

GREAT FOCUS:

GREAT POWER AND GREAT GRACE

By: Clarence E. McClendon

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Are you ready for the swift shift that is right now taking place in the church? You and I are being moved and positioned to receive GREAT POWER and GREAT GRACE upon our lives!

As you are reading this, shout, "GREAT POWER, GREAT GRACE!"

The Spirit of God has placed some things in my heart and in my spirit that I need to share with you as we go forth in this year.

This year, everything changes and everything is recovered. It is not yet clear to all people, however, what it is that God is doing. There is no question that we have been shifting; but the question that is on the hearts and minds of the people is...

"Shifting to what?"

It is understandable that if we are going to be led, we want some kind of sense of direction on where we are moving. While the word of God and the Holy Spirit are to provide that, many times, people look to leaders in order to do that. Yes, there is some significant aspects of leadership that men can provide; but if you are going to be part of a prophetic and apostolic move, you have to be in tune with the Holy Ghost. You cannot be dependent upon the whims and affirmations of people. You have to be in tune with the Spirit of God!

YOUR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Ask yourself, "Am I in tune with the Spirit of God?"

Are you currently doing things that are in tune with what the Holy Ghost wants for your life?

A fresh shift is upon us; and this may be a somewhat tumultuous year for you, as it relates to this calling and anointing of God. Primarily, it is because we have been shifting and people don't understand shifts and they don't like them. People often like stability, uniformity, regularity and certainty.



You have to understand, however, that when you are following the Spirit of God, you are not promised situational certainty, you are promised ultimate security! You are promised that whatever it is that you are going into, through or being led past, God is going to get the victory out of it!

Say, "GOD IS GOING TO GET THE VICTORY OUT OF IT!"

I have written this eBook for you and others like you who need to hear this prophetic word. I had received a message from a Man of God, a prominent prophetic voice, who told me to pick up the pen of faith. He said that it was time for me to write new chapters of God's goodness, because in this season, God's people shall do great things in God's Name. He goes on to prophesy that this is the year of unlimited potential, possibilities and progress for the faithful in Christ who make the Kingdom of God their priority. I encourage you to read on and discover that great power and great grace is being made available to you.

2 Corinthians 12:9

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

GREAT POWER AND GRACE COMES FROM GREAT FOCUS

Acts 4:33-35

And with GREAT POWER the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And GREAT GRACE was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

The scriptures above show the Holy Spirit's commentary on the growth and the eruption or blossoming of the 1st century church through the apostles. This is important for us right now in understanding the shift that is happening. It's happening in the body of Christ and it's happening in your church. And it's going to happen to YOU!

Say, "THE SHIFT IS HAPPENING IN ME AND AROUND ME!"



The shift is going to mark a return to God's original intent of the church. The church in the west is targeted for revival and awakening, and this is the year when these fires shall begin to blossom. There is a fire that is going on beginning in the west of the United States and it is going to spark revival in other areas.

YOUR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Are you ready for the fire of revival and awakening?

If your answer is 'yes', then, there are some things that shall be required...

A SHIFT is required; and it is a shift in mindset, modality and manpower. It is going to require people with:

- 1. A Different Mindset
- 2. A Different Modality -- practices and purposes are going to have to be clear
- 3. A Different Manpower -- how it is assembled and deployed

Now, are you going to be one of these people who will accept the challenge and make a shift? Do not be afraid or hesitant, because God has purposed to give you something GREAT!

In Acts 4:33 and 34, the Bible talks about great power (in Greek, "mega dunamis," from which we get the word, 'dynamite'). The word dunamis means explosive or miraculous power or ability. The apostles had great power that was producing miracles and great grace or favor that was upon them in this season.

Remember, favor is something that money cannot buy. Favor will bring you things that money cannot procure for you. Favor is when God leans in kindness in your direction!

Great favor was on the apostles, but why? The great power was supplied because of their great FOCUS!

Nowadays, people want great power even though they don't have great focus. You want great power, but you don't have great focus. You want great grace, but you don't have great focus. What this scripture states and what the Spirit of God wants me to share with you is that great power was supplied because of their great focus and the great grace was a product of their maintaining that great focus.

