

Our Gift of Love to Jesus: Refusing Spiritual Showmanship (Mt. 6)

I am going to share what is to me one of the most important parts of my personal divine assignment before the Lord over the last 40 years. I could highlight several things starting with having 24/7 prayer in the Spirit of the Tabernacle of David, proclaiming the forerunner message focusing on the beauty of Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge, and the message of the Bride of Christ and the First Commandment.

*I am calling this “**Our gift of Love to Jesus: Refusing Spiritual Showmanship.**”*

I have had a couple of prophetic dreams this year about this and I have been waiting for the right time to share them. This is not a word of correction over this body because for the last 23 years I have had great joy in watching this community excel in what I am going to share tonight. I mean there has been a little showmanship here and a little there but mostly there has been a spirit of excellence in our community related to this value.

Why am I speaking this now? Because I feel stirred up, particularly after last week when Roe vs. Wade got turned around—I believe from the heavenly point of view that we are being postured as a nation for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What I am wanting us to do is to align our heart in a fresh and clear way to what the Lord desires in this in context of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit that is surely coming to our nation.

I am thinking mostly right now for the benefit of our teens—that their spiritual lives will be set in a certain trajectory according to how we steward the move of the Holy Spirit. And most people when they think of stewarding the move of the Holy Spirit they think most of just not stopping it and that is really important. However, also important in stewarding the move of the Holy Spirit is that we carry our hearts in the way that Jesus carried His heart under the anointing of the Spirit. Yes not hindering the Spirit's activity is critical and also giving the way we give expression to the Spirit's ministry in a Christ-like way of humility is also critical.

So I am thinking of intentionally setting our hearts as a community to walk in humility—again 99% of this room is already set on this; but I want to give language that maybe some of you do not yet have. I realize that some of you have this language more clearly than I will present on this handout.

Because I believe that there is going to be a very dramatic outpouring of the Spirit in the days ahead it is good to realign our heart to this value of humility in our expression of the Holy Spirit's ministry. We have friends all around the world that we love but who are not in a context to where they are in a conversation like this. Not that we have all of the answers or that we are saying it right or that are saying it the best. However, many believers are not in a context to where they are going to hear some of the things I am going to share tonight.

I encourage you to share this video with your friends—saying, “Hey check this out... what do you think?”

I am thinking of this as one way to encourage others in the body of Christ to express their love for Jesus.

We want Him glorified and magnified—He is going to be and that is good news.

*I have six pages in my handout tonight. **I am only going to cover part of this tonight.** I put more in this handout so you can read it if you are interested or if you want more language to tease out some of the ideas in the handout that we do not have time to develop here tonight in my message. Some of the things I am going to say tonight are not said that often in my observation over 50 years of being actively involved in the body of Christ.*

I. THE LORD WILL CLEANSE THE BODY OF CHRIST OF SPIRITUAL SHOWMANSHIP

- A. I had a powerful prophetic dream on **January 10, 2022**. I woke up with joy. The Lord showed me that **He is going to confront and cleanse the body of Christ of spiritual showmanship** starting with what happens on ministry platforms from preachers, worship teams, and ministry leaders. (What happens on the platform is sown and multiplied in the body of Christ at large).

*Paragraph A: On January 10, 2022, I had a very powerful dream. In this dream the Lord showed me very clearly that **He is going to confront and cleanse the body of Christ from a spirit of spiritual showmanship**. That was startling to me. He is going to start with platform ministries. Because whatever happens on public ministry platforms is sown and multiplied in the body at large. He cares about the entire body but I believe in these next few years He is going to targeting public platform ministries.*

First, I am referring to preachers and teachers not just those in a big auditorium but including those in small classrooms, or even in home groups—I am referring to the leadership role of publicly teaching and preaching, and sharing—in large and small settings.

Secondly, worship teams, not just worship leaders but worship teams, the entire team.

Thirdly, the one group that is easy to overlook but I believe it will be the group most tempted to stumble in this area—the people who lead ministry times. Often is the preacher or worship leader who leads ministry times but it is also often that somebody else leads the ministry time. I believe we are going to enter a time where the ministry time is going to be so powerful (beyond any time in history). There is something that happens in the human heart if you can say on a microphone “More Lord, Come Holy Spirit” and 100 people get hit by the Spirit. The first time or two is pretty cool and about three years later something I have watched over the years often shifts in the people that God uses that way— it is common of some to embrace flamboyant platform antics and that get established and become normal in their platform ministry style . I think this will be stronger temptation in future “ministry times” even beyond what some preachers do , although the flamboyant platform antics in the body of Christ started with the preachers much more than with worship leaders and with those who lead “ministry times.”

He is going to cleanse the body of Christ of this. **I saw this in two prophetic dreams this years**. I woke up with so much joy! **I woke up with joy because I am thinking of the Father’s delight that Jesus would be magnified above everyone else on ministry platforms**. I thought of the delight that the Lord is (by implication of giving me these dreams), saying to me personally and to all of us that He is inviting us to be used as part of this. That we would offer to Him this gift of love on the last day that we contended for humility and refusing spiritual showmanship in our generation. That we trained a younger generation of teenagers that would one day would be the primary leaders in the body of Christ but they were raised in a context where humility was normative even when God's power was being manifest through their ministry. Even with multitudes blessed by the Spirit's power through them yet they will not shift at all to becoming flamboyant but they stayed steady in humility.

- B. I had another dream about refusing spiritual showmanship on June 28, 2022. For about 3 hours, I heard the phrase many times, **“Tell them to learn from Me for I am humble in heart”** (Mt. 11:29) and **“as the Father loved Me, I have loved you, abide in My love”** (Jn. 15:9). I awoke filled with awe at the privilege of being among people *who could offer our gift of love to Jesus* which includes contending for a *culture of humility that exalts Him* without drawing undue attention to ourselves.

²⁹ **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart...”**
(Mt. 11:29, NAS)

Paragraph B: Well, last Friday, Roe vs. Wade was overturned and the law changed, then that night (or the very early morning hours of Saturday) **I had a second prophetic dream in 2022** on this issue of **the Lord cleansing “spiritual showmanship”**. I see the change in Roe vs. Wade as a timing indicator related to the Lord releasing more of the Holy Spirit’s activity in our nation. However, in the mindset of some in the body of Christ today more Holy Spirit activity will lead to an more human fleshliness on platforms. And the Lord is saying “Set your heart, be among a people that set their hearts and that are plumb-lined before Him to steward the Spirit’s ministry through them with humility instead of waiting to figure it out during the upcoming revival.

Last Saturday, I had a prophetic dream, this was strange—I have never had anything like this but it went on for like three hours (I did not time it actually), but like for an hour in this dream the Lord said the same two things over and over **“Tell them to learn from Me for I am humble of heart (Mt. 11:29). Learn from Me, for I am humble of heart! Tell them, learn from Me, for I am humble at heart!”** It seemed like it went on forever, I mean maybe it was not an hour but it was long; I woke up and said “I should get up and write this down! No, I do not have to, **I will never forget this dream**, because it marked me so strongly!” I fell back asleep and for another hour the same dream! Maybe not an hour but a long time, I woke up and said “Why is this happening? Should I get up and write it down? No, how could I ever forget this!” For another hour I had the same dream, I mean it went on and on the same thing for about one hour each time in **three separate dreams** (it seemed like another hour, I am not sure) “Tell them, I am humble of heart, learn from Me!” Each time He also said **“As the Father loved Me, so I love you! Tell them to live in My love! (Jn. 15:9). As the Father loved Me, so I love you, tell them to live in My love!”** Those two verses (Mt. 11:29; Jn. 15:9) were connected in a dynamic way. I heard those 2 verses over and over, having the same prophetic dream 3 times.

I woke up and I was filled with awe. And the awe was related to the privilege that I could be among a people who could offer this gift of love to the Lord on the last day. I thought “Fantastic! I mean a guy like me!” I mean a people like you that we would be awakened and energized to lean into the leadership of the Lord at this level that would make a difference to some in the next generation. Now, I mean we are not going to touch the whole world but if God has a thousand groups doing this then eventually He will have ten thousand groups doing it. Then eventually the billion-soul harvest will be aligned up rightly. I want to be among a people like this; it is a privilege for me to contend for this. I am contending for it right now publicly in this message. Again, I am in a very agreeable atmosphere, I mean this group loves this message. I sent out the teaching notes on this handout a few hours ago to a little group email on our leadership team and have a bunch of folks already responded saying “Fantastic! Fantastic!” and I said “Well, it is pretty simple!” but I have joy in knowing that many in our community already have this in their heart, I love it.

