

## **BEYOND PUP TENT LIVING**

By Don Krider

God has put a challenge out to the Church to begin to prepare our hearts for a great move of the Spirit. I can sense it. Everywhere I have been lately, everywhere I have called and talked on the phone, things are beginning to happen. There is a move of God coming up.

I talked to a Pastor in another area and he told me that the Holy Spirit began to move in their congregation, and they are starting to have prayer for 24 hours one day a week. People are calling in so they can have the midnight hour, or the one or two o'clock hour.

People are beginning to be stirred by the power and the anointing of God. But no matter how much stirring the Holy Spirit does, it takes my will to make it happen in my life. God is not going to force this move on me. It is how I open my heart and allow God to move into my being the peace of God, the joy of God, the strength of God. It is up to each one of us to allow God to move in our heart, either in His greatness or in our greatness, but God would rather move in His greatness. Great things happen when God moves in His greatness.

Dead men aren't moved by much, so it is not going to be a dead man move this time. It is going to be a spiritual move of God. I believe judgment will come on America, but I believe it is going to be the greatest hour for the Church. It is when the Church will put the life rafts out. It is when the Church is going to move out in the dark waters into the troubled seas.

It is going to be the Church that will be the light of the world. It is going to be the Church that will be the rescue team to bring men and women to Christ. We are beginning to see a mighty move of God across America, and I am excited about it. It is getting greater and greater.

Let's look at Isaiah 54:2-3:

***Is. 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; (3) For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.***

This is a promise of something that God has prophesied would happen through Isaiah. You need to read these chapters on through the end of Isaiah. They are tremendous prophetic utterances of Christ

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coming, and what He has planned for the Church, and what He has done for the Church in the power and the anointing that He has given to the Church. But even though that is true, even though He has given us everything, I can leave it there and not use it. So I want to challenge you.

Isaiah is the one who said, "Here am I, Lord; send me." (Isaiah 6:8) But he had to deal with himself first in that 6th chapter. He had to admit that he was a man of unclean lips. He had to admit that God needed to deal with him first before he could take the message that God wanted him to take.

I believe it is going to be a personal work of the Holy Spirit as we open our heart to the Lord and say, "Lord, try me and search me and see if there be any wicked way in me," as David cried out in Psalm 139:23-24. We need to be a people who want God's way more than anything else. We will only want

God's way because we love God. We don't love what we can get from God, we don't love what God can do for us, but we love God for Himself.

We have to accept the move of God, not argue about it, not debate it, but just say, "Here am I, Lord, send me, but deal with me first so that I am already in that move when I take it to somebody else."

Your tent; your habitation. God wants us to go beyond our own ability. God wants us to begin to stretch our faith. God wants us to get into the word. God wants us to get into prayer. God wants us to get into the faith realms, that this isn't all there is to it. This isn't all that God has for us; this is a starting place, and it starts in my habitation. They can preach it, they can teach it, they can shout it, but until I get hold of it and put it to work in my life, it has very little value.

I have to be in this great move of God, regardless of what it costs. I am tired of people sitting around and saying nothing is happening. That is their fault. If you are not running the race, that is your fault. If you are not in the war, that is your fault. If you are not rattling your saber for Christ, it is your fault.

There is nothing dull about being a Christian. If you put on the full armor of God, it is not to lie down. It is hard to lay down with armor on. Some have a hard time getting out of bed with nothing on. God wants something beside pup tent Christians. Most Christians have their little pup tent in the back yard, and that is their habitation.

God is saying, "Wait a minute; I want you to begin to increase the place of your habitation. I want you to begin to enlarge it. I want you to be involved in it. I don't want you to just have somebody lay hands on you and prophesy over you all the time. I want you to begin to talk to Me, and I want to begin to talk to you. I want you to begin to enlarge."

Enlarge means to open, so the first thing you have to do is open your heart to this. Open your mind to this. Open your spirit to the word of God. You can hear the word of God but if your ear is not tuned to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church, you have spent an hour uselessly sitting on a chair getting tired.

Church, we need to move out of our pup tents, and move into a larger place in God where there is unlimited revelation of truth, and where we can do everything that God has called us to do. But first - you have to enlarge; open up the place of thy tent. You have to do it. You have to open up your heart and your mind.

