

The Suddenly Sound

Acts 2:12 “Suddenly there came a sound from heaven...”

The Sound of Travailing Intercession

When the sound of heaven is neglected, viewed as “old school,” out of touch with hip and cool approaches; all we have left is man manufactured sounds that try to secure the blessing and power of God in favor of what we attempt to create through our own ingenuity, creativity and marketing know-how!

It’s like when David attempted to bring the Ark of God [which represented the presence of Almighty God among His people] back to Jerusalem after many years of King Saul’s neglect.

1Chron. 13:1-3

“David conferred with each of his officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, If it seems good to you and if it is the will of the Lord our God, let us send word far and wide to the rest of our people throughout the territories of Israel, and also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their towns and pasturelands, to come and join us. Let us bring the Ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul.”

- In their attempt to bring the Ark, they failed to follow the set “pattern” prescribed by God to the earlier priests. Ex. 25:10-15 “Cast four gold rings and attach them to its four feet, two rings on each side. Make poles from acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings at the sides of the Ark to carry it. These carrying the poles must stay inside the rings; never remove them.”
- Priests were to carry the Ark on their shoulders – Joshua 6.

It had been so long and neglected, the people no longer knew the proper protocol prescribed by the Lord for carrying His presence.

- David had it put on a new ox cart as the Philistines had banished it out of their land.
- Used the new method – something a little more modern, easier, and more convenient.
- The result was a disaster – a man died as he reached to steady the Ark on the cart after the oxen stumbled.

The solution: David went back to the scriptures Moses first was given by the Lord and followed God’s prescribed method of carrying the Ark on their shoulders.

There is nothing wrong with modern technology or techniques **IF** they are secondary to the priority of uncompromised preaching/teaching of the timeless truths, the Supremacy of Christ, the preaching of the atoning work of the Cross, the willingness to identify sin as sin, and making room for an unrestrained move of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

- If we prioritize what's important to Heaven, there is nothing wrong with media, marketing, and methods.
- They just need to take a secondary role to the moving of the Holy Spirit.
- Today many leaders and cultural influencers have made decisions to trade the move of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, and the preaching of Bible truth for popularity and prominence.
- This tradeoff has produced times and seasons similar to the days of the Prophet Samuel, when there seems to be a drought of spiritual revelation in the land: 1Sam. Due to the Priest Eli and his two son's corruption, there was a drought of righteousness and the true Word of the Lord for Israel in those days.

1Sam. 3:1 "The Word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation."

What broke the spiritual drought and pierced the spiritual silence?

The Cry of Hannah vs. the Wet Blanket of the Religious Spirit;

Eli and his sons had made a spiritual exchange:

- Eli was the bumbling priest who did not correct his wayward – carnal sons who were taking God's portion of the sacrifices for themselves and prostituting with the women in the Temple before the people.

But Hannah, who was childless, made a cry out to the Lord and promised if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him back to the Lord's service. 1Sam. 1:11

- Her sound of intercession 1Sam; moved the heart of God.
- Her cry of intercession, perceived as being drunk, elicited a response from her husband and the priest Eli.
- Her husband questioned her by asking: "Am I not enough for you to have me as your husband?"
- Eli, supposing she was drunk, charged her to sober up and stop the crying and muttering. What's wrong with you? Upon discovering the reason for her intercession; Eli blessed her and pronounced upon her that the Lord would give her her heart's desire. 1Sam. 1:17

Satisfied by being Dissatisfied: The Paradox of Encountering God

When someone is told: “You cannot go further or deeper in God, they will turn toward someone or something they think they can go further and deeper in.”

- It may be any kind of excess or even perversion because it has the perception of “a new experience” and potentially satisfying to them.
- Many times this leads to being entrapped by an addictive behavior and over indulgence attempting to satisfy the longing of the soul.
- But as many of us have discovered, nothing in this world really satisfies or offers eternal value because only the ways of the Lord are eternal.
- If you are hearing this today and there is a longing in your soul for truth, reality and meaning for your life – there is only one answer and His name is Jesus.
- The wonder of the Lord for those of us who know only He satisfies, is that He is an endless supply and yet we are always left desiring more of Him.

