

Are You Desperate for the Holy Spirit Yet?

When I say the church in America is in a mess, that's not an oversimplification, and it's certainly not some allegorical statement. We are literally in a mess. From false prophets to woke agendas, the church has fallen prey to all manner of unbiblical foolishness. We've jumped on every church growth bandwagon imaginable, and with each passing decade, the body of Christ in this nation has drifted further and further from biblical truth.

Sound doctrine and true Holy Spirit power have become so foreign to this generation that we have blatantly humanized God, deified man and willingly glorified sin. We have to stop screaming *love and acceptance* while God Himself is screaming, *abomination and unholiness*.

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The church is being called into a season of deep repentance and humility. The glory of God is rising among a righteous remnant of people who are tired of status-quo Christianity—men and women who long for true integrity of heart, boldness of speech and the unction to break free from religious bondage.

What has gotten us to where we are, will not get us to where God wants us to go.

After Deliverance

It is important to recognize the power of desperation. Desperation for deliverance and for the Word of God. For that, I want to take a look at the book of Jeremiah, which is one of

the strangest theological books in the entire Bible.

Jeremiah was called by the Lord at age 15 to preach for 40+ years to a nation that did not give one flip of a wooden nickel about anything he said. Only a handful of people were true-blue converts of the message Jeremiah had to preach, and that message was not a casual “just come to the Lord and all your dreams will be fulfilled” kind of message. He preached a message of deep repentance and thundered out the truth of the Word to a rebellious group of people that sat there bug-eyed and hard-hearted and refused to listen.

For more than four decades Jeremiah smashed strongholds, fought devils and called the people away from the bondage of iniquity and idolatry. In Jeremiah 8, he’s still in the introduction of his lifelong sermon of repentance. Here’s a man who was thrown into a miry pit—not just a prison with “three hots and a cot,” but a literal pit of mud and stench—on two occasions for preaching the Word. Later in the narrative we see Jeremiah become so discouraged that he said, “O Lord, you have deceived me,” (Jer. 20:7, ESV). Have you ever felt deceived by God? Have you ever felt like God gave you a promise and it didn’t come to pass when you thought it should?

Jeremiah eventually got so discouraged that he was tempted to walk away from the things of God, “but his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay,” (20:9). No matter how rebellious the people were, no matter how discouraged he became, he couldn’t quit because the Word of God was boiling and stirring in him. And it wouldn’t let him go.

Jeremiah was one of the few true prophets left in the southern kingdom of Judah after the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. The king was a fleshly puppet. The priests had corrupted themselves. The prophets had polluted themselves because they were all about the money. Their ministry was no longer about the manifested glory of God or the truth. It was

about being seen by men instead of being exalted by God and used for the glory of His message. They cared about the manifestation of their own lives, not the manifestation of the power of God.

In Jeremiah 8, something happened that I've read more than a hundred times, but for some reason I never caught it until we got a glimpse of what God was teaching us on this journey of deliverance. We see that the wise men began to be ashamed of the Word of the Lord. In response, God said, "I'm going to kill all of you." That's what He means when He says, "I'm going to give your wives to others and your land to those that shall inherit it." (See verse 10.) He said, "I'm going to judge you and wipe you off the face of the earth. You've been rebellious far too long, and you've been preaching something that is not true. And because of that, My people have no healing."