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In 1 Chron. 13th chapter, David went out to get the ark, and Uzza died because he touched the ark (vs.10); but in 1 Chron. 15:1-3, David prepared a place for the ark. We have to begin to do that. We have to begin to prepare our hearts and say, "Yes, Lord, I believe there is going to be a move of God. I believe there is going to be a work of God. I believe I am a part of that work." We must not sit around and say, "Well, I wonder if I am in it. Nothing has ever happened good for me, and probably nothing good will ever happen to me."

Listen, the day you got saved was the greatest day of your life, and it wasn't meant for you to lay down, but for you to start putting on the armor of God and begin to increase the place of your habitation. To enlarge your tent and open it to the Holy Spirit, that He might come in and fill you with all the great things of God.

*Is. 54:2 ...and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;*

The stake is what holds everything up; it is the foundation. When I was in Brazil, we had tents. They had a process they called riding the tent, and when the storms would come they would tighten it up so rain would not pocket up and break through the tent, but would run off. When the wind started blowing, they would slacken off on that, so the wind would make it fly almost like a piece of paper in the wind, but it wouldn't uproot the tent.

We had huge, long stakes in the ground and chains that went from the tent to the stake. We would tighten it up so the tent wouldn't take off or fall down or be destroyed. What we need to do is make sure that the foundational ties of our lives are growing every day of our life, because there are great winds of adversity coming in this generation. The prophet talks about great winds of adversity that will happen, and the only way we are going to be prepared is that we have stretched out and are beyond ourselves and we are in Christ. We have not only taken and made secure our foundation, but we have made sure that we are anchored to it soundly.

So Isaiah has a real proposition for us. I can believe this, or I can sit around and wonder about it. "Enlarge it," means that I am a person who has to open it to the moving of the Spirit of God. We need a larger place day by day. When Abraham journeyed out, God took him to a land that He would show him and give it to him as far as his eyes could see and his footmarks could go. It was all his habitation.

God increased him when he took him out of the land of Ur but Abraham had to say he would follow God. He couldn't bargain with God on what he was going to take. He just said, "I will follow you," and took his livestock, and his nephew Lot, and a few other things, and when his father died he moved on out.

He began to open himself to the move of God, and God took him into a land that he knew nothing about, but it was a land that flowed with milk and honey. It was a land of promise; it was a land in which he would receive the covenant of faith. It was a land in which God would increase him (Gen. 11:27-32 and chap. 12&13).

When God took you out of the land of sin, He began to increase you. I am telling you though that as long as we sit down and are satisfied with where we are, when God says, "I want you to follow Me; I want you to be led by My Spirit," we need to open our heart and say, "God, make me, do with me whatever seems good in Your sight."

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I want to live in the covenant of God. I want to live in the strength of God. I want to live in the joy of God. I want to live in the peace of God. I can't do it just standing still. I have to grow. I have to move into the next step that God has for me. Abraham received it because he journeyed by faith. He opened his tent and let the presence of God come in. The minute he took that first step, he began to enlarge.

Christians, we need to be enlarging. Instead of worrying about the devil taking over, we should be taking over. The Church should be the one that is walking out here in victory after victory after victory not worrying about who is doing this and who is doing that. We need to be that people who will say, "Lord, I want to enlarge this tent." God says, "First you have to open up and do what I tell you." He has already given us an entire book that tells us what He wants us to do.

It is amazing that when we started out on this journey, we were ready. Nothing was impossible. Remember how you loved everybody. You didn't hate anybody until somebody told you that you should hate them. That was when you started shutting your tent down. You started closing your tent. You started choosing and picking your conditions, your circumstances. You started picking who you were going to fellowship with and not fellowship with, and the first thing you knew, the flap closed on the door. Then you were the same size as when you got saved, living in a pup tent in the backyard of victory.

God wants a people who will open up and begin to enlarge and increase the vision in their lives. Look at Psalm 78:41:

***Ps. 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.***

God had brought Israel into this great place of promise, and promised them mighty things that they would see, but the Bible says that they limited the Holy One of Israel. They never received what God had wanted them to have. They never maintained, they never grew; they never really got all the fullness God had for them. Why? Because they limited God.

Don't tell me you can't limit God. As your faith is, so be it unto you (Matt 9:29). If you will not grow in your faith, if you will not read the word of God, if you will not pray, if you will not press into God, you are going to be in that pup tent when Jesus comes. You will be sleeping in the backyard of victory, rather than on the firing line, the front line for God. We have to be people who are saying, "Lord, here am I, send me. Lord, here am I, take me. Lord, here am I, use me."

