

Radical Sermon Series *Radical Collision*

Introduction: The purpose of a sermon is to hear the Word of God and to respond to this Word. So, sermons are meant to challenge us where we are at and align us to God's Word. They are never meant to make us comfortable where we are at...but instead...prompt a change to get us closer to God. In fact, **James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (NIV).** We are coming to a close on our radical journey with God sermon series today, and I hope that you will take away a few key facts concerning our walk with God. On a personal note...I hope and pray that these messages have stirred your heart and that this stirring will create a hunger for God like never before.

Let's review where we have been so far in the study of God's Word...

First and foremost...God literally laid everything down to cause a **radical change** to take place in your life. In fact, God spared no expense when it came to how far He was willing to go to put you in right standing before Him. We saw radical change take place in a man named Saul that hated Jesus and Christians and the Message of the Gospel, until he encountered Jesus and experienced a Radical Change like never before.

Secondly, if true radical change has taken place in our lives...the fruit of this encounter with God will be a renewed sense of direction in life and a **radical commitment** to God. No more will we be willing to accept the status quo in life in terms of serving God. We will come to an understanding that serving God is not a game but a life-long commitment to grow more and more like Him each and everyday through the process of Biblical Discipleship. In fact, Jesus was so "matter-of-fact" about what it took to fully commit to God, He stated that, ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23, NIV).***

Lastly, the hope has always been that men and women will experience true **Radical Change** from God which will cause them to be **Radically Committed** to Christ which in turn will help them realize that the work ahead of us will not be accomplished unless we experience a **Radical Collision** with God's Holy Spirit.

Collision is defined as...the meeting of particles or of bodies in which each exerts a force upon the other, causing the exchange of energy or momentum.

I call this a collision because when you encounter the Holy Spirit...you are literally encountering the very power and presence of God Almighty...and brothers and sisters...do you know what the church of today needs...we need the power of God...we need a radical collision with God's Mighty Spirit!

"The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God." – Francis Chan

Aren't you glad that when we encounter the Holy Spirit...we give him our sin and He gives us righteousness...we give Him our tiredness and He gives us strength and Power....we give Him our confusion and He gives us clarity and wisdom....We give Him hopelessness and worry and He gives us Vision and Direction.

In fact brothers and sisters...we can't do anything without the presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives...so many people depend on their own strength to make it through life...so many churches are quick to depend upon a new study or a new program or a new shift in ministry...but in all actuality...what the church needs today and what the church has always needed is a radical collision with God's Holy Spirit!

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6, NIV).

It's unfortunate that many people simply think that the Holy Spirit is the bringer of spiritual gifts to God's people and that's it...and while He is the bringer of spiritual gifts...the Holy Spirit of God has been involved in every aspect of our walk with God and so much more...

1. He was present at Creation (...*Gen 1:2 "Spirit of God was hovering over the waters"...**Job 33:3, "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life"*).
2. He was involved in writing God's Word (*2 Peter 1:20-21 "Understand that no prophesy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation. Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit)*
3. He is how we understand God's Word (*The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you"*
4. He gives us power to proclaim God's Word (Acts 1:8 "When the Spirit comes on you, you will receive power...")
5. Without the Holy Spirit of God, there would be no way to experience salvation...no process of daily sanctification before the Lord...

If fact, Jesus goes as far as saying... ***"I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor (Holy Spirit) will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you"*** (John 16:7, NIV).

"...the Holy Spirit is as essential to a believer's existence as air is to staying alive...the church is not empowered to live differently from any other gathering of people without the Holy Spirit. But when believers live in the power of the Spirit, the evidence in their lives is supernatural. the church cannot help but be different, and the world cannot help but notice." Francis Chan

Rod Parsley, pastor of World Harvest said one time that...*"The Holy Spirit will do for you what what a telephone booth did for Clark Kent..."*

It was interesting that as soon as Paul had a Radical encounter with God...this change caused a Radical Commitment to obedience and desire to serve God...here's a man that a few mins before his radical encounter could have easily killed Jesus without a second thought...but something happened on that road to Damascus...we talked about a radical change and we talked about a radical commitment that was caused from this change but today I want to talk about why that radical change took place. My friends...Paul had a powerful encounter with God's Holy Spirit...and when he met the power of God on that road...Paul's suddenly had a radical collision with God's Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19 (NIV)

God sends Ananias to Paul and he begins to pray over Paul...the man who is known to be a persecutor of Christians...a hater of Christ...and God's power falls upon Paul and he is healed and is filled with the Holy Spirit and was baptized...boom boom boom...all this happened because Paul had a powerful **Collision with God's Powerful Holy Spirit...**

Notice that just as soon as Paul experienced God's Power...He was transformed..changed....empowered...emboldened...

Just listen...Acts 9:20-22 Notice that Paul is doing things he didn't do before...notice that Paul is acting in ways he didn't act before....notice that Paul knows things he didn't know before...notice that Paul had a different kind of zeal that he didn't have before...

Loved ones...when we have a powerful collision with God's Holy Spirit...everything changes. Churches change...people change...lives change...neighborhoods and villages change...unrepentant hearts changed....calloused hearts change...bondage is broken....minds are filled with peace...healing takes place...

All of these powerful things happen when we have a powerful collision with the Holy Spirit...

Before I close this morning...there are three radical truths I need you to get and understand this morning when we are talking about the Holy Spirit because these truths will literally rock your world and change your walk with God forever....

1. The Spirit brings dead things to life

a. *"...the Holy Spirit who gives you life" (Rom 8:2)*

b. *'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and*

I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.” (Ezekiel 37:11-14).

- c. *“...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:11).*
- d. *What we were...we no longer are...Thank God that He brings new life...we were dead, but now we are alive!*
- e. *“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins” (Col 2:13).*

2. The Spirit opens doors you never knew existed

- a. *See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut (Rev 3:8)*
- b. *“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19).*

3. The Spirit empowers you like you never thought possible

- a. *When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power (Acts 1:8)*
- b. *“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God’s message with boldness” (Acts 4:31)*
- c. *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim 1:7)*
- d. *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1Cor:2:4-5)*
- e. *“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost....” (1Thes:1:5)*

The story of Christian reformation, revival, and renaissance underscores that the darkest hour is often just before the dawn, so we should always be people of hope and prayer, not gloom and defeatism. God the Holy Spirit can turn the situation around in five minutes.

-Os Guinness

We will never experience all the things God has in store for us unless we allow ourselves to have a Radical Collision with the Holy Spirit of God!