

A PASSION FOR GOD

I had wept profusely in God's presence before, but this time it was different; it was in public. 5000 of us were gathered together in London, England at a Holiness Conference led by John Wimber of the Vineyard movement. Mike Bickle had just finished speaking on, A Revelation of Jesus Christ. I had never heard such a powerful message which was delivered by a man that had an intense love for Jesus. After the message I fell to my knees and loudly expressed myself to God in repentance and adoration like I had never done so unashamedly in front of others.

What struck me about the message was how it was so God centered. Mike had a revelation of how God has a passion for his church and for his son Jesus Christ. Mike has spent decades praying Ephesians 1:15-23. He says that the Apostle Paul prayed one general prayer in this passage.....that people receive a knowledge of God (what He is like and how He acts). Then he prayed that they experience 3 different expressions of God's glory that would cause them to persevere in godliness. **We pray the following three things:**

1. To understand God's calling for our life, both in this age and the age to come.
2. To know who we are to God as His inheritance and how He feels as we walk out our calling.
3. To experience God's power in our life and to rightly perceive how it operates.

To know our calling gives us hope, confidence and significance. Radical Islam. attracts young people today because they want to be part of something that is changing the world and gives them a feeling of importance. The Communists tapped into this same thing in the 20th Century. Early Christianity attracted people because it demanded an all out commitment to a cause with global and eternal significance.

I had a revelation of this over 30 years ago when I read a book I discovered at a public library - Rise To Conquer by Larry Poland. who was working for Campus Crusade for Christ at the time. The message of the kingdom presented there was transforming in my life. It was a call to radical commitment to the cause of Jesus. I happened to see Larry on TV last year and since that time he has made quite a Christian impact among many people in Hollywood.

'Only that which is significant to God is truly significant. God answers our longing for significance by giving each of us a unique calling which has 3 dimensions (internal, external and eternal) and 2 aspects (individual and corporate) to it.'

"Our biggest calling is the one that we have together in a region, nation or generation".

- Mike Bickle

To know and be part of God's call is invigorating. God has a call on each of us. I have participated in many types of ministry in several different countries. In June of 2014 I received what I believe is the main calling for the rest of my life. God downloaded these words to me... **write and disciple. This calling does have the 3 dimensions of internal, external and eternal.**

Internal Calling: Be a Faithful Disciple of Jesus

Bickle writes that we are called to embrace things that are considered foolish and weak in the eyes of the world. eg.humility, serving, giving, praying, fasting, forgiving, blessing our enemies etc. which are Sermon on the Mount teachings. We do these things unto God, not for honor or money. We have a joy in just serving our King and to bring pleasure unto Him, even in the smallest of task. In my own discipleship God has burned into me these two verses.

"Anyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. / Luke 6:40 NIV

We are to be like Jesus in our character.

"Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.' / John 14:12 NIV

Jesus expects us to do the things he did. He taught, preached, healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, multiplied food, gave to the poor etc. We have the capability to do the things that Jesus did if we submit fully to the Holy Spirit and practice Romans 12:1-2.

Our Temporary External Calling: To Function Faithfully in smallness

Jesus calls us to be faithful in little things. Our rewards are mostly in the next life. Most of us will live our lives in relative obscurity but our lives and jobs for the kingdom are still important. Whatever task the Lord has laid before you, do it well and faithfully. God has called me to write and although it will involve hundreds of hours and even more, I have joy in knowing that I am being changed and also that it will impact numerous others in many places. Most of all, it brings joy to God when we accept our calling and take it seriously, despite the cost.

Our Eternal Calling: To Function in Bigness in the Age to Come

The apostle Paul knew that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the eternal glory that is before us. - 2 Corinth. 4:16-17, Romans 8:18, Philippians 3:14

My passion for God took on a new dimension the summer of 2014 as I expressed my love for God in special way. During times with God I often spoke these words to him: 'Father I love you, Jesus I love you. Holy Spirit I love you. This is why I referred to it as The Summer of Love! God had touched my life deeply and I had to share my love for Him.

Our Prayer: Father of glory, give us the Spirit of Revelation to see what is in your heart and to know the high calling that you have for us. May we not settle for the trivial temporary treasures and pleasures that seem to capture the hearts of most today. Loosen the grip that lesser things have on us. **Stamp eternity on our eyes and into our hearts.** We want to bring pleasure to you. Help us to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We love you Father. We love you Jesus. We love you Holy Spirit. Without you we are nothing and we can do nothing. With you, we are special agents of change who can do more than we could even ask or imagine because of your power in us! Hallelujah!

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Note: Several years after writing this, I like many others who benefitted from Mike Bickle's teaching and ministry, were shocked when numerous valid accounts came out about his sexual abuse of several women. I appreciated his simple lifestyle (he never owned a house) and Biblical approach to finances. I stand by the above teachings because they are the truth. May Mike truly repent of his sinful activities and come clean before God and others. In our Kingdom Wisdom section I have a list of books and resources that I have enjoyed. This does not mean I agree with all that the authors teach or how they live. My view is the same as the apostle Paul....'Test all things, hold onto the good'. - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 see also Philippians 1:15-18