

Intimacy, the Source of Power

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Sunday Morning Session

I want to talk to you this morning about intimacy being the source of power.

It is very important for us to understand that 'Carry His Presence' is not just a Conference. It is a statement about the lifestyle that we intend to lead from this time forth. It is a statement about who we are that everyone around the earth is going to know that Aglow carries the Presence of God. If you are in trouble, find somebody in Aglow. Any nation that is in trouble - go get Aglow to come and pray for you. We are carriers of Presence. That means we are somebody in the earth.

Key: Carrying His Presence is a lifestyle for believers and identifies us in the earth

You know it is really important for us to be aware of the schemes of the enemy. Paul said in II Corinthians 2:11, *see that no advantage will be taken of us by Satan for we are not ignorant of his schemes*. More important than that, is that we are not ignorant of how the enemy works, that we are cognizant of it, that we are aware of it, and that we factored it in to our praying and our standing and our warfare.

God's Plan from the Beginning – The Gift of Sovereignty

It is extremely important for us is to be aware of God's plan from the very beginning. In Genesis 1:28 we read, *God blessed them, Adam and Eve, and said to them be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth*. He gave that same blessing, after the flood when there were just eight people left to Noah.

It is very important to the Lord that we know that we carry into the earth His gift of ruling, His gift of empowerment, His gift of being sovereign over all and in all. We carry that gift with us so that we carry the anointing to break bondage — to break the chains off people. It is a gift that we are to the nations. We set captives free. We open prison doors. We open blind eyes. We get bodies healed. It is a gift of sovereignty and it is in all of us because Christ is in all of us.

Mankind was:

- » to rule over all things,
- » to be in intimate relationship with God,
- » to obey spiritual principles that God put in place,
- » to understand about the knowledge between good and evil,
- » to know that the enemy's plan was to subvert man from the purpose of God.

The enemy has created a 'dominion' by deceit. He has created a culture of lying that is in every single nation on earth. The way you see that culture of lying is that you see a culture of corruption in one way or another. The chief lie, of course, is that you will be like God. They already were like God, Adam and Eve. What the enemy wanted was to subvert them from worshipping God to worshipping him, and there is a particular form of worship that he wants from us but we will get back to that in a minute. He wants to make man in his image of rebellion, to put power ahead of relationships, twisting God's word *has God said that?* A religious spirit uses words to control and coerce by creating doubt about God's true nature.

🔑 **Key:** A religious spirit uses words to control and coerce by creating doubt about God's true nature.

The punishment for man disobeying God was relational death. He was sent out from the garden, out from the Presence of God to wander. Fellowship with God was usurped. **Intimacy came under attack from within** and they were taken out of the garden. What **mankind** lost in that moment was they **went from owning everything to owning nothing**. They went from a life of no effort to one filled with sweat, toil, and pain. All creation fell from a place of dominion and became cursed and dominated by the enemy until he became the legitimate ruler of earth.

🔑 **Key:** Under the devil's plan mankind went from owning everything to owning nothing.

In Luke 4:6 when the devil and Jesus are having a confrontation. Jesus is just letting him know, "Hey, I am here now." The devil said to Him, *I will give You all this domain and its glory for it has been handed over to me and I give it to whomever I wish; therefore, if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.* And Jesus answered him, *It is written you shall worship the Lord you God and serve Him only.*

Scripture calls the enemy 'the evil god of this world'. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, 'the ruler of this world'. John 14:30 calls him 'the ruler of the evil one'. In John 5:19, Satan gained power by deceit and his original power given by God became a delegated authority and he still rules by the same permission.

Jesus' Arrival on Earth Changed the Game

When Jesus came, everything changed because He came to take back that rule, take back that dominion. I am not preaching dominion theology here, I just think we are in charge. Jesus came to restore all things with a new covenant based on intimacy in habitation with him. He is the Secret Place where we learn to abide. If you read John Chapter 15 it says that by abiding, by staying in intimate relationship with God, you can bear much fruit. You can ask for what you wish and it will be done. You can glorify the Father. You will be loved in the same way as Jesus, and you will have fullness of joy in His Presence.

🔑 **Key:** Jesus took back the dominion and rule that Adam lost. He gave it to us.

Through intimacy we learn to dwell in Christ and we are, therefore, restored to a place of **active resistance**. What does that mean? **Everything you do for God is automatically against the enemy**. We were created to transform the planet.