They limited the Holy One of Israel. When they received what God wanted them to have, they couldn't maintain it, because they did not believe God. That is what limits God in your life. It isn't your ability; it isn't your education. The only thing that limits God using you is your faith. Many say, "I don't believe God ever wanted to use me. I don't believe God ever intends to use me." Don't worry about it, because He won't.

He will say, "Just sleep on in your pup-tent, and I will call you when I am ready to take you home. For now, quit biting your sister, quit biting your little brother. I'll be back to change your diaper in a little while. First, I have a mighty army to lead to victory. I have a mighty army to take on across. I have a mighty army to go from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord."

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I have to open my heart, and quit limiting God. We should be saying, "Hallelujah, I expect good things today." We should want something larger than a pup tent when He calls us. We have to open up, we have to enlarge, and increase the vision.

Next Isaiah 54:2 says we have to stretch forth the curtains of our habitation. It is a stretching work, isn't it? It is what Paul was talking about in Phil 3:13-14, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching out.

***Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

Reaching out = Conc. #1901= to stretch (oneself) forward upon: --reach forth. Stretching myself toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The high calling of God is not in the tent. It is not in the backyard. It is not in playing it safe. It is when you pull all of it off, and you say, "Lord, I am all yours. You are my protection. You are my healer. You are my deliverer."

I had a man come to my house and want to sell me a burglar alarm. I don't have anything against them. I just don't need one. He got mad at me because I wouldn't buy one. I told him I had angels encamping around my house, and they can see way down the block. You may think, "Oh, I wouldn't say something like that, because they would think I am nuts." They already do.

God is saying we have to put some effort in this thing. People are going to tell you that it isn't possible; that it can't be done. That is the time when you say, "For you it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. I will believe in that doctrine. I will take the word of God. I am not going to know defeat. I am going to know victory, upon victory, upon victory."

What I am telling you is things I have lived in my own life. I haven't tasted all of it, and haven't gotten nearly as far as I want to go, but I know there is more than the pup tent in the backyard. I know there is more than fighting with one another. I know there is more than biting one another. I know there is more than a bottle and a diaper walk with God. I know there is a place where the armor of God is to be put on. We need to put the armor on every day of our lives to remind ourselves that we are bearers of armor, not diaper changers. God is telling us to get out of our pup tents and put effort in it.

Next we see in Isaiah that we need to spare not. Don't hold back. Confess a good confession. Believe what God's word says, not what you feel. Not what your intellectual friends told you used to be or could have been, but that He isn't anymore. Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. He hasn't changed.

He says, "I am the Lord thy God. I change not (Malachi 3:6). I am looking for a people who are available, and willing to do whatever I tell them to do. I don't want you to hold back. I don't want you to spare. I want you to press in with all your might. I want you to roll out with all you have." Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Jesus never spared anything for us. He gave it all to us. He gave us His life. He gave us His blood. He gave us the cross. He gave us the resurrection. Hallelujah! He forgave us all our sins. He endued us with power on high. He gave us power over all the power of the enemy.

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***Matt 28:18-19 says: (18) Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***

He said, "Nothing can stop you. Don't keep sparing yourself. Get in there and pray. Get in there and seek My face. Get in there and seek My will. Get into the word of God. Find out what plan I have for your life." I don't care who you are; God has a dynamic plan for your life. He never calls a Christian to be living in the mullygrubs. He calls Christians to live on the highway of faith, and the highway of holiness, and to go from glory to glory. "Well, Brother Krider, I have to save some for tomorrow, you know." It doesn't work that way.

Awhile back I was talking to a person who wanted to go to YWAM. She felt the call of God to get trained and be a part of what God was doing. People had told her to get a job and get some money, in case. I said to myself, "Don't go if that is your attitude, because it won't work." The world is always in this sparing attitude; you have to save this, you have to keep this just in case. In God, there is no 'just in case.' God's word is yea and amen to them that are in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20).

Whatever He has promised me, He has promised you. Whatever He has promised to anyone of us, He has promised to all of us. We have to quit sparing, trying to save back a little. I have been having a ball for all these years, and I don't spare anything. I just give it all to God. What I would like to be when I leave here is on the verge of bankruptcy. Having enough to get on through. That is all I need.

I don't need a million dollars in the bank, because I have more than that already. I had a man ask me one time how much I was worth, and I told him I had no idea. He said, "Oh, come on. You can tell me." I told him I am an heir with God, and a joint heir with Christ Jesus; that means to own the joint. How much is that worth? He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Ps. 50:10), and all the gold and silver belongs to Him (Haggai 2:8). It belongs to us. Also the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous (Prov. 13:22).