Shout, "GREAT POWER IS SUPPLIED THROUGH GREAT FOCUS!"

The apostles' great power was from their great focus on the Great Commission. The great power that they experienced and the great favor that they moved in was a result of the fact that they had a great focus on the Great Commission and they refused to be moved from that great focus.

The Bible says, that with great power, the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the reason that the Holy Spirit was constantly supplying them with power and with favor is because their aim was not to come to church to get a word; not to come to church get a title; not to come to church to get promoted; not to come to church to get next to the prophet. It was to come to church to get empowered for another week to go out and give evidence to people that Jesus is alive and full of power.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

What is the Great Commission? The Great Commission happened when Jesus told His disciples after His resurrection to "go into the world and preach the gospel" and to "go into all the nations and make disciples." (Mark 16: 15-18 | Matthew 28: 19-20)

The Great Commission was about preaching the gospel and making disciples. It was not about having a bunch of departments. It was not about having a bunch of groups. It wasn't about having a bunch of leaders. People may want that, you may want that, and sometimes it is helpful, but hear me when I tell you that God doesn't require it!

People want it, but God doesn't require it. If you get a group of people who have one focus on making sure that the gospel is preached and people are discipled, God will pour power and favor on that and we don't need all the stuff that the western church says we need.

The western church has the idea that you don't have church if you don't have a building. The apostles didn't have a building. What they had was a focus around a resurrected Jesus!



YOUR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Put your focus on JESUS! Read more about the Great Commission in the Bible in Mark 15:16-18 and in Matthew 28: 19-20.

The focus of the Great Commission was encapsulated for the apostles by Jesus before He ascended into Heaven. It is written in this verse below:

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The power that they received was given for them to be witnesses of the resurrection. The apostles were given this task by Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Like the apostles, <u>YOU are now being given the power to be a witness of the resurrection!</u>

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

The Holy Spirit was given to you so that you can see what others can't see and hear what others can't hear so you can be a better witness. The things that have not gotten into the hearts of other church goers, gets in your heart so you can be a better witness.

Say this in faith:

"I CAN SEE WHAT OTHERS CAN'T SEE...
I CAN HEAR WHAT OTHERS CAN'T HEAR...
I HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN ME!"

You have been blessed with the Holy Spirit! If you're praying in the Holy Ghost just so you can get a better car, more money, etc., then you are praying in the Holy Ghost for the wrong reason. Your praying in the Holy Ghost is primarily to build yourself up in your most holy faith so you can manifest evidence!



What God is after is evidence. We have to ask ourselves, "What are we doing to manifest evidence?" Who knows that Jesus is alive because they've talked to you? Who knows that Jesus is alive because they hang out with you? Who knows that Jesus is alive because they watch you?

You might say that it's hard to produce evidence because of your situation. It's hard to produce evidence because of the current state of your finances. But if your focus is on preaching the gospel and making disciples, then you will be supernaturally supplied with everything you need. You'll have more than you need.

Great power and great favor are products of a great focus. The great focus has already been set for the church—it has already been set for you and for me!

Here is what people don't understand. We don't get to choose what the vision of a church is. Jesus has already chosen that. Our only job is to determine how the Holy Spirit wants us to do what He has chosen!

Shout, "MY FOCUS IS SET!"

THE POWER IS FOR CARRYING OUT THE FOCUS

The power did not come before the focus. The focus came and then the power came because the power is to carry out the focus. The focus is—we've got to give evidence that Jesus is alive.

Jesus had men who had that focus. He said, okay, I'll give them all the power they need. So, if somebody needs to be healed, I'll give them power for that. If somebody needs to be raised from the dead, I'll give them power to do that. If they need multiplied loaves and fishes, I'll give them power to do that.

Our focus as new creation believers is not just on having a nice building, better cars, bigger houses etc. Our focus is that somebody knows that Jesus is alive.

The focus of the coming together of the early church, the reason for their celebration services, the reason for their preaching, the reason for their training, the reason for their departmental work, was not for them to get something.



They didn't have church to "get a word." They weren't coming to church to get a departmental appointment. They weren't coming to church so they could be the chief elder or chief deacon. They were coming to the gathering so that they could be empowered for another week to go out and prove to somebody that Jesus is alive and full of power! They were coming to give something, not only to get something.

