



CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP FOR TIMES OF CHAOS

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A new book I have written is called *The Nature of Freedom*. This is a devotional companion to *GameChangers*. It is designed and written around the same truths that you are aligning with in Christ.

The book is a series of prophetic letters written in the first person where God is in your space and you are reading a letter direct from Him to you. He is sharing with you how He sees you as a *GameChanger* and how He and the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit want to work with you in this time of transformation.

It is fascinating what we have just been listening to as Jane, Linda, and Kathy shared because the title of my talk is *Cultivating Leadership for Times of Chaos*.

THE WORLD'S BROKEN SYSTEMS

When we look at the world right now, we see a broken system. In almost every nation on earth is a broken system. There is, I believe, an insanity about the world right now. There is corruption on a huge scale. Murder. Genocide. Destruction. Slavery is back at an all-time high. Rape. Molestation. Killers. Sadists. We have more serial killers around the world than at any time in human history.

Hate crimes. Judgment. ISIS. Religious killings. Millions of people displaced. Countries overwhelmed by the needs of humanity. Unemployment. Foreclosures. Toxic debt. Marriage under threat. Uncertainty, fear, despair. Sickness, disease. Untrustworthy governments. Suicide among teenagers at an all-time high. Poverty everywhere.



Almost every nation in the world is operating out of a broken system filled with the evidence of chaos.

Over 40 million Americans still cannot get health care. Twenty percent of Americans are on welfare, living off food banks. Chaos in the inner cities. Drugs escalating, organized crime winning. Pornography, crimes against women. Earthquakes, tsunamis, famines. You name it, it is out there. Rumors, lies, deliberate misunderstandings. More wars now than in the last 50 years. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is getting even wider and people are angry.

Are these the signs of the end times? Well, they might just be. Read Matthew 24. What is true is, I do not know that there is any political answer to any of these things.

WE ARE CALLED FOR THIS FIGHT

What we are seeing is a dearth of statesmen leadership, excellent leadership, any kind of leadership in the earth right now. There is a vacuum and somebody has to fill that space. That should be us. It should be the Body of Christ. It should be those who have a different spirit.



There is an absence of Kingdom leaders in the earth and we must rise to this challenge.

This is a time for us to know, believe, and act on the truth of what it really means to live in Jesus. Sunday morning meetings will not save us. We need to be rising up individually, as groups of friends, as Lighthouses.

CURRENT DAY BATTLEFIELDS

All the things I just named that detail the insanity in the world are battlefields. Every one of them is a battlefield. It is not enough for us just to wait until the fight comes to us; the fight is here. It is on our streets right now. It is in our neighborhoods.



The crisis of the day define our battlefields.

It is important for us, if we are going to be trained in warfare, to find the place to make a stand and say, 'I am going to fight this. I am going to fight that. I am going to go up against that because all those things are already here. They are already in our midst and we cannot act as blind people any more. We cannot simply go to our meetings and hope that something is going to turn up. I need to turn up. YOU need to turn up. We need to turn up and we need to turn up NOW.'



How can we equip and mentor a new type of leader for this time?

The reason we talk about *GameChangers* and *LifeChangers* like crazy, is because transformation for this world begins in your inner man. It begins on the inside of you and if we do not get that right, if YOU do not get that right, you will not rise up. You will find an excuse. You will not rise up. I do not doubt

that we will go to prayer meetings and pray, but we will not put ourselves on the front line. We can have great times in our prayer meetings and the world will still be going to hell the next day. We need people to rise up by recognizing the battle and stepping into it.



Transformation for all leaders must begin in the inner man.

We need leaders who change things, who can grow things from the top down and the ground up. It is really important for us in Aglow to seek His face like we have never sought it before. Think of the last 50 years as we are coming into our 50th year. Think of all of that as training for now, for our present day. All of that has been our apprenticeship for now. Because now the world really needs an army, a people who will rise up and fight wickedness, and fight hate, and fight judgment.



We are an apostolic movement who has been rising each year to be God's army on earth.

We are moving from being this parachurch organization that other people have declared us to be, to becoming an apostolic movement in our own right. That means the way in which we build our Lighthouses drastically needs to change because we need Kingdom communities, not just places where we hide out from the world and encourage one another. We have got to do something different. We are creating an apostolic movement in every Region, every nation, every Lighthouse. We must stand up and rise up, because, what if we are it? And we are so busy praying that God will do something and He is looking at you saying, 'I am ready when you are.'



Our Lighthouses must transform and pulsate with life as Kingdom communities that produces other Kingdom communities and Kingdom people until the whole earth is covered.

What is it we really want in Aglow? Do we really want radical renewal or just business as usual? Here is the thing for us, Christians the world over, we always go *woohoo, yeah, right, let us go for it!* And we walk away and act as though nothing was ever said. Sometimes I think the church in the west is more in love with the idea of Jesus than the reality of His Presence.

WE ARE A VOICE AND NOT AN ECHO

LifeChangers and *GameChangers* is just the beginning. Designed to create a level playing field where we all agree together that we are all going to pursue our individual and collective identity in the Lord Jesus to the max. And that we, as individuals, are prepared to change, prepared to grow up, prepared to become bigger and stronger, prepared to have our voice and use it. We all agree together that this is the basic platform.

On top of that, we need a leader development program that can actually mentor and disciple people, not just do meetings. Not just administrate an organization.

We need something more and I think the Lord is standing in front of us and He is saying, 'I have more. I have more. How much more do you really want?' And I think that is the question that every Region needs to be asking – how much more do we really want? How do we see ourselves in this Region? Are we a world-beating, supernatural power or not?



