



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“How to Capture & Sustain an Outpouring in Your Life”

Ps James Lowe – Mar. 2, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What was a positive word of encouragement spoken to you years ago that you still remember?
- Who has encouraged you lately, and what was it they did or said?
- Who have you encouraged recently, and how did you encourage them?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV)

God has spoken the word "outpouring" as a promise to our church. This builds on God's previous prophetic promise of "harvest time." God has indeed been bringing hundreds of new people to the church over the last year. This year we should expect continued harvest in many areas of our lives and in the church. But we should also expect God's outpouring. To capture and sustain an outpouring from God, we must first of all understand the importance of the word of God dwelling richly in our hearts.

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.” (Habakkuk 2:1-4 ESV)

1. **Get the Word.** We need to seek God and receive God's word planted in our hearts. Jesus said that people shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God's mouth. He also said that his words are spirit and life. (Matthew 4:4; John 6:63)
2. **Write the Word.** We need to write it down, so we can dwell on it in order to eventually be ready to run with it. We need to formulate clear action steps, a practical plan to do the word. (Habakkuk 2:1-2)
3. **Wait on the Word.** We need to be patient and allow for God's timing to mature the word in us and make us ready for its fulfillment. (Habakkuk 2:3; James 5:7; Mark 4:26-29)

4. **Watch over the Word.** We need to be ready to spiritually fight for God's word. Jesus was confronted by the devil soon after God had spoken to him. The devil sought to get Jesus to question and doubt what God had recently spoken. (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-3)

It can often happen that we out-think God's word to us. We can think many more words per minute than we can listen to. God speaks a word of promise, of prophecy, of encouragement, even of correction, and we already think of all the reasons why it won't happen or why we can't do it. We must instead grab ahold of God's word as a treasure. We must write it down to keep our focus on it. We must be patient and wait on God's timing to fulfill his word. And we must be ready to war against all the doubts, worries, fears, and every opposing thought that would cause us to abort God's word.

This is why we need God speaking to us through other people and not just through our own individual private prayer. In prayer God may speak to us, but we can easily second guess what he speaks. Confirming words come from God through many sources, and we need them to reinforce what he speaks to us in private.

God will pour out his word, if we are hungry to know and do God's will.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What is the most recent word God has impressed upon your heart concerning some aspect of your life?
- What have you done to retain and strengthen God's prophetic or guiding word for your life?
- If you haven't "heard" God speak to you a guiding word for your life, what do you think you need to do to hear from God?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would speak to us according to our needs and give us guidance and hope that is specific.
- That God would help each of us be sensitive to his voice, so that we might speak words to others that would reinforce what God is already speaking to them.
- That God would continue to bless us with a harvest of blessings in our lives and in the life of our church, so that we might in turn be the source of God's blessings to others, especially those who do not know him.