Key: Active resistance means that all that we do for God is automatically against the devil.

When the enemy was booted out of Heaven, God put man on the earth to subdue the enemy. That is a big part of our job. We have authority to bind and to loose, to cast out devils, to bring the judgment of God upon the enemy. We are not judging mankind, because we are not fighting flesh and blood. So, there is no need for us to accuse anybody of anything because God has already dealt with sin. Judgment is not our job, it is the Holy Spirit's. Jesus is very clear, do not judge because you could be judged. You will reap what you sow. So, stop it, do something else.

It is the Goodness and the Kindness of God that leads us to repentance. The question we are asking is, Lord how much Grace does my neighborhood need in order to come back to God fully? Your job is to bring down that Grace. I believe in extreme Grace. If Grace is not outrageous, if it is not amazing, it is not Grace. If it is not astonishing, it is not Grace. If it is not all powerful, it is not Grace.

Key: Our job is to bring down all the Grace our neighborhood needs to fully come to God.

We are here to be wealthy in Grace because God talks about the riches of His Grace. That means you are wealthy in Grace, so give it away. The Bible says we reign and rule by Grace. Reigning in Grace means we get to pour Grace out all over the earth because the enemy cannot fight against the Grace of God. He has no answer to absolute Grace. It is a power house and Grace makes us powerful. Grace is not undeserved favor; that is the poorest description of Grace I have ever heard. That is the description given by people who do not understand Grace. Grace is the empowering Presence of God that enables you to become the man or the woman that God sees when He looks at you.

Key: Grace is the empowering Presence of God that enables you to become the man and the woman of God that He sees when He looks at you.

So, God looks at you in a particular way. He sees everything you are now and He sees everything you have the potential to become. He empowers you with Grace to become what He fully sees over you. Then He gives you the Holy Spirit as your Helper who is brilliant at Grace. He is pretty much brilliant at everything and He does not mind telling you. He is not backward in coming forward about what He is like. *Hey Graham, tell them I am brilliant because they live like they do not know. Tell them I am a genius.* He flat out is a genius.

God put us on earth to subdue the enemy. The question is not *if* God put us here to subdue the enemy. How would the enemy prevent that? How would he stop that from happening? I think he would do what he has always done; he would deceive people into believing something that was not true about themselves.

My question to you is, do you believe everything that God says about you? Here is the thing, if you believe everything that God says about you, there is no room for the enemy to deceive you. You cannot be made lower than who you really are. Satan tempted Eve through deception to entice her into an action that was not based in relationship. *Did God say that?* In other words, Satan said that you cannot trust God in what He says or what He says He wants to be for you, instead, you can become like God

yourself. They already were. They were pure. They were innocent. They were righteous. They were powerful. They walked with God in the cool of the day. They knew how to have fellowship with God. They could behold Him. They could be in His Presence. They could worship. What can top that? *You can become like God.*

🔑 **Key:** If you believe all that God says about you, the enemy will not be able to deceive you.

You know, our human minds will reject a thought that comes from the outside. The only way you can deceive people is to make sure that they think that the thought originated in them. The enemy goes to great lengths to violate God's Glory by twisting scripture to reduce the Presence and the power of God in His people.

We see that same old religious spirit in action today and it is very much alive in the Church of Jesus Christ. The enemy's greatest strategy is not to fully oppose us, it is to join us. It is to work his way into the heart of who we are and what we believe and just start that thing of twisting us so that we become totally convinced that our job in life is to train the old man to become new. He has had us hoodwinked by that for centuries, trying to change the old man and talking about behavior modification.

🔑 **Key:** The enemy's strategy is to convince us that our job in life is to fix the old man.

🔑 **Key:** God's plan killed the old man off with Christ and made us brand new!

Listen, if God is into behavior modification, Jesus need not have died! God did not want to *change* your behavior because He knew you were too bad to be cleansed, you had to be crucified. So the great plan was when Jesus died, you died with Him. Jesus did not just die *for* you, He died *as* you. So, congratulations, you are now officially dead.

Here is the thing, nobody in Heaven wanted the job of changing you. They decided they would just kill you. Bury you forever, even inventing this little ceremony called baptism. Make sure they stay dead, and then we will cause them to be born again. So, **if you are born again to a new life, then the old life does not apply.** You are not trying to change from the old, you are actually becoming new. As you become new, the old stays dead.