God is standing before us and asking us how far we want to go as His people, His army, to train and equip others and to shift atmospheres over nations.

QUESTIONS FOR EVERY AGLOW GROUP

In every Lighthouse we need to take a good solid look at ourselves and ask,

- Is what we are doing enough to win this world?
- Is what we are doing enough to save our culture and our society?
- Is what we are doing enough to turn around this city?
- Is our Aglow group a fortress in the midst of chaos, or are we just a refuge from change?

If our gatherings are only about *encouraging* people, this movement is going to collapse under the pressure.

We must produce across Aglow, around the world, hundreds of thousands of warriors and champions. And to do that, we need extraordinary leaders at every level of what we are doing. I think we will grow in an outrageous way if we have more leaders than followers in the coming chaos. I do not want to survive this time – I want to prosper in it. We need to be poised to take advantage of everything that will come our way. Right now, the eyes of the Lord are wandering to and fro throughout the earth seeking a people on whose behalf He can show himself strong.



It is our responsibility and joy to produce hundreds of thousands of warriors and champions around the world who are able to take advantage of every situation coming their way.

INCREASING IN INFLUENCE

In Jesus we are good enough to walk with the Father but we have to prove it out there. The world needs to see something.

One of the key leadership roles, I believe, in any organization is influence. We influence from our identity. Every Region, every Lighthouse, needs to have a leadership in it that has an identity that is above the norm. Every leader, every ministry needs to understand the next level of who they are and what they are called to.



We influence those around us out of our identity and understanding of who we are becoming that is even more powerful than who we are today.

GameChangers is a beginning. It is not *the* answer. It is the beginning of the answer. It is to create in all of us the same hunger, the same desire, the same passion, to represent Jesus. And out of that place we are going to raise up warriors, champions, pioneers, *GameChangers*, explorers. People who are strong in the Lord and do exploits. But our question in Aglow is,

- Who and what kind of leader are we raising up right now?
- What kind of leader do we need to be raising up?

CALEB A WARRIOR LEADER

I think only a warrior mindset can take advantage of what the enemy is doing. Caleb is one of my heroes. He said something that has always stuck with me. I want to say to all of those in Aglow, 'it is not enough for us to pray P-R-A-Y; we need to make the enemy our prey P-R-E-Y.' He said, 'We can do this. The enemy will be our prey.' That makes you an apex predator. It makes you a lion amongst kittens. Somewhere in us, we are going to have to find the boldness we have never had before. We are going to have to find the authority we never have had before. But, we are ready.



It is not enough for us to p-r-a-y.
We must make the enemy our p-r-e-y!

We are ready for it. The adjustment still has to be made in our thinking. We are going to need dynamic communication from head office to the field and back again. We are going to need different field commanders.

There is not a single person in this room who is not going to grow up and grow into a different role than we had when we started. It is fascinating to me that we are redoing our job descriptions. It is so

right for us right now that we are thinking of becoming an army and not just a family; that we are developing Special Forces and rapid response teams and all of that. Our whole language is changing.

By this time next year, when we celebrate our 50th, we are not going to be the organization that began. We are going to be the one that can move up several levels. I do not know if the people who founded this movement ever knew what it would grow into.



New role assignments are coming, be ready to step into yours without hesitation.

LEADERSHIP ROLE MODELS

So what leadership is required for chaotic times?

I want to tell you a bunch of stories about people in the Bible. I want to create a template for the kind of mentality we are going to need going forward.

Moses

I want to start with one of my favorite people, Moses, who was an introvert. He was somebody who was more convinced of his own inability, who put up more excuses, maybe, than anybody else in scripture.



How you see yourself in the eyes of God is critical.

I guarantee right now there are people around you who may see you in a way that is *less than* how God sees you.

- You have to rise up.
- You have to occupy a different place in the Presence of the Lord.
- Every one of us needs to work hard on our own inadequacies and insecurities.

The God who lives in you is neither inadequate nor insecure. He is bold. He is confident. He is assertive. He understands power and He knows how to wield it.

In Exodus 6:30, Moses comes before the Lord and he says, “Behold I am unskilled in speech, how then will Pharaoh listen to me?” When he says ‘behold’ what he is saying to the Lord is, “You need to see me as I see me. You need to look at me. Look at me! I cannot do this thing. How on earth is it going to happen? Behold me. See me as I see me.”

You have to know that the Lord has no intentions of complying with that. He is going to ignore every excuse you are ever likely to make because it is irrelevant to Him. What you are or what you are not is irrelevant. It is how He sees you that counts.

So when Moses says ‘behold, see me as I really am,’ the Lord comes right back at him and says, ‘see, no you see yourself as I see you.’ And He says these words to him in Exodus 7:1, “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh.” That is like God raising the ante by 10,000 percent. You just put a dollar in the pot and He has raised you \$10,000. Up the ante on yourself. “See, I have made you.”

God is saying to Moses, “You do not get it, Moe. I do not see you like that. I called you because of how I saw you. I called because of what I can do, not because of what you can do. I called you because of who I am, not because of who you are. ‘See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh and Aaron is going to be your prophet.’” That is raising the ante.

That is calling you up to a completely different place and if Moses felt inadequate before, he is probably having kittens right now. **When you see yourself as God sees you, then you can come into partnership.** But until you see that, no partnership is possible because He will not partner with your inadequacy. Not when He can make you stronger. He will not partner with your weakness, not when He can be your strength.