You see, we spare. We say, "Oh, maybe 20 bucks. I've got 20 bucks in my pocket. I don't ever have any money. I am always broke." God says, "You will always be that way too. Why don't you confess what I said?" We act like we are trying to spare God a little strength, so He won't have to work so hard to get us through the day; that is a big job for God, you know. I'm telling you, the Church is in for some fun, whether it likes it or not.

Next we are told to lengthen thy cords. Don't limit God. Strengthen thy stakes, make sure your foundation is secure, receive the promise of God. What we have to become is more accountable. There has to be more accountability in my life. That means that if God said I am accountable, I must accept it and believe it. It means that if God has revealed anything to me, I am accountable that one day I will have to give back to the Lord an account of what He has revealed to my heart.

If I live in a pup tent, and never open it up, and I just keep getting my diapers changed, what am I going to be responsible for when I get home? Do you want anything there? If you want something there, you have to be accountable here. We have to quit hiding in a pup-tent and saying, "If I don't know, it is better off."

I have heard the expression that ignorance is bliss, but I say it is not bliss; it is stupidity. God gave you

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sixty-six books of the Bible, so you could know the entire account, the whole story of what God has given you, and what He wants for you, and what the desire of His heart is for you. Being a Christian isn't a long drawn out ugly thing. It is a joy! It is a song and a praise, hallelujah! It is just coming before Him with goodness and gladness of heart.

So I am accountable, and you are accountable for what you have just read, so you can't go and live in that pup tent any more. If somebody comes over and wants you to bite your bottle, tell them you don't bite your bottle anymore. You have traded your bottle in for a sword. Amen! You are going to chew on your sword, and you might cut some teeth with your sword.

You also have to be more involved with what God wants you involved with. You are not to be involved with worry, fear, doubt, unbelief, backbiting, murmuring, complaining, grumbling, griping,

and judgmental thinking. A lot of people stay busy with things like that. They feel like that is their ministry. They think they are busy for the Lord, keeping the body straight.

They have little secret prayer meetings. They want to tell you something just between them and you. When people say that to me, I say, "No! I know it is not. You must have said that to twenty or thirty people before you got to me." God wants a people who are involved with Him. More involved! Totally involved, spirit, soul, and body with the Lord.

Also there has to be more commitment, not only to go to Church, but are you committed to praise the Lord! Are you committed to thank Him? Are you committed to glorify Him? Are you committed to be obedient to His word? Are you committed to walk with Him? The Church so often looks like they are losers. If you say things like, "Well, I have to go to church," that is a loser attitude. We are privileged to go to church. We need to have a desire to be there. Non-Christians have no desire to go to church. We need to nurture that desire to go to church, until it becomes your life to be with the brothers and the sisters.

We also need to have anticipation. You won't get anything if you don't anticipate it. Our problem is that we anticipate the wrong things. Don't you want to move out of the pup tents? Well, you have to open up and move out. Enlarge it. We have to anticipate that God's word is true, that there is a mighty move of God upon the earth now.

I am tired of the Church anticipating bad things, bad times. We should be anticipating good times. Why? Because God said it. He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you when you are in trouble. I will be there and I will deliver you. When you call on Me, I will answer you." Come on! Don't act like it is a long-distance phone call. He is here, He lives in us, He pays the toll, He pays everything. He says for us to call Him.

We have to anticipate that when we pray, God will hear us. We have to anticipate that when we ask Him anything in the name of the Lord Jesus, according to His will, we have that petition that we ask of Him. We have to anticipate that, not "well, maybe it will, maybe it won't. I just hope it works out."

Now here are some things that you have to do. You have to have prayer, study, be obedient, and surrender. You can't be obedient if you don't know what to be obedient to. When you see a sign on a highway saying 65 miles per hour, if you break that and are watching in the mirror, you aren't enjoying that journey. We have to be obedient to the word of God, because there is a law officer waiting for you. He will get you.

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If you are not obedient to the word of God, a little wrath comes on you. Eph 5:6 and Col 3:6 say that the wrath of God is reserved for the children of disobedience. That isn't what God wants for us. What God wants is a people who are totally surrendered, who have been praying, who have been studying, who have given their life to the word of God. They have enlarged their tent. They have opened up their tent, and they have moved out of the pup tent. They are on the front line of the army, they are just reaching out for more, and they are stretching out.