- C. Jesus is returning for a mature Bride who loves Him and His ways, including humility, holiness with great kindness, and more. Thus, I am so glad to boldly say that “Jesus will cleanse the Church of spiritual showmanship.” He is returning for a Church that looks like Him—that loves humility.

Paragraph C: Fact, Jesus is returning for a matured Bride, humility and purity will succeed. I can boldly say this, **“He will cleanse the Church of spiritual showmanship!** I can declare it with joy and confidence, it is going to happen!” However, I want to say tenderly and not as “a know it all” that the body of Christ right now is off course now on this subject. When there is a heightened release of power in ministries, not everybody, not everybody but the rule is to stumble some in this area. Sometime where there is dynamic gifted worship leader who gets a little famous, I have seen some stumble in this area. Wherever there are powerful ministry times, the guys who are leading need to put themselves in the middle of the conversation in the way that they draw attention to themselves and put themselves on display.

And the Lord would say “It does not need to be that way! My Son did not “carry on that way” when My Spirit was on Him.” And I use the phrase, “to carry on that way” I think you understand. And the Lord is saying “I want to get the body of Christ back on course” because we are a bit off course now, the Charismatic Church, I mean however many hundred millions of Charismatics in the Church, not the whole Church and not the whole Charismatic church, not everybody—but it seems that the rule of the day wherever there is a little bit of manifestation of God's power and presence. And I have said “Lord if there is more power in an upcoming revival what is the Church going to look like?” Because right now I would imagine a big display of human flesh and self-centeredness making the point “People, look I am powerful, would you please look at me, I want you to see that I can release the Holy Spirit's power?”

- D. **Premise:** The largest, most broken, self-centered, narcissistic “Me-generation” of young people will be so transformed that they may be God's vessels that will experience more power with more public visibility (social media) than any generation in history, resulting in the billion-soul harvest, yet they will be the most humble, Christ-exalting generation that refuses to draw attention to self.

¹¹“In that day...¹²I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people.” (Zeph. 3:11-12)

Paragraph D: Here is the premise, the largest most broken, self-centered, narcissistic generation of human history is rising up right now on the earth. The “Me-generation” but in this generation, broken, narcissistic, and self-consumed the Lord is going to do a miracle of transformation. That is the very group that He is going to use in the billion-soul harvest and they will walk in humility beyond any generation in history. And the transformation will be dramatic. I want to be a part of equipping some of them for this! When I stand before the Lord, I want Him to say to me. “Yes! I entrusted you with some power and you did your part!”—there are a million of us who take of us, it is not just five or ten of us. The Lord will be calling many ministries to be about embracing humility in their ministry style and messaging with a new intentionality.

Could you imagine the billion-soul harvest of a group of people who are probably teenagers right now or younger who are self-centered, self-consumed, depressed, they will become vibrant and who move in power even beyond the book of Acts but without drawing attention to themselves at all? See Zephaniah 3, I want to proclaim this over the end time Church, it is an end time passage, “I will leave in your midst a humble people!” I prophesy it right now “He will leave in our midst across the earth a humble people!” Beloved there is significant correction that needs to happen right now that will lead to this. I am not pretending like I get it all or that I know it all, I just know that the Lord cares about this and it is a privilege to be a part of it. There are some who are not liking anything that I am saying but many will say “Yes! This registers in my heart as true!”

II. A VISION OF JOSEPH'S DUNGEON: A PROPHETIC PARABLE ABOUT HUMILITY

- A. In April 1984, I heard God's audible voice say, “**I have a message for you. Call Bob Jones!**” The fear of the Lord came upon me. Later that day, Bob told me, “I had a visitation from the Lord today that I am to share with you.” In an open vision—he saw a parable similar to the cupbearer and baker in a dungeon with Joseph (Gen. 40:2-19). Bob saw two men who were accused of having “poison” in their service to the king's family. They represented two types of ministry today.

²Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler [cupbearer; NIV] and the chief baker.

³So he put them in...in the prison, the place where Joseph was...²¹Then he [Pharaoh] restored the chief butler...so he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²²But he hanged the chief baker.

(Gen. 40:2-3, 21-22)

*Roman numeral two: I have shared this story many times in the last 38 since that Saturday morning in April 1984. I was laying in bed wide awake 38 years ago and I heard a thunderous voice—the audible voice of the Lord! It was like thunder; He said “**I have a message for you!**” and then I could not believe the second sentence the Lord said “Call Bob Jones!” (He really said that). And it was not funny in the moment at all and the fear of the Lord hit me, it was thundering—it like coming from 20 miles away like thunder and it was like coming out of my belly with the sound of His voice was crashing above me. It was terrifying. I talked with Bob Jones that day and he said “Mike, I have had one of the most important revelations and encounters that I have ever had in my life”. (I did not tell him that God had just told me to call him). In prophetic situations like this my style was to not tell Bob Jones anything first.*

*He said “I saw two men” and I am not going to go into too much detail because I know most of you have heard me share this. In our prophetic history series, I share more details so tonight I will share it in an abbreviated way. Because my point is not to unpack all the details of Bob's encounter but to remind us how intentional the Lord has been I know in my life and in this movement about the issue of humility being pressed. It is not a personality thing. It is not my deal. The Lord said to me “**I have a message for you**”. In some visionary way Bob said “I was taken to Joseph's dungeon see Genesis 40. There were two men in the prison or dungeon with Joseph—a cupbearer, or chief butler (in the NKJ) and a baker.*

- B. In Bob's parabolic vision (which had similarities to Genesis 40), the baker was killed, but the cupbearer or butler was restored and went on to serve wine to the king's family. The Lord said that the **poison in the baker's bread spoke of ministries that did not promote humility in God's family.**

Paragraph B: In this parabolic visionary experience, Bob Jones saw things similar to what had happened in Joseph's dungeon in Genesis 40. The baker, the one who made the food and served at the king's table and the cupbearer who poured wine for the king and his family. Both men were being accused of poisoning the king's family, that is why they are in prison. They said to the baker “You are trying to poison our family!” and they said the same to the cupbearer. They killed Pharaohs that way in the old days—by poisoning their food or wine. The Lord spoke to Bob clearly saying “The poison in the bread is related to issue of humility. The ministries that do not express humility and promote humility in the people they minister to—their ministry has poison in it. Now, it does not mean that it is all poison but there is some poison in it. In the story in Genesis 40, read it on your own, the baker was found guilty and was put to death. The cupbearer or butler was found innocent so he was released from prison and exalted to serve wine in the presence of the king.

Now what Bob saw was not the exact details in the story of Genesis 40 but that had parallels. The Lord says “My eyes are going to go to-and-fro over the earth” (this prophetic encounter happened 38 years ago; I have been watching this issue carefully for 38 years). He said “The ministries who will embrace and actively promote humility, I will exalt them. And even some of the really popular ministries whose ministry style, their values, their teachings, and their music do not inspire humility in people, I am going to take their voice away over time. I will begin to silence their ministry.”

I have watched this for 38 years and it has not yet been a dramatic shift but I believe that we are going to see a dramatic shift in this issue in the days to come. Really popular worship ministries, really popular preaching ministries, really popular social media people that do not express and promote humility, can inspire people to say, “Oh Jesus, I want to be like You and embrace Your style of humility in my ministry!” The Lord says “I am going to take their voice away.” In the parable, the baker had poison in his ministry and he was removed. The Lord is going to have a billion-soul harvest of people operating in humility before He returns. I cannot imagine this in the natural but it will happen. There will have to be a dramatic change but I imagine the Lord saying to me, “Watch! Watch! Do you want to be a part of this with Me?”

- C. The bread speaks of what is presented in context to public ministry—their teaching, singing, ministry style, etc. A ministry may grow in popularity, but if it does not inspire humility eventually it will lose its voice in the kingdom of God in the end-time shifts that will **surely** take place.
- D. The Lord is dropping a plumbline in the midst of the body of Christ on the issue of humility. He demands that it be modeled. God told Bob that in His timing that He would *remove the ministries* represented by the baker with “poisoned bread” which *did not promote humility* in others.

