

Jean Darnall
New Wine Leadership Conference 2009

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever, and I thank God for this wonderful opportunity to be here For 4 years I've been in touch with Robert Ward trying to make time to come over here because I felt so surly that the Lord wanted me to have one more trip to Britain in the later years of my life. Robert phoned me and told me about New Wine and I thought 'That's it, that's what we've been waiting for.'

I love the theme 'Stepping Up'. Of course in America we have an expression, stepping up to the plate, which is a baseball term. When all the bases are full and they're waiting for that right man to get on the base and hit a home run. When that ball is hit those bases that are all ready loaded with runners who have gone before and are stuck there, just waiting, waiting for that hit. As soon as that ball goes sailing through the air, they start running from base to base, and a number of home runs are made. A home run hit they call it, and I believe that that's what this conference will be. I believe there are people who are standing on their bases, all three bases are full.

God's put many of you in different places and you just felt like 'I need a release, I need to be able to go on and do the next thing God has for me', and I pray that this conference will all of our combined efforts together, worship, praise and exalting the Lord will release a home runner. And the enemy who is all poised to stop us, and the outfielder who think he is going to catch that ball will miss it. The enemy is going to loose this game, we are on the winning side, Hallelujah! So I pray that we'll step up to the base, we'll step up to what God has for us and realise that what we do in obeying the Lord will release many others to also obey the Lord. That your move of obedience in this conference will release others who have been stuck somewhere, waiting, waiting for that move of God that would release them into a larger field of service.

My daughter and I have just finished a trip of a life time on the Queen Mary, sailed into South Hampton just a couple of days ago..... It was a miraculous provision for the fare that came from the United Kingdom. We had booked a rather modest cabin then a couple of weeks after my daughter got an e-mail saying we'd been up graded. My daughter wondered what it was going to cost us, so called. The person said 'yes madam you've been upgraded. This is a remarkable upgrade. We were over booked in the area where you had your reservation. We did a random draw and my name was selected.' I think the hand of the Lord was on that random draw don't you.

And he said, 'You are up two decks higher in the Queens suite, and booked into the best restaurant on the ship, the Queens Grill.' We were only a couple of tables from John Cleese actually, and we ate with millionaires. And so the Lord has been treating us like the children of the King, that we are, although so unworthy, but he does love us doesn't he, and I do want to say that to me it was a sign that we were in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, when everything worked together so very, very well.

I am at present on staff at the Church on the Way, at ? California. A great church there founded by pastor Jack Hayford, many of you will have met or read his books, so we're very privileged to have the opportunity to minister with such a great team of ministers there in California, but my heart often longs to come back to England.

I want to talk to you from Acts, the fifth chapter, and a wonderful verse of scripture where Peter and the apostles were answering the accusations of their enemies and Peter and the other apostles answered and said, 'We ought to obey God rather than men' say that with me, 'We ought to obey God, rather than men'. Just turn to the person next to you and exhort them 'We ought to obey God', for that is the priority, obedience to God. That's what brought me here to England so many years ago. I came for a week and I stayed for 25 years, so you must be careful about inviting me over for the weekend!

The Rev Michael Harvar invited me to come for a Fountain Trust conference and it was not long after I arrived here that the Lord gave me a vision. There is always a history behind what God does in our lives. A tremendous miracle had just happened here in our text, a man had just been healed at the Gate Beautiful and when Peter said those words there was a lot of history behind those words, 'We ought to obey God, rather than men'. They had

done that exactly, as Jesus had come along the seashore and called them, they had obeyed. And Jesus said 'Follow me and I'll make you fishers of men', so they had heard the call.

They were also men who had been with Jesus, that was what their enemies remarked. How is it that these unlearned, fisher-type men, and so on, would be so mightily influential, have such power, and the people would listen to them. And they observed that they had been with Jesus. What a wonderful history. Have you been with Jesus? They were with Jesus all the way, and of course they're experience with the Lord had been progressive just as ours has been. Many times when we first follow the Lord we follow him with lots of errors. Well, we still do I suppose, but with many more.

With much misunderstanding about the nature of our commitment, and the potential, what's ahead, but never the less there is something so winsome, so loving, so compelling about the Lord Jesus that when he speaks, if the heart will just dare to turn just a little, it will be completely turned to him. And I pray that today that is how you feel about your calling from the Lord. Some of us come as CS Lewis said he did, kicking all the way, but once that touch comes upon our lives with Jesus, being with Jesus it changes us completely, humbles us and fills us with a deep, deep love for him.

