

## GOD SAYS, “I AM TAKING MY CHURCH BACK”

Church Leaders need to realize that the Church is God’s church — not theirs. I want to be careful how this is said but its like there is going to be a violent tearing of His church out of the grips of those that oppose or will not release it back to Him.

God is going to build His church and He will certainly do it His way. This does not mean every church will look the same but rather that you will clearly see God’s fingerprints on them, His DNA clearly visible in them.

Believers, we need in many cases to get back to the basics and ask ourselves some hard questions. Do we carry God’s Presence in our lives or is it something else?

Many Christians today, both in and out of the church, are AWOL. Too many are idle and others can be found doing things they have never been called to do. For some — the desert of inactivity — the waiting has almost seemed to have stolen the dreams they once had. For many, the faith to believe their dreams will happen is hardly even a noticeable flicker. The drive — the desire is almost completely gone.

For many God’s dreams, His plans, His purpose for them has been allowed to be stolen, lost, destroyed and even mutated into something He never planned.

The original plan and dream is still in place. Leaders, we need to teach that God believes in His people and because of the dream He has — they can succeed in walking in the plan and completing the mission He has for them. Each believer has a purpose in God’s Kingdom.

For too long we have tried to make people fit in to molds of man’s choosing, man’s plans that quench and try to discredit the real plan God has for His own. Many people have been maimed, hurt and discouraged spiritually by man’s failure to see the plan and value God sees in each of His people. Too often we look only on the outside or we try to make people measure up to a list or criteria of our making and then judge everything by this man-made list. Its no wonder there are so many prodigals today!

We need to see what God sees in each other then come alongside to help each one become all that is in the Father’s heart for them. We need to help each believer find and then walk in all that God has planned for them. It’s time to call forth Believers. Time to see them healed, delivered, equipped, and then activated. It is time to be about our Father’s business. Its time to call the prodigals home; time to give many a new coat, place a ring on their finger and walk with them into the fullness of their personal destiny.

People need to know that they do have a destiny. God has chosen as His kids, His people, those He can fulfil His plans through. The giant puzzle can be completed as we each walk in the destiny that has been planned and conceived in God’s heart.

Things as we knew them are about to change for now is a time of ‘suddenlies’. All of a sudden things will fall into place; the long awaited will happen. For many, the waiting is over and things will start to change very quickly.

Believers, need to start dreaming again. We must remove man’s expectations or even our own self-imposed restrictions. It’s time to encourage, to challenge people that now they can! No longer the limiting time of ‘they can’t’. I am not talking about being foolish or getting carried away but ask you, “Where do so many of the ‘I can’t’s or ‘you can’t’ statements come from? They sure are not from God or from His Word. We need to start replacing every ‘I can’t’ with ‘I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me’”.

## Revival Fires of Freedom Ministries

When we look at a person today do we see all the possibilities, all the things that can be -- or do we become focused on those things that look hopeless? Do we seek to find reasons why we (or they) can not succeed; or do we face into the wind and say, "By God's grace I can, and by God's grace I will!" Do many of the miracles that happen in third world countries happen more frequently over there because they have never been programed for doubt or always taught to say, "I can't"?

A vile spirit hopelessness runs rampant throughout the world today. We must stand guard against this hopelessness and set free those who are bound by it. We must no longer allow spirits of discouragement, of complacency or those that steal dreams to have access in our lives.

We all know the story of the talents. Every one of us has talents. The bottom line is --we use them or lose them. Many today don't use their talents or never do anything for the Kingdom of God because of fear; they are afraid of making mistakes and fail to realize that we will give an account of what we have done (or not done) with our talents or gifts. I don't like making mistakes but a people that are moving forward can work through mistakes as they happen. Unfortunately the people that keep everything hidden will never walk in all that God has for them.

As leaders we have a responsibility to those God has entrusted to our care. The church should be both a hospital and a training ground. It's a place of restoration and renewal after the battles and also a place to be trained up and encouraged to keep going, enabled to stay the course.

The church is a place of ministry, a place were we stand with each other and do whatever is necessary to help each other grow and walk in the fullness of God's plans for their lives. Ministry means putting others first. Sadly the 'me-first', the 'I deserve' attitudes of the world has been allowed into many churches. These self-serving attitudes must be eradicated and attitudes of servant-hood developed. Of course, this takes time and in the meantime, the church needs to learn to love even the unlovable.