🔑 **Key:** When you are born again, who you were before does not carry over into the new you.

The enemy twisted all of that and caused us to go back to something that belonged to him and did not belong to God. He has been trying to get us to change our old man all of our Christian experience. He has been trying to rub our nose in our own failure and our own sin, creating churches that are really good at putting shame on people, judging people and accusing people of getting rid of people. "He did not fit in with our vision." Why the Heaven not? Why did you not stretch the vision to include him?

What is wrong with us that we think a vision is more important than a person? Seriously? I do not know. I think it is called the doctrine of demons. That is 1 Timothy 4:1. It is creating a lower place of relationship. It is creating a place where we create a visitational culture that endlessly cries out for revival that is never going to come because God is not into revival. He is in to restoration. Revival is not

an event. It is all of us rising up to our proper place in the Lord Jesus Christ. When you are fully restored to everything that you are in the Lord Jesus, you are your own revival. You will bring renewal and you will revive everything. I do not believe in revival because you cannot revive something that has never been alive.

We are restored and we need to come to the level of full restoration. When you see the church doing that, you will see a power of God, a movement of God, sweeping across the face of the earth. Our problem is we would rather spend hours and days and weeks praying for revival than actually becoming one.

I think revival is a myth. I think all the guys who were revivalists never really knew they were revivalists; they were just like Gulliver in Lilliput, they were giants amongst pigmies. They were people who went after the Presence of God and because they went after the Presence of God in fullness, stuff happened all around them. Well, every one of us could be like that for goodness sake. You may not travel the earth with your revival lifestyle, but you will definitely work through your neighborhood.

What has the enemy done? He has twisted us away from intimacy as a source of power. He has moved us away from our relationship with Jesus being the source for everything. And he has made us believe that there are ordinary people and there are super stars. We have made kings out of ministers who, frankly, do not deserve it. I am on my hobby horse. What we have created with this **religious culture** is we have made a place for untold millions of wonderful believers to **never** rise up and occupy a place that ministers do.

🔑 **Key:** A religious culture keeps people from becoming who God sees them to be.

When the Bible says that He gave Apostles and Prophets to equip the saints so that they could do the work of the ministry, **our strongest work is us rising up as one**. There are no ordinary people in Christ. There are no average people in Christ. Every one of us has the potential to do something stunning and something amazing and that is our intention in Aglow in the decades to come. We are going to raise up this company to be a world beating, supernatural power full of ordinary people who are extraordinary.

🔑 **Key:** There are no ordinary or average people in Christ.

🔑 **Key:** Aglow is raising up people to be a world beating, supernatural power full of ordinary people who are extraordinary!

I do not think God is supernatural. I think it is perfectly normal for Him to raise the dead, heal the sick, and talk to people about their future. It is normal for Him. That is just Him being Him. What if we drop the word supernatural all together and chose a better word like extraordinary? We are all ordinary until He gets a hold of us. Every one of us has the power to become extraordinary. Nothing is beyond you, because the passion of God to you will never let you settle for something less than He is in His own fullness. We are an army of ordinary people rising up, taking our place, making His Presence felt wherever we live – that is the truth.

🔑 **Key:** Aglow is an army of ordinary people who are rising up, taking our place, and making His Presence felt wherever we are.

The doctrine of devils gives us this place of **visitation** when we could be living in a place of **habitation** — walking with God in the cool of the day. The doctrine of devils gives us a powerless Gospel where we are so intent on striving with sin that we are not enjoying Holiness. And there is even a culture of fear about the Holy Spirit so that we do not have a Helper and Comforter. Who is driving that? That is the enemy in our midst who is twisting everything that is wonderful into something that is mediocre. The enemy lost his place in Heaven and wants to make sure that we never understand our experience, our true place in the Heavenly realm. Satan is earth-bound and he is creating a world made in his image and he wants us to be subject to that world. **Every time we borrow concepts from the world, we come under an influence that cannot empower us to reach higher into the realm of the Kingdom of God.**

🔑 **Key:** Every time we borrow concepts from the world, we come under an influence that cannot empower us to reach higher into the realm of the Kingdom of God.

You know, there is a reason why wisdom is the first spiritual gift mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. It is because Satan has invented a religious system that suits his own disempowerment. He has constructed a form of spirituality based upon his temperament: self-righteous, angry, accusing, judgmental, everything built on fear, everything built on contempt and disempowerment using control and power and coercion and even the threat of expulsion. He is a maniac. He thrives on all the attention.

