

General Topics :: THE MOST CRITICAL NEED OF THE CHURCH**THE MOST CRITICAL NEED OF THE CHURCH - posted by tjservant (), on: 2009/6/9 9:50**

An excellent word from A.W. Tozer (Worth Reading!)

THE MOST CRITICAL NEED of the Church at this moment is men - the right kind of men, bold men. The talk is that we need revival, that we need a new baptism of the Holy Spirit - and God knows we must have both - but God will not revive mice. He will not fill rabbits with the Holy Spirit.

We languish for men who feel themselves expendable in the warfare of the soul because they have already died to the allurements of this world. Such men will be free from the compulsions that control weaker men. They will not be forced to do things by the squeeze of circumstances. Their only compulsion will come from within - or from above.

This kind of freedom is necessary if we are to have prophets in our pulpits again instead of mascots. These free men will serve God and mankind from motives too high to be understood by the rank and file of religious retainers who today shuttle in and out of the sanctuary. They will make no decisions out of fear, take no course out of a desire to please, accept no service for financial considerations, perform no religious acts out of mere custom, nor allow themselves to be influenced by the love of publicity or the desire for reputation.

Much that the church - even the evangelical church - is doing today, it is doing because it is afraid not to do it. Ministerial associations take up projects for no higher reasons than that they are scared into it. Whatever their ear-to-the-ground, fear-inspired reconnoitering leads them to believe - or fear - the world expects them to do, they will be doing come next Monday morning with all kinds of trumped-up zeal and show of godliness. The pressure of public opinion calls these prophets, not the voice of Jehovah.

The true church has never sounded out public expectations before launching its crusades. Its leaders heard from God and went ahead wholly independent of popular support or the lack of it. They knew their Lord's will and did it, and their people followed them - sometimes to triumph, but more often to insults and public persecution - and their sufficient reward was the satisfaction of being right in a wrong world.

Another characteristic of the true prophet has been love. The free man who has learned to hear God's voice and dared to obey it has felt the moral burden that broke the hearts of the Old Testament prophets, crushed the soul of our Lord Jesus Christ, and wrung streams of tears from the eyes of the apostles.

The free man has never been a religious tyrant, nor has he sought to lord it over God's heritage. It is fear and lack of self-assurance that has led men to try to bring others under their feet. They have had some interest to protect, some position to secure, so they have demanded subjection from their followers as a guarantee of their own safety. But the free man - never. He has nothing to protect, no ambition to pursue

and no enemy to fear. For that reason he is completely careless of his standing among men. If they follow him - well and good. If not, he loses nothing that he holds dear. But whether he is accepted or rejected, he will go on loving his people with sincere devotion, and only death can silence his tender intercession for them.

Yes, if evangelical Christianity is to stay alive, it must have men again - the right kind of men. It must repudiate the weaklings who dare not speak out, and it must seek in prayer and much humility the coming again of men of the stuff of which prophets and martyrs are made. God will hear the cries of His people as He heard the cries of Israel in Egypt, and He will send deliverance by sending deliverers. It is His way.

And when the deliverers come - reformers, revivalists, prophets - they will be men of God and men of courage. They will have God on their side because they are careful to stay on God's side. They will be co-workers with Christ and instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Such men will be baptized with the Spirit indeed and through their labors He will baptize others and send the long-delayed revival.

(~SOURCE: "This World: Playground or Battleground?", Chapter 7).

Re: THE MOST CRITICAL NEED OF THE CHURCH - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/6/9 11:04

This was very good, reminded me of zac poonens "God needs men" , and it is true, the thing is , am i willing to place myself under the church need and Gods? am i willing to be molded by God?

thank you, a very good word that stirs up the fire within.

Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2009/6/9 15:58

Quote:

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It does stir up the fire. :-)

Would you post the Zac Poonen work? Sounds like it would be a good addition to this thread.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/6/9 16:05

God Needs Men - Zac Poonen

God needs men today -

- * Men who will stand before His face and hear His voice daily,
- * Men who have no desire in their heart for anyone or anything other than God Himself,
- * Men who fear Him so greatly that they hate sin in every form and love righteousness and truth in all their ways,

