of God. I can't count very many people, myself included, who are expressing and manifesting the life of God in the way the Word of God describes. So we've gotten used to a low standard. Our standard is way too low.

God said, "I will reward you according to My Word." When you come before God and you seek Him, you must believe. You need to be convinced in your spirit, in your heart. Your spirit and your heart are the same thing. You need to be convinced that God is willing and that He's determined to bless the soul that comes before Him.

HUNGER IS THE ESCORT TO THE DEEPER THINGS OF GOD

OK, that's point one: God desires to do it. He's not reluctant. Here's the second point: God only gives Himself to the hungry. I've gone in great detail and explained it for many verses on all the tapes. God doesn't give Himself to the passive soul. You were passive before you got saved. Before you met God you couldn't care less about God, and God sought you and won you and gave His Son to you. From that day forward He says, "You

don't get revelation of Me, and you won't realize the power that's in you, and you won't manifest My life through you, unless you get hungry and desperate to receive from Me."

Remember Matthew 5:6. We studied it in detail. God gives to the hungry. It's the law of God. If anything in the Word of God becomes the supreme cry of your heart, if it becomes the supreme issue of which your life is concerned, if you say, "God, I've set everything aside; I want knowledge of God. Father, I want to manifest the life and the power of God through my human vessel"; when the day comes that that becomes the supreme issue of your life, you hunger and you thirst to manifest God into understanding in your spirit, then you'll receive that manifestation of God in your life. You'll receive that revelation only when you get hungry.

The passive soul will die. I'm not saying it will go to hell. I've been a passive Christian, too, so let's not all assume that all of us are passive. I say, "That poor brother, I wish he was here tonight, because he's passive." I'm suggesting that all of us have a small amount of passivity in us. I mean that, and we have to root it out of us. We have to be people who hunger in our spirit for the knowledge of God and the knowledge of His power that dwells in us so that it will be manifested through us.

That was the second point I made. In Matthew 7:7, Jesus tells us to keep knocking; God says, "If you're persistent, you'll receive knowledge of God." In Matthew 11:12, we talked about how the violent take it by force. It's the violently aggressive man who gets hold of God. I want to read something from a book. We've gone into all those things in detail. I love doing this stuff!

How many of you have ever heard of Charles Parham? Raise your hands. See, you've heard of him. He led the Azusa Street Revival. He was one of the teachers in it. In 1906, the great Azusa Street Revival began in Los Angeles. That's where the charismatic movement was given its birth. The whole Pentecostal movement started in 1906 in Los Angeles on the street called Azusa, in a little mission there. There were two main men involved, a man named Charles Parham and another man named William Seymour. William Seymour was a black man; Charles Parham was a white man. He was a teacher from Memphis. God led them both to go down there. This is the story.

I've mentioned that John G. Lake is my new hero. He hung around with these men. Brother Gene, you're just liable to be my hero if you don't watch out. Harry was my last hero, but when he ditched the basket, I gave up on him. He swore publicly he would never forsake the club. He forsook all his brothers and I said, "I'm not falling anymore." So I've got a new hero, John Lake. We'll just see how things develop between you and me.

OK, verse thirteen—I mean, page thirteen, because you don't have the page. It says, "Later, Brother Parham was preaching in Texas. A black man by the name of Seymour came into one of his meetings. Parham was relating his experience . . . There was very deep plunder in that black man's soul. At that time he worked as a waiter in a restaurant to support himself while preaching to a church of his own people. Now he knew God in a measure. He knew God as his savior. He knew God as his sanctifier. He knew the power of God to heal in a measure. But he said, 'Before I met Parham such a hunger to have more of God was burning in my heart. I prayed for five hours a day for two and a half years that God would give me more knowledge of Himself.' He went to Los Angeles to be with Charles Parham and there the hunger wasn't less, but it began to grow more and more. He prayed, 'Oh God, what can I do with such hunger in my soul for You?'"

The Spirit of God said to him clearly, “Pray more, for there are better things to be had in spiritual life, but they must be sought out with prayer and faith.”