Okay, brace yourself. I am about to say something horrible and I do not want to say it, truly I do not want to say it, but I believe it needs to be said. It is shocking and I apologize. The enemy wants to create in the **church a culture of fear, panic, anxiety, offense, resentment, bitterness, doubt, unbelief, anger, judgment, shame, accusation.** Do you know what all of that is? **It is the worship language of hell.**

When you pay more attention to your fears, your anxieties, your worries, and pay no attention or small attention to rejoicing always and in everything give thanks, you are worshipping the wrong person. All of those things are a construct from the enemy that he wants to put on you like a series of chains. Every time you speak them out and every time you confess them and every time you declare them and even proclaim them and even make space and cohabit with them, you are engaging in paying more attention to the enemy than you are to the Lord Jesus.

🔑 **Key:** Stay away from the worship language of hell!

🔑 **Key:** Combat negativity with JOY!

I am so sorry to have to say that, but it has to be said because we have to come out of this culture. If our feet are in that culture, we can never rise up and occupy the place that God has for us. That is why we must make war on negativity with joy and we must enjoy it, we must be thrilled to do it. I am thrilled to have no fear. I am thrilled

to not be worried. I am thrilled to never be anxious. I am utterly delighted to be a man of peace and a man of rest. I love my rest, I practice it every day.

That is why worship is so important to us. Do you know that trusting the Lord is an act of worship? Do you that believing God, having faith, is an act of worship? Do you know that praying to Him is an act of worship? Everything you do for God is against the enemy. Beloved, it is time that we allow the Holy Spirit to get hold of us and make us like Jesus as fast as possible.

 **Key:** Everything you do for God is against the enemy.

Here is the thing, when God says something true about you, it is true about you. It does not depend upon your ability to live up to it, right? When He says something true about you, it is true about you whether or not you can do anything about it, it is still true. But then He gave us the Holy Spirit to take that truth and make it become an encounter for us and a place of experience to grow up in it. He gave us a Helper so that when He spoke the truth to you, the Helper would come around and say this is how that truth works.

Intimacy with Holy Spirit

We love the idea of intimacy with the Father and with the Son, but we must become intimate with the Holy Spirit, also, because He is a genius about doing life. He is the funniest person I know. I love His demeanor; everything is doable. *Yes, I can do that – I have about six or eight ways of doing that. Yes, I can do that; which one do you want? I can do that.* He is always up on His toes. He is like this world-class athlete. He is ready for anything. He has a grin as wide as the British Isles. He is just outrageous company. He is so strong. He is so powerful. He is our Helper. He understands everything about us and He is the Spirit of Grace. He is the Spirit of Truth. He has come to lead us into all truth and the truth is **you are who God says you are**. That is your truth and that is what we are learning.

 **Key:** You are who God says you are.

That is why the restoration of intimacy is so vital. Intimacy is:

- » abiding
- » resting in God
- » dwelling in His Presence so that He becomes *over* all and *in* all and we look to Him for everything.

 **Key:** The restoration of learning to abide and rest in God is vital.

The best thing you can ever do with your life is:

- » to make it vulnerable to the Goodness of God,
- » to live like a small child in His Presence, believing everything He says, and
- » to grow up to be a man of God, but never lose the small child because you are always going to need him around.

Intimacy is being found in Him. I like this verse where Paul says in Philippians 3:9, that I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith. Oh yeah, I am righteousness. That is it. God says it. I believe it, that jolly well settles it.

Intimacy is our place of constant refreshing. Worship is where we deepen Presence and increase the flow of anointing and we are re-empowered. That is why every one of us is going to make strides forward in worship in the coming years. Every one of us is going to become more and more of a worshipper. Worship is going to be featured in what we do, maybe in a different way - in a way that is life-altering, in a way that does actually take us up several levels of worship. We are practicing a type of worship, I believe, that we have maybe never seen in Aglow before. But, you know, everything gets upgraded, right? So we are going to have an upgrade in worship and we are going to have an upgrade in the Presence of God and intimacy with God because He is the source of power in all that He is doing in our lives.