The bottom line for each church leader is, we need to start fresh. It's time to leave all the criticism and hen-pecking behind. We all need to forgive each other and ourselves for past failures, put the past firmly behind us and together begin to move forward. Everyone in the church needs to learn to pray for the pastor, and then follow him as he follows the Lord.

I believe in strong teams — this is not the season for a bunch of lone rangers. Having said that, there can only be one head on a body or it becomes an uncontrollable monster. In the same way, a church cannot be led by group rule, or even by those who have been involved the longest. It also cannot be led by the political correctness or other philosophies of the world.

God has established a framework within which He rules and reigns within His church. I do not believe in dictatorship, but neither do I believe in rule by majority, nor even rule by board. Together we must hear the voice of the Lord and follow it in unity.

It's the pastor's job to capture and share God's vision for the local body. Then he is responsible to train and equip the believers to walk in that vision. As that is accomplished, those with like mind and heart will come along side the pastor and a dynamic team will be formed. We need to take the time necessary to share many of the basics things we often take for granted and allow God to have control to do things His way. We need to encourage people to grow, to take the steps needed to walk and then run in the fullness of God's plans. We need to see people loved, set free, healed, equipped and then activated into service. We must welcome the prodigals and those that don't fit anywhere else. Believe it or not, God chooses the least likely and we must be part of that process. Together with them, we can see a dynamic team built.

While we should be open to people coming from other churches, if that is what God is doing, I believe ideally most if not all church growth should come from the harvest. Often when people come from other churches they bring with them the baggage or problems that they would not deal with while they were there. Further I believe that if they feel they need to switch churches, that God is leading them to a new church home, they need to make all things right and leave properly with the church's blessings.

One other concept close to the heart of the Father, is much broader than we often think about. We get so busy doing the day to day, involved with those in the immediate setting of the local church and community that we fail to see the bigger picture as He sees it. He sees the peoples of the world. He loves them as much as He loves us. He longs to see them come into the family and become parts of His Kingdom. The local church is important, but He sees a truly universal church. He longs to wrap His arms around the peoples of all nations and all ethnicities. All through the Scriptures you can catch glimpses of His longing for a people who would love and follow Him. He longs to be God to all peoples.

When God takes back His church and organizes it His way, it will see the harvest brought in worldwide. Consequently, the local church will find it is vital to raise up those people, that team, who would enable leadership along with learners to be able to go forward through whatever doors of opportunity God might open to share His truths internationally. Can you catch the vision of a local, a vibrant church, one who influences not only the local setting but also impacts the world? Can you catch the vision of not only the harvest coming in locally but also worldwide? Can you catch the vision of many other churches and ministries being birthed out of the local body? Can you catch the vision of a local church that so belongs to God that it would draw others who want to see how its done? Can you catch the vision that our lives must literally be all about Him and that then He will build His church?

If you can relate to these concepts or start to get excited about possibilities both locally and world wide, then you are in a place where God can begin to do something extraordinary. I believe His heart is to do the supernatural here and now. He is simply looking for those radically committed believers who will give their very all to see it done.

As we yield and give God control of our churches, our ministries and learn to walk in unity we shall see God build His church and the church He builds will be both relevant and one that operates in manifestations of power and love. It will be a church that has as its central focus 'It's all about Jesus' not about us or our plans but about God's plans. I believe a church like that will have the ability to allow Holy Ghost wildfire to spread widely offering hope to the hopeless, salvation to the lost, deliverance to the bound and mercy to the ones that have stumbled and not allowed back into fellowship of the body because of man-made rules.

This can be the church's finest hour if we truly surrender God's church back to him. The consequences of not doing that? I believe God will take it back in dramatic fashion and it just may be . . . but that I leave to God.

We are looking for Christians who will stand together in true unity to see the Kingdom of God come, the end time harvest come in and the Church be purified and ready for Christ to come and receive her unto Himself. If you are one of these important people, please contact us and let us know who you are. We would love to share updates and happenings with you. Please send your name and email to: [info@revivalfires.ca](mailto:info@revivalfires.ca)

At least, that's the way I see it.  
Roger Gamble