The focus of the early church when they came together was not so they could get something from the preacher. It was so they could receive something from God so they could give it to others.

THE SHIFT AND YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

Are you coming to church to get or are you coming to give? If you have gone to any church over the last 30 years in America, you have most likely been indoctrinated with the mindset of coming to get. That is part of the paradigm that the Holy Spirit is shifting—He is changing the mindset of people so that we all understand that we are not coming to church to get, we are coming to church to receive something from God and use it to bring people unto Jesus.

Say, "I AM SHIFTING MY MINDSET!"

YOUR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What are the blessings that you have received through the years? Have you ever used what you have received to bring other people unto Jesus?

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not a place ordained to be a place where you come only to get something. It is ordained to be a place where people who have received something from God, come to be empowered to give something.

In the early church, the purpose of the apostolic and corporate coming together was for them to be constantly empowered to produce evidence. They came together to be constantly empowered to manifest something, mainly, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive and full of power.



If you are going to come and hear me preach, you are going to come and hear Jesus is alive, Jesus saves, Jesus heals and Jesus delivers.

You are going to hear that:

1. The evidence that Jesus rose, is alive and full of power, happens when souls are saved.

One of the things that we are going to get serious about is making sure that souls are saved. That includes having a serious commitment on knowing how many souls got saved and making sure that those souls that got saved are contacted so they know where and when to be discipled.

2. The evidence that Jesus rose, is alive and full of power, happens when bodies are healed.

Healing miracles don't just happen. Whenever you see a healing miracle happen, someone believed God!

God refuses to work miraculously in the earth without you. God wants you to be recognized as a miracle worker. People will see Him through what He does with you! When you come to my gathering, you will learn to say, "Jesus healed the sick, so will I."

3. The evidence that Jesus rose, is alive and full of power, happens when lives are transformed by encountering the word and the Spirit of God.

The word of God transforms lives. If you come to hear me preach, you will hear me say that your past should not dictate your future. God is pushing you forward! And for every mountain that God has brought you over, a blessing is attached for you to transform your life.

4. The evidence that Jesus rose, is alive and full of power, occurs when individuals and families "live a difference", not only make a difference.

We have too many churches focused on making a difference, but their people don't LIVE a difference. You can make a difference and still go to hell. All you have to do to make a difference is to change something. To live a difference is to live your life in such a way that it exemplifies that Jesus is alive and full of



power and that when people look at you, they don't even have to hear your witness. They witness your witness. They behold it.

When the economy is going down, you are not talking debt. When sickness is sweeping, you are not talking flu season. When there are conflicts happening, you are not talking chaos.

You are living a difference. You are manifesting evidence that Jesus is risen, alive, and full of power!

This is the shift.

Great power and great favor are products of a great focus on the Great Commission; a focus that only cares that people are getting evidence every week that Jesus is alive.

Shout these in faith:

"THE GREAT FOCUS IS UPON ME!"

"I RECEIVE MY GREAT POWER!"

"I RECEIVE MY GREAT FAVOR!"

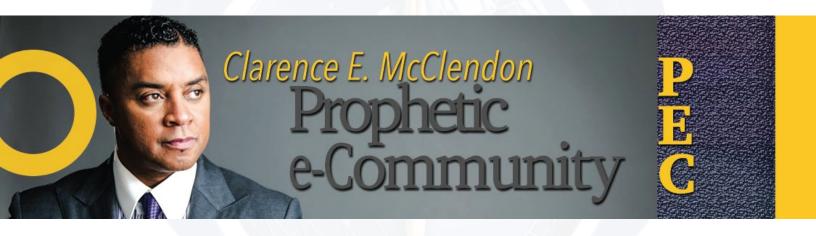
"I WILL 'LIVE' A DIFFERENCE!"

"I AM READY TO MANIFEST AND PRODUCE EVIDENCE!"

"PEOPLE WILL BEHOLD MY WITNESS!"

Thank you for reading this prophetic word. You have the power to move in the shift and manifest! Receive great grace and great favor!





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