He said, “But, Lord, I’m praying five hours a day.”

“He increased his hours of prayer to seven. He prayed for another year and a half. He prayed that God would give him what Parham preached. He prayed that He would give him the knowledge of God, that He would give him the real Holy Ghost fire and tongues and love and power, like the apostles had, like Parham had. God put such a hunger in that man’s heart that eventually, after pursuing God, the fire of God descended on his soul. I tell you, it glorified that man. I don’t believe that any other man in modern times had a more wonderful manifestation of God in his life than God gave that dear black man. The glory and the power of a real Pentecost swept the world through him.

“That black man preached to my congregation of ten thousand people. The glory and the power of God was on his spirit. Men shook for fear; they trembled. They cried to God, for God was truly in that man.

“‘Blessed are they that hunger; for they shall be filled.’ I wonder what we’re hungering for. Have we a real hunger for God? Is something in our soul crying out for more of God? If you have that hunger, God of the truth will answer you. By every law of the Word of God that men know, the answer is sure to come. It will come. Bless God, it will come in ways that you never dreamed of if you continue to pursue your hunger for God.”

Now, that may be an exaggerated testimony of a man who hungered for God. I like how John Lake describes it. He says, “And he hungered for God and God glorified that man’s spirit.” He got such a wonderful vision of God because he hungered a little. I don’t know how many of you hunger that way. I’m not hungering in that degree, but I tell you one thing: I want to hunger like that. I mean that; I’m not just saying that. I know some of you, you want to hunger like that. God will meet the hungry man.

I’ve got another testimony. I like these testimonies. I read these things, I run downstairs and tell my brother. I say, “Matt, look at this.” I read to him, go up, read it to Diane, call Will on the phone, and read it to him. “Come over here! Tell Al. Run and tell Harry! Tell the secretary.” These are great stories.

JOHN G. LAKE: A MAN WHO RADICALLY HUNGERED FOR THE FULLNESS OF GOD

This is John G. Lake. Some of you never even heard of John G. Lake. I never heard of him until about a month ago; so I don’t think that’s any big condemnation. This man had one of the most wonderful, powerful healing ministries America has ever known. When he was in one church for five years in Washington, 100,000 healings were reported in that five-year period. He had about 20,000 people in his church. He went to that church for five years, and one of the senators said that that one’s man presence changed the whole city. This is a man hungry for God. When he was in Africa, he raised a handful of folks from the dead and did all kinds of things, you know. There was a tremendous manifestation of God’s power through him. I want to read a little of his own testimony. He’s talking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He’s not talking about spiritual hunger.

Boy, when I read this I said, “Ooh, yes, yes, yes, God.” We will be people who are violently going to get hold of God, and God is going to fill our souls with the knowledge of God. We will be filled with the knowledge of the power that dwells in us. Then after our soul has that revelation to the fullness, we will begin to manifest it everywhere we go. But God gives it to the hungry soul. God doesn’t give it to the passive soul. I’m not trying to

condemn anyone; I'm trying to tell you there's glory that awaits the soul that hungers for God when it becomes the supreme hunger that drives his life. If God is a blessing to you and you enjoy meetings and worshiping and you like tongues, and you even like my preaching, well, God bless you. But that's not going to get the manifestation of God in your spirit and through you. It has to become the paramount, supreme issue that drives your life if you want the fullness that God has made available.

Now, not everyone wants the fullness. I happen to be one who does want the fullness. I know that many of you want the fullness. I know that most of you do, so that makes a majority; so the minority is outvoted. The church wants the fullness of God. We will have it, and I'm not just being positive; I'm preaching from the conviction in my soul. This body of people is going to hunger for God. He's going to meet us, and there's going to be a manifestation of God everywhere we go. I'm not just psyching you up, believe me. That's the condition of my spirit.