We are satisfied by being dissatisfied!

There is always room for more of the Lord.

- This is not a search to subtract or add anything to the Bible.
- It is a hunger to experience more of what the Bible says is available for us.
- We must shift from Bible information to Biblical encounter!

The religious spirit says: “Be content with information. Settle for knowledge.

- This is what Hannah’s husband was recommending for her in her heartache without a son. Just settle for where you are now and what you have.
- The enemy of our soul is always tempting us with mediocrity to settle with knowledge void of experience.

Why?

- Knowledge does not cast out devils, heal the sick, or raise the dead.
- Knowledge does not preach the liberating Gospel and see people delivered from damnation.
- Knowledge and theology are essential, but they serve the purpose to educate us about God causing us to seek a greater encounter with the One you are studying.
- You can stop at doctrine and all the definitions, and fail to realize the whole purpose of doctrine is not an end in itself; but to lead us to a knowledge of the Person of God and into fellowship with Him.

What Do We Do With The Sound?

1Sam. 1:9-10 “Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the Tabernacle of the Lord. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.”

- History records she received the answer to her prayer, a son - Samuel.

What kind of prayer did Hannah pray?

- It was a desperate prayer, undignified, mistaken by the religious establishment as drunkenness [sounds like the Day of Pentecost being mislabeled as drunkenness].
- Her barrenness provoked her to pray and her fervent prayers which provoked the religious spirit to respond as Eli did in his rebuke of her.
- It is the sound of Heaven when your groan comes into agreement with the very groan of a desire for God Himself.

**Groaning Prayers will always confront religious spirits
and make them uncomfortable!**

1Sam. 1:12-14 “As she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her. “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”

- The contemporary religious spirit reviews those who pray with intensity, groaning, & travail and make similar judgments.
- It's because they live at a distance from the Sound of Heaven, the heartbeat of God.
- When you know the sound of heaven, as strange and offensive as it may seem, you desire it.
- When you are content to live at a distance from the One you are called to minister to, then God's unusual ways will always offend your flesh because you are living from the flesh and not the Spirit.

Travailing intercession is intense because it's agreeing with the sound of Heaven

When you allow yourself to enter this dimension of prayer, you stop praying from earth to Heaven – you begin praying from Heaven to earth!

Hannah shifted from praying for what she wanted to agreeing with God for what He wanted.

Hannah wanted a son - God wanted a prophet!

God is not our genie in a bottle who exists to be a cosmic butler and supernatural Santa Claus.

Prayer is not a formula to get what you want or desire.

When your objective for praying are purely carnal, it becomes easy to give up when your prayers are not answered.

When you don't get prayers answered – you tend to give up the belief there even is a God.

There is a bigger purpose for your breakthrough

- God is a good Father who is willing to provide and give His children good gifts.
- Heaven has a far greater assignment on your breakthrough than you can imagine.
- Hannah did not simply give birth to a child – she gave birth to a prophet who would shift times and seasons for spiritually wayward Israel.
- Her breakthrough broke the spiritual drought over the land.

This is why the battle over your breakthrough is so great:

- It's not about your answered prayer – it's bigger than you; it's about the Lord working through you to change the times and the seasons around you.
- It's about the provision coming, the miracle happening so that it becomes a testimony that will demonstrate to people what can happen in the name of Jesus.

Though it's important; it's not just about your wayward son, daughter, spouse, friend, neighbor coming to church to sit next to you, clap their hands, attend all the meetings, getting along better in life.

No, there is a greater cause and meaning;

- The battle over your child or loved one that is causing that intercessory groan in you is about that person coming into their destiny to be a voice of reformation in a world riddled with chaos, deception and turmoil.
- It's time for a roar like Hannah's to arise.

**It was Hannah's cry that broke through the spiritual silence
that defined a new day for revival.**