 **Key:** Intimacy is our place of constant refreshing. It is where we are found in Him.

Here is the thing beloved: **do not let the enemy keep you fighting.** We do not fight on his terms, we fight on God's terms. We allow the Holy Spirit to dictate the flow of anointing when it comes to warfare. It is God that schedules our conflicts, not the enemy. There have been times when Satan has wanted me to fight him on something and I have asked the Holy Spirit and I have come back and said, "No. You are not on my list for today. I do not have butt-kicking on my list today so, no. I am going to let the power of my rest deal with you." We do not fight the enemy on his terms. Just because he shows up does not mean we have to fight him. Sometimes the best thing we can do is ignore him and just go straight to what God wants to do.

 **Key:** We fight our battles on God's terms, not the enemy's.

 **ey:** God schedules our conflicts, not the enemy.

 **Key:** The Holy Spirit dictates the flow of anointing when it comes to warfare.

Always know what your ruling power, the Holy Spirit, is saying to you. We fight the enemy on our terms because if we fight the enemy on his, we will get worn out in the conflict. Intimacy is the manifestation of God's presence, which automatically wears out the enemy. Did you ever think that the most intimidating thing about you could be your intimacy? Your intimacy could intimidate the enemy. Man that is a place to explore.

 **Key:** Holy Spirit is always the ruling power.

Satan promotes fear, anxiety, and so on, so that we cannot enter in to worship. But Satan is vulnerable when we rejoice. That is why the Bible says rejoice always, in everything give thanks. Count everything as joy. Why?

Because the enemy is vulnerable:

- » to laughter.
- » to rejoicing.
- » to smiling people.
- » to people who grin.
- » to people who rejoice and give thanks.

 **Key:** The enemy is vulnerable when we rejoice and are happy.

If he wants to have his way with you, he has to pull you out of rejoicing. He has to pull you out of intimacy. The Holy Spirit is saying, “Stay. Stay. Do not let yourself be moved away from rejoicing.” Every one of us needs to rejoice better and give thanks more.

I am talking here especially to the men right now. We need men in our midst. Women know how to rejoice and give thanks. Women know how to be the beloved in Jesus. Men need to make a bigger effort in rejoicing and giving thanks. We need to catch up with the girls, but we all need to come into successive levels of intimacy.

Listen, if we are going to be a world-beating, supernatural power, how about we leave the domain of the enemy forever? How about we put anxiety behind us, we put fear behind us, we put panic and worry behind us, we put every negative thing under our feet? How do we abandon that place forever? It is not you, it is not where you live, it is not who you are. Why do we not move away from that thing forever? Why do we not move away from it as fast as possible? How about in the next two years those things are not even mentioned in Aglow anymore because it is not who we are? Let us make war on it. If you make war on it, you will rise up into a new level. Your intimacy is designed to make war on negativity, to go for God and leave all those things behind.

Can we just move on? Could we just move on into a place of maturity? Could we leave all those childish things behind us? Could we learn to be vulnerable to Goodness and favor and Kindness as a way of life? That there is no other thought in our head, but that God is great and He loves me.

Satan is vulnerable when we rejoice and give thanks; therefore, to maintain control over us, he must blunt the desire for intimacy. How many of us have faced that very thing — the enemy blunting our desire for fresh intimacy with the Lord? How many of us have faced that in our life? You know what it is like, sometimes the last thing we do is rejoice and the first thing we do is get anxious. That is not you! Here is my two-word counseling ministry — stop it. Stop it. You do not have to fight it, you just stop it. You do not have to change it, just stop it. You do not have to work on it, just stop it.

We never work on anything that the enemy has over us, we just stop it. You have a Helper who will help you to stop it. He will help you to do something better. **If all of your thinking has brought you to a place you do not like, have another thought.** Do not work on the negative one, it is not yours anyway. It is his. He gave it to you. You do not want to work on anything he gave to you. You work on what God has given to you.

God will always give you a better thought. He will say, “Do not work on that thought, the devil gave it to you.” So, if you are working on it, he is still active with you. He is the teacher, you are the pupil.

Which Self is Talking?

So, if you do not work on a thought from the enemy, you work on a thought that God gave you. God is going to give you a better thought. We need to be saying to each other when we are listening to each other and someone is complaining or being anxious and so on, just say, “Whoa, time out! Which self is talking? Is this the old self talking or is the new self talking? That does not sound like the new self. It does not sound like I am listening to the real you. So, do not do that, do this.” Which self is talking?

At least help each other to identify, “Excuse me, you are in the wrong place right now. I think you just resurrected the old boy. Put him back in the grave. Let us start our worship by dancing on his grave and let us go for the new man.” There is always a better thought in the new man.