They were not only men of commitment but also men of confession, men who had come to a place of revelation where they no longer saw a stranger of Galilee, or one like them, but they had a Father given revelation that caused them to confess 'Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God'. And so they're experience grew, their knowledge of who they were following grew. And then they watched him as he healed the sick and they listened to his teaching, so they were taught by the Lord and he gave them the model for their ministry.

I remember John Wimber saying that that was the way they trained their people in their church, the Jesus way. Jesus said, watch me do it, then help me do it, and then he said Go do it'. That's a very simple formula but it's certainly very, very workable. It's productive. It really does work. You need to model ministry. Jesus modelled ministry and then they helped him, and then he was finally able to say to them 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel, teaching them to observe the things that I have taught you. Not only refers to the words that he taught but the ministry he taught.

This chapter contains the actions of Jesus through his apostles after the day the church was born on the day of Pentecost. So these were men who were not only called, who had a confession, but they also had a commitment to the Lord that had taken them into a deeper experience with the Holy Spirit. Lots of people know about the Father and the Son in the church but many times they don't know about the Holy Spirit. That was certainly true in the years when I first came here, in the beginning days of the Charismatic Renewal.

It was like the little girl who went with her mother to a baptismal service and she saw them baptising and she was listening carefully, and the next day the mother missed the child and wondered where she was and she looked out into the garden and there she was, she'd dug a hole and she had her kitten by the neck and she was baptising it in a puddle of water, and her mother tip-toed up behind her and heard her say 'I now baptise you in the name of the Father and the Son, and in the hole you go.'

And for many people that third person of the Trinity is sort of a hole. Just sort of the unknown part of the Trinity, but God sees to it that he sends every once in a while to the church a new awakening, a re-stirring, a renewal, a revival, whatever you want to call it that brings back into focus the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I remember sitting under the ministry of Amy Semple-McPherson, and she taught some of the most wonderful things but there was one phrase she often repeated, she would often say 'If you will honour the Holy Spirit, He will honour you'. He will honour you. And what is the greatest honour that the Holy Spirit could give us? Why it's the honour of helping him do what Jesus said he would send him to do, and that was to bring others to Jesus. To reveal Jesus, to cause others to know about his power. In the days following the day of Pentecost there was ministry on the streets. As Peter walked by and his shadow fell across the people who had been brought from the villages and other places outside of Jerusalem. They brought the sick and afflicted and they'd lay them by the road

side and as Peter walked by and his shadow fell upon them they were healed. What power. What wonderful power.

And I'm intrigued and really excited about healing on the streets ministry here in Britain, and also the Street Pastors movement that I heard about last night. What a thrill. It thrilled me not only because it's being done, but also because I remembered that vision the Lord gave me.

I was in Pool in Dorset and had been ministering in St Mary's church there with the Rev Tim Fryer and he'd allowed me to stay over a couple of days after my meetings just to have some time of prayer and as I was praying this vision appeared. It wasn't the first time, it was the third time, it had happened twice before, and I'd been on the road going up and down this country on the train and so forth and the first time it appeared I observed it but didn't feel a strong impact, the second time the burden increased, then the third time, there in St Mary's, I sobbed and said 'Lord why are you showing me this vision?'

I saw the British Isles like a clump of jade, with the grey seas around it. It was like a birds eye view and as I was drawn closer to it I could see the tops of the trees on the hills and the clustered clouds. I couldn't see the people, but suddenly piercing through that came little flickers of light, and then the Lord seemed to bring me closer to it and I saw that it was fire light, that they were fires that were burning from the top of Scotland to Lands end, all over Britain. And then as I continued to pray it was as if lightening came from the sky above me and touched down upon these fires and they exploded into streams of light that began to flow downward, from Scotland, through the North of England, the Midlands, right down to channel, even over to Ireland as well, the waters didn't stop them, some of those streams of light went right across the channel. Not all of them, but some of them on to the continent.