Well 38 years ago was when I got tipped off on how important the subject of platform humility is to the Lord, but I believe that we are in the day where it will be seen in a far more intense way. The Lord is dropping a plumbline in the midst of the global body of Christ not just here in our midst and not just in a ministry over there but in the entire body of Christ. No one gets to vote on this.

- E. The way ministries go forth: **what** they teach or impart, **how** they do it (their platform ministry style), and **why** they do what they do (to bring more attention to Jesus and not to themselves). Their ministry must flow from humility and must produce humility in the people to whom they minister.
- F. **“I have a message for you. Call Bob Jones”**: Each word is significant. **“I”**—it is a divine message. **“Have”**—it is already in God’s heart. **“A message”**—it is a key assignment to call others to it. **“For you”**—I must obey it even if others do not. (I am accountable to God to insist on this).

This is how I think of what the Lord was saying to me by His audible voice. Every word is significant to Me! I have, it is a divine message that God has in His heart, this is not about what someone likes or dislikes.

I have the message!” Whoa! “I have it! The determination of this message is deep in My heart, it is a not new message that I am just forming. It is settled in My divine personality, I have it.” It is a message.

“It is for you!” This is the part that scares me the most. This message is not only for me to embrace it but to proclaim. And by the grace of God I have sought for 38 years to proclaim a platform ministry style of humility that refuses the flamboyant antics that some embrace. These antics that happen more often in Charismatic power ministries. I have tried to be kind about it but for 38 years I have had conversations with various leaders on my team over the years who have ask me “Can we do this and that on this platform?” and I respond with “No, no we cannot! I will give an account to the Lord” for upholding this message as far the platform that is under my leadership; I tell them that I really heard this message by the thunderous audible voice of God. By the grace of God, I am not budging on this ever. I have had of my leaders get mad at this stance that I have taken and I have said “I love you but at the judgment seat of Christ you do not have a vote in evaluating my life!”

- G. The Lord showed Bob that He would use “the wine” of the Spirit to many hearts in the Body of Christ. God was going to both *bless and test* the Church in humility by releasing the “wine of the Spirit,” and He would exalt His “cupbearers” who embrace humility when serving His “wine.” They must minister rightly before the King’s presence and not “serve the wine” in a way that promoted themselves. The Lord told Bob that this *blessing and testing* was to **“begin in 10 years.”**

Paragraph G: So the Lord tells Bob in this encounter in April 1984 that He was going to start this in ten years. That is ten years after 1984.” What was going to start in ten years? He is going start to test and to bless the body of Christ with the wine of the Spirit. I remember when He told me that and thought “This is 1984, at that time I was 28 years old so ten years later, I would be almost 40 years old! And he said “Yes it is going to be a ten year wait but then the Lord is going to start to test and bless the body of Christ with the wine of the Spirit!”

- H. **The 10-year period has at least two applications to us.** The release of the “wine of the Spirit” internationally began in Toronto in January 1994—using John and Carol Arnott, Randy Clark, and others—10 years after Bob received this vision in April 1984. A local release of “the Spirit’s wine” was released in our midst to **test and bless** many soon after our 10-year anniversary in 2009.

Paragraph H: So ten years go by and the “wine of the Spirit” moves in a observable way in Toronto, Canada in 1994. The power of God was moving through Rodney Howard Brown in an international way in 1994. Ten years later, at the center of the conversation in both Charismatic and the non-Charismatic churches is the issue of “the wine of the Spirit.” Millions are encountering it and grappling with it for the first time in their life. Thus, they did not know how to make sense of it. It was powerful. There was an incredible out-pouring of the Spirit in Toronto and also with Rodney Howard Brown and in England at HTB and in the various Vineyard churches; I could share many more examples. The point was that the Lord said He would “test and bless.”

Ten years after God spoke to both me and Bob Jones “the wine of the Spirit” in April 1984, I was in Buffalo, NY in the spring of 1994 with Paul Cain and a few others at a conference. It is about two or three months after the Toronto outpouring had started in January 1994. So now it is maybe March or April and we are in Buffalo, NY. Toronto is less than a two hour drive from Buffalo.

Paul Cain told me “We are supposed to go to Toronto today!” I said “Okay, but we are in the middle of a conference here in Buffalo” and he said “No! We have got to go today!” So we get somebody to drive us up there (it is about a 2 hour drive). He says “I have a very clear word of the Lord about the Toronto outpouring.

*Number one, the Lord would **test the people that are unfamiliar with it, He is going to test their humility.** If they say “This move of the Spirit did not start in my church or because we are not familiar with it therefore, we will reject it!” The Lord says “Wrong answer, because it is new to you and because it does not start with you—you still have to embrace it. I am going to test people who resist it.”*

*Paul said “**The Lord was also going to test people who exaggerate it to build their ministry identity by it.**” I remember thinking as we were driving “This emphasize on humility related to the wine of the Spirit sounds very similar to what Bob Jones told me ten years earlier in April 1984! This is now Spring 1994!*

It is the same message!” He said “The wine of the Spirit will have a stigma associated with it because some wild things you could not imagine will occur. Things that you will not necessarily like in the natural but the Lord is in it so do not resist it because of the stigma associated with it.” A couple leaders who were in the car with us had national ministries and were saying “Okay, we agree that we are not used to some of what is happening!” And the Lord said to Paul Cain to warn us to not exaggerate it the manifestation! Do not build our ministry identity around it! Do not exaggerate it! Paul emphasized that was critical that we embrace what the Lord is doing and saying as He would test and bless the body of Christ through “the wine of the Spirit.”

So we get there two hours later and to our total surprise John Wimber was there for his first visit. He flew there the day before from Anaheim. We did not know he was there. So John Wimber, and John Arnott were together in Toronto and Paul Cain arrived to their surprise. We went into a private room so that Paul Cain could share with them. I was with Paul when he gave this prophetic word to John Wimber and I am not sure exactly what he said to John Arnott because I had left the room but later Paul told me, “I said the same thing to both of them.” “John do not resist it and John do not exaggerate it!” To this day I love them both Johns; I was more worried about me responding right. I thought “God what do You mean that there is going to be a stigma associated with the wine of the Spirit and that we must bear the stigma without exaggerating it.” Wow! Interestingly

Let's go back to April 1984,

*I heard the thunderous audible voice of God say **"I have a message for you. Call Bob Jones!"***

*Two months after I received heard that word in April, thus in June 1984 I went to my in first vineyard conference in Anaheim, CA; this was the first time that I saw John Wimber. There were several thousand people at this conference. I walked in and what struck me first— (this was only two months after I had the audible voice encounter in April 1984 about humility)—John Wimber was on the stage with God's power being manifest through his ministry but **there was no hyped on the stage at all**. I was not used to this—I had mostly seen Charismatic guys with power—with various ministry antics—for example "they shouted and shook" the devil out of people and pushed some down and "Arrrrgh!" you know they would shake their coat at them like it was Elijah's mantel. I had rarely seen a ministry with power manifestations who were dialed down, most were ratchetting up the crowds by their flamboyant platform ministry style. I thought "I have never seen someone dialed down in ministry like John Wimber was." I had seen plenty of Charismatic "power ministries" and most of them ratcheted things up to stir people and draw attention to themselves .*

Then when the Vineyard teams led worship, it was the same thing— without any hype or platform antics.

*The worship style of the Vineyard was **focused on intimacy with God** and they did not try to stir up people up in the flesh. It was the most beautiful thing! There was no hype anywhere. John Wimber often said "We want to teach people to dial down when the Spirit is on them and not to ratchet it up.*

We want to see the Lord get the glory and not manipulate a response from the people by our preaching or worship leading. As I watched the Vineyard worship team, I had never seen anything like this!" I mean an hour there were people gently weeping all over the room. None of the worship teams were drawing attention to themselves. They never did at Vineyard conferences. I went to many of their conferences for years that I traveled with John Wimber. Wimber said "It is part of his ministry assignment to lead with humility!" The is why the Lord put me with John Wimber. I will not go to go into that now since many of you already know the prophetic story behind that. The Lord was saying "Mike, this is part of your assignment to promote humility and intimacy with God as I saw in John Wimber's ministry in the Vineyard!" Again, I was with John Wimber for the first time in June 1984, it was only two months after I heard the audible voice in April 1984 about humility.

