

Power Ministry and Evangelism Part 2

A Model for Staying in Step with Jesus

Thesis: We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Text: John 1:1-42; Acts 26:12–18; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

The sermons I am sharing for the first half of this year were shaped by my experiences on the mission trip to Nigeria and the Global Prayerquake for January 3 – 12. I am grateful for our decades-long relationship with Apostles Mosy and Gloria Madugba. On the last day of the Nigeria Mission Trip, the Lord led me to a divine appointment with **Evangelist Miracle Chris**. That conversation spoke into our word for the year. And, during the *Ministers Prayer Network's Global Prayerquake*, the Lord reminded me of our calling as a church to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry, evangelism, and warfare.

Let's remember that this is a time of reaping, not just sowing.

1. **This is a time of reaping, not just sowing.**
 - a. *John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 (1) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. (2) Others have done the hard work, and (3) you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:34-38).*
2. **Pay attention.** Lift up your eyes. The fields are white for harvest.
3. Hear what Jesus is saying: "**I sent you to reap for that which you did not labor. Others have labored. You have entered into their labor.**"
4. **Our prayer:**
 - a. May we seize the opportunities to reap what has already been sown.
 - b. May we speak that word over our children and teens today to seize and reap where others have labored and sown.
 - c. Lord, empower all of us to seize the harvest that is ready and ripe today.
 - d. Lord, we ask for that grace to do that today; give us the reminders to do that today.

Let's remember that evangelism involves spiritual warfare.

1. **We desire to get equipped to fight with the weapons of our warfare.**
 - a. **2 Corinthians 10:3–6** (NIV84) *3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*
2. **We recognize that our fight is not against human beings, but against spiritual forces and darkness.**
 - a. **Ephesians 6:10–18** (NIV84) *10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God [**which is the nature, character, presence, and power of Jesus**] so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*
3. **We want to let the Lord examine our expectations and assumptions.**
 - a. **1 John 5:21** (NIV84) *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*
 - b. Evangelism also means dealing with idols in us as the evangelist, or messenger of good news.
 - i. Idol of misunderstanding what the gospel is.
 - ii. Idol of expectation on what needs to happen for the person to get saved or to come into a personal relationship with God.
 - iii. Idol of expectation of what harvest looks like and how it comes.
 - iv. Idol of expectation in how to reach each person.
 - v. We all have expectations and assumptions that the Lord wants to highlight and correct.
 - c. It is easy to adopt expectations and assumptions that are out of alignment with the way of Jesus and the kingdom of God.

- i. Taking over.
- ii. Setting up a theocracy.
- iii. Looking for king so that we can have shared power.

Let's remember that the gospel of the kingdom of God comes in word and works and in proclamation and demonstration-- as we walk in intimacy with God, as we follow the Lord Jesus, and as we depend upon the presence and power of Holy Spirit.

1. *Matthew 4:23–25 (NIV84) 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom, and **healing** every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.*
2. *1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (NIV84) 1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

QRST Ministry Model: Question, Reason, Solution, Teaching

Here is a model to help us in ministry, helping us stay in step with Jesus, so that we might proclaim and demonstrate the good news of the Kingdom of God. (See Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 4:23-28, 9:35-38, 10:1-8; Luke 9:1-2, 10:1-2; Acts 1:5, 8; 10:38; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5.)

Q = Question:

- **What** is the need or problem? Physical, emotional, spiritual, relational
- **What** hurts?
- **What** do you want God to do?

☐ Learn to listen both to the person and to the Holy Spirit.

R = Reason:

- **Why** is this person hurting?
- **Why** do they have this condition?
- **Why** do they have this need or problem?

S = Solution:

- **How** shall I pray?
- **How** do I help?
- **How** are we doing?

- ☐ Pray humbly, graciously, and sensitively whatever the Holy Spirit leads.
- ☐ Pray with your eyes open: Watch for physical effects.
- ☐ Ask questions: "What is God doing?"
- ☐ Ask for feedback: "Does this mean anything to you?"
- ☐ Bless whatever God is doing.
- ☐ Stop praying when the person you are praying for indicates it is over, when the Spirit tells you it's over, or when you cannot think of anything else to pray.