“I COULD . . . FEEL THE CONSCIOUS FLOW OF GOD’S SPIRIT THROUGH MY SOUL”

OK, I don't want to go into all the details. He got saved when he was sixteen. When he was twenty years old, he learned about victory over sin. Then he goes on. When he was about twenty-two or twenty-three, he got baptized in the Spirit. So I'll take it up from there. He says, “It was a beautiful anointing of the Spirit which came on my life. At that point in time, the ministry of healing was opened up to me. I ministered for ten years in the power of God.” So at twenty-two he got the baptism of the Spirit and saw many people healed. Hundreds and hundreds of people were healed by the power of God during those ten years.

“I could actually feel the conscious flow of God’s Spirit through my soul and through my hands when I laid my hands on people at that time.” Sounds pretty good! Beautiful anointing, healing hundreds of people; he could consciously feel the flow of God’s Spirit when he ministered. When he laid hands on people, he could feel it leave his hands. Some of you have felt that. I know what that feels like. You lay hands on someone and feel the presence of God leave you. That’s a real thing. The Spirit of God is in you, and God releases it and manifests it through us. That’s the reason you can feel it leaving.”

“I BECAME THE HUNGRiest MAN FOR GOD THAT I BELIEVE EVER LIVED”

“At the end of that ten years, I became the hungriest man for God that I believe ever lived.” Good thing he was living in that decade. “There was such a hunger for God in my soul that I left my offices in Chicago.” He was a very, very prosperous businessman. “I began to walk down the street. My soul would break out and I would cry on the street as I was walking, ‘O God, O God, I must have more of You.’ People would stop. They would look at me and they would wonder what was happening in my soul. It was a yearning passion of my soul. I was asking and pleading for God that He would give me a greater measure of Himself than I've ever known before. My friends would seek to comfort me. They would say: ‘Mr. Lake, what's the problem? You have such a beautiful anointing and baptism in the Spirit. Look at you. Many people are healed under your ministry.’”

“‘Yes,’ I said, ‘that’s nice as far as those things go.’ But it wouldn’t answer the cry of my heart. I was groaning in my spirit. I needed a larger understanding of God. My soul had a greater need of God than that. My soul”—oh, I love this—“was demanding an entrance into God, into His love, into His presence, into His power in a greater measure.” Let me read that again: “My soul demanded a greater entrance into God, into His love, His presence, His power in a greater measure.”

“MY LIFE BEGAN TO MANIFEST . . . A VARIED RANGE OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT”

He goes on: “Then one day an old man stole into my office. He sat down. He spoke with me, and then in the next half hour that man revealed more of the knowledge of God to my soul than I had ever known before. I suddenly said, ‘God, bless that man.’ That man knew more of God than any man I’ve ever met in my life. By the grace of God, I said, ‘If that’s what the full baptism of the Spirit with tongues does, I will possess everything that man has.’

“Oh, the wonder of God that was then revealed to my spirit! I went into prayer. I went into much fasting. I went into waiting on God. For a period of nine months I sought God with an absolute intensity. One day it came: the glory of God and a new manifestation. He descended upon my life. It was a new incoming of God to my life. When the phenomenon had passed, the glory of what had happened remained in my soul. I found my life began to manifest from that day forward a varied range of the gifts of the Spirit. I spoke in tongues with a new power. God flowed through me with a whole new force. Healings were present, but of a much more powerful order. Oh, God truly lives in me. God was manifesting His life through me in a new way.

“God spoke to me with power . . . I had a new comprehension of God, a new discernment of the Spirit. A new revelation of God filled my spirit. My nature became so sensitive that I could lay hands on any man or any woman and I could tell what organ was diseased in the body, to what extent, and I could tell all about it. I began to test this wonder. I went into hospitals where physicians couldn’t diagnose a case.” And then he goes on and explains more about it. He would lay his hands on the patient, and instantly he knew the organ, where it was diseased, its extent, condition, and location.