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- * Men who have overcome anger and sexually sinful thoughts, and who would rather die than sin even in thought or attitude,
- * Men whose daily lifestyle is one of taking up the cross and pressing on to perfection, and who are constantly working out their own salvation with fear and trembling,
- * Men, full of the Holy Spirit, who are so rooted and grounded in love that nothing can ever move them into an unloving attitude towards another human being, however great the provocation,
- * Men who are so rooted and grounded in humility that neither human praise nor spiritual growth, neither a divinely endorsed ministry nor anything else will be able to make them lose the awareness of their being less than the least of all the saints,
- * Men who have an understanding of God's nature and purpose through His word, and who tremble at that word so that they will not disobey even the smallest commandment or neglect to teach it to others,
- * Men who will proclaim the whole counsel of God and expose religious harlotry and unscriptural human traditions,
- * Men who have the revelation of the Holy Spirit on the secret of godliness, on Christ having come in the flesh and opened a new and living way through the flesh,
- * Men who are diligent and hard-working, but who also have a sense of humour, and know how to relax and play with children and enjoy God's good gifts in nature,
- * Men who are not ascetics, but who at the same time live a disciplined life and who are not afraid of hardships,
- * Men who have no interest in expensive clothing or sight seeing and who will not waste their time in unprofitable activities or their money in unnecessary purchases,
- * Men who have mastered their desire for fancy foods and who are not enslaved to music or sport or any other legitimate activity,
- * Men who have been disciplined successfully by God in the fires of affliction, abuse, tribulations, false accusation, physical sickness, financial hardships and opposition from relatives and religious leaders,
- * Men full of mercy, who can sympathise with the worst of sinners and the worst of believers, and have hope for them, because they consider themselves to be the foremost of all sinners,
- * Men who are so deeply rooted in the security of the love of their Heavenly Father that they are never anxious about anything, or afraid of Satan or evil men or difficult situations or anything,
- * Men who have entered into God's rest, believing in the sovereign working of God in all matters for their best and who therefore give thanks always for all men, for all things and in all circumstances,
- * Men who find their joy in God alone and who are therefore full of the joy of the Lord, having overcome all bad moods,
- * Men of living faith, who have no confidence in themselves or their natural abilities, but complete confidence in God as their unfailing Helper in all situations,
- * Men who live, not by the promptings of their own reason, but by the leading of the Holy Spirit,
- * Men who have been genuinely baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire by Christ Himself (and not just thrilled by some emotional counterfeit or convinced by some theological argument),
- * Men who live constantly under the anointing of the Spirit, endowed with the supernatural gifts that He has given them,

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- * Men who have revelation of the church as the body of Christ (and not a congregation or a denomination), and who give all their energies, their material wealth and spiritual gifts to build that church,
- * Men who have learnt to bridle their tongues through the help of the Holy Spirit and whose tongues are now aflame with the divine Word,
- * Men who have forsaken all, who are not attracted any more to money or material things, and who desire no gifts from others,
- * Men who can trust God for all their earthly needs and who never hint about their material needs or boast about their labours, either in their conversation or through letters and reports,
- * Men who are not stubborn, but gentle, and open to criticism and eager for correction from older and wiser brothers,
- * Men who have no desire to dominate or advise others (although ready to give advice, when asked for), and who have no longing to be considered as 'elder' brothers, or leaders, but who only desire to be ordinary brothers and servants of all,
- * Men who are easy to get along with, and who are willing to be inconvenienced and taken advantage of by others,
- * Men who will make no distinction between the millionaire and the beggar, the white-skinned and the dark-skinned, the intellectual and the idiot, and the cultured and the barbarian, but who will treat them all alike,
- * Men who will never be influenced by their wife, children, relatives, friends or other believers to cool off even slightly in their devotion to Christ or their obedience to God's commandments,
- * Men who can never be bribed to compromise by any reward that Satan may offer (whether honour or money or whatever),
- * Men who are fearless witnesses for Christ, fearing neither religious heads nor secular heads,
- * Men who desire to please no human being on the face of the earth, and who are willing to offend all men, if necessary, in order to please God alone,
- * Men for whom God's glory, God's will and God's kingdom always take priority over mere human need and their own comfort,
- * Men who cannot be pressurised either by others or by their own reason into doing 'dead works' for God, but who are eager and content to do the revealed will of God for their lives alone,
- * Men who have the discernment of the Spirit to distinguish between the soulish and the spiritual in Christian work,
- * Men who look at things from a heavenly view point and not an earthly one,
- * Men who will refuse all earthly honours and titles offered them for their labours for God,
- * Men who know how to pray without ceasing, and also how to fast and pray when needed,
- * Men who have learned to give generously, cheerfully, secretly and with wisdom,
- * Men who are willing to be all things for all men, so that by all means they might save some,
- * Men who have a longing to see others not only saved but also made disciples of Christ, and brought to the knowledge of the truth and to obedience to all of God's commandments,
- * Men who have a longing to see a pure testimony established for God in every place,

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- * Men who have a burning passion to see Christ glorified in the church,
- * Men who do not seek their own in any matter,
- * Men with spiritual authority and spiritual dignity,
- * Men who will stand alone for God in the world, if need be,
- * Men who are totally uncompromising, like the apostles and prophets of old.

God's work in the world suffers today, because such men are few in number. Determine with all your heart that you will be such a man for God, in the midst of a sinful and adulterous generation and a compromising Christendom. Since there is no partiality with God, it is possible for you too to be such a man, provided you yourself earnestly desire to be one. Since God demands commitment and obedience only in the conscious area of one's life, it is possible for you to be such a man, even though the conscious area of your life may be limited. (That area will keep increasing as you walk in the light and press on to perfection). There is no excuse then why you cannot be such a man. Since nothing good dwells in the flesh, we have to seek for grace from God to have the virtues listed above. Cry out to God daily then, that He will give you grace to be such a man in these, the closing days of the age.

edit: Zac Poonen also written a book that fits the theme of the thread i think, if anyone want to read it online its here, not very thik book and can read it in one good sitting :-)
(http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?bookneeded_men_of_god) needed: men of God

Re: THE MOST CRITICAL NEED OF THE CHURCH, on: 2009/6/9 19:10

This was excellent TJ - thank you.

I was thinking about the apostasy. Seldom do any preach that it's an "apostasy From Truth".

If these men that Tozer and Ryle describe are "to come" - my belief is they will come as Brother Tozer & Ryle have described - with that extra anointing of the Spirit of Truth.
How else do you 'counteract' an Apostasy *from* Truth?

Thank you again.