T = Teaching:

- **Where** do they go from here?
- **Where** does the Scripture address this need?
- ☐ General counsel of Scripture may be given ("go and sin no more").
- ☐ Be open to supernatural leading for special direction.
- ☐ Always get them moving toward God. Encourage prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, worship, etc.
- ☐ Always thank the person for letting you visit or pray with them.

Action:

1. **May each of us recommit** to doing the works of Jesus and sharing the words of the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **May we both proclaim and demonstrate** the gospel of the kingdom of God in our spheres of influence. We do that in word and works.
3. **May we risk appropriately** and step out in faith to reach others with the love of God.
4. **May we continue to learn:** get new information, practice what we learn, reflect on our practice, and grow in our capacity to know and follow God.
 - a. Sign up for [Ministry Team Training](#) each time it is offered. The remaining sessions for this year are scheduled for July 26 and Oct. 18.

Ministry Time:

Power Ministry and Evangelism Part 1

Thesis: We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Text: John 1:1-42; Acts 26:12–18; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

The sermons I am sharing for the first half of this year were shaped by my experiences on the mission trip to Nigeria and the Global Prayerquake for January 3 – 12. I am grateful for our decades-long relationship with Apostles Mosy and Gloria Madugba. On the last day of the Nigeria Mission Trip, the Lord led me to a divine appointment with **Evangelist Miracle Chris**. That conversation spoke into our word for the year. And, during the *Ministers Prayer Network's Global Prayerquake*, the Lord reminded me of our calling as a church to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry, evangelism, and warfare.

1. Spiritual warfare.

a. Evangelism is not just about scattering the seed.

- i. Yes, we pray for the seed to take root and bear fruit.
- ii. Yes, we are a “servant and witness to the things which you have seen in me.”

b. Evangelism involves warfare.

- i. Acts 26:12–18 (ESV) *In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes [remove the blinders; free them from bondage; level the playing field], (1) so that they may turn from darkness to light and (2) from the power of Satan to God, (3) that they may receive forgiveness of sins and (4) a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

- ii. *To open their eyes.* That requires revelation and warfare.
- iii. *To help them turn from darkness to light.* That requires light and warfare.
- iv. *To help the turn from power of Satan to God.* That requires a power encounter of warfare. Someone has to win the battle for others in the spirit realm.
- c. We spent time looking at the issue of spiritual warfare during several messages from February 2 through March 23.

2. Idols.

- a. Evangelism also means dealing with idols according to Miracle Chris.
- b. He was talking about the idols in the evangelist.
 - i. Idol of misunderstanding what the gospel is.
 - ii. Idol of expectation on what needs to happen for the person to get saved or to come into a personal relationship with God.
 - iii. Idol of expectation of what harvest looks like and how it comes.
 - iv. Idol of expectation in how to reach each person.
- c. We all have expectations and assumptions that the Lord wants to highlight and correct.
- d. *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols (1 John 5:21).*
 - i. **Reject that which is false and embrace that which is real.**
 - ii. Applying this text for today, Dodd gives the following exhortation: "It behooves the individual Christian to be on his guard against any such God-substitute, whether it be a political idea, or some fashionable cult, or merely the product of his own 'wishful thinking.'" (Akin, Daniel L. 1, 2, 3 John. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001.)
 - iii. It is easy to adopt expectations and assumptions that are out of alignment with the way of Jesus and the kingdom of God.
- e. We recently covered two messages about dealing with idols and misunderstandings in us as we share the good news.

3. Power ministry and evangelism.

- a. At the MPN Global Prayerquake, I was also reminded of our calling as a church to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry, evangelism, and warfare.
- b. **1 Corinthians 2:1** *When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with*

wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but [so that your faith may rest] on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

- c. **1 Thessalonians** 1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 3 We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the [presence of the] Holy Spirit and with deep conviction [the pinpoint accuracy of Jesus]. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Here is what we believe to be the word of the Lord for us in 2025. It is the same word which God gave to us for 2024.

Convergence: reaching people with the love of God.

Here is our group identity.