“I WONDERED AT THE LOVE THAT BEGAN TO FILL MY HEART”

I’ll read a little more. “Then I went to South Africa. One night God came over my life with such power again. There were streams of liquid glory and power that flowed consciously off of my hands like streams of electricity.” Many people verify this, and I’ve read a lot about this man. “I would point my finger at a man, and the stream would strike him. A man interrupted the meeting one time. I pointed my finger at him and said, ‘In the name of Jesus, sit down!’ He fell as if he was struck and he lay there for three hours. When he became normal, they asked him what happened. He said: ‘Something struck through me. It went straight through me like I was shot.’

At 2:00am, the meeting ended. He ministered to sixty-five people who were present. “The streams of God were flowing through my hands so powerfully, people would fall as though they were hit. I was troubled at first because they fell with such violence. The Spirit told me, ‘You have no need to worry. You’re to put your hands on them. Keep your hands at a distance,’ and when I held my hand a foot from their head, they would come to form heaps on the floor.” They were healed instantly, all of them at one time. That was the outward manifestation. That’s what the people saw.

Well, beloved, something far greater transpired in his heart. “God began to make my soul like the soul of His Son, the Lord Jesus. I found a new tenderness, a newborn tenderness of God that filled my heart. It reached out and I cried and I wept over men that were in sin. I wondered at the love that began to fill my heart. I would rather have them in my arms and love them. As the love of Jesus flowed out of me, it began to deliver people. During that period of time, men would walk down the aisle. They would come within ten feet of me, I would look at them, and they would fall prostrate one on top of the other. One unsaved preacher came to a meeting. He

looked at me; I looked at him. He fell flat on his face prostrate. He got saved, baptized in the Spirit, walked out of there and stirred the nation with his message of the love of God.”

A CRY IN THE SOUL FOR A GREATER CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD

“In eighteen months God raised up 100 churches in that land. Those 100 churches were born right at my church in Johannesburg, South Africa.” Altogether he was there for five years. The multitude of those who comprised these 100 churches were saved, healed, and baptized with the Spirit right in his own church. “I continued in the ministry of healing. I saw hundreds of thousands healed, but my heart kept saying, ‘O God, I want more of You.’” His heart yearned for more of God. “There was still a cry in my soul for . . . a greater consciousness of God, a yearning to be filled more fully with His life and His love.”

“YOUR HEART WILL BE SATISFIED ONE DAY IF YOU YEARN FOR HIM”

Remember, he had moved to Spokane, Washington. During the first six months he was there, God, in a new way, satisfied the deep cry of his heart. He came in. John’s mind was open. He wrote, “My spirit understood in a fresh way the revelation of God and who He was. I was able to tell of God and talk out of a depth of my heart that I had never been able to discuss before. God opened up a new depth in my spirit. He revealed new possibilities of manifesting His life through me. Beloved, pray through. Pray through for your church. Pray through for the world. Oh, believe me, God will come. God will come with greater power than your eyes have ever beheld. God will come with waves of heavenly love and sweetness, and, blessed be God, your heart will be satisfied one day if you yearn for Him.

“How are you going to get Him? I totally abandoned my soul of everything and gave myself to Him. I abandoned my soul to God, and I would spend much time before Him in prayer and in the Word, praying much in the Holy Ghost. I discarded all known selfishness that I knew of in my heart. When a man enters into dry seasons that way, he truly enters into life anew.”

Spiritual hunger. Does that do something to you? I tell you, I’ve been reading the testimonies and the lives of people who have experienced the fullness of God, but when I read those, I’m spoiled. I’m not happy with anything I see anywhere. I look at what’s happening here, even seeing two or three people get saved at every meeting—sometimes four or five. I say: “God, there are a half a million people in South County. Two or three isn’t going to do it. We need to see hundreds at a time getting saved. We get one or two people healed in their body; we need the power of God flowing through our bodies in a whole new way.” I said, “God, I understand Your love in a certain measure, but my spirit yearns and longs for a greater understanding of God.” And I know that you do, too. And we have to go after God and pursue these things. We have to get hold of God.