When we stretch out, we are going to be able to accommodate more people. We are going to be able to reach more people, to bring more people into the Kingdom of God. A lot of us started out with canoes, and you can't take many people in a canoe or kayak. I want to move up to a battle-ship. Can't

you just imagine a bunch of Christians in their little pup tents with their little rubber dinghy, or rubber ducky? What we need are some Christians who are battle cruisers, rocket ships, aircraft carriers.

God has a fleet, and He wants us to move out of the pup tents and out of the kayaks and the rubber dinghies, and take on the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. He wants us to surrender completely to Him, become obedient to His word, and go from one vessel to another, because that is scriptural (2 Cor. 3:18). We are born from one vessel to another vessel; we are changed from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When God blows the trumpet to go to war, you are going to have a tough time getting those diapers off, getting that armor on, and getting rid of that rubber duck. You want to have that sword of the Spirit already in your spiritual hand, and your heart filled with faith, having on the whole armor of God, ready for battle at any moment, at any time, looking for God to do something great in your life.

I am going to fold this tent up one of these days. How would you like God to call you when you are in that little pup tent? You would probably cry and say no one ever let you do anything, but God says, "I would. Did you ever sweep the floor in the church?" "No, I didn't want to sweep the floor in the church." "Did you ever straighten the chairs in the church?" "No, I didn't want to straighten the chairs in the church." "What did you want to do?" "I wanted to preach!"

God will say, "You can't even talk good. You talk funny. But never the less, I will take you home. I would like to tell you, 'well done, son,' but you are about half-baked. I'll tell you what I will do. I will let you take care of sweeping the curbs in Malaga. Sit right there. How long have you been saved? How long since you made your commitment to Me?" "Forty years, Lord. Pardon me while I pull my diaper up. I have a bottle and some pabulum somewhere here in my pack."

This sounds hilarious but it is true. You can take the natural and correlate it with the spiritual every time. Pup tent Christians living in the back yard. That is as big as their world ever gets, the back yard. It isn't a big back yard. It is a tract yard. I have a tract yard, and it is like licking a five-cent stamp. What I want is a big yard, a lot of room here, not after I get there. I want to enjoy living for Christ.

I love those green pastures, I love those still waters, I love walking with the Lord, but God is saying to us, "There are things you have to do. You have to open up to Me. You have to quit telling Me how to do it. You have to quit telling Me how much you are going to do and how much you are not going to do. You have to make a total surrender and begin to enlarge it and move out into greater things."

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That is what Paul teaches, isn't it. It is the same thing. Putting on the whole armor of God, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph 6:10-18). You don't get that sword until you get the whole armor on. You could kill somebody with it. What you have until you get the armor on is a rubber dagger. Christians are running around with a lot of rubber daggers, and very few swords of the Spirit.

Are you ready to come out of your pup tent? I can pray for you, but I can't make you do anything that you have read in this study. Let's pray:

Father, we thank you for the love of God and the anointing of Your precious Spirit. Lord, I thank you so much for the challenge to move into the greater places with You; to move into the place like

Abraham did when he walked away from what he understood and followed You. As we watch his life unfold, we see the abundance that is in his life. Lord, we see the covenant that You made with him.

We are that people that want to grow in our covenant with You, a people who want to go from glory to glory. It is not a stale thing being a Christian. It is a joy, and the more that we learn, the more we are accountable, the more we surrender, the more we move into availability, the more we move into the things of God, the greater our walk becomes with You.

Help us to forsake the back-yard mentality of that little pup tent, where we never see more than the fence. We never see beyond that. Help us, God, to grow up to where we begin to enlarge, where our faith is growing. Where our confession of faith is growing, where our believing in Your ability and in You personally, is growing. Lord, I believe the Church is in for a great and mighty move.

I thank you, Lord, for everyone who has read this study, but most of all I want to thank you for Jesus, for the precious blood of the Lamb. Thank you for the stripes that brought the healing. Thank you for the chastisement of our peace, which is upon Your back. We want to glorify You.

Speak into our lives, Lord. Some of the things we say are very humorous, but they are very serious. May we all continue to grow in the grace of God. May we continue to put on the whole armor of God. May we all get hold of the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, so we can be those warriors for You.

You have destined Your people to be a mighty army, never defeated, but always defeating the enemy at every turn. Help us, Lord, to open up our tents to more than just being blessed. To volunteering, with Isaiah, to saying, "Here am I, Lord. Send me. I want to do whatever it is that You want me to do. I want to be whatever it is that I can be for You."

In Jesus mighty Name. Amen!