We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Here is what I believe:

1. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** what the Lord is doing.
2. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** where we need to grow as a congregation.
3. **Jesus is reaching others and asking them to join his church in general and Calvary in particular** (Matthew 16:18).

- a. **Are we joining Jesus in his mission?**
- b. We need to be inspired and challenged to practice more.
- c. We need to celebrate progress.
- d. We want to grow in our capacity to join Jesus on this mission in our spheres of influence together with others.

Vision Casting: Power Ministry and Evangelism

Calvary, we have been on an incredible and awesome journey with the Lord. And, the Lord is not finished with us yet.

We began as a church in 1982 as a hyper-evangelistic Baptist Church. Early on, we focused on building and growing the church. Getting people “saved” and going to heaven was our emphasis. We were weak in making disciples. **We are grateful for our Baptist heritage which taught us to believe the Word of God and to help others come to Jesus.** And, we still remain connected to the house of our fathers because the Lord wants to bring together the Word and the Spirit.

In 1985, we hit burnout as a church. There is a long story here, which we cover in ***Discover Calvary***, but suffice it to say, the Lord got our attention. Pastor Steve Meeks went off on a retreat to seek the Lord and to find out what was wrong. The Lord spoke to him: *“I want my church back. I have seen what you can do. Now, I want you to see what I can do.”*

That experience with the Lord changed our church and our lives. Together, we sought the Lord for who he is and for what he wanted and desired for his church.

About that time, the Lord put two books into our hands that really spoke to us: *Power Evangelism* by John Wimber and *Ordering Your Private World* by Gordon McDonald. God led us on a journey with intimacy with himself. God wanted to return us to our first love. We fell in love with the Lord all over again. We began to hunger and thirst for the living God. Our worship changed. We sang to God rather than about God. Pastor Steve’s first book, *Relational Christianity*, expressed and summarized those years for us. God wants us to experience intimacy with himself-- to know and experience the living God.

We don’t want to settle for knowing information about God. Rather, the Lord wants us to know him and to encounter and experience the power of his presence and kingdom in our lives.

In 1988, we experienced **sovereign times of silence** at the end of some of our services. What Pastor Steve experienced in his own prayer closet, we began to experience as a congregation.

Those times of silence in 1988 were significant to us. Later in 1988, we found out that the Lord was carving out time in our services for God to touch people with his presence

and power. We are grateful for the influence of **John Wimber and the Vineyard Movement** which introduced us to *Power Ministry*. **Ministry Time** was our response to **what God was doing in our midst**. We still take time in our services and small groups to wait on God and to touch each other with the power and presence of the Lord.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed" (Luke 4:18).

The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus to save, deliver, heal, and encourage. And, God convinced us that we are to do the works of Jesus. (See Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-2; John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8.)

Since 1989, we have equipped people through **Ministry Team Training** **how to do the works of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and out of intimacy with the Living God**.

Through the years, we have seen God do signs, wonders, and miracles in our midst and in our spheres of influence. **God has touched people with the power of his transforming love, healing virtue, delivering power, and encouraging grace**. The Lord has taught us to use **mighty weapons of the kingdom like prayer, humility, kindness, forgiveness, proclamation, and love**. God is still touching people with his power and presence. And, we have the privilege to partner with the Lord in what he is doing.

Does everyone we pray for get healed? The answer is "no." Does everyone we tell about the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of God get saved? The answer is "no." **Our job is not determined by the results; our job is to be obedient and faithful to the Lord**.

And, we need to risk in healthy ways. So, we train people how to stay in step with the Spirit, to follow what Jesus is saying and doing, and to pray effectively. We have a part; God has a part. We can't do God's part. God won't do our part.

The truth is that we leak. We leak of faith, belief, conviction, and practice because we live in an anti-supernatural culture and worldview. We have to remind ourselves that Jesus is still the same yesterday, today, and forever. We have to remember that Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12 NASB)*.

Listen again to what the Apostle Paul said:

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but [so that your faith may rest] on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

... our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the [presence of the] Holy Spirit and with deep conviction [the pinpoint accuracy of Jesus] (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

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Ministry Time:

1. Have people pray for one another after the Lord's Supper.

Celebrate the Lord's Supper.