“DRAW NEAR TO GOD, AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU”

Point one: God gives Himself willingly. Point two: He gives Himself only to the hungry. That’s the law of God. I’m sorry, there’s no other way. He only gives Himself to the man who yearns for Him. Point three: you’ve got to stir yourself up to get hungry in God. I’ve gone into great detail on that. Point four: God will respond. He’ll respond. We went into great detail on Sunday. I showed you the verses in James 4: James 4:6, 8, and 10. God promises to respond when you get hungry.

He talks about the whole dilemma of being discouraged because God doesn’t always come and manifest Himself right away. One brother spent five hours a day for two years praying, and seven hours a day for another year and a half.

You said, “I don’t have that kind of time.”

Well, not everyone does, and you probably will never have a manifestation of God like that man. He only led the Pentecostal revival throughout the world. I mean, give yourself a break. God said the fullness of God is the limit. God said He was giving His glory. He was going to bring His Church into glory. That’s what God said. When you get discouraged, here’s the point. When you get discouraged, take James 4:6, 8, 10. We’ve outlined it; we discussed it on Sunday. Speak those words to your soul. God said He’ll draw near to the man who draws near to God.

When I get discouraged, I say, “God.” I walk around this way. I say: “Father God, in Jesus’ name, in the name of Jesus, Your Word says You’ll draw near to me. I don’t care what anyone says.” The devil will lie to you. Your emotions will lie to you.

People will tell you to give up and just forget it and settle and be a respectable Christian like John Lake’s buddies tried to tell him. They said, “Brother Lake, what’s the problem? you’ve got a beautiful anointing.”

He said: “I don’t care. As far as those things go, it’s not, but I want more of God. I’ve got to set more time in His presence. I’ve got to seek Him more.”

We’ve talked about how God says, “What you sow to your spirit, you will reap in due season” (Gal. 6:8, paraphrased). I mentioned how Diane came to me, after a period of earnestly seeking God and rearranging her whole schedule, and said, “I have to have more of the Lord. I want to stir myself up. I want to put myself in a position where God will meet me and fulfill my heart with this.”

As I said before, you can’t produce zeal. The Spirit of God is the only One who can place zeal in your heart, but you can place yourself in a position where the Spirit of God will put zeal in your heart. So my goal is not to get zeal; my goal is to do the things that allow God’s Spirit to produce it in me.

She said, “I’m finding a greater hunger, but I’m not seeing any breakthroughs.”

I said, “But, Diane, it took you nine months to give birth to a child. How much more the glory of the life of God in you.” I said, “Nine months is nothing. We’re talking about bringing the life of the Lord Jesus Christ manifested through our experience. I don’t care if it takes thirty years.” It makes no difference. There’s nothing better to do anyway. It won’t take thirty years, but I don’t care if it does. I’m not talking about giving birth to a beautiful child, which is a beautiful miracle. I’m talking about bringing the life of God, the One who stepped into the Holy of Holies, the One on the throne with angels all around Him; taking that life and manifesting it through my vessel. I don’t care how long it takes; I’m not going to be discouraged. We will reap in due season: that’s what the Word of God says.

“I will draw near to you,” the Lord says. “I will exalt you if you humble yourself and spend time before Me. I do give greater grace to the man who wants it. I will satisfy the hungry. I will give to the violent. The door will be open. The man who seeks will find. The one who asks will receive.”

I've taken every one of those verses and shared them with you, because those are the verses that encouraged my soul. I speak them to myself and say, "God, it will happen." When I come before God, I believe Hebrews 11:6: He's going to reward me.

I like walking around sanctuaries; I hate sitting in offices and praying. I have to walk. One of these days, I'll be walking around our new church sanctuary, down on Limburg somewhere. I've already walked up there a few times. Brother Gene let me sneak in and try it out on a couple of Monday nights. I went up there and walked around a bit just to see if it worked. It worked out there. I said, "I just need a couple of hours. I just need to see if I can still get it, you know, and it works."