How you see yourself in the eyes of God is critical and partnering with that will affect the enemy in your neighborhood.

The Word of God always attracts conflict and if you are going to be a speaker, if you are going to speak anything, you are going to be in times of conflict. You have to not worry about that. You have to have more peace than fear. Every one of us is going to be in conflict at some point in the next few years. I hope you get a taste for it because He is going to be with you. In the Holy Spirit, He will help you to rise up and find that place of peace, find that place of rest. You will find the place where what is in you begins to affect the enemy in your neighborhood.



Warriors need opposition to grow.

The declared Word of God is always challenged. This is how we grow. It is totally impossible to become Christ-like if everything is going well. You do not learn patience when everything is going smooth. You do not learn grace by having everybody agree with you. The truth is, if you are going to be a warrior, you need opposition. You need *something* to oppose and you need *someone* to oppose you. You need someone to push back so that you find out how hard you can push in return.

We are all in situations right now where we are training for reigning. All your current situations are about:

- you learning authority,
- you learning power,
- you learning what your 'yes' is,
- you learning how to stand,
- you learning how to press in,
- you learning how to receive under pressure.

It is all this stuff. It is boot camp. It is warrior training. There is no theory in battle. In battle you learn how to overcome.



The whole point of training is that it creates the scenarios where you learn how to overcome.

Where I lived in the South of England, Salisbury Plain, was about 20 miles away from my home, and that is where the army did all the maneuvers, where they simulated battle conditions. You have to go through that training. It was not a 9:00 to 5:00 thing. The soldiers were out on that battle field for at least a week. You slept rough and you ate one meal a day. Why? Because they are simulating real battle conditions.

Understand that in your training, in your life circumstances, God is going to allow in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power because He is training you. It is going to be rough. Your training has to be rough. He is training you, teaching you how to stand, teaching you how to endure, teaching you how to overcome, building that true grit on the inside of you that is Christ within. We discover the strength of the Word when that Word is opposed.

Here is the thing, the enemy looks for people to yield their identity to their own circumstances. That is why your circumstances are tough right now, because your identity is tougher. You need the situations you are in right now.



The enemy looks for people who will step out of their identity and give up their place. Stay put.

So many believers in the west really have a mindset that says, 'I am a Christian get me out of here.' And the Lord is saying, 'If you are a Christian, you belong here.'

Here are five things that God is developing in Moses.

1. The first one is the situation itself. He is in a situation where people are living under 400 years of oppression and their time is up for slavery and he is the deliverer. God is going to emancipate a whole nation from the most despotic ruler on the planet. Someone has to go down there, challenge the biggest authority in the world for wickedness, go face-to-face with it and bring over a million people back out. God chooses the most inadequate, insecure person to do just that. I think you are in the right place. YOU are that person who is required.
2. The person required is someone who will act as a deliverer, who will act as God would act. Whatever it is you are called to fight, you need to be able to stand up at some point and say, 'Lord I am the person that You require. This is my identity. I am raised up to do this.' And you need to own it. And then you need to understand how God saw you.

God saw Moses as He saw Himself, 'I will make you as God to Pharaoh. We are going to go down there together, this is your part in the job. I want you to talk to Pharaoh and tell him to let My people go, and I am going to be the one who says to Pharaoh, 'do not listen to Moses.'

3. God's people must prosper so that the Kingdom can be seen. You can imagine Moses thinking, 'Do not help me Lord, hey.' But here is the thing, you have your job, He has His job. Your job is to bring that people out. His job is to destroy that wickedness and that occulted spirit in that nation. He does it by sending 10 plagues, each of which takes out a household god of Egypt. By the time God is finished, all worship in the nation has ceased. No one can go to the temple any more. Every single plague, 1) did not affect Israel whatsoever, but 2) brought that whole country to its knees. I think we are going to see nations coming to their knees. I think America is going to come to its knees. We need people in this country who can prosper when everybody else is fearful.



Every country needs people who can prosper when the rest of the nation is in fear so that the power of the Kingdom can be seen.

When you read the story of Israel in Egypt during the time of the plagues, none of their cattle were affected, none of the people were affected, whatever was troubling Egypt, never troubled Israel. And so there was a pronounced difference between light and dark. It was pronounced, these people are suffering, and these people are prospering. It is light and dark and we need something as black and white as what happened as Moses began to lead the people out of Egypt. We are all fed up with shades of gray. We need something black and white as that. We need people who are in trouble looking at the church and saying, 'Look at what is happening here. Why are they not being affected? Why are they not under the same things that we are? Why are they prospering?' It needs to be black and white. The Kingdom needs to be seen in the world.

4. Fourth thing, what is it that Moses believed? Moses believed that God would destroy the oppressor and bring freedom to a nation. What happened? Every household god in Egypt was brought down. The enemy is massively defeated by plagues. Israel is not affected. But they are funded to leave. Egyptians are lining up to say – have my Rolex, take my credit cards, here is some gold, and here is a camel. People are being funded to leave and Israel, a nation of slaves, came out of that conflict with enough money to kick start their own economy. Total freedom and the military might of the enemy utterly destroyed. That is Moses. Dangerous? Absolutely. He could have lost his head at any time.

Caleb

Another of my favorite people is Caleb, who had a majesty mindset. A majesty mindset is not just you repeating to yourself in times of worry *Jesus Christ is Lord, Jesus Christ is Lord, Jesus Christ is Lord*. That does not convince anybody.