Let's again for forward ten years after my first John Wimber conference to 1994, I am driving with Paul Cain to Toronto and Paul said "God is going to test and bless the body of Christ through the wine of the Spirit!"

We are still on paragraph H on my handout. The ten years has two applications because it was ten years from 1984 to 1994 "the wine of the Spirit" in Toronto.

*The second application was at the ten year mark at IHOPKC from 1999 to 2009 when we had our Student Awakening. The Lord had given me two or three dreams early in 2009 about what we called the Student Awakening that began in November 2009. The Lord showed me that He was going to release "the wine of the Spirit" in the IHOPKC community. I shared those dreams publicly a couple of times. I had maybe three prophetic dreams about this. However, each time the Lord said this and I made this clear in our leadership teams (most were 10-20 people) saying "**The wine of the Spirit is not only to bless us but it is to test us to prepare and position us for the future !** There is a plumbline coming over IHOPKC to see if we will do this thing God's way. Our future is in the balance, in how we stewarded this! We must not resist and we must not exaggerate!" It is critical. And so the plumbline I watched globally 1984 to 1994 it started and then locally 1999 to 2009 and all the way through I was talking to our leaders in the leadership meetings saying "I know we are getting blessed" thousands got healed. I said "But do not forget **we are being tested too!** We are being measured right now, I heard it audibly! Do not lose sight that we are being measured!"*

*I believe when it was all said and done—I love the Lord’s grace, He grades us on pass/fail and I believe He said “Passed!” Phew!!! Because we are humans and I did not ask Him for an A, B, C or D just pass or fail. “Pass! I will visit you again. **I so appreciate our people and leaders during that time in seeking to walk in humility.** The Lord wants a depth of humility in coming revival future. He wants His people to be seasoned in humility here and all across the body of Christ.” The larger body of Christ now has almost 30 years of experience since 1994 and He wants us to be seasoned in humility and not caught up in what I call the “helium highs” (where our thinking is affected with pride like helium) where we start “carrying on” with flamboyant platform antics.*

- I. Some would **reject** the ministry of the Spirit that looked like “wine”, but others would **exaggerate** it. Both come from a root of pride. Some seek their **identity in knowledge** of the Bible, and so they reject the Spirit’s ministry by claiming deep loyalty to the Word. Some seek their **identity in power** and in and in being known for their **spiritual intensity** and in **being sensitive** to the Spirit.
- J. There are lessons to be learned from that season that are important for future waves of the Spirit. The subject of the Spirit’s manifestations **tests God’s people with humility** in at least four ways:
 - Group 1: those who **resist** manifestations *because of unfamiliarity* with them must be teachable.
 - Group 2: those who **accept** manifestations *bear reproach* for it and must persevere with humility.
 - Group 3: those who **exaggerate** manifestations *to draw attention to self* must humble themselves.
 - Group 4: those who **manipulate** others to “manifest” so *their ministry looks anointed* must repent.

Paragraph J: When the greatest move of the Spirit comes sometime down the road, I asked the Lord “Lord, could our platform with these 15 year olds (who will in their 20’s and 30’s in what will seem like one minute), would it be possible to have a whole company of twenty-somethings across the earth in the future to move in power ministry and presence worship without “carrying on” at all with flamboyant stage antics? Imagine multitudes of young people focused on drawing people to Jesus not to themselves. Imagine multitudes of young preachers and teachers and young worship leaders only drawing attention to Jesus. I think that the Lord is saying “That is why I am stirring you up and why I am stirring up others on the subject of humility. So that many of us sow the seeds of humility and rejoice to see a harvest of humility.”

- K. The Spirit releases power to exalt Jesus, not to draw attention to those that He uses (Jn. 16:14). The vision Paul Cain saw most often was of “nameless and faceless people” leading with humility.

¹⁴*“He will **glorify Me**, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:14)*

²¹*They came to Philip...and asked him, saying, “Sir, **we wish to see Jesus.**” (Jn. 12:21)*

Paragraph K:

*We all know that Jesus said “The Spirit will glorify Me!” Obviously, but somehow that got lost in the conversation 30 years ago in a lot of places. See John 12:21, the Greeks came to Philip said, “**Sir, we wish to see Jesus!**” I would like for somebody to put a little sign here on the pulpit “Sir, we wish to see Jesus, not you!” Put on the way up there, put it in the GPR, put it at IHOPU, put it our pulpits! “Sir, we want to see Jesus and not more of you!” I love what David Sliker said “They do not need more of us!” I mean I like us but more of us is not going to shift them. “Sir, we wish to see Jesus!”*

The vision Paul Cain saw the most was the stadium vision. Paul Cain prophesied for 80 years and the vision he saw the most and said the most was his vision about nameless faceless people. He said that so many times that to some of the people who heard it over and over—it just became a phrase and not a reality. Everyone talked about the stadiums and the nameless and faceless and then when they got the microphone they showed their face and drew attention to themselves!

I said “This call to humility and nameless and faceless people is real and beautiful! It is really worth the labor it takes to promote and insist on platform humility!” Of course you know that or you would not be here! I am talking to the right crowd! This is the easy group to say all of this to.

I want to equip you to go and say it to the hard places.

L. A culture of humility is one way God “changes the expression of Christianity”—the new wineskin.

Paragraph L: You know the Lord spoke to me forty years ago in Sept. 1982, “I am going to change the expression and understanding of Christianity in the earth.” One of the most dynamic ways this occurs in walking in humility when God's power is being manifest through us. It is easy to be humble when there is no manifest power but when the power increase “We are more tempted to make sure that people know that we are the vessels that is bringing the power—the Lord is on me!” Some want to make sure people know that and the Spirit is resting on them. There are many ways to try to draw attention to that when on the stage.

Now just at a personal note, I am not an expert the wine of the Spirit but I am not a novice either. My first exposure to a meeting with manifestations of the Holy Spirit and where many fell down in the power of the Spirit was in February 1972, I went often to meetings at a Church having “a revival” that continued almost every night for 13 weeks. I was 16 years old, everybody fell down and flopped around. I thought “What is going on?” I saw it again 1974 and 1975, and I saw it many times in the 1980s, I saw it through the 90s.

Meaning, I have observed Holy Spirit manifestations for 50 years. My point is not that I know everything about it but I have watched closely know what happens in human hearts 10 and 15 years later after season considered to be “a special move of the Spirit” if that season is not stewarded rightly by the leaders.

*We love Jesus so He is worthy of us contending for humility in our midst! Let me tell you what happens, we are talking about the next generation. The teenagers right now will “carry on” with flamboyant antics on the platform if they see the high profile leaders do it. The teens will do this partly because **they feel like they have too**. They will even celebrate the power of God because everyone says “it is the power of God.” However, 15 later many of them will be cynics who may never get cured of their negative attitude because they said “So much was fake in those “Holy Spirit meeting” years ago and I had to act like it was all real and awesome! It was “the emperor with no clothes” syndrome where every had to pretend it was real in order to be accepted! But years later, many of those young people determine to associate with it again!”*

I have watched the 15 year later version of what happens when the Spirit moved in the 70s, 80s and 90s and a lot of it is not good. They say “I was pressured to believe, respond, and act in a certain way so “I carried on” like I was pressured to and I even tried to sincerely celebrate what was happening and I gave the testimonies that was expected to give and so much of it was baloney! I do not fully believe it back then but everybody around me believed it; so now I conclude that everyone around me back then obviously had no discernment about truth!” I have observed negative fruit happen many times over the last 50 years.

So when the Lord moves in our midst in powerful ways in the coming days—in this message, I am thinking of those who are teenagers now and who will 30 or 40 years old in what seems like one minute!.

