

Preacher for the Day

September 27, 2021

I completed my Associate Degree from Lake-Sumter, then transferred to the Florida State University, where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, before transferring to the University of Florida for a Master's Degree in Math Education. While I was a graduate student at UF in 1968, Reverend Randall Parsons, minister at our Tavares Methodist Church allowed me the privilege "preaching" the message on Student Recognition Sunday that year. I spent the entire week in my dorm room trying to write a "sermon" on "Powerful People," to be a sequel to Rev. Parsons' message the week before called "Powerful Churches."

After a week of my best efforts, I was back home on Saturday night, and I realized that I had NOTHING! In my emptiness at this LATE hour, I dashed out our door, walked 2 blocks down to the church, which in those days was unlocked, and into the church sanctuary. As I stood behind the pulpit looking over the empty seats in the congregation, suddenly realized that I should be kneeling at the altar! Then, kneeling at the altar, I prayed for a message, and suddenly it came to me! As I sat on the first row, the Lord gave me a message as fast as I could write it down.

The message was that a "powerful person" was NOT someone who could stand up and tell everyone what to do or NOT to do, focusing on my OWN strengths and overlooking my OWN weaknesses! A powerful person in God's kingdom has an attitude of humility which I obviously did NOT have before the Lord showed me my heart. A powerful person's life is focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. My lips trembled as I spoke these words.

As a young man, if I needed evidence to believe that God is REAL, this was it for me! I worked HARD for a week trying to come up with a message. Then, on my knees, in 5 minutes, the Lord gave me the message He wanted me to have.

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