

NO TO THE QUO; BURN FOR THE GOAL

WILLIS 12/31/09

Is 64:1-3 (CEV)

Being that the advance of the Kingdom is progressive and quite linear, we find ourselves in a continuation of where we have been these past number of years. Is64 has been a key text for us in both 2008 and in 2009, now we find it again as our launching place for 2010.

- Is:64:1-3 (CEV) **When God becomes a spark that starts a fire to burn; we become the wood that enables the fire to grow.** The spark of God needs the heart of man to become a fire that grows.
- We used to sing the song, “it only takes a spark to get a fire going...” The fact of the matter is it takes a spark and some wood. Without wood a spark cannot become a fire. Isaiah says, God is the spark, we are the wood and the intent is others coming to a boil.
- **The spark has to do with origin; the wood has to do with consumption. He provides the spark that originates we provide the wood to be consumed.** The spark is God sustained and will never go out; the fire is man sustained and must be continually fed.

In my 37 years of ministry I have noticed a phenomenon that happens in both the natural and the spiritual. The phenomenon I call “**The Cycle of Complacency.**” **The Cycle of Complacency is the mindset produced when a people give in to the self imposed satisfaction of the status quo.** Fires don’t burn in the wetness of the quo; water doesn’t boil the frigidity of complacency.

- In the natural I have observed young people ignited for God. In their teens and early twenties they catch fire only to embrace careers, get married, have kids, grow cold and become complacent.
- O they are still saved, still in love with the Lord but the fires that once burned hot are but a memory snuffed out by the cares and concerns that life affords. **The best of the Kingdom gets sacrificed for the good of family and self.**
- Studying takes the place of seeking. Working takes the place of waiting. Attending to kids takes the place of attending to Him. So the cycle of complacency is set into motion and the status quo snuffs out the fires of pursuit.

CCK is 24, married with kids. Standing at the crossroads of fire and complacency, the corporate choice was made to go the way of fire. Now every individual, every family, every jurisdiction of expression must choose for themselves which road they will take.

- Will you go the way of fire and live to be a burning one or will you go the way of complacency and get neutralized in the lifeless mire of the status quo?

To realize the vision for 2010 we will have to conquer the giant of the status quo. The status quo has always been the nemesis of God's people. As early as Dt8, Father was warning the family to beware of the status quo lest they get stuck in the cycle of complacency. (Read Dt8)

- “Beware lest you forget the Lord, build houses, multiply your flocks, silver, gold and become proud and (perish the thought) satisfied.”
- **Spiritual satisfaction is the father of the status quo.** In an ever increasing Kingdom, to accept satisfaction is to commit suicide. “The KOG is in forceful advance and the forceful advance with it.” A status quo Christian is a contradiction of terms.
- **Christian by its origin means those outside the box.** Christians were those who fought the tyranny of the quo. **Our early fathers moved outside the box but stayed inside the lines.** They never settled, never became satisfied...personally or corporately.
- The Acts 2 Church was a Church that turned the world upside down. They rocked the boat, they challenged known compromise, **they said no to the quo because they were baptized by the fire.** These were marked by the fire, distinguished by the fire, directed...
- It's significant to note that fire was the first act of Holy Spirit in Acts 2. Understanding the law of first mention or first appearing, fire plays a very significant role in the purposes of God. Fire represents the exact opposite of what the status quo represents.

By the status quo I mean doing things as they have always been done. The status quo is being satisfied with what's always been. The foolish virgins became satisfied with the status quo and it cost them the groom. Though warned they made peace with complacency, settled for the quo.

- Israel became satisfied with the status quo and it cost them the Kingdom. Seeing the subtle squeeze of the quo, Jesus commanded us **STAY DRESSED AND READY. Jesus left no room for complacency. He left the Church on the ready, ordered by urgency.**

So understanding this nemesis of the status quo and how this evil mindset neutralizes countless destinies in the Kingdom, **we would like to announce the first half of our theme for 2010 to be “NO TO THE QUO.”** (Reveal left side...spot light on it)

- I say first half because as I received this from the Lord (and received it early on. It was then confirmed by Dutch in Kentucky when he said our first act of reform was to challenge the status quo) but I was made to know I couldn't stop in the negative.
- It is an absolute that we bust out of the status quo and declare war on this cycle of complacency. However, if that is all we do we are only back to ground zero, we haven't advanced yet until we go into the positive.
- **To just say no to the quo is to stay in the quo unless we receive that same baptism of fire and burn for the goal.** The baptism of fire is God's answer to the status quo. There is no greater testimony on earth than a person on fire.