We had an outpouring in our school right here in the fall of 1989, it went on for weeks. Hours a day the kids were touched by the Spirit with dreams, and many manifestations. Many were really touched powerfully however years later many of them did not have a good attitude or perspective about what happened about what happened back in the fall of 1989 when some many were on the floor, they cried, laughed and fell down. After that our local church had a couple seasons of where many “were manifesting” then some years later some who were manifested often in public meetings later said “No, I do not really go for that stuff! They pressured me to believe it and go along with it but I sort of knew in my gut, that it was not genuine! Later they concluded that their leaders lacked true spiritual discernment?” I mean it is a crisis of faith for some who were some of the main “Holy Spirit people.” I said “Lord, I said in my heart I am not going to contribute to anything that is not a true narrative and that only promotes what genuine!” It makes people mad though.

III. JESUS WARNED HIS PEOPLE NOT TO SHOWCASE THEIR SPIRITUAL INTENSITY (MT. 6)

- A. In the Sermon on the Mount, the principle that Jesus emphasized most is found in Matthew 6. It is to overcome one of the strongest urges in the heart—a desire to appear to others as passionate for God and anointed by the Spirit—to showcase our spirituality and even exaggerate it.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7) the point that Jesus emphasized the most was “Do not yield to the natural temptation to showcase your spirituality and do not exaggerate it when people are watching you.” Jesus knew that one of the strongest urges of the human heart is to appear passionate so that people will say, “Wow! They are so passionate and so anointed—look they are even being overcome by the Spirit as they pray!” Jesus urged His people to not yield to the natural urge to showcase our spirituality. He said “Do not do it!

- B. In Matthew 6, Jesus spoke of 4 activities that men are tempted to do to showcase their spirituality when **servicing**, **giving** (charitable deeds; 6:1-4, 19-21), **praying** (6:5-13), and **fasting** (6:16-18).

⁴Your charitable deed...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Mt. 6:4)

⁶When you pray...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Mt. 6:6)

¹⁸Fasting...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Mt. 6:18)

When you do your charitable deeds (6:4), in other words when you give money, or serve people, and when you pray or worship (6:6), this includes any kind of leadership in prayer, or worship music etc., do not showcase your spirituality! Do not showcase how passionate you are so everyone knows that you are amazing and do not showcase how anointed you are by heightened body language! Then when you fast it is the same (6:18).”

- C. Jesus called us to avoid *sounding a trumpet* or drawing attention to our spiritual intensity. Jesus was addressing our natural temptation to sound a trumpet in order to draw attention to how devoted, passionate, anointed, smart, diligent, and generous we are. Today this is called “virtue signaling.”

¹“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds [\$, service] before men, to be seen by them ...do not sound a trumpet before you...³your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

⁵And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites...[who seek to] be seen by men...

¹⁷When you fast...wash your face, ¹⁸so you do not appear to men to be fasting... (Mt. 6:1-18)

*Paragraph C: I encourage you to send this message to others and I want you to use some of the language as you call others to humility. Many of you already do this; we want the next generation to be so established in this before the coming great revival. **This is core to the “Jesus culture” of the kingdom**, the “Jesus culture” is summarized in the Sermon on the Mount! I love the Jesus culture ministry with Banning Liebscher.*

Jesus said “Do not sound trumpets” by what you say, or in how you act, and in the way that you give expression to your ministry publicly. “Do not sound trumpets!” It is so tempting for preachers in ministry and worship leaders to let everyone know how gripped they are and to make the point of that even if it is not true. I remember at one of our worship team meetings about six months ago one of our leaders (I will not say who) but he said it to about 100 singers and musicians, “Sometimes while playing my instrument, I grimace as if my body is under the anointing of the Spirit but my mind was far away at Walmart just to be honest!” And we all laughed and got a kick out of it but others said “Yes, that is really true, I do that sometimes too.” I appreciated his honesty.

- D. Paul contrasted living before God’s eyes with living before man’s eyes, i.e., to live seeking the applause of God or of men. This speaks of serving and ministering in a way that seeks to gain the recognition of people by intentionally showcasing (even exaggerating) how passionate, diligent, devoted, or anointed we are—specifically when people are watching.

⁶Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ...⁷doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that...he will receive the same from the Lord... (Eph. 6:6-8)

Paragraph D: Paul said, “When you serve the Lord do not do it with eye service!” Do not showcase your spirituality so that people see you and say “Wow! Look at that guy! Look how powerful he is! Look at what happens when he says “Holy Spirit come!” He is the guy you want to close to.” I have good news for you Jesus is the guy you want to be close to!

Paul called this attitude of showcasing our spirituality as “eyeservice” when people are intentionally showcasing, even exaggerating what is happening in them so others will say “Wow about your spirituality!” and so others will pay more attention to you. Paul said “Do not do it! Do not do it but serve and prayer with sincerity of the heart as in the presence of the Lord.”

- E. Paul was zealous to “preach Jesus” and not “preach himself” by drawing attention to himself.

⁵We do not preach ourselves, but Christ...and ourselves your bondservants. (2 Cor. 4:5)

Paragraph E: I am going to give a little rapid-fire of here of things Paul said without really breaking it down. Paul said “I do not preach myself, I preach Christ.” I am not leading meetings in a way so that everybody knows how anointed I am. I want them pre-occupied with Jesus, the Man at the right hand of the Father!

I do not preach me! I do not showcase me, I showcase Him! Worship teams, preachers, ministry leaders, youth group leaders, I am talking to the billion-soul harvest leadership and are probably about 10 or 12 right now or some number like that. We want them established in humility as they lead in the revival in their 30s, and 40s and 50s or whatever the age they might be at that time (I do not know). We do not showcase our self but Him.

- F. Paul connects the idea of excellence with love and edification of one another.

³¹But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. (1 Cor. 12:31)

¹²You are zealous for spiritual gifts; let it be for the edification of [others]...that you seek to excel. (1 Cor. 14:12)

⁹I pray that your love may abound...that you approve the things that are excellent... (Phil. 1:9)

Paragraph F:

Catch this, Paul connects the ideas of the people who desire the power of the Spirit and who they earnestly seek the spiritual gifts because they are hungry for power manifestations of the Spirit! Paul said, “When you move in the gifts of the Spirit in public meetings do it with an excellent spirit.” Because the temptation in Corinth among those zealous for the move of the Spirit, kind of look the other way on the Spirit of excellence.

As long as they got to do what they did in the meeting the Spirit of excellence that helped others was secondary. Paul says “I know that you love that but loving the Spirit is not enough! Love the Spirit’s ways and not just His manifest power, love His ways too! It is called excellence.” I love that!

- G. We are to be *childlike in faith* (Mt. 18:3) by freely receiving from God, but we are not to be *childish in perspective* (1 Cor. 14:20) by drawing attention to ourselves as children naturally do.
- ³“...unless you...become as little children...you will by no means enter the kingdom.” (Mt. 18:3)
- ²⁰Do not be children in understanding...in understanding be mature... (1 Cor. 14:20)

Jesus said “Be childlike in your faith” and Paul said “...but do not be childish” by drawing attention to yourself by how you steward the Spirit’s ministry.” He says that in the middle of passages on the emphasizing the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12-14) “Yes, be childlike by taking risks but do not be childish by drawing attention to themselves, be mature in your thinking. Have a Spirit of excellence when the power of God is on you.”

IV. SHOWMANSHIP: HEALING REVIVALISTS, ELVIS, & THE SECULAR MUSIC INDUSTRY

- A. Some preachers in the “healing revival” (1950s) brought spiritual showmanship to a new level. It is reported that Elvis imitated their flamboyant styles and platform antics. Because of Elvis’ great popularity, the secular music industry imitated his flamboyant “aerobic stage culture.”

Roman numeral 4:

I realize that this is a strange heading “Showmanship, the Healing Revivalists, Elvis Presley & the Secular Music Industry.” Now again, I am laying all of this out in this unusually long message because I do not want to speak on this over and over to new people who join us. I am hoping to use this video over and over without me needing to repeat it and I want it to cover all so that you can send this video and handout to others that you think might appreciate it.

In the 1940s and 1950s an unusual number of healing revivalists gained some national prominence. Some of you are aware of this history. In the 1940s and 1950s maybe 50 or 100 new healing ministries emerged. Some of them had big tents in which they held their healing revival meetings in. Paul Cain was one of the youngest among this group; he had a big tent that held 12,000 people. Oral Roberts, William Branham, A.A. Allen, Jack Coe and others like them also had big tents. And the thing that characterized many of them, but not all of them—was the showmanship that they brought to the platform. Some of them really “carried on” with flamboyance platform styles that included various antics that were expressed in their body language to seeking to draw attention to “how much the Spirit was resting on them” and how they had a special anointing and thus were the reason that power of God was touching people in the tent!

