

Newsletter Teaching for 7-25-07

Are You Listening to What the Spirit Is Saying?

There is a great deal of activity in the church today. In fact, people have never been busier in ministry than in today's church culture. There are meetings, events, retreats, conferences, and multiple programs to fill your calendar. All these opportunities can make it seem as though we are on track with God.

But what is God really saying to the Church today? In the letters to the churches in Revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself says multiple times: "Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches." Are we listening to the Spirit—truly listening?

One message that is coming through loud and clear, over and over again, is the message of *repentance*. Thousands of youth and adults recently gathered at *The Call* in Nashville, TN, and spent hours and hours in repentance. Pastors in North Omaha, NE, recently took their congregations through intense days of repentance of all known sin in their families. The PTM staff spent two days in early July in Phoenix, AZ, hearing the vision of a national movement of repentance (*ReignDown USA*) that may very well sweep this nation between now and April 2008.

To those who are listening, *a wave of repentance is coming!*

Don't Ignore the Warning Signs

Henry Blackaby, in his challenging study *Experiencing God*, frames it very well by imploring the Church to discover where God is at work—and then join Him there. God doesn't ask us to create vision for Him so that He can bless it. He asks us to listen to what *His* vision is, and to join Him in accomplishing it.

The warning signs are growing that God is getting ready to cleanse His Church and bring us back into right relationship with Him. Repentance is on God's heart, and the call is getting louder and louder. When God is calling His Church back to Him, it is best to embrace His gift of repentance and respond in obedience!

If you are listening, you will hear the call to repentance coming from various leaders, ministries, and organizations with increasing intensity. It was very much the same way for the people of Israel before they were scattered by the Babylonian armies. Prophet after prophet called them to repentance. Time after time the Bible records that "they did not listen." The invitation to turn back to God in brokenness, humility, and repentance is the same call that is being issued to the Church today.

A Humble Servant Listens

One of those calls to repentance is coming through a movement called *ReignDown USA*. At times when God speaks, He chooses the unknown people whose hearts are tuned to Him. That was the case with the vision of *ReignDown*.

In the same way that God first spoke to Samuel (1 Samuel 3), God set apart a young stay-at-home mom named Shawn-Marie Cole. In the middle of the night, she heard her name called out three times. She finally got out of bed and went to separate room to pray. In the same way that Samuel responded, Shawn-Marie said, "Lord, I'm listening. What do You want to share?"

The Lord then overwhelmed Shawn-Marie with a vision of the blessing that God would reign down on our nation if we would corporately fall on our knees in repentance. As a prayer ministry, we hear of many dreams and visions that people have received, and we are careful about passing on anything unless we are convinced it is of God. As we heard Shawn-Marie's story, we became convinced.

In this vision, Shawn-Marie saw the people across the nation on their knees, worshipping God and repenting. The vision then went to Washington D.C., where she saw a gathering on the Mall that included Michael W. Smith and President Bush. She heard Michael leading the worship, singing his well-known song “Healing Rain.” She heard all the words to “Healing Rain,” even though she had never actually heard the song before! Then she saw President Bush on his knees, with his arms outstretched and tears running down his face, saying “I’m sorry.” She then saw a healing rain begin to fall on the nation, resulting in a widespread movement of healing that only the Lord could do. You can hear the complete vision from Shawn Marie by going to www.reigndownusa.com and clicking on “vision.”

Although Shawn-Marie received this vision in 2005, she waited and prayed for several months before sharing it—asking the Lord for His confirmation. That confirmation came in amazing and miraculous ways as she was given opportunity to meet Michael W. Smith and share the vision. Then the Lord unexpectedly opened the door for her to meet privately with President Bush for 20 minutes to tell him that the Lord has a call on his life for our nation. As she shared the vision, President Bush was moved to tears. Whether he will participate or not is unknown, but he was very favorable to it—and to the message that God has him in this place and time for a specific purpose regarding our nation.

Listen for Yourself

The date has been set: **April 26, 2008**. The Mall in Washington, D.C. has been reserved. Michael W. Smith has indicated that he believes God is calling him to be a part of this. The President’s heart is open to it. Now it is your turn to seek the Lord and hear for yourself. We encourage you to pray, go to the website, and invite the Spirit to begin speaking to you.

The Lord has been putting 2 Chronicles 7:14 on our hearts for a few years now. This year’s *Transformation Prayer Guide: Heal My Land* is based on the covenant promise of this verse—that if we humble ourselves, pray, seek God’s face, and repent, God will heal our land.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying. The Lord is extending an invitation for us to put aside the activities of our churches and return to Him. He is offering His gift of repentance to us, that we might find the healing and restoration that only He can bring. God desires to heal this land if we will turn back to Him and fulfill our part of 2 Chronicles 7:14.

We don’t believe this is just another event. We also don’t believe it is about a single date. We believe this is a movement of God that will sweep our churches and our nation. We so desperately need this move of repentance, and so we will be devoting our prayers and lives to this message that God is speaking loudly to His Church.

Lord, we are listening!