Caleb saw giants and he saw the enemy as his prey. He was excited looking at a giant. Does that seem weird? Get ready to be weird. Get ready to high-five each other – ‘I met my giant today! So happy. Now I know what I am going to become.’ Because the rule of warfare is, when you look at a giant, the Holy Spirit tells you that is the size you are going to be when you take him down. Right now, you are going up against him, you feel small and he seems huge, but you are not a grasshopper. You are a totally different proposition. By the time we finish, he is going to become your size and you are going to become his size. When you see a giant, you are looking at your own doorway into a whole different place. We are defined by the quality of the opposition that is against us.



You are defined by the quality of opposition that is against you.

Caleb knew that. He got it, he understood it. That is what the Lord said about him, ‘You are a man of a different spirit; I am going to keep that boy around, he is interesting.’ Caleb said, ‘we will surely overcome.’ That is a majesty mindset.

Listen, we can never allow a theology that makes the enemy more powerful than God. You cannot have a theology that makes the circumstances in the world have more significance than the realities of the Kingdom. You have to choose which realm you are living in and you are working from. Only a majestic way of thinking can empower you to inherit against all the odds. The odds are going to be against you at the beginning. But they will not be against you at the end. But the odds need to be against you so that you can rise up and occupy your rightful place. It is a mindset shift.



A majesty mindset will enable you to inherit against all odds.

In Aglow, we are producing people of a different spirit. People today wake up with a negative situation and try to work themselves into a place of favor. We do not have time for that. We have to wake up *in favor* and continue in it. That is what we are learning. That is what *GameChangers* is about. It is saying, 'this is who you are right now, this is how you think. This is how a warrior and a *GameChanger* sees stuff. A *GameChanger* has favor.'



A *GameChanger*, a person of a different spirit, wakes up with a majesty mindset that enables him/her to live out of a place of favor, a place of health, a place of plenty.

If you have been through the course, you still have to prove that you are a *GameChanger*. Going through a course does not change anything. You are only a *GameChanger* when you change the game. You change the game, you make the enemy play the game that you want to play. He wants to play baseball, let us play football. We change the game. That is what heroes do, that is what warriors do. That is what overcomers do. They do not play the same game as the enemy. You play the game that God tells us to play.

Joshua

Joshua proved that. The enemy is all around them, wanting their complete annihilation and God tells him, 'We are going to play the game this way. I want you to get all the musicians out in front and just start to worship and then watch what I will do.' No one has ever won a battle like that!

Jericho was the most fortified city on earth at that time. Did they go up against it and build siege towers and ramps? No. They walked around it for a week and said nothing. Imagine that – a whole bunch of guys walking around the fort for a whole week in the rain and the wind saying nothing. That is a miracle in itself. On the final day you can shout and the walls will fall down. That is not the way you fight against fortresses. But it is when the game changes.



We determine how we are going to fight battles, not the enemy.

We get to determine in the realm of the Spirit how we are going to fight this battle. The enemy always wants you to fight on his terms. So he sends out this person who has massively intimidating power like a Goliath. And he says, come and fight me. Intimidation is designed to intimidate. It is designed to put you on the back foot, to make you question who you are, to make you question who God is. And it works until someone who lives in intimacy comes along. All of us, when we are practicing the Presence of God, we are learning intimacy. We are learning how to face situations in worship with rejoicing, with

thanksgiving. And when David comes along, it is no contest. You cannot be intimate with the Lord and afraid. That does not make any sense.



Intimacy with God eliminates fear.

Caleb

What is the situation here that Caleb is facing? He has to train hundreds of thousands of people. He has to turn them from a slave rabbling to a disciplined people. He is training them to enter that place of promise. To do that he has to kill off negativity.

You know that your mind has been renewed when you can actually entertain the impossible. You can see it. You have a plan for it. You know how to go out there and achieve it.

What is the kind of person that is required to entertain the impossible? An overcomer – someone with a majesty mindset. Whatever is going on in your town or your city, someone needs to rise up in that city that has a majesty mindset that says, ‘I can do this. I am raised up to fight this. This is my identity here. This is who I want to be.’

A promise is when God goes into your future and comes back with a guarantee to get you there. That is why we have prophecy. I love the fact that Jane always travels with prophetic words for Aglow. I do not think I have ever seen her without a book with prophecies. She is always looking at them and reading them and then building on the back of them because it is the Rhema word.

When we are learning how to overcome, it is the Rhema word you need not the logos. You need the proceeding word from God that says, ‘you can do this, I will be this for you. This is your inheritance. This is your time. This is who you are. This is how I see you. Stand here, do this, raise your sword. Go forward, press in’. You need the Rhema word that says this is how we are going to fight this battle and this is how you are going to overcome.



A promise is when God goes into your future and comes back with a guarantee that will go with you into the situation.

How did God see Caleb? He saw him as a man of a different spirit. That is what Caleb became; it is exactly what Caleb became.

Caleb was obsessed with inheritance. I like that. Not just his own inheritance, but he was obsessed with Israel coming into their rightful place. No one wants to live in the wilderness all their life. At some point you have to cross over and enter the place that God has set aside for you.

Listen, no one in this room is too old or too young. You are just the right age for what God has in mind. What did Caleb believe? He believed that we can do this. He said in Numbers 13:30, 'we should by all means go up and take possession for we will surely overcome.' That was his rallying cry – we can do this. What happened? A whole nation came into possessing their possessions, to living in houses they did not build, to drinking from wells they did not have to dig, and to eating from vineyards they did not plant. Turnkey operations.



Great leaders create momentum that those around them can step into.