Multitudes flocked to their meetings because their reputations of having a special anointing—but to help fill their tents with people they had to keep up the image of possessing a special anointing and they did this in part of by their flamboyance platform ministry style. Some of them had 5, 10 and even 20,000 people in their tent meetings. When Paul Cain went to Karlsruhe, Germany I think it was in 1956—30,000 people a night for like 14 days or 12 days or something like that attended his healing services. I talked a few men in their eighties when I went to Karlsruhe in 1990s. They said “Oh, we were there with the 30,000 people!” I said “Really? They said it was amazing!” It has been reported that the platform ministry style of some of the healing revivalist impacted Elvis Presley. I do not know for sure, as I am not an authority on Elvis, but I have spoken with a handful of folks who saw the new movie that recently came out on Elvis. I asked them “If is it true that Elvis imitated the flamboyant style and the platform antics of the healing and revival preachers of his day?” Now, he was down in the South but the revival preachers were all over America and not just in the South. Everyone that I have talked with has studied this a little bit said “Yes, he did.” Elvis saw what how the revivalists acted on their ministry platform because he grew up in the Church. He imitated them.

Then he became the most popular, most “successful” secular musician, star, rockstar, popstar or something- so that the majority of the singing groups after Elvis imitated his flamboyance style. And so they did all of “the jig” that Elvis did. Elvis got it first from the revival preachers.

At that time the secular music started to cultivate with what I call “an aerobic stage culture” I have always thought of it that way. I mean they are running in place, they are punching in the air, they are doing jumping jacks, some do deep knee bends and more. I said “It looks like they are doing aerobics together!” I am talking about the many rock stars in the secular music industry. It looks like they are in a gym! The aerobics platform culture! I did not bother me, I mean they got good exercise, I mean Mick Jagger he went for it, I guess! I was never a Mick Jagger fan—okay with full visibility, I liked Andy Williams. Okay, forget it, moving on! Actually I did and I got laughed at by my high school friends for liking his albums. He had a great voice “Moon River!”

- B. Maybe 20 years ago, a few prominent worship leaders started imitating the flamboyant secular music industry with its “aerobic stage culture”—I refer to it as “stage culture” because once off the stage they rarely engaged in the same body language unless practicing for an upcoming concert.

So the secular music industry was doing the same things that Elvis did on the platform and Elvis was doing what the Pentecostal revival preachers did (I am not referring to the Pentecostal denomination). I am talking about the power of God preachers—the healing evangelists. I am not putting this on the Pentecostal denomination by any means—but it was a culture that was intentional by some healing revivalists.

*Elvis did it and the secular music industry imitated him and here is what concerns me— about 20 years ago I started seeing, not all, but **a few of the most popular worship bands imitating the secular culture.** I mean what some worship leaders did when leading big crowds looked similar to the secular music industry. They embraced some of the “aerobic stage culture” just like some rock stars, who imitated Elvis! And I was asking “What is going on here?” I have been watching worship very closely for 50 years! I mean intensely.*

I do not have a date but about 20 years ago this new flamboyance platform style just popped up a little bit among popular worship teams. I thought, “Surely this is not going to take!” Well then, on Youtube (after the internet got famous) now a whole generation of teenagers are watching this flamboyance platform style. They are thinking that that is the way to prove that they are passionate and anointed. That is all they know.

I want to say by the grace of God that more and more popular worship bands look like the secular bands. There are all of these platform antics going on and I realize that some of it is called prophetic symbolism, call it what you want but there is a whole lot “going on” on the stage in the name of getting people to love Jesus. And when I watch this I say, “Lord, it is not that it is sinful, I do not think it is sinful but I think it is less than excellent My problem is that so many 15 year olds—are going to be 20, 30, and 40 years old and then they will have a deep conviction about what they saw in their teenage years—asking what was real and what was not so real but was much more a display of spiritual showmanship. A lot of them think, not all of them, but some teens see some of the prominent Christian worship bands with their flamboyance platform styles and assume that they and their teen worship band must also act that way when they lead worship since some the famous worship bands do it! They think “Augh!” I do not want to imitate their flamboyant style but I feel like I have to because I want to show everybody how passionate I am and that I am anointed as a prophetic singer or musician.”

I’ve seen a bit on Youtube and just perusing various conferences and prominent worship bands and I have seen worship bands where all 12 musicians, I mean even the bass player is jumping around and doing calisthenics and I thought “Why is he doing that?” Well, if he does not do that like the others on his team then he is the only guy on the team who does not “look passionate and anointed!” I watched and thought “What is going on up on that stage up there?” Why is this okay for them to send this message to teenager worship bands that “They have do what they see some prominent worship bands do!” It brings them under incredible pressure however it is the cynicism later that concerns me. Plus, I love Jesus! I say “Jesus this is not about You!” Again, is it sinful? No, I am not touching that. Is it excellent? I do not see excellence in this. I want something that people look at Jesus and they do not care what the preacher or ministry leaders are doing because they are captured with the Man Jesus not the showmanship of the preacher or any of the others who minister at conferences!

- C. Now many Christian teenagers today think they are supposed to showcase their passion and anointing to be popular like prominent worship leaders with flamboyant stage antics like Elvis.

Paragraph C: I am talking as a shepherd now. I am thinking of the pressure on these 15 year olds to have to be a bit flamboyant so that in their peer group they will look passionate and they look anointed to others.

It is like I told our people years ago in our prayer room that I remember John Dawson, the President of YWAM, came about 15 years ago, (YWAM no longer has a president now) We are really good friends. John spent a week at IHOPKC back then and said “Mike, I want to offer you a correction.”

I love John Dawson and trust him implicitly and he said “Each of the teenage girls who I have seen pray on the mic at IHOPKC like last week—they all sound must like you and Lou Engle.” They are screaming on the microphone when they pray and their voices are cracking as they pray publicly but they cannot bear to be seen as unanointed so they have sound like you and Lou.”

I thought “What?” He said “Do you not understand the culture you have set here? You are going to influence prayer rooms all around the earth and many young adults and teenagers are going to be screaming on the mic when they pray so that they appeared to be anointed like you and Lou is but they are not able vocally to pray that way. Nor do they have the personality to do that. Only about 10% of the human race have they type of voice that can scream on a microphone! You will inadvertently pressure many in the body of Christ to sound like you!” I said “Whoa! I love you so much John, please tell me more!” He said,

“I encourage you as a pastor to intentionally dial down your prayer style and volume on the mic in your prayer room so that in the years to come millions more will be encouraged by your example having confidence that they do not need to shout their prayers to be seen as anointed. Many will avoid praying on the mic to avoid feeling judged because they cannot scream like you do.” I said “That is intense! I have never thought of that!”

I started changing it and it has been a real encouragement to many over the last 15 years, a lot of folks in our midst had come to me and said, “Thank you for taking the edge off the volume, now I feel that I can pray on the mic because I do not have to shout like you do!” I said “Oh my goodness!” I was just expressing my personality in the volume and intense verbal style when praying on the mic. I now see the pressure that I was inadvertently putting on people in our prayer room. Some worship teams and ministry leaders are inadvertently putting that same kind of pressure on teens who feel they must have a flamboyant style when they lead or they will look unanointed and unpassionate. I pray, “Lord, we need shepherds to rise up to help get this back on track!”

- D. Some have said that some of the worship culture is more influenced by Nashville than by King David. For some young worship leaders, success is being signed to a label and making money. The progression—they get signed, make a hit, get famous, get loose in their convictions, and start engaging in a secret sinful lifestyle as a celebrity who can't be touched or corrected by anyone.
- E. I speak as a shepherd who is contending for the greatness and spiritual safety of young people. Often, after a few years of “popularity,” they increase the antics and flamboyance on the stage even when God's power is not being discernibly manifest—since they have established their identity in being known for being passionate and powerful, they resort to using heightened body language and exuberance to prove that they still have power. This is **taking God's name in vain** because they claim that the Spirit is moving—when fact they are manufacturing it in the flesh.