Read the Vision by Anthony West: “Go and Burn”

We started our night reading Isaiah's prayer "Lord be the spark that ignites the fire causing water to boil." God is the eternal spark that never goes out. Man is the fire who must be lit to cause things to boil.

- **Our purpose is to catch fire so we can bring things to a boil.**
- John the Baptist said in Lk3:16, "I baptized you with water but one is coming mightier than I...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Or as some translators say, **"He will baptize you with Holy Spirit fire."**
- Fire is not a separate experience from God. It is not "strange fire" we seek. It is Holy Spirit fire. As much as we want the fire of devotion or the fire of passion, zeal and emotion, first and foremost we want the fire of God...Holy Spirit fire.
- **Ps104:4 "He makes the winds His messengers and His ministers flaming fire."** The burning ones were never intended to be the zealot, sold out, chosen few. We are all to be baptized in fire. We are all His ministers so we are all to be flaming fire.

After fighting against the status quo of his denomination William Booth set out to raise up an Army of "cast offs and drop outs." In the midst of his mission he wrote a song to these words of fire:

- **"Thou Christ of burning cleansing flame, send the fire. Thy blood bought gift today we claim, send the fire. Look down and see this waiting host, give us the promised Holy Ghost, we want another Pentecost, send the fire. To make our weak hearts strong, send the fire. To live a dying world to save, send the fire. See us on the alter lay, our all this very day, to crown the offering now we pray, send the fire."**

When Jesus comes He comes as the "emersion of fire." It's not just a sprinkling of fire, He brings the full baptism. He comes to immerse us in Holy Spirit Fire. **He comes to immerse us in the fire of His presence so we might burn to the praise of His glory.**

- So with that as the backdrop we would like to announce the second half of our theme for 2010 to be **"Burn for the Goal." "No to the Quo...Burn for the Goal."**
- The factor of fire and burning is what brings in the positive aspects of the theme.
- **The Baptism of Fire is the means of God to destroy the cycle of complacency.** Saying no to the status quo brings us back to the place of beginnings. Burning for the goal brings us into the pursuit of destinations.
- Becoming a fire that causes others to boil is the goal. A fire that heats things up, a fire that changes those who are cold and lifeless and brings them into the warmth of His presence. **"So let this love be like a fire let our lives be like a flame."**

Obviously so much more needs to be said about this theme. We will take the next number of weeks to develop both sides of this focus. Let me close tonight by sharing a number of things we have in store to bring some of this about.

In January we will see the launching of several new Home Groups. The Moody's, The Ochenreider's, the Larkin's, the Morey's, the Baker's, the Prospect's and the Robert's.

The Greeson's will be starting a new Home Group called "Ignite" designed specifically to equip and release in the area of artistic expression. The main focus will be how we can illustrate the current message and theme through avenues of artistic expression.

Kyle, Chris Moody and various members of the team will be starting a monthly worship/message/intercession/ministry/encounter night called Emerge Night. Emerge Night will be held the first Saturday of every month beginning February 6th. (Revive Night on steroids)

In our desire to see Marriages on fire the Trout's will be doing a Marriage Workshop in January. Wanting to see Leader's on fire John Kelly will be returning the last weekend in February to do a leadership workshop and speak Sunday morning.

To take our 24/7 prayer focus to a new level Tim Taylor will be leading us in a Strategic Level Prayer Conference. Tim was a Commander in Desert Storm and a Teacher in The War College. He has taken the basic strategies of war and applied them to the spiritual realm.

We just launch a brand new daily podcast of Vertical Reality where you can subscribe to a daily online devotional Vertical Reality with the infamous voice of our own Dr. Mould reading it.

Look for the releasing of the sequel to Ancient Path entitled A Life Worth Leaving dealing with how to live our lives so as to leave a spiritual legacy that will enable us "to speak from the grave."

Beginning with a SPA team going to Switzerland next month and another team going to Costa Rica in August...we want to see a new emphasis of going to the Nations. Short term teams to Africa or whatever Nation the Lord might open up.

Lastly, more than just a theme for a year it is our desire to raise up, train and send generations of "Burning Ones." Church Planters, Nation Builders, Mountain Takers, World Changers. So in our quest to see Schools raised up to address the "7 Mountains of Cultural Influence" our plan is to launch The School of the Apostolic Church in September 2011. (Show Video) (Band to come.)

I am asking us all to declare war on "business as usual" in 2010. If you are one stuck in the cycle of complacency, set your heart now to break out of the status quo. **God is the spark; ask Him to baptize you in Holy Spirit Fire.**