

THE TIPPING POINT

WILLIS 1/3/10

Jer48:11-12

For those of you who were not with us Thursday night, we announced our theme for the year “**No To the Quo; Burn for the Goal.**” Inherent in the theme is both the problem and the solution.

- **The problem: The Cycle of Complacency that permits us to become satisfied with the status quo.** The problem is spiritual satisfaction, spiritual ease, the loss of urgency, the presence of apathy, becoming nominal, settled, hardened, comfortable and complacent.
- **The Solution: The Baptism of Holy Spirit Fire.** The solution is to fully immerse ourselves in the fire of God. The fire of His presence, the fire of His white hot molten love, the fire of His coming, the fire of His devotion, desire and daily pursuit.

Complacency is the sire of the status quo. Complacency loves willful ignorance. Complacency feeds on feigned confusion. Intentional blindness is consequential choice of complacency; inertia is its purposeful positioning.

- Complacency is akin to indifference. **Complacency is seen in the willingness to make peace with sin, turn a blind eye to compromise or settle with giving Jesus “a place” rather than giving Him our all.**

In the past 100-150 years much of the Church world has curled up in the fetal position of complacency waiting for Jesus to take us out. This abdication of responsibility has left the Church at large enslaved to this nemesis of the status quo, stuck in the cycle of complacency.

- **The Cycle of Complacency is seen in the election of God that produces revelation. Revelation produces awakening. Awakening produces accomplishment. Accomplishment produces success. Success produces satisfaction and satisfaction paves the way for complacency.**
- It doesn't have to be this way, for we could also speak of The Cycle of Advance. In the Cycle of Advance election produces revelation. Revelation produces awakening. Awakening leads to accomplishment. Accomplishment produces success and success produces praise that leads to a hunger for more.
- **When stuck in the malaise of the status quo, kill your complacency...it is the only crime that will free you from your prison.**

Jer48:11-12

Here we see Moab stuck in The Cycle of Complacency. He is living in ease, undisturbed with mixture, stuck in the status quo. So God calls for “The Tippers” to tip him over. When stuck in a place of mixture and ease, we see the desire of God to bring us to a “Tipping Point.”

- A “tipping point” is that experience of critical mass where everything changes. The “tipping point” is where complacency, mixture and ease build up to produce irreversible consequences.
- **When stuck in the status quo of complacency, mixture and ease God sends for those who “tip vessels.”** It might be a person, it might be an experience, it might be good news, and it might be bad.
- However it comes, it is designed to tip you over and break you out of The Cycle of Complacency...The Cycle of Mixture...The Cycle of Ease.

Zeph1:12 “I will punish those who rest complacent who are like wine not shaken.” (nirv)

- **“I will punish those satisfied with themselves, those who think the Lord won’t help us or punish us.” (ncv)**
- **“I will punish those who settle down comfortably...” (hcsv)**

So Jeremiah speaks of a tipping over, Zephaniah speaks of a punishing, no matter how you cut it, a complacent Christian who settles for mixture and ease does not fare well with God.

Lk12:35-48 To combat The Cycle of Complacency Jesus left us with the command to live dressed and ready. (Read it)

- **v.40 “You too be ready.” The Greek word for “be” means “to become something we previously were not as in come to your senses.”** Readiness is an obedient decision of the will to be “tipped.” Readiness is an awakening...a coming to our senses.
- Readiness is the willingness to be tipped...to break the cycle of complacency and distance ourselves from the status quo.

In using clothes as the metaphor we see there is an act of putting something on that defines us as ready...until we are dressed we not ready. So our readiness is defined by what we put on or to say it another way...The Cycle of Complacency is broken as we put on...

1. **A Sense of Urgency: 1Pt1:13 In the void of urgency complacency prevails.** Cultivating a sense of urgency is always the first step out of the status quo. Sustaining change is directly linked to our ability to sustain a high sense of urgency. If urgency is lost the status quo prevails.
 - This is why Jesus left us “dressed, on the ready.” **For 2000 years Jesus has left us on alert, in a sense of urgency. Urgency is not a place we visit. Urgency is a disposition we become.**

- However, the drone of complacency seeks to silence the cry of urgency. So Paul says in 1Thes5:6 “We must not sleep like the rest; we must stay awake and sober.” In light of the goal we must not become complacent; we must remain urgent.
- 1Thes 5:8 “We must be those of the day, we must put on the armor of faith and love and the hope of salvation as a helmet” Those of the day, speaks of those with a sense of urgency. Faith is urgent for faith is now.
- **All these admonitions to put on readiness...get ready for action...become ready and alert...mean readiness is not our natural state. Complacency is the natural state of affairs.**
- Our natural state is to be complacent about our need for urgency. This is why Jesus gave us the metaphor of getting dressed, putting something on, becoming what we weren't.
- **Urgency is an act of the will inspired by mediating grace for obedience. In light of Christ's command to BE READY, urgency is not an option.** Urgency is a dispositional change that must be seen as an absolute.

2. Encounter the Fire of God: Lk3:16 The Baptism of Fire is the means of God to break the Cycle of Complacency. Even though breaking complacency is an act of the will, it is first and foremost an encounter with God.

- **Complacency is consumed in the fires of intimacy.** A complacent burning one is an oxymoron. Burn for God and complacency is the first thing to go.
- So Rm12:1-2 gives the first steps of an encounter with the fire of God. **1. Present yourselves a living sacrifice...**the purpose of a sacrifice was to be consumed by fire. Consumed by fire Paul says, is our reasonable expression of worship.
- But God's consuming is preceded by our presenting. What we present He consumes. So we encounter God as we present ourselves. Present complacency as something to be burned. Don't settle with the status quo, present it to be burned.
- V.2 gives us the second step of an encounter with God. **2. Do not be conformed to this world...conformity is the first decision of complacency.** Long before complacency takes root conformity has already done its insidious work.
- **Conformity for the sake of relevancy will always produce complacency.** Passion will always speak louder to relevancy than will conformity. The immersion of fire is God's provision for relevancy.
- **If you burn they will come.**

We have reached the tipping point. Now is the time for all to break the cycle of complacency. Holy Spirit comes this year and today in specific to tip vessels and baptize in fire. If you are one stuck in complacency and you want to say no to the quo...come and present yourself to God.