Paragraph E:

This is the kind of a message that I do not want to give very often, so I praise God for our media team, thank you Media team this thing is being recorded. But know that I am speaking as a shepherd. In my paragraph E I am not talking to worship teams but to our leadership team who are shepherds who are contending for the greatness and spiritual safety of our young people. That is why I have passion about this. I care about the fruit of this maybe 15 years later when many who are teens will then be about 30 years old.

What I am saying now is something that I have seen for 50 years. I have carefully watched the impact and fruit of this in young people after 15 years ago by—I have observed 15 year cycles—of how people feel 15 years later related to what they experienced and felt from the spiritual messages and culture of their earlier years in the Lord. I am sad about what some of them think when they are in their 30's after 10-15 years go by and they reevaluate that they thought years earlier when “everybody seemed anointed” and when they felt pressured to celebrate the hype their spiritual leaders modelled and promoted “as being anointed.”

I watch guys get a little bit of popularity as a preacher, as a worship leader, and a couple of years later they start becoming flamboyant on the stage because they see the prominent ministries do it and it seems like the accepted way to get a bigger crowd and more applause and affirmation. These are ministries that never acted that way on a stage until they became a little popular. Then at times when the power of God is not being manifest through them in an obvious way then they pretend that it is because they established their identity as

being one who is so passionate and on whom God's power regularly rests on. Then they “carry on” when on the platform to sustain their reputation one who in being overcome by the Spirit. I see this so often that they resort to all kinds of human dynamics and body language to prove that the Spirit is resting on them.

I want to say this tenderly, that spiritual showmanship on a ministry platform is one expression of **taking God's name in vain!** Why? It is saying that what they are doing is “the Spirit” when in reality it is a fleshly, manufactured body language to make people think the Spirit is resting on them! The Lord is saying “Do not take My name in vain! Do not do that! You will contribute to injuring the heart of a young generation!” who might accept it for a season but later strongly rejects as spiritual showmanship and even manipulation to draw attention to themselves. I am saying all of this because I think in the next couple of years, I do not know when the time is, but the Holy Spirit is going to move in stronger ways and the spiritual showmanship will happen even more and more.

- F. Some worship movements are taking their cues from the secular music industry. It is best to take our cue from the worship around the throne (Rev. 4) where none seek to draw attention to themselves. **Many houses of prayer take their cues from us.** Thus, we want to serve as an encouragement to those groups to maintain a spirit of humility and excellence in this area.
- G. We are making a prophetic statement when **we do not change what we do** when on a stage with a big crowd. We do the same things when there is a big crowd that we do when there are only a few in the room. We do not change because we focus on ministering to Jesus. In large gatherings when the lights are bright, *we lead on the stage in the same way that we lead in our prayer room.*

We hosted Onething Conferences for about 18 years; Most all of our worship teams agreed with our commitment to resist spiritual showmanship during these 18 years of conferences. There was always one or two who wanted to do something different on the stage because the crowd was big and the lights were bright.

*I would say “No.” we are not going to do that. Part of our prophetic message is that **we do the same big or little, bright lights or no lights, in our prayer closet or on a stage because we are doing it to a Man and not to the crowd!** We are not going to do it the “popular way” that imitates secular musicians and rock stars. That is not who we are. We are not changing anything just because we on a big stage with bright lights !” Almost everyone on our worship teams liked that but we have always had a few who have said “Well that is legalism!” I would say “No! We are not doing showmanship here!” They asked “What about these prominent worship teams?” I said, “I have no opinion about them! We are the same as we are in the prayer room!”*

- H. Our paradigm of liberty determines our view of yielding to the fullness of the Spirit.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor. 3:17)

*Paragraph H: What about liberty? Some people reduce liberty in the Spirit to what they do in a public meeting. Beloved, liberty in the Spirit speaks of liberty from a defiled conscience and liberty from dark emotions and addictions. That is what liberty is about. **Liberty is not about how eccentric you can be in a public service.** That is not what liberty is but for some see liberty that way. 2 Cor. 3:17 has been given to me for 40 years and I say “That is not what liberty is talking about. It is about the heart being liberated etc.”*

1. **Liberty from a defiled conscience:** Liberated into shame-free confidence in God’s affection. God’s desire is that we feel clean and confident before Him because of what Jesus did on the cross. Our confidence is in the cross instead of our maturity level.
2. **Liberty from sinful behavior and darkened emotions:** Liberated from emotional bondage to having a heart filled with love for God and others. Thus, we are liberated to love difficult people and to be set free from sin, dark emotions, spiritual dullness, unbelief, selfishness, etc.

V. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SELF-EXPRESSION: TWO CONFLICTING VIEWS

- A. To some, self-expression is their top priority. However, it must be subject to other priorities such as glorifying Jesus, honoring the Scripture, serving other people, and more. Self-expression is most helpful as it flows from those living in agreement with Jesus in their thoughts and emotions.

I have heard about this for 40 years that it is very important to express ourselves; Today everyone has been taught that with intensity in the last 20 years. Self-expression is the way to actualization, health, and healing and fulfillment. To some self-expression is like core to “the gospel” the number one point but it really is not. It has some importance but it is down the list of priorities. I want you to know that. It really is good if you express yourself and you are living in your secret life in agreement with Jesus’ values—then express Christlikeness.

- B. Self-expression can take a wide variety of forms. People use their words, facial expressions, body language, clothing, and actions. There are conflicting theories of self-expression that have recently emerged in pop psychology. The value placed on self-expression varies widely across cultures.

Paragraph B: There are real contrasting theories about self-expression. The reason I say this is because I run into this regularly in the West, i.e. “What about me expressing myself?” I can guess that they will say this and “What about my liberty?” Those are the two things I have heard 100s of times in 40 years. The West promotes, that you can full expression, we are entitled to it! We get benefits from it, we feel good and we noticed more. In the East, self-expression is seen in a very different way. Anyway read the handout on your own if you want .

1. Western culture values individualism with full self-expression plus a sense of entitlement to act in the way that benefits them, makes them feel good, and helps them to be noticed more. The Western psychology sees self-expression as healthy and necessary for fulfillment.
 2. Eastern culture is less prone to individualistic views and highly values what benefits the community. They interpret too much self-expression as “indicative of egoism and weak social capital.” Eastern cultures place little importance on individual self-expression and may even see it as a deviant behavior! Many see this over focus on self-expression as selfish.
- C. The spirit of excellence of worship teams involves many values operating together:
1. To glorify Jesus by drawing people to Jesus (Jn. 16:13-14);
 2. To honor God’s Word by all that happens on the platform (Jn. 16:13-14);
 3. To edify people who are in the prayer room or at the worship service (1 Cor. 14:4-6, 12, 26, 28);
 4. To flow in team ministry which requires individual restraint to honor others on the team;
 5. To develop skillful singers and musician who can flow together skillfully;
 6. To train up younger singers and musicians by modeling and teaching our values;
 7. Personal expression is a value, but expressing Christ and blessing others is a higher value.

I have been asked many times by worship leaders—not in a negative way. “What about self-expression?” It is important but know that glorifying Jesus is number one, honoring the Word, doing something on the stage to edify others, flowing in team dynamics, developing skillful leaders, training the next generation. Expressing yourself comes after these. It is not number one. Some were raised in a culture that prioritizes self-expression. No, it is not the priority in the gospel. I say this on this video so I do not have to bring it up time and time again.

- D. Jesus taught His disciples to deny themselves. Many freely admit that they struggle with dark thoughts and emotions—without connecting their struggle to the fact that their personal full self-expression may not express Christ or help others. Some of my relationships are hindered when I freely and fully express myself without embracing various restraints.

²⁴If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross... (Mt. 16:24)

Paragraph D: Jesus taught people “to deny yourself” here is the paradox; I realize I am out time but here is the paradox, it is a contradiction, the guy tells me openly with humbly it “I struggle with many dark thoughts and dark emotions, I am so broken, I am so messed up!” “I appreciate that humble confession” Then they say that they want to fully express themselves!” I respond, “Why would you want to?, You just said you struggle with addictions, dark emotions and thoughts and depression? Sometimes it is better to not express everything what is inside you!” Obviously, that is an exaggerated statement. Jesus said “Deny yourself!” I have found when I freely express myself without restraints sometimes bad things happen.”