What did Caleb do? He trained an army. But he created a momentum that other people stepped into. I think that is what great leaders do. They create a momentum that other people can step into. You know, the only closed Heaven for a believer is the space between your ears. Having an exaggerated consciousness of evil prevents us from receiving God's goodness. We overcome evil with good.



Having an exaggerated awareness of evil blocks us from receiving God's goodness.

David

I like David. Who does not like Dave? When he saw Goliath, he was indignant. We need to be indignant about what is going on in this country. We need to be fired up. I am as mad as Heaven right now. We have got to do something about this. He saw Goliath calling out his challenge and everybody hiding. He was indignant. He made six powerful statements in this scenario.

His first one was, who is this uncircumcised Philistine taunting the army of the living God? He was indignant.

What will be done for the guy who opposes him? And he puts himself out there. At some point, Beloved, you, as an individual, need to put yourself out there. Stand up and be counted.

You cannot be scared all your life. We need leaders who can tap you on the shoulder and say, 'I think this is you. I think this is your turn'. Not just picking out the biggest and best, but getting a hold of those who see themselves as weak and say, 'you know that the Lord does not actually see you like that?'

I want to know from YOU, what needs to change in you right now? What agreement do you need to come into about who you are in Christ?

Someone is going to put you on the spot in the future and we are saying *get ready* because you are going to have that tap on your shoulders at some point. It is your turn, what are you going to do now? What is it you believe about God? What is it you believe about yourself? Because that is what gets you up and out there.

It is important to question events in the context of who God is. Why is this happening? Why is this man challenging? Why is no one doing anything? Why is no one standing up and saying, 'you cannot say this to us, this is who we are'?

Question events in the context of who is God for us right now. There is no point...the news media almost have this sense of fatalism, that things are getting worse. They give you all the bad news because, of course, in their mindset good news does not sell. We have advertising to think of, so we need to make you fearful so we will watch their program so they can sell you stuff. It is important to question.



In every situation, you have to question those events in the context of who God is for you.

Sometimes I think, maybe we just need to be reading the good news for a while and turn off the moron's magnet (television) in the corner of our living room and not watch the news for a whole week. How about that? Just say, 'Lord I want Your mindset. I want to understand who You are right now, and I want to step into that.'

David saw the enemy as a reproach - something to be taken away. David stepped out when other people were in hiding.

There are people hiding in this room, and you have been hiding for years, but you are at a crossroads where the Lord is saying, 'Do you really want to know My Majesty? Step into the conflict with Me and I will show you Majesty.' But God does not give you before you go, He gives you as you get out there.

Second thing David said was, 'let no man's heart fail on the account of the enemy. I am going to fight him.' Everyone is looking at him going, 'what? You are just a kid.' Then they try to put all this armor and stuff on him that is not him. He took responsibility that changed something.

David brought to that battlefield some credentials of his own. He had actually fought a lion and a bear and they were probably, I do not know, 40 or 50 thousand Israelis on that battlefield. I doubt that there were 40 or 50 thousand lions and bears in that whole country. So, he did something that none of those people had ever done. By himself he had gone up against two immensely strong, powerful wild beasts and had overcome them. What is that? Oh, that is just training. That is training for the Big 'G'. When you get on that battlefield, you are going to see the most enormous guy you have ever seen. He is going to have a spear that weighs more than you do. But this lion and this bear – perfect training. Because in training, what is God doing? He is teaching you confidence. He is teaching you about who He is for it. 'I have killed a lion and a bear; I passed my tests.'

You have tests in front of you. Your current circumstances, they are tests for you to rise up.

Leadership is never theoretical. It is pragmatic, it is practical. It knows how to do things.

Fourth statement, the God who delivered me will also deliver you. That is powerful language. That is faith language right there. People can look at you and say, 'well, you are arrogant.' Well, I would rather be arrogant than ignorant. It seems to me those might be the only choices on days. And people without faith always call people with a faith that is verbal and visual, arrogant. I have been arrogant for years, apparently.

Your breakthrough positions you to bring a breakthrough. Every one of us needs breakthroughs in our personal life right now. You need them because that is the currency that is the sword that you take home to that battlefield. God did this and this for me, and this uncircumcised Philistine, he is going to go exactly the same way.



The breakthrough that you experience positions you to bring the same breakthrough for others.

The weird thing about Heaven is that Heaven has absolute confidence in God. I mean outrageous confidence in God.

Here is the thing, we reflect the nature of the realm that we belong to. So what is that for you? Heaven or earth; heaven or the world?



We reflect the nature of the realm that we live from.

Paul said in Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things above not on things in this world."

You have some thinking to do.

Fifth statement to Goliath: I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts. You come to me with this and this, but I have a Name that is greater than anything that you have. As the Father sent Jesus, so He sends us. Same Spirit, same power, same momentum, same anointing. Like it or not, you are born to win.

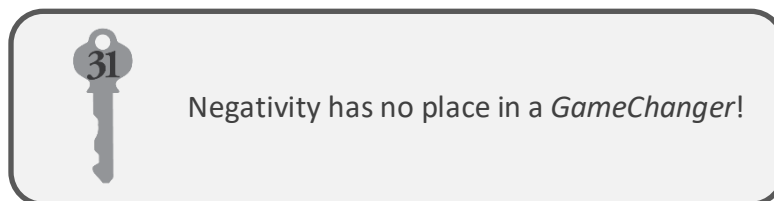


Keep your focus on the Presence and Majesty because you are hosting the Presence.

