

Introduction:

- Happy Birthday Kelly and Tiffany
- I want to prepare us for this weeks coming New Year's Eve Service that we are calling "ALL IN!"
 - It is going to be a different type of gathering for there are at least 6 churches that have agreed to gather together in the spirit of unity in the brotherhood of covenant, and seek and sit before the Lord together.
 - It will be here at Freedom Christian Center, starting 7 p.m. this Friday. It will go until we or God is finished.
 - I personally expect to encounter God or be encountered by Him. My hope is that will be the same for you who attend.
- *"The Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique. The winner was not the runner who finished first. It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit." Stowell concludes, "I want to run all the way with the flame of my torch still lit for Him."*¹
 - It's one thing to finish, it's quite another to finish with your torch still lit.
- May we run, finish and may our torches still be lit when we cross that line. Let's be ALL IN? And how did we get here.

I. How Did We Get Here?

- A. The first answer is that it started with prayer in 1987. Kelly and I had been forced out of a denomination that were both raised in. I was passionate for prayer from the first day I was saved and I still am. When we left we had nothing but each other and the God who had called us to the state of Florida.
1. One of the first things that God called me to do was to begin calling pastors together. He gave 5 directives in gathering of pastors:
 - a) To fellowship
 - b) To minister to each others hurts and wounds
 - c) To encourage and honor one another gifts and gifting
 - d) To worship the Lord.
 - e) To intercede for Brevard County.
 2. I started with a monthly pastors luncheon. Out of 70 some invitations sent out monthly, I had two or three who came to meet regularly.
 3. One day a man called me and said, "If you will let me send out the next letter you will have 25-30 pastors who will come." His name was Jamie Buckingham. And we had about 30 pastors at the next luncheon. From this group...
 4. The three or four guys I was praying with said let do this weekly. And we began doing prayer together on Thursdays. 1989. For the next four years we loosely did

¹ FAN THE FLAME: LIVING OUT YOUR FIRST LOVE FOR CHRIST by Joseph Stowell, p. 32

those five directives. The group grew to about 20 pastors praying each week. Michael Thompson, who spoke here a couple months ago was also leading prayer with a group of pastors, many of those denominational. We started to prayer together and then we started doing annual retreats together and at those retreats those 5 directives happened.

5. Then in 1994 we started praying about having Randy Clark come to Brevard County to minister. And on New Year's Day, Jan. 1st 1995 the Melbourne Renewal broke out. For the next six months we had services 6 days a weeks. The most unusual signs that took place was holy laughter. But in the laughter God was touching His people. And the church was experiencing an infusion of life!
- B. In 2021, the handfull of guys I pray with felt that—"God was up to something." Our prayer times had lots of life in them. We began to worship more and when we worshipped the Presence of God would come and encourage us.
1. I made the trip to Kentucky and visited spots of revival and transformation. When I came back I sensed and new anointing on my life. I was hungry for the former prayer meetings when we worshipped and cried out for God to come.
 2. We started doing that. We have committed worship leaders now at each prayer meeting. The anointing increased. We set up a time for some of the guys from Titusville to come and join us. We felt God on this, and so the weekly pastors prayer meeting is now held here each Thursday.
- C. Before Thanksgiving, Pastor Clyde Oliver got the word, "All In!" He said he felt we were to personally commit to being All In! As a prophetic act we each threw something of value to us into a basket and committed ourselves to being "All In" for what God desired to do in the finish of this year.
1. The next week we prayed about how we should respond.
 2. Thus we arrived at Friday, December 31, New Year Eve, 7 p.m. would do an "ALL IN!" gather together. The main purpose being to worship. To consecrate and dedicate ourselves to the Lord for the new year, 2022.
 3. "All In" is about worshipping God. Soaking in worship. Enjoying worship. Don't get in a hurry and be careful when you leave. Worship ebbs and flows and if you think it is over when the wave is going out you will miss God.

II. Why All The Worship?

- A. Because Jesus is Worthy! End of Conversation!
1. There are angels and creatures in heaven that have never stopped worshipping.
 2. When you contemplate such a great Salvation, that you have been saved from an eternal devil's hell, then you will worship the eternal One for all of eternity!
 3. If for that reason alone, Jesus is Worthy we could go all night if we did not get tired.