I walked around and said, "God, one of these days... one of these days, I tell you, it will happen to me." And I pray to God none of you quit until it happens to you, because I'm not. The Spirit of God is going to descend on me in a new way. More of God will be revealed in my soul than I'll ever be able to comprehend. I know it will happen. It's a matter of time. God said He would reward me if I stay hungry. He said it. He would violate Himself if He didn't do it. The power of healing is going to flow from me. The knowledge of God is going to radiate from me. I'm telling you, not in arrogance; I'm telling you as one who wants to go with a whole company of people who have made that the standard of their life. It will happen! It will happen! You can't get discouraged.

IF WE SOW BEFORE GOD, WE WILL REAP IN DUE SEASON

I remember one time I was walking around here praying; I was praying a bunch in the Holy Spirit. That's one thing I like about John G. Lake. Lake said, "I spend most of my time praying in the Holy Ghost with a request in my heart before God." Because when you pray in the Spirit, your spirit is made sensitive to God and you receive the knowledge of God that way. What you need is the knowledge of God and the knowledge of the power that's in you. When God reveals the knowledge of Himself, when that awareness dawns on your soul of God and the spirit of the power that dwells in you, then you'll manifest that same spirit everywhere.

I walked around here for two hours, praying. I didn't feel anything at all. It's terrible. Has that ever happened to any of you? It's terrible. I don't mean it was bad; it was terrible. I said, "This is terrible." That's what I said.

The devil lied to me. He said, "You're wasting your time." I mean, nothing was happening, nothing.

I said, "No, no but this comes from Your Word. We don't waste our time praying in the Spirit in our mind before God."

I didn't find any unusual distractions. Sometimes I pray and I run across these little distractions. But I was praying before God, yet nothing was lifting. God wasn't visiting me. Nothing was happening. The devil said, "You're wasting your time."

I said, "It can't be. There's no way I could have wasted my time."

I didn't feel anything. My emotions said, "You're wasting your time."

I said, "Listen, devil: I'm not wasting my time." I got so mad at the devil, I said, "I'll just pray another hour. There you go."

I prayed in the Spirit for another hour. Again, the devil said, “You’re wasting your time.”

I mean, I was bummed. I said, “Maybe I am.” I almost got discouraged and left. But then I said, “No, devil, I’m going to pray for another hour.” So I walked around and prayed for another hour.

After that was done, the devil said, “You’re still wasting your time, and nothing has happened.”

So I went into Al’s office—the office of Allen Hood. I said, “Al, did I waste my time in there all morning long praying in the Holy Spirit?”

Al said, “No.”

I said, “Good! Then on the confirmation of two witnesses, devil, get out of here.”

And I went back in there and prayed for two more hours and God’s Spirit fell on me. I found myself weeping before the Lord. The Spirit of God touched my heart, and I don’t believe that’s a normal experience, having that kind of dryness. God was saying, “Listen, if you’ll preach to those people not to be discouraged, then you had better be living what you’re saying.”

Solely by the grace of God, I pressed through that day, and I know what I’m talking about when I’m taking these verses with deadness in my heart and speaking them to my soul. I said: “I’m not quitting. Lord, You said that in due season You would exalt me.” That doesn’t mean in the eyes of men, but He would exalt me to the place of knowing God. “God, You said You would draw near.” I tell you, those verses encouraged me. They built faith in me. They built faith.

SPEND TIME READING AND HEARING THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE

The devil is a liar. Al said he was a liar, and that’s good enough for me. Al, was he a liar that day? You confirmed it. Someone was counseling. She looked up and said, “He is a liar!” So that doubly confirms it.

OK, I want you to take this list. I have to go over it and look on the back page. I’ll tell you what to do. I’m not there, so maybe this is wrong, but I think it’s right. What do you do? Well, no, look at the bottom here. It’s very brief, because it’s self-explanatory. Number one, on the front page: spend time hearing God’s Word. Come to meetings and hear the Word of God spoken to you, and let that encourage you. Get tapes and hear them; hear them over and over.

Number two: spend time meditating.

“Well, I don’t have time.” Schedule time. Do something. Do something.