You cannot be focused on the enemy. That is why we have worship. That is why it is important that we sing particular worship songs right now. We do not need to be singing worship songs about how bad we are and how much we need Jesus. We need to be singing worship songs, not about redemption, but about overcoming. We are redeemed, get over yourself. You are set free. Let us start to think that way. Let us start to sing songs that do not arise from where we have come from to all about what we are moving into. It is so important for us that we have the right worship, the right spirit of rejoicing, the right thanksgiving in our hearts because that is confidence. That is hosting the Presence. Otherwise, you know, we are trying to find the Presence. I am not seeking the Presence of the Lord, I am hosting the Presence of the Lord.

Seeking the Presence of God is old stuff. At some point, you have to say, I am in Him and it is enough. I am in Him, I am going to keep Him around. He is in you and He is keeping you around. It is called 'abiding.' Stay in Christ. Do not be moved away from your hope in the Gospel. Worship and rejoicing is a major part of that. Time for us to stop singing songs of redemption and start singing songs of actual habitation of God on the inside of us – songs that tell us, this is who we are now. Songs we can rise up into. Songs that we can fill out and that fill us out in the Presence of God.

Whenever you are focused on the enemy, you always end up with a negative and that negative is always you. That does not work anymore for us. It is not part of our language. It is not our vocabulary any more.



His sixth statement was in 1 Samuel 17:45-46, "David said to the Philistine, you come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. But I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have taunted." It is like, you are in so much trouble right now. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth may know that there is a God in America.

There are monsters in every nation that we need to take down. There are Goliaths in our culture and our society that need to be taken down. And the people who can do that are in this room and are on this platform. We have to get a hold of ourselves. We have to let the Lord get a hold of us in a new way.

Situation – Israel is losing their identity and their sovereignty.

Person required – a man who was jealous for the Name and glory of God.

How did God see David? "He is a man after My own heart." What did David believe? That it was God's fight and it was impossible for us to lose. What happened? David overcame when everyone would have capitulated. From there, he united all the tribes into one nation. God's favor was multiplied.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Daniel 3, three guys who I would like to be friends with. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The background to the story is, the situation is, that Nebuchadnezzar has created this golden image and wants everybody in the nation to bow down before it. He has this enforced religious persecution. This tremendous idolatry is being perpetuated on the people of God. An accusation is brought against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they will not bow their knee.

They get this opportunity in Daniel 3 to mend their ways and fall into line with everybody else. And if you think this kind of thing is not going to happen in the nations, you are sleep walking through life. They will not do it and he is enraged. He threatens them with death.

Here is their reply in Daniel 3:16-18, “Oh Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.” He is saying to them, ‘think about it and the next time the music starts, you had better be on your knees in front of this thing.’ They said, ‘we do not need to give you an answer in this matter. If it be so, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and He will deliver us out of your hand, oh King. But even if He does not let it be known to you, oh King (this is kind of in-your-face stuff), let it be known to you, oh King that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.’



Determine how you will show up in every situation you face BEFORE the situation comes.

This is what is known in the Kingdom as a predetermined response. Listen, you had better know how you are going to operate when oppression and persecution comes. Do not leave it until the day it arrives at your door to make up your mind about how you are going to face it. You need to be thinking about it right now. How are you going to face that moment when it comes? What are you going to say?

These guys had thought about it and they gave this predetermined response. ‘We do not need to think about it. We are not going to do it. We are going to trust our God to deliver us from the furnace; but even if He does not, we are still not going to do it.’ That is in-your-face stuff.

What is fascinating to me is in western countries right now, there is a climate of fear everywhere. All around the world that persecution, that oppression brings a climate of fear that is being forced upon us that is giving us a message that if you upset this thing – radical Islam - it will bite you. Do not say anything; do not lift your head above the trench. This thing will kill you. You do not want this thing coming after you. Say nothing. Step back, just pray quietly in tongues. Whatever.

Be it known to you, oh King. Let me tell you something here, we do not do that stuff. We do not give into political correctness. I remember the best Prime Minister I think we ever had in peace time, Maggie Thatcher, saying to all the leaders in Britain and Europe, *this lady is not for turning*. I used to love the European Summits, you know when all the leaders of Europe would get together and talk about trade

and stuff like that. They would be like eleven guys and Maggie. I always loved the contrast between the first photograph at the beginning of the Summit and the photograph at the end. The first one, all the guys would be poised there in a group by themselves looking smug and she would be standing there like about three feet away with her handbag looking fierce. She is like, 'I am going to club you with my handbag.' She had the sense about her. And then at the end, there would be eleven guys looking depressed and Maggie with a big grin.

She was an amazing woman who brought the whole country up several levels. She took us from being the 43rd worst economy in the world to being number 4 in the world, which is pretty amazing for a kind of small area with three weird countries on it. She brought us up by our boot straps. She gave everybody who was in government housing the means to buy their own place. That is special. She knew exactly what she was about and she was not scared of anybody. She had a vision and she was going to go for it.



To reach your destiny, you must know how to stand in the Presence of God.

You cannot reach your destiny unless you know how to stand in the Presence of the Lord. We need heroes who are prepared to resist before the crisis comes, who have a relationship with God that governs all eventualities. Jesus put it this way: "abide in Me and I will abide in you." John 15:4

So, the King makes this decree and the guys disobey it. So, he heats the furnace seven times and the guys who throw them in get burned to death. They are in there, they are wrapped up in their clothes and everything, and Nebuchadnezzar is frothing at the mouth he is so enraged. He looks through the window and he says, 'hang on a minute. Did we not throw three guys in? But there are four guys in there and the fourth one looks really amazing.' And the astonishing thing is, they come out. They are not only alive, their clothes are not burned, and they do not even have the smell of smoke on them!