And I said, 'Lord why are you showing me this? What does this vision mean? And he said 'Those fires represent groups of people that are being drawn together by the Holy Spirit to study the word of God and to pray for a spiritual awakening for Britain. And I'm bringing together all over Britain in homes and in churches. I will train them, I will build them with my Spirit. I will empower them, and I will teach them about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and then I will teach them and train them how to be led by the Spirit, how to follow the Spirit.' And I said 'Lord why are you showing me this? And he said 'Because I'm planning to send a great spiritual awakening to this nation, and the renewal is preparation for it. They will prepare the people for what is to come.' And as I was re reading those words that I've recorded in my book about the vision I realised, even more than I did at the time that it was actually in two parts, there was the prophecy of renewal then there was the prophecy of a spiritual awakening that would touch every part of the society of this nation.

The Lord showed me the children in the schools, the workers in the factories and docks, the farmers in their fields, students in colleges and universities, people in the media, people in government, there wouldn't be a part of the nation that will not be touched, by the witnesses who will go forth in the power of the Spirit, led by the Spirit, out of this renewal. Friends, I believe this is coming and it's near and it's time for us to rise up and believe it, amen, and receive it.

When I was asking the Lord 'Why should I stay here', because I had an itinerary to go to Hong Kong to be with my husband, who at that time was organising a high school there. We were to meet and then return to the United States. But the Lord had already been showing me and my daughter that he was going to be changing our itinerary. So I said 'Lord why are you showing this to me?' And he said 'Jean, I want you to stay here and help nourish the fires that I light.' You know God's the firelighter. We're not the firelighters, He lights the fires. He sends revival, he takes the initiative. He awakens us and stirs us and leads us, and teaches us, and empowers us. But those fires that he lights in our lives, that passion that Holy Ghost inspired that is a passionate empowered life for God must be nourished. Must be nourished with good teaching, with the word of God to keep it in balance, so that it doesn't become wild fire but fires that empower and energise the word of God. Amen?!

And of course whenever there is a move of God, just like in our text, there is opposition. The evidence of the living Lord amongst them provoked the enemy. The Chief Priests and those on their side, mostly the Sadducees

went into action, and arrested the apostles and put them in jail, but angels came and during the night they opened the jail door and let them out. And the angels said 'Go. Go to the temple and take your stand. Tell the people everything there is to say about this life', and they obeyed promptly and they entered the temple at day break and went on with their teaching.

Take your stand and tell the people everything about this life. I believe that is the message, the commission for those of us at this conference. Step up and then go forward and do what God has called us to do. I love the word daybreak here, they went to the temple at day brake. There's a new day dawning folks and the renewed church needs to step out into the place where they can proclaim with a clear voice and with boldness and courage, in spite of the opposition, the blessing's that God has given you. He's taught you about this wonderful life, the Spirit filled life.

When I came here in 67 there was no clapping in the church. The things that you do so regularly like clapping, and raising you hands, and turning around and praying for one another, touching one another, Oh no. Even the Pentecostal churches weren't too lively, if you'll forgive me for saying so. I remember the first time we did come together for a Christian musical at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. That was the first venue of a 10 city tour that we had, and someone said to me 'Jean, you couldn't have chosen a harder place than Edinburgh to start this tour, these people really sit on their hands.' When the time came for people to turn and form groups and pray for one another, everyone held their breath wondering what would happen. And of course they told me that was American, that American's would do that. And there was a song where you raised your hands and they'd say 'That's American'. And I'd say, 'no it's not American and it's not British, it's the Holy Spirit.' And certainly the Holy Spirit honoured us that evening with a wonderful outpouring. Those dear Scottish people were raising their hands. Not only were they standing together in clusters to pray for one another but they were like footballers making a huddle and praying, and we just stood there and wept because we knew that God had done it. And so there was release, it was like I said, we hit a home run, and the full bases were released and the players were able to run.

The opposition was puzzled by the great power that these men had, and I think that is to our advantage. Whatever the opposition you have, not only in Ecclesiastical areas but there is a great invasion of Islam as well in the nation, the opposition is all around us and they're waiting for us to strike out, but we're not going to. Amen! Instead they're going to discover that Jesus Christ is indeed alive and enthroned. Hallelujah. They said to them 'Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus name, and here you are. You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man.' And Peter responded 'It is necessary for us to obey God rather than man.'