Number three: spend time worshiping God, praying, and fasting. Schedule time. Do it. I’ve gone into detail on a lot of these things. I’ve taught you how to meditate on the Word. I’ve taught about worshiping. I’ll give you a few teachings on fasting, because people don’t understand it.

THE SAME POWER THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELLS IN US

Here's how to pray. Number one: pray much in the Spirit. Focus your mind on the throne of God. We've gone into all that. Be specific and pray much in the Holy Ghost.

Number two: pray that God would reveal Himself and His indwelling power to you and to the whole Church. Don't be selfish about it. I call you by name many times. I say, "God, take Joe Britaky and fill him with the knowledge of God and let it overflow." I name names and I go through and ask God to do it—especially for the leadership. We're in great need of God if we're going to lead this body in the right way.

So I pray. Those are my two main requests. "God, I want more of You. God I want a revelation of God." I'll pray in the Spirit for maybe an hour, and I'll say, "Father God, I need more of the Lord Jesus. I need to be aware of the power that dwells within me."

That's what God says: the power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells inside of me, but I'm not conscious of it (Rev. 8:11). My spirit is not very much quickened to that. I need to be conscious of it.

Then, after God has revealed it to me—verse 3—I pray that He would manifest His character and His power through me and everyone else. When we lay hands on the sick, the power of God will go into their bodies. When we come to unbelievers, the love of God will flow right through our countenance, right to them. God's character and His power will be manifested through us.

We've gone through all the verses in Corinthians many times. Now I'm going to give you some specifics. I'll give you a, b, c, d, all the way down to m. These are the things I pray for. I'm only praying for number two. Pray for more of God and His power in you. These other things are the things that God has defined in my mind that really are all part of number two. These are more specifically how I do it. Number one: I pray for a spirit of zeal. I say, "God, produce in my heart a greater hunger than any man in this city. I want to be totally moved by the Holy Spirit in my hunger in my spirit. And I know only You can give it to me." And I cry out to God sometimes that He'll pour an extra portion of zeal inside of me. I say, "Increase it, increase it, so that every desire is pushed out of my heart that's not according to the will of God." I still have some ways to go on that.

Number two, or b: I pray for the anointing or the spirit of revelation to rest on my life. I want to move in the revelation gifts, the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the discerning of spirits. I want to see visions. How many want to see visions? You've got to see visions or we won't go anywhere. I say, "Father, I need the revelation, the spirit of revelation operating."

It's really part of God's showing you power, but I break it down into detail. I say, "God, the anointing of revelation has to rest on me." I pray for maybe twenty minutes in the spirit with that one request. I might repeat it a hundred times. I say: "God, I'm not moving under the anointing of revelation. Your Word says I can, and I will. You said to seek earnestly the spiritual gifts. Now, God, I'm not letting go until I move with the beautiful manifestation of revelation in my life."

Number three: an anointing of power; to see the power gifts, faith, healing, and miracles, as described in 1 Corinthians 12. I want to lay hands on people and see demons leave them instantly. I don't want these three-hour sessions; I want them instantly leaving. I want to lay hands on people powerfully and see them baptized in the Spirit. I want you doing those things.

“God, give me Your power.” I want a prophetic spirit to rest on me. I want to move with a tremendous anointing of prophecy on my life. I want a spirit of boldness to fill my heart and to remove all fear of man. I say, “God, I want no fear of man in my heart, but I want to be totally convinced of the need of man for the gospel. I want to go places with such boldness in my spirit.” But only God can give you that boldness, by the way, because human boldness is worth nothing. But if it’s born of God, He’ll give it to you if you cry for it. It will do great things.

I asked for the anointing of conviction (1 Thess. 1:5).

You say, “What’s the anointing of conviction?”

Paul said, “When I came to Thessalonica, I came under the anointing of conviction. I came in the Spirit and with power” (1 Thess. 1:5, paraphrased). When he means is this: when he spoke the Word of God, the sinners came under an incredible knowledge of God. When Paul spoke, saints came to a new awareness in the Spirit of God.