These are the times of outrageous miracles. In this time, we need outrageous people to stand up and say, 'I am listening to what the Lord is saying, I am not listening to you. This is what the Lord wants to do; this is what I am partnering with.' Will it put us at odds with our culture and our society? You bet it will. Will some of us go to prison? Yes. But there are a lot of people in prison who need help.

I was talking to some guys from Russia years and years ago who were sent to the camps. The guys would say to them, 'You are in this camp and nobody even knows you are here. You will be in prison for the rest of your life.' One of them, Haralan Popov, said, 'Prison? This is prison? This is not a prison. This is my constituency. These are all my people. You have been kind enough to let me into a people group that did not have any one to minister to them until I came here. I am not the one in prison. You are the one in prison. I have always been a free man, and I will be a free man right here.'

What do you do with a guy like that? You get out of his way!

Esther

My favorite story is Esther. This is a young woman living in a culture where women had no voice and no personal choices. In revenge against Vashti, his wife, who will not obey, King Ahasuerus organizes a beauty contest to find a new wife. So what they do is they would send people around to every province and these people gather all the most beautiful young women and you do not have a choice to come. You are taken into custody. They basically kidnap all these women out of their culture and put them in harems of virgins.

They have this beauty contest and they weed out the ones that might not please the king. Eventually they end up with a group and they start this harem of virgins. They give them all this beauty treatment and everything else. But they are kidnapped against their will.

You think Esther wanted to be there? I think she had dreams of finding a guy, getting married, having kids. Did she really want to be in that situation?

She is in there. She is isolated from anybody she has ever known. She is with all these other young women, all of whom may be terrified and some of them are thinking, this could be my big chance, this is like the Bachelorette (a television show in America) on steroids.

After a year of preparation, it is her turn to have sex with the king. So this young girl is taken from this place and the first time she meets the king is when she is about to be seduced. She is going to lose her virginity to a guy she has never met before. This is a horrendous story. This is not good, any part of it.

When she spends the night with him and he has his way, then she is asked to leave his presence and now she goes to a harem of concubines because now she is a possession. He may never choose her as queen. When she was chosen as queen, all the other girls did not go back to their families. Why? Because in that culture, who wants someone who is not a virgin anymore? This is a horrendous situation.

But in that horrendous context, she finds favor. She found kindness and she found love. She was crowned queen. But how many hundreds of girls were not and their lives were over and ruined? That is the situation. That is the stark reality.

In a culture of manipulation, lies, control, scheming, of murder and rebellion, the people of God become a constant target for destruction. Haman, this wicked, vile man is bent on destruction. That is the situation. What kind of person is required to combat that? Someone who can step into favor no matter how difficult the circumstances.



A *GameChanger* can step into favor no matter how difficult the situation.

How did God see her? He saw her as one who had attained royal status for such a time as this. God assigned royalty to a sex slave. That is an amazing thing. What does she believe? She believed that there was nobody else but her, so she stepped into that place and she took responsibility. She went after favor for all she was worth. She used favor. She went after it.

Every time I read Esther I understand my wife. She goes after favor all the time. That is why whenever we go into an airport I am always a good, submissive husband walking 10 paces behind her, carrying the bags. Honey, you go and get us first-class seats.

What happened? She took her life in her own hands to approach the king knowing that the edict was, you never approach the king, you waited until he called for you. You could be put to death if you approached the king. If he did not hold out his scepter, someone was going to hold out a sword and take your head. She trusted in the favor to overcome that.

This girl played a great game of chess. She was sparky. She understood stuff. You know, listen to this in Chapter 7 of Esther. This is outrageous! She is queen. The king and Haman came to drink wine with Esther and the king said to Esther on the second day as they drank their wine, what is your petition Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to half my kingdom it shall be done.

This is chess right here in her reply: "If I have found favor in your sight, oh, king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition and my people as my request for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Now, if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent." Right. She is like, here is a little finger and here is the king spinning around it. And the King said, "Who is he and where is he who would presume to do this?" And she said, "A follower and an enemy is this wicked Haman." Esther nails Haman.

Here is the thing, she never accused Haman of anything. She just said, 'Hey this is what is happening, and this is the position I find myself in.' You know, it is like, 'Darling, I love being Queen, but I am not going to be Queen for very much longer.' Well, you all know how that story ended.

Haman gets hanged. Mordecai is promoted and then in Chapter 8:4, the King extends the golden scepter to Esther, so she rose and stood before the King. Here we go with the whole little finger and whirling you around it thing. She said, 'If it pleases the King and if I have found favor before him, and if the matter seems proper to the King and I am pleasing in his sight, (it is like this guy does not even know what is about to happen to him), let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the King's providences.' Then she wraps it up and she is like, crazy.

'So, how can I endure this calamity?' Talk about a drama queen. 'How can I endure this calamity, which will befall my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?'

The king is totally hooked. He is looking at her thinking, I have got to do something. And so he says, 'But you know I have given the house of Haman to you and then hung him on the gallows.' He is thinking, 'I did a good job there, it is over.' She is going, 'It is not over until I say it is over.'

He looks at her and says, 'Why do you not write a letter as you see fit in the king's name and seal it with the king's signet ring for the decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with his ring may not be revoked.' He puts everything into her hands.

'Well, dear Queen, why do you not decide what needs to happen and do it and I will just sign off on it.' What is that? That is favor. This is a woman who went after her favor in horrendous circumstances, horrendous personal circumstances, and then horrendous circumstances in regard to her own people.