Disempowered Intercession

The enemy disempowers our intercession by making us too warfare intense. Do you want me to say that in English? **The enemy disempowers our intercession by making us too warfare intense rather than Presence-oriented.**

- » He wants to make himself the focus of your intercession rather than the Father being the focus of your intercession.
- » If he can get you into warfare with less or no worship, he can wear you down.

🔑 **Key:** The enemy disempowers our intercession by making us too warfare intense rather than Presence-oriented.

🔑 **Key:** Without worship, the enemy will wear you down in warfare.

We are joyful intercessors who know how to worship God. Worship is the thing that we do. **Interceding is the manifestation that comes out of worship. If the strength of your focus is on battle and not intimacy, the enemy is controlling the fight.**

🔑 **Key:** Interceding is the manifestation that comes out of worship.

🔑 **Key:** If the strength of our focus is on battle and not intimacy, the enemy is controlling the fight.

The enemy’s strategy is to dilute your strength by using it against him, rather than for God. That is a very subtle distinction, but it is there. **When we value intimacy more than warfare, the revelation we receive dictates the flow of battle.** It is like holding up Moses’ arms. When we value intimacy more than warfare, the revelation we receive in intimacy dictates the flow of the battle.

If most of your revelation in intercession is about what the enemy is doing, you are out of focus, and you may be subject to disinformation. He is not above lying; he is the father of lies.

🔑 **Key:** If most of your revelation in intercession is about what the enemy is doing, you are out of focus, and may be receiving disinformation.

I remember years ago when I was pastoring a church — yes, I actually did that — and I almost killed everybody. I was pastoring this church and I was trying to get my message for Sunday and two of my elders were in the next room doing some deliverance ministry. All I could hear, because the walls are pretty thin, all I could hear was *what's your name, what's your name?* Then someone would say something. Then, *I bind you in the Name of Jesus!*

This went on for an hour and a half and this thing was not shifting. So I went next door and knocked on the door. One of my elders opened and he has his jacket off, his tie is undone, his shirt top is undone, his sleeves are rolled up, he is red-faced, he is tired, and I said what are you doing? He said we are casting out devils. I looked at him and I said it is a lying spirit. “Gotcha Boss.” This thing just sat there saying *my name is this, my name is this, my name is this, my name is this, my name is this*. I said, “It is a lying spirit.” He said, “Gotcha Boss. Before I even got back in my office *come out you lying spirit*.” I asked him afterwards, “So, how did you get into that whole thing?” He said, “This guy came and he was demon-possessed.” “So, you went into that whole encounter without any worship?” “Well, yes.” “You spent an hour and a half casting out stuff that was not even in there?”

When we value intimacy more than warfare, the revelation you receive dictates the flow of battle. If most of your revelations is about what the enemy is doing, we are out of focus. We are going to get disinformation. One way of checking if you are prone to warfare intensity is to check out your current level of joy because I want to say this in the nicest possible way, so brace yourself; you know some intercessors are the most miserable people you can meet. Everything is a negative. Everything is about the enemy. Everything is about what the enemy is doing - he is doing this and he is doing that and we are fighting. They are worn out and their families are a mess and their kids are a mess and their marriage is a mess and their health is a mess. What is wrong?

🔑 **Key:** If all our focus is on the enemy, then we are out of focus.

🔑 **Key:** When we value intimacy more than warfare, the revelation we receive dictates the flow of battle.

🔑 **Key:** Intimacy must be our source of power.

No, seriously, what is wrong with this? Intimacy is not the source of our power. We have made authority the source of our power, not intimacy. Authority is the outgrowth of intimacy. Joy gives you a strength that allows you to overcome. The very, very, very, very least joy allows you to stand firm and not be moved. So where is your current level of joy?

Keep Returning to First Love

You know, what we are learning in Aglow is we need to keep returning to our first love and our first love is Jesus. Our first love is our salvation. Our first love is the Presence of God. Let us not become so hard working that we lose our first love.

Check your physical stamina; are you overtired, are you weary, do your bones aches, do you have mind fatigue, do have you trouble sleeping? Are you always thinking about negatives, worried about your finances and everything else? What is going on? You cannot have all those things in there and be intimate. Intimacy provides for a cheerful discouragement of the enemy.

