

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
October 6, 2013
Lord, Increase Our Faith!
Don James

GOAL – to **set the captives free and increase faith**. We want to “wake up” to the glory of God and learn to take Him at his word. Also to think more about advancing the Kingdom of God in the world around us. But it starts with us standing on the freedom Christ won for us.

Don - Vision of the Attic

I've been praying a lot about the state of the world, and I know the only thing holding back God's wrath is his mercy. God is looking for warriors. He is looking for those who will advance his kingdom. He wants to put a fire in our hearts, an unquenchable belief in the promises of God, one that leads us to act in faith to set captives free.

I was praying at our retreat and I felt that God wanted to bring his glory to bear upon our lives. I had an image of Jesus coming into our house. We gladly opened the door for him and brought him to the living area where we welcome all our guests. *But Jesus is unlike any other guest – he's actually our landlord. We are his temple. We belong to him.* Jesus was not happy to stay in the living room, he wanted to go somewhere else. In particular, he wanted to go up the stairs into the attic, but the door was locked. The reason he doesn't have access to the attic, is because we treat him like a guest and try to keep him in the rooms that we feel are more “presentable”.

But He turned to us with his hand open, asking for the key. The reason he wants to enter the attic is to shed his light/glory upon things that keep us from experiencing his divine promises. There are things that hold us captive and prevent us from knowing the glory of God. Things we don't remember, other things that we've taken great pride in. He wants to bring his light into these things so that they have no hold over us. In particular, I thought of three things:

1. **Broken mirrors** – what I mean by this is that we've experienced a lot of brokenness in our lives. We have disappointments and dashed dreams. The reality of our life now may not measure up to the vision we had in our youth. Maybe we haven't seen God answer our prayers the way we hoped he would. **All of these things can lead us to doubt God.** Jesus wants to shed his light upon these so that we can see them as they are in comparison to his glory. The mirror that is truly broken is us – we were created to reflect in a very REAL way, the glory of God. This is the mirror God wants to mend.
2. **Old Family Videos** – we can have a tendency to look back on our lives, to replay certain events over and over in our minds. We want to re-experience things that brought us joy. For some reason we even recall painful things and build up hurts and resentments. Jesus doesn't want us bound to the past, he wants us to realize that he is doing a new thing, that he is recreating us! He has freed us to walk in his glory, not with an eye to the past, but with both eyes on him.

Things in our past can have a real psychological impact on us. Someone who has been sick for years can think it will always be like that. Those who are haven't experienced the power of God tend to assume it doesn't exist or that it has no bearing on their life. God wants to change this. **He wants to turn doubt into faith.**

Another thing about family videos, there always seems to be someone missing – usually the father, because he's often the one doing the videotaping. But sometimes, one's earthly father really was missing, and we can project that hurt onto our heavenly Father. We don't always perceive God's presence or his work in our lives and *we can think he's distant*. But God isn't like that. The truth is that **He is always calling out to us**, often speaking words of comfort, wisdom, and truth, but we can often think they were just our

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own thoughts or that of someone else. God wants us to see just how involved he is in our lives – because that will build a greater sense of intimacy and trust with him.

3. **Treasures** – another thing we hide in the attic are treasures. These can be memories, accomplishments, possessions, our own wisdom or worldview, dreams or hopes for the future, even our time. These are things we strive to protect and so we keep them in the attic, out of harms way, even away from Jesus. When we treasure these things, we exchange the glory of the immortal God for the glory of man (Romans 1:23). **When we treasure other things, the last thing we want to experience is an all-consuming fire!** But God wants to pour out his fire in our hearts! He doesn't want us to trust in our own reasoning, our own ability to do anything – he wants us to trust in Him. **When we see him work, when we make him our treasure, we burn for him and will do all we can to protect our union with him.**

When we talk about Jesus shedding his light upon us, we're talking about him filling us with his glory. You are his divine temple. You are glorious, and God is calling us all to ACT like his people. He came to set the captives FREE!

Isaiah 52:1-2

¹Awake, awake, Zion,
 clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
 Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
 will not enter you again.
²Shake off your dust;
 rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
 Daughter Zion, now a captive.

*Start to read this softly, monotone – like it's not striking me. Then say – is this meant to be read like this? No! But this is how we can often go through our day, with no fire in our faith. God wants to put a fire in our hearts! He wants to give us a holy zeal, a boldness to trust **his promises** more than what we see, what we feel, or what our own reason seems to tell us.*

Let's read it again!

This is a rallying cry, to all of God's people – wake up, forget the things of the past, there is a new reality and it is a reality because it is God who has made it so. Believe it! Step out in faith! Forsake the things from your former life – *shake even the dust of these from your life* and put on the splendor of your king!

Give him the key. Give him free reign. We are not our own – this is a great thing! We belong to the Almighty, and if we treat ourselves that way, we will treat ourselves with much more reverence and awe. We are fearfully and wonderfully made – for we are created to be one with the living God. Let's give God the key to the attic, let him bring his glory into every part of our hearts and minds so that he can free us and empower us.