- B. Worship positions us to encounter God.
1. Acts 13 Barnabas and Saul set aside for Gods' work. *"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.""* (Acts 13:2, ESV)
 2. Solomon dedicates the temple.
 - a) as they worshipped, *"the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God."* (2 Chronicles 5:14, ESV)
 - b) Solomon finished prayer of dedication of Temple. *"As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple."* (2 Chronicles 7:1, ESV)
- C. Worship and Praise silences the enemy. *"Out of the mouths of babes and unweaned infants You have established strength because of Your foes, that You might silence the enemy and the avenger."* (Psalm 8:2, AMP)
- D. Worship and Praise Binds the evil one. *"Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the Lord!"* (Psalm 149:6-9, ESV)
- E. God inhabits the our praises. He is enthroned on our praises.
1. *"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel."* (Psalm 22:3, ESV)

III. To Dedicate and Consecrate Ourselves to God

- A. To Dedicate - 'means to give up to or to devote to.'¹ It is what Hannah did with young Samuel. It is used to describe those things and people willingly offered to the Lord.
1. If we dedicate ourselves to God all that we own/possess will be His as well for what ever He want to do.
 2. We are living sacrifices. *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* (Romans 12:1, ESV)
 3. Appreciating all that God has done for us lead us to the place of willingly laying down our lives for Him. It was Bill Johnson who said, *"The closer you get to God the less you can take with you."*²
- B. Consecration in the literal sense means to 'fill the hand'. It is what the priests did with their hands. They received the sacrifices of the people and waved them before the Lord.

² Todd Smith, God's Glory, p 63

1. Consecration has more to do with our daily walk before the Lord. Our lives which are ours we present as a wave before Him daily. It requires a dedication and an ongoing sanctification to do so.
 2. When we are consecrated we are set apart to God and put into the hands of our Great High Priest Jesus. When we do that, it is no longer our but is offered to God.
 - a) IE. You can't offer your tithe to God. The tithe already belongs to Him you are giving it back. But you what belongs to you, you can offer to God!
 3. Your life is not your own...it is His. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal those areas of your life that will require your surrender. It is about our will being conformed to His. It is about being set apart to Him. IE. Renewal and my vision following the apostle Paul. What I thought was a few minutes was almost 4 hours of carpet time.
 - a) Jesus is a prime example: *"And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.""* (Luke 22:41-42, ESV)
 - b) He calls us to do the same: *"Let me make this clear: A single grain of wheat will never be more than a single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies. Because then it sprouts and produces a great harvest of wheat—all because one grain died."* (John 12:24, TPT)
 - c) It is a call to consecration/surrender. *"And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 10:38-39, ESV)
- C. Surrender means death to self. It is not so much a sin issue as it is a will issue. IE. Isaiah had to be touched with the coal from the altar before he was ready to "go for God." Is. 6:1-ff.

IV. What About This Baptism Thing?

- A. Baptism unto repentance. This is what John the Baptist preached. He was preparing the Way of the Lord, Jesus. He was getting hearts ready to receive their Savior.
 1. Repentance is a change of mind. A turning away from sin, of course, but a turning to God.
 2. Baptize means to be immersed. And it is done in a quick fashion. We may very well baptize people New Year's as an outward sign of what God has done in their heart. In baptism we are buried with Him and raised to newness of life in Christ Jesus.
- B. The majority of baptism that we will do on New Year's Eve will be for the purpose of encountering God.
 1. So the big question is what is the Biblical basis of doing this?
 2. The Jews practiced using the Mikveh. It was water filled pool that they would often enter before presenting their offering/sacrifice to the Lord. Mikveh uses the same Hebrew letters as the Hebrew word for 'hope'. The book of Jeremiah not only uses it as a reference to 'hope' but also to 'Living Water'.
 - a) *"O Lord, the hope of Israel, ..., the fountain of living water."* (Jeremiah 17:13, ESV) It speaks of hope and at the same time is connected with 'living water.'
 - b) *"... We set our hope on you, for you do all these things."* (Jeremiah 14:22, ESV)

- c) Jesus words to Nicodemous in Jn 3:5 of being born of the water and the Spirit could very well have referred to the Mikveh.
- 3. It was for the purpose cleansing and encountering God before offering one's sacrifice to God.
- 4. We pastors want you all to encounter God the New Year's Eve.
- C. It is not something that we will rush. The ministry teams that baptize you will be moving in the gifts of the Spirit.
 - 1. Expect to encounter God. Slain in the Spirit. Vision. Fresh Joy.
 - 2. Miracles have happened in the baptism.
 - 3. Deliverances have happened in the baptism tanks.
 - 4. Bring a towel and a change of clothes. We will have changing areas set up on the North side of our building.

Conclusion:

- Friday night is all about being "ALL IN!" for 2022.

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me". (Matthew 16:24, ESV)

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." (Psalm 51:12, ESV)