- E. David Hadden’s blog expresses some of what we are committed to. He is considered to be one of the main pioneers of the worship movement in the UK. He wrote: Worship leaders, we must identify and kill performance-ism while we can. It’s not rocket science. Sing songs people know (or can learn easily). Sing them in congregational keys. Sing and celebrate the power, glory, and salvation of God. Serve your congregation. Saturate them with the Word of God. Get your face off the big screen. Use your original songs in extreme moderation. Err on the side of including as many people as possible in what’s going on. Stop talking so much (when leading worship). Don’t let loops or lights to visuals become your outlet for creativity at the expense of the centrality of the gospel. Point to Jesus. Don’t draw attention to yourself. Don’t sing songs with bad lyrics or weak theology. Lead pastorally. David Hadden

*Paragraph E: I give this paragraph to worship leaders here and elsewhere. I will not read it but it is fantastic. This is one of the top worship leaders in the UK who wrote this straightforwardly; he has the authority to. *

VI. SEEKING TO WALK IN EXCELLENCE: OUR GIFT OF LOVE TO JESUS

- A. We ask our teams to be “genuine” in how they express themselves *by not doing publicly* what they do not *regularly do in their private devotion to Jesus*. Some express their spiritually on stage differently than they do when the room is near empty or when they are alone with Jesus.

Roman numeral six: We want to walk in excellence. Yes, I want liberty in the heart, liberty in the mind, liberty in love, but I want excellence in our public services. I do not want us to just have manifestations, I want the spirit of excellence who edifies people and glorifies Jesus and does not cause young people to end up with a sour

taste or cynicism 10 or 15 years later. I ask our worship teams, but not just our worship but everyone “Be genuine, only do on a platform **what you do regularly in secret**. If you regularly in secret do jump and wave your arms in intense ways and do deep knee bends—often when you worship in private then I guess maybe jump and wave in intense ways and do deep knee bends when you lead! I guess, really? I ask do you really do that regularly in your private worship times? Really? I remember one time I was on the stage, everybody was dancing, and Jaye Thomas said “Hey go dance!” and I said “No!” and we love each other so we had fun and I said “There is a reason” Then he said “Why?” I said “I used to dance on the stage in the 1980s and 90s!” I did because I danced in private but I am not dancing in private so I will not dance on the stage only because the others are—**that is not genuine.**” **I will not do something on a public stage that I do not do in private on a regular basis.**”

- B. Those who are new to these ideas may need time to learn how to navigate these values. Jesus is worth the struggle that it may take to sort it out personally. When in doubt, lean toward humility.

Paragraph B: Some people might say “Well these ideas are new to me, I do not know how to navigate them?” “That is fair and I get that but guess what? Jesus is worth it if you have to struggle for six months on how to navigate these.” “Like I do not know what do to and not to do now I am all messed up right now!” “That is okay, you will probably be around for a lot more decades and you can handle a few months to sort this out with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is worth it but when in doubt be humble” should I do this or should I do that? If you are in doubt be humble until you are clear because I do not want to give the list. Someone said “Is this right or is that right?” I said “I am not going to answer you, you have the Holy Spirit, you know what the standard is, you know what the word of God says, you know what the prophetic word to us is. You talk to God and do what you think is pleasing to Him. I have been clear with you and I am not going to give you the “To Do” list.”

- C. We ask our teachers, ministry leaders, singers, and musicians to avoid being *overly* animated in their body language, to avoid *imitating* manifestations of the Spirit that are not genuine, or to avoid other *heightened* vocal or physical expressions that unnecessarily draw undue attention to them.
- D. Overly animated public ministry styles can be counterproductive to making Jesus the center of attention in our corporate gatherings. Some develop their own personal “signature self-expressions” that distinguish them from others. This is common in the entertainment world.
- E. Some wave their hands and arms as they climb Jacob’s ladder to heaven, some chop with their hands to break the chains of spiritual darkness, others swing the sword of the Spirit against Satan, some make the swimming motion to symbolize swimming in the river of God, others scoop more of the Spirit on to others, others knock on heaven’s door in the Spirit, still others flap their arms as they fly in the spiritual realm with Jesus. Some wag their head back and forth to express the ecstasy of the Holy Spirit as a way of showing how passionate they are for Jesus and the Spirit.
- F. I have no jurisdiction in the Spirit nor any opinion on the motives or methods of other ministries. I am only accountable for what happens on the ministry platforms under my spiritual jurisdiction – our prayer room, weekend services, conferences, classrooms, ministry trips, social media etc.

*Paragraph F: I get asked occasionally “What about this worship movement or that movement?” I say “Are you kidding, I have no spiritual or governmental jurisdiction over another worship movement; so I will not talk about them. I have no opinions.” “Well look how they do ministry time! Look how they preach! Look how they do healing! Look how they do worship!” I say “It is none of my business. **I only have***

accountability for one platform and that our missions base. I do not answer to God for anyone else; I do not even have an opinions.” “Yes, but look at them is that not crazy?” “No, no, no! You are not going to get me to say one thing negative about anybody, I am not going to! I only care to talk about the sphere and areas that I have jurisdiction in the Spirit because that is the only thing I am going to answer to.”

1. I am not responsible for what people do when they leave IHOPKC. That is between them and Jesus. But I happy to have had the opportunity to mark their heart with the beauty of humility.
2. By the grace of God, I want us to offer this gift to Jesus on the last day—that together we helped raise up a community of people who were steadfast in seeking to embrace a culture of humility that drew the attention of the people only to Jesus and not to themselves.

*Paragraph 2: By the grace of God, together we can contend for this; **we can offer to Jesus a gift of love after the end time revival**, “Look what we did! We cared about humility and only exalting Jesus!” And most of you have already said yes but I want us to do this together with you for years, not just for the next year or two. And when the power of God begins to move I want a team and a ministry context of humility. Some people say Do not worry about being a little unsure about how to apply this for a while—you will get it in time. Being a little unsure for a little while is not going to hurt you. I have been unsure about many things for a little while and the struggle brings clarity and then you will have confidence. Do not worry about it just talk to the Lord.”*

- G. I feel His pleasure when I contend for this spirit of humility and excellence in platform ministry.
- H. John the Baptist described himself as “friend of the Bridegroom” who sought to decrease in drawing attention to himself so that Jesus might increase as the one being highlighted. A friend of the Bridegroom parallels the best man in a wedding ceremony who wants the bride to focus on her bridegroom. The best man does not seek to win the affections of the bride to himself.

*²⁹“...**the friend of the bridegroom**...rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. ³⁰He must increase, but **I must decrease.**” (Jn. 3:29-30)*

*John the Baptist said “I am a friend of the Bridegroom.” Beloved that is the word over this movement that we would have “the spirit of a friend of the Bridegroom.” The friend of the Bridegroom, John the Baptist, is comparable to the best man in the wedding. The best man does not jump in front of the Bride and say “Hi honey!” **The best man is preparing the Bride for the embrace of the Bridegroom** and not for her to look at the best man but at the Bridegroom. The friend of the Bridegroom that is what we are talking about. Father, we thank You for a friend of the Bridegroom spirit on this ministry. I ask You for a million messengers of this in the earth to touch a young generation of millions who give leadership to the billion-soul harvest to come! Thank You for the friend of the Bridegroom spirit and thank You for this family of believers that have a profound agreement with these things. I thank You for being part of a community like IHOP, in Jesus name!*

Amen and amen!

*What a privilege Lord to stand before You. Come mark us. Show us ways that we draw attention to ourselves in public meetings, on the stage, in the chairs or in the hallways! Show us ways that we can more excel at drawing attention to Jesus and benefitting others around us. Ask the Lord “Show me” and the Spirit might give you a little idea of how you draw attention to yourself that may surprise me. An insight that you never thought about! **To excel in not distracting from Jesus as the One focus**—and that we benefit the people around us by what we do on stage or in the he congregation. Show me how to excel—I am jealous for the gifts of the Spirit..*

We love Your leadership and we love Your ways too. Your ways are not natural to me, sounding a trumpet is natural, it is not natural to me to hold these things privately. Thank You that you have given mercy to a man like me. You have shown me a few things, show me more. We thank You in Jesus name. Amen and Amen. I am going to end with that! Well it was a long-winded night but hey I got it all done on one video! Bless you, bless you!