I said: “God, those people deserve the knowledge of God. I want to minister the Word in such a way that it brings them the knowledge of God; so that they walk out of here knowing they’ve heard from God in their spirit.”

I’m not happy with this at all. I’m not happy with my ministry now. I’m not happy with the small measure of life that God has put on my ministry. God said, “There’s more if you get hungry.”

I said, “I’m getting it because you people deserve it.” I mean that; I’m not being sentimental. You deserve the fullness of God’s life when I minister, and you’re not getting it, but, by the grace of God, you will get it. I don’t feel condemned by that; in fact, I feel encouraged, because there’s more. There’s much more. You need the same anointing on your life when you encourage people. You need to speak the Word to one another in such a way that it pierces a man’s heart when you’re encouraging him and he hears the Word of God. You need to speak to sinners in such a way that the Word of God pierces them like an arrow, and that will happen to the ones who are hungry.

GOD WILL POUR OUT A SPIRIT A PRAYER ON THE CHURCH IN THE LAST DAYS

I know I’m going fast, but you’ve got it all written here. You can always get the tape and hear it again. I ask for a spirit of prayer, that God would put a great burden on my heart. You can’t pray for long hours without the spirit of prayer coming on you. How many of you know what I’m talking about? The Spirit of God enables you to pray through and to break spiritual strongholds. God says He’s going to put a spirit of prayer on His house in the last days (Zech. 12:10). The spirit of prayer is essential.

I say, “God.” I’ll walk around and pray for maybe fifteen minutes. I’ll say, “Father,” and I’ll pray in the Spirit. “God, I give you permission. Put a spirit of prayer in my heart. Cause me to be driven with a burden for the lost. God, I’m giving You permission to use this heart, to do with it what You want to do. Anything You want to do, do it. Here it is, Lord. Fill me with the spirit of prayer.” You know what? It’s starting to happen, little by little. So, hey, I will reap in due season.

I hope you guys are going with me, because you will be so jealous of me in a few years if you don't stay with me now, and you'll never, ever be happy again. I want you guys to make me jealous.

OK, the spirit of wisdom. I want God to fill me with the knowledge of His Word, the wisdom in His Word, the wisdom or knowledge of God. I want wisdom for my ministry; I want wisdom for life. I said, "God, in this fellowship I need wisdom. I don't need human wisdom; I need You to tell me things before they happen. I need You to tell me things in advance so that I know from God that they're happening. I want the spirit of wisdom and worship to rest on my heart."

GOD SEEKS THOSE WHO WILL WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

I've told you this a number of times. In John 4:24, Jesus said He seeks people who worship in spirit and in truth. I want to worship in spirit and truth, because God seeks people. I have to learn to learn to worship. Worship is developed. It's learned. You grow in it. "God, pour a spirit of worship on me. Bring me into new dimensions of worship. I want to be before the throne like the twenty-four elders, like the four living creatures. I want to worship God with knowledge and awareness in my spirit."

I want the spirit of holiness to prevail in my heart. I want the spirit of love to prevail in my heart. I want a spirit of humility. And the request I pray most, more than any other request after the knowledge of God, is that my tongue be totally without slander or evil on it, that no evil report be found in it; that God would remove all foolishness of thought.

GOD WILL GLORIFY THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD

He gives Himself to the hungry. You have to stir yourself up, and He'll respond and put zeal in your heart. You need the knowledge of God. God will do it. I told you how to encourage yourself. I've given you the things to pray for. I've showed you how to do it; now I want people to start doing it. I don't want to hear people saying, "Oh boy, God glorified that man!" I want to hear people say, "God glorified that whole fellowship; the whole lot of them got the glory of God on them. They were just a bunch of young kids in some old Baptist church. Something happened. The glory of God fell on them."

What happened? They were hungry for God. They put themselves in a position where God could start putting new desire in their heart. God will glorify the lot of us. How many of you are interested in God glorifying your spirit? OK, let's pray.