 **Key:** Worry and intimacy do not mix.

Let me read you something from the Bible. Here it is right there. Love that verse. This is Jesus at His most mischievous. This is Jesus being what He is — utterly cheerful. *These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* John 16:33

He knows what belongs to you. He worked hard to get it for you. Do not be disadvantaged. Learn peace. Peace to me is an utterly splendid way to live because it takes you out of a low place and puts you on a high place. It takes you to a place where worry is not an issue anymore. His peace is so delightful, you just want to stay there. I love the joy of the Lord. I love fighting cheerfully. Truth to tell, the reason why I danced the other day is because I am really sick right now. I could feel it coming on; it is a warfare thing. I wanted to get my dance of revenge in first. It is a brilliant thing for me, to be vulnerable to the Goodness of God and the healing power of Jesus.

We are not here to quit. We are here to cheerfully say it really does not matter what you do, it matters what Jesus can do. And here is the thing, you always put yourself in the place before Jesus. Please do not ever allow yourself to be taken out of your rightful place in Christ. Sometimes you have to contend for it and the best way to contend for it and to stay in it is to wage war with joy, to be cheerful. It is to get your revenge dance in first.

Intimacy enables us to perceive grand and it creates the commission to rule. I love standing still. Seeking the Lord, for me, is I am in circumstances that are not working for me and so seeking the Lord is I am standing here and I want to find out where Jesus is standing because I know He is in my circumstances so I am looking for Him. Oh, He is over there. And when I go and find Him, I want to know what promise belongs to me so that I can step into that promise in that circumstance. And when I come into that place of intimacy, I get a promise because I am pretty good at getting promises and all of us are getting better at it. I get a promise and then I go and stand in my circumstances and I put that promise on the ground and I stand on it. Now, I do not have a problem, I have a promise. Right? Now I have something to work on; now I have something to rejoice over; now I know who I am; now I know what God wants to be for me.

 **Key:** Stay in intimacy. Worship escalates the fight.

The enemy wants to dictate the level of engagement and the only way he can achieve that is to disconnect you from worship and Presence. I like worship because it escalates the fight. There is a point in worship where we can take the enemy into a high place where he comes into full contact with Majesty and he can never compete on that level.

There is a place higher than the enemy can go. That is why we are seated with Christ in Heavenly places. There is a place far above your circumstance that belongs to you. That is the place where you abide. So we are always looking down on the enemy. If you have your sword, you are always thrusting down.

We are learning these things. We are going to practice these things. We are going to become those people. Your personal intimacy, your rejoicing, your thanks, your praise, your adoration, is vital and you must contribute your intimacy to the whole. And when we are gathered together, every one of us needs to come with our intimacy intact because it is not the job of Klaus and the worship team to get you into a place of worship. It is your job to come so ready for worship, you do not even have to be told to get out of your seat and come down in the front. When you come down here, you are pushing the worship team into a higher place of intimacy. It is not their job to get you cranked up. It is your job to push them into a high place of worship so that together we go to a higher level corporately than we ever could individually. And when you go to that corporate level of worship, every one of us is now allowed to stay there as an individual. That is why corporate worship is so powerful.

I do not understand why we do not have more worship meetings in our churches. I do not understand why we give 52 life-changing messages a year and no one's life changes. I do not understand why we think that worship is a luxury when it is an absolute necessity. I do not understand why we do not have more meetings that are just vertical worship between us and God. I do not understand why we are not practicing intimacy as the source of power

Worship Must be Upgraded

Let me say again, the enemy wants to dictate the level of engagement. The only way he can achieve that is to disconnect us from intimacy as a source of power. I believe the church universal right across the whole world needs to upgrade her worship. God is looking for worshippers. He said it, for goodness sake, it is a big clue.

Worship restores us to the posture of active resistance where we lean into God so that we press the enemy back. Intimacy is oppressive to Satan. Intimacy is the prize for us. Worship is our first ministry to minister to God. We are going to be doing it forever. None of us are going to be casting out devils or healing the sick in Heaven. We are going to be doing our first ministry. You need to do your first ministry now. Your ministry is not casting out devils, it is ministry to the Lord. And in the context of that we do whatever He tells us to do. It is in intimacy where we become like God in the battle and the joy of the Lord becomes our strength. We come to a place of being so refreshed, we are not tired. Our body can be fatigued, but our spirit is always stronger. We take territory, we increase our anointing. Every time the enemy does something, we prosper from it. We take advantage of it.