As I stand before you today I want to leave that word with you 'Don't be afraid', the power of the Holy Spirit gives you courage and boldness, but not only the power of the Holy Spirit but the love for Jesus. The love gives us great courage and boldness. So don't only desire the best gifts but love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your strength and all your might so that you can prove to the world and to everyone around you that you have chosen to obey God rather than men. It will cost you. I know some vicars and pastors who were filled with the Spirit during those very intoxicating days of the renewal throughout the 60's, 70's, 80's, who God blessed them. Blessed their churches, but there came a time when they had to make a decision when they had to decide whether they were going to cultivate and nourish the fires that God had lit, or whether they were going to compromise because of financial reasons, or children's education reasons, or housing reasons, or promotion, or what ever it might have been, all those temptations that the devil puts in front of us, and I'm sorry to say that some compromised and the fires went out. Obedience is so necessary. Obedience, if you want to keep this fire in your soul, this passion in your life, this power flowing, with an ardent love for Jesus, so that you will live for him or die for him, you must obey him. Obedience is a priority.

I don't have much more time but I'd just like you to remember that the Lord said go out and treat everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, and marking them by Baptism in the threefold name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And instruct them in the practise that I have commanded you, and I'll be with you as you do this day after day, day after day, right up to the end of the age. And the end is probably so much closer than we realise.

What happened to these men who were so courageous and who said 'we must obey God rather than men'? They obeyed the great commission and went out to the ends of the earth. They went to Asia and Europe, including Persia, Ethiopia, Greece, Spain and Britain.

The Bible tells of the first martyr Stephen, who was stoned to death on the streets of Jerusalem, and then Foxes Book of Martyrs and history of those early church fathers, some were legends, some were credible, some a little doubtful, but most of them are pretty believable because it's obvious that many of these men gave their lives for Christ, tells us of the martyr of James the Apostle, three to five years after the crucifixion of Jesus. When he was brought to the tribunal the officer in charge was so moved by his witness, he was converted, the gaoler was converted, and he chose to die with James. Both were beheaded.

Next was Thomas the Apostle, who took the gospel all the way to the Persians, and all the way to India where he was killed. There was Simon and Bartholomew, who were beaten and crucified and beheaded for Jesus. Andrew, Peter's brother went to Ethiopia where he was crucified for preaching the gospel. It is said that as he faced his execution he never flinched. His facial expression never changed, he never showed any fear at all. Instead he said 'Oh cross, most welcomed and longed for. With a willing mind I come to you. Being a scholar of him who was hanged on you I have always been your love, and willing to embrace you, O cross.'

Matthew who translated the gospel for the Ethiopians was speared to death in Ethiopia. Philip was stoned and crucified along with one of his daughters. The Apostle Peter, condemned to death by Nero, was encouraged by his friends to flee from Rome. On his way out of the city he had a vision of Jesus who was going the other way. 'Quo Vadis?' Peter asked. 'I'm going to the city to be crucified again.' Jesus replied, in the vision. Peter understood the message and he turned back to face his execution. However he asked to be crucified head downward as he felt unworthy to die as his saviour died.

Did these followers of Christ expect all of this? I believe they did because Jesus had certainly given them fair warning. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.' And then Peter wrote in his Epistle, 1st Peter 3:14. 'But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake you are blessed.' You are blessed. And Jesus said that, 'Blessed are those who are persecuted'.

When this Century began, the year 2000, I was in prayer and I asked the Lord to give me a key thought, or word for that year. And the word he gave me was just a word and it was 'persecution'. Then I continued to pray and wait upon the Lord and the Lord showed me that this whole Century will be a Century of increased persecution. A Century of increased persecution - or until Jesus comes. And his commission to me out of that conversation in prayer was 'Prepare the people for persecution,' and that's what I bring to you today. I pray that the Holy Spirit who has empowered you, the Spirit who is leading you, will prepare you for persecution. To be bold witnesses, so in love with Jesus that you would live for him and die for him.

Some will be asked to die, but martyrdom isn't only the willingness to die, it is also the willingness to live, and go wherever God wants you to go. We must obey God rather than men. Amen.

Prayer

Shall we bow our heads in prayer, 'I thank you Father for the power of the Holy Spirit that caused these dear Apostles to so love the truth, as revealed in Jesus to live for him and die for him, and we are not unrelated to them. We are washed with the same precious blood. We are endued with the same power of the Holy Spirit and we are living Jesus life in us. We are a part of them and I pray that Lord that we will have that undying devotion and that powerful courage and deep love to live deeply in what we have learned and been given by the Holy Spirit. That Lord Jesus this generation will say that your cross still has great power that the gospel is for ever to the end of this age and that the church is your dear bride. We thank you for it Father in Jesus name. Amen