

Contending for the Breakthrough of God's Power

I. CONTENDING FOR THE APOSTOLIC FAITH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)

- A. Definition of contend: ***to fight for something***. In other words, it is a call to live with holy dissatisfaction concerning our powerlessness and spiritual barrenness. We refuse to accept this.
- B. The apostle Jude exhorted the believers under his leadership to fight earnestly to walk in the faith or the quality of life in the Spirit that was originally given to the saints by the 12 apostles.
 - 1. We contend for New Testament doctrine in our understanding.
 - 2. We contend for New Testament lifestyles including purity, prayer and fasting, etc.
 - 3. We contend for New Testament power in our ministries.
 - a. Establish a clear vision to walk in the power of God by feeding our spirit on what God did in the Book of Acts and through revival movements throughout history.
 - b. Seek the breakthrough of power through fasting and prayer.
 - c. Seek to live without compromise.
 - d. Seek to be faithful in the days of small beginnings.
 - e. Be willing to bear the reproach in standing for this vision.

II. ESTABLISH A CLEAR VISION TO WALK IN THE POWER OF GOD

²⁴ Take heed what you hear (believe about what God will give you). With the same measure you use (build your life around), it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given (Mk. 4:24)

¹¹ Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 There were seven sons of Sceva...who did so. 15 The evil spirit said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known...to all...in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified...20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:11-20)

¹² The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do. (Jn. 14:12)

- A. We feed our spirit on what God did in the Book of Acts and through revival movements throughout history (John Lake, Charles Finney, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, etc).
- B. First we seek God's face then we earnestly seek His hand and power.

³¹ Earnestly desire the best gifts. (1 Cor. 12:31)

III. SEEK THE BREAKTHROUGH OF POWER THROUGH FASTING AND PRAYER

¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely...¹⁶ I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."...¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast him out?" ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief...²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Mt. 17:15-21)

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers (permits/rewards) violence, and the violent (those with holy resolution to fast and pray) take it by force. (Mt. 11:12)

⁹ My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)

IV. SEEK TO LIVE WITHOUT COMPROMISE: WE DECLARE WAR ON ALL COMPROMISE.

¹¹ I beg you as...pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Pet. 2:11)

V. SEEK TO BE FAITHFUL IN THE DAYS OF SMALL BEGINNINGS

Determine that you will pay any price to see the breakthrough of God in your life and city. Refuse to back down. Settle the issue and ask God, "Why not me?" If not you, then who? If not now, then when? If not here, then where?

¹⁰ For who has despised the day of small things? ...the eyes of the LORD, scan to and fro throughout the whole earth. (Zech. 4:10)

¹⁷ Well done...you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities... (Lk. 19:17)

¹ LORD, remember David and all his afflictions; ² How he swore to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: ³ "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵ until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Ps. 132:1-5)

VI. BE WILLING TO BEAR THE REPROACH IN STANDING FOR THIS VISION.

Do not wait until it becomes popular to seek God with spiritual violence. Join in with those who are taking a stand or be the first to take a stand. There is a God orchestrated "stigma of the anointing." We must take a stand and bear the reproach before and after the breakthrough of God

⁷ Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. ⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; ⁹ because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. ¹⁰ When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. ¹¹ I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. ¹² Those who sit in the gate speak against me... (Ps. 69:7-12)