It is important for us to prosper under enemy attack. You know, the prevailing wisdom in the world is if you are going through hell, move quickly. Jesus is the only person who went to hell and came out

with more than He went in with. He came in, He dumped all the sin, all the fear, all the anxiety. Why does the enemy have spirits of fear and anxiety? Because Jesus dumped all that on him. It is a depressive realm down there. He wants to make it a depressive realm up here. Jesus went into hell and led captivity captive. He came out with more than He went in with. He took advantage.

I want you to take something. I have enjoyed this fight this weekend. It has not been pretty; it has been pretty ugly. But I never intended to lose. Now look at me — I never intended to lose. I came here to fight. I want this fight. I am enjoying this fight because it is not like I am ever going to lose it. Come on, you know who you are and you know who you are becoming and you are so much more powerful than you realize. You are so much more like God than you realize. For goodness sake, you are more like God than the enemy. The enemy wants to make you like him, that is why he wants you anxious and all those other things. But we are learning now right? We are learning there is a different language, there is a different perception, there is a different mindset. I can get saved between my ears too. That would be great. I can think about things better than I ever could before. I can see things I have never seen before about myself and about my circumstances. I am learning this great new language that is so powerful, that is so rich, it takes me into places with God that I never even knew existed, and I am so excited.

Put everything down and let me prophesy over you. We will see if we can land this plane.

I think this is what the Father really wants us to know. There is a joy in intimate alignment that removes all the weariness of life. There is a place set aside for you where all struggle ceases and you enter into the fullness of rest and peace.

And the Lord says, as you worship Me, as you wait on Me into delight, you will be wonderfully renewed. It is in intimate strength that I have arranged for you to view life from a higher realm. As My Spirit gives your spirit wings, so you will be raised up in your intimacy to be close to Me. You may come before the Throne of Grace and receive everything you need.

You are My people, My beloved, and it is My absolute intention to raise you up out of circumstances, out of a culture you no longer have any business being in because I have redeemed you from that and it is not your place to walk in those things. It is your place to walk in the high places with Me. It is your place to sit with Me far above, far above, far, far above and enjoy the view.

I will supply you with a confidence so large, it shall become a new boldness of spirit and you will have power to stand, to run, to walk without tiring. You will see miracles in your physical body, miracles in your physiology that as you come into a place of intimacy, intimacy will act on you physically and you will become stronger, more fit, more powerful, and you will live longer and you will not be debilitated in any way. You will have a new energy, a fresh power will pick you up physically and will strengthen you powerfully.

In your intimacy receive a fresh anointing to learn the power of rest and peace. Your soul is always untroubled when it lives in the shadow of your spirit in Christ. I love rest, says the Lord; and I love you. I will let you know My Peace, which will always guard your heart and your mind. Everything I do is easy for Me. I have no heavy burdens. My joy is so powerful, it lifts everything around Me. This is what I have invited you into. This is your place right here with Me.

I have given you a Helper. Listen to Him. Allow no other voice to overshadow His and We will commune with you. You are in Christ now. You are not your own, you have a different body. You are in Christ. That was Our plan from the beginning, to have you become one with Us so that you would become like Us and We would live in you.

Beloved, it is still the plan. It is time to extricate yourself from the affairs of this world and become a citizen of Heaven and become involved in that dimension of life that We bring to you freely and joyfully. We are making you like Us and We love what We are doing. We love what We are doing in you and with you. We love partnering with you. We love talking to you. We love listening to you. We love being with you. We love helping you. We love anointing you. We love lifting you. We love encouraging you. Work with Us. Stop working with the enemy. Work with Us. We have better benefits. We have better benefits. We have no sickness package, though. You are in the Kingdom now. You are in the Domain of the King. Let us learn how to abide there and learn how to take advantage of everything that your God wants to give you. This is your day, this is your time, you still have time to rise up and be absolutely, thoroughly brilliant. Let Us do it.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for Your joyful intentionality. No one loves us like You love us. No one understands us like You understand us. No one is so geared to making us triumphant than You. No one is so enthusiastically ready and willing and able to lift us into a better lifestyle than You. We love You Lord and we bask in Your love all the time. It is amazing to us that You love us so well, that You see us so perfectly. Our response, Lord, is just to say, we are coming. We are coming, make sure You have enough food in because we are coming. In Jesus' Name, amen.