FIVE CHAOTIC SITUATIONS

Five situations in Caleb, Joshua, David, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and Esther with all of them facing death and destruction. All of them in life-threatening circumstances.

- Every one of them discovered who they were and how God saw them.
- Every one of them owned up to their own identity and they saw it through.
- Every one of them overcame, turned a nation, and preserved a people group.

What type of leadership is required for times of chaos and insanity? If a leadership is in touch with their identity and they are operating from it, then that is what they develop in the people around them.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GLOBAL LEADERS

These are the characteristics of an overcomer, the attributes of one who is set apart to live for an extraordinary purpose, the distinguishing features of those who can receive under enormous pressure and not be broken by oppression, but instead, use that pressure to become more than a conqueror.

- Leaders must have a Majesty mindset that says there is no one greater than God and I am going to prove it in my own life.
- Leaders must question events and circumstances in the context of God's nature and identity for His people.
- Leaders are jealous for God's Name.
- Leaders have a predetermined response – they do not wait until the situation comes before they decide who they are going to be, they make those determinations before the event comes so they are ready. So they can stand up to persecution and oppression.
- Leaders find extraordinary favor in horrendous circumstances, who can attain that status of royalty in Christ for such a time as this.



Leaders who are operating in their Heavenly identity, develop Heavenly identity in the others around them.

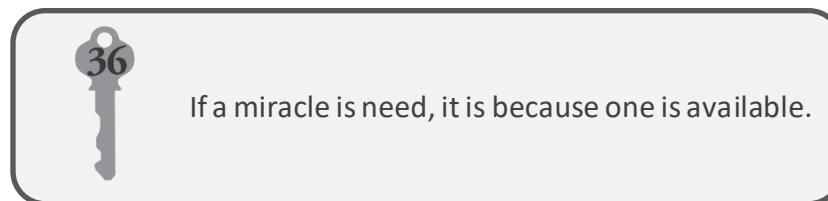
We are not just talking about the U.S.A. here. We have to think globally.

- Right now there are people out there in the world who belong to Aglow who are facing things worse than we are facing in the U.S. They are facing death and oppression. They see family members murdered. They are facing starvation and privation.

The people of Aglow need to know how to rise up and do extraordinary things. They need to know that they are not subject to the circumstances they live in. We serve a God who can do miracles. We serve Jesus who has made 5,000 fish sandwiches and fed people. God struck a rock and water gushed out. God is prepared to do incredible astonishing miracles through us in the nations of the world.

These are the days when that reality has to become a reality. These are the days when the reality of the Kingdom over takes the reality of the world and our circumstances. We need people to stand up and say, 'I know there are miracles here. This seems like a great opportunity for a miracle.'

There is a truth in the Kingdom: if you need a miracle, it is because one is available.



People are living in these types of circumstances now. People are living under radical Islam. People are living under the rule of despotic people. They are enduring famines and oppressions.

How do we train and equip people around the world in Aglow

- To do more than just endure;
- To overcome,
- To change a nation,
- To walk powerfully with God.

TAKING OWNERSHIP FOR PRODUCING EXTRAORDINARY LEADERS

As we are heading into our 50th year, these are the things that are in front of us. It starts with us here, right guys? It starts with us on this platform. It starts with us. We take ownership of this next timeframe in Aglow's history. We take ownership.

People who are part of the International Board of Directors, we take ownership for the life that we need to see. We take ownership for developing the Regions and the Lighthouses and the nations. We take ownership to stand and rise up into a Kingdom anointing. That means we must engage in training and preparing such people as these five I have talked about because the nation and nations are going to need people like that.

This is our time. The circumstances prove it. This is our time. This is the time. The world does not know what to do. It is looking for the same old tired solutions. No one is looking for a miracle from Heaven

because they do not believe it is ever going to come. They look at the so-called people of God and they do not see miracles. They see people who are as frightened and as edgy as they are. ***But we are not those people and we are going to prove it.*** No matter what occurs, it is time for us to prove that the Kingdom is real.

All of us are being trained in our circumstances to rise up, change our mindset, become someone different, and then we will join together and bring our faith together so a corporate body can emerge in Aglow, that has the same mindset and the same message – ‘Do not mess with us, because we will mess with you!’

We are the people who can bring solutions that nobody ever even knew existed. Now is not the time for logic in the world. It is the time for faith. These are the days in which we live and we must be grateful for them because it is these days that are going to make us show how great God is and understand how great we can become as well.

Let us pray.

Father, I thank You. These are great days that we are facing. We are not down about them, we are not worried about them. We are learning how to be excited by who You are and what You can do because now the world is not only crying out for a miracle, miracles are the only options right now. So I pray for miracles of provision. I pray for authority. I pray for power. I pray for faith and favor to rise up. I ask, Lord, that Your wonderful, Holy Spirit would take hold of each one of us with a fresh Spirit of wisdom and revelation; that You will tell us constantly, repeatedly, ‘This is how I see you. This is who you are. This is your identity. This is what we can do. This is what I want you to do. This is how I will back you up.’ We must become a people of the Rhema word who live in the proceeding Word of God, and be the people who know God will be strong and that we will do exploits because Heaven allows it, and Heaven decrees it. This is our time. It is what we have been training for for 49 years. We have passed our apprenticeship. Now it is time to do the real stuff. We are here now, 49 years on for such a time as this. And now we get to prove who we really are as a viable force for good in this world for Jesus’ sake. Amen.