



ESTABLISHING A BREAKTHROUGH COMMUNITY

2011 GLOBAL CONFERENCE LEADERS SUMMIT

Session 3 - Graham Cooke

I want to talk to you about establishing a breakthrough community.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE ENEMY

One of the absolute key requirements of a breakthrough community is that we understand the role of the enemy in the purposes of God. The enemy was created to serve the Lord. Nothing has changed. It matters not that he rebelled in Heaven and was thrown to the earth. It matters not that he is absolutely against everything that God is doing. It is in his DNA to serve the Lord.

Romans 9:17 *For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, for this purpose I have raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.*

The DNA that is in you through Christ is stronger than the DNA that is in the angel that fell. It is in his DNA to serve the purposes of God, either directly from Jesus, or indirectly through the Body of Jesus Christ.

It is important for us to understand, therefore, the role of the enemy in the purpose of God and the role of the enemy in the fight that you face.

Genesis 3:14 *The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, more than every beast of the field, on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat, all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head. You shall bruise Him only on the heel.'*

FIVE CURSES THAT GOVERN THE ENEMY

There are five specific curses that are on the enemy, and each of those curses is meant to serve us in terms of who we are and what we represent. Those five curses that he lives under form part of our authority in binding and loosening.

1. Cursed are you more than all cattle.

Cattle in the scripture are always seen as a source of revenue, as a source of wealth. They are given to feed and clothe the people that God creates. So this curse means that the enemy cannot touch your resources, but he must produce resources when we demand.

There are some women in Ethiopia who when their homeland was devastated, went into exile and they were refugees in another place. When they came back to their home villages, everything that was of value had been taken. There was nothing left. The only thing that was of abundance was bullet, shell casings, and shrapnel.

The women melted them down and made them into jewelry and sold it. I love that whole idea that everything the enemy used against them, they just melted it down and sold it.

Here is the thing, when Israel left Egypt; they were funded to do so. You know, Egyptians were lining up saying, "Take my Rolex, have my credit card, take my car." So they came out of Egypt with enough money to kick start an economy when they got to the Promised Land.

The enemy has to produce what is demanded of him. It is important for us to understand the part that the curse upon the enemy plays into our hand in terms of resources. It is more than just claiming resources from the Lord. It is more than just kind of expecting the world to help us out. It is more than getting grants from the government - and I'm in favor of all of that. It goes much deeper than that. There is a demand on the enemy to produce for the purposes of God when it is most required. It is in his DNA. He has no choice.

2. Cursed are you more than any beast in the field.

You know, all species of mammal have fallen prey to mankind. Mankind was told to exercise dominion. Dominion is part of our DNA in Christ. There is an overcoming spirit upon us, so that when we face the enemy, we are not disconcerted by him, but he is learning to be afraid of who we are.

There is an overcoming spirit upon us, like the spirit that was on Caleb that said, "The enemy shall be our prey!" Cursed are you more than all the beasts in the field. You will fall prey to the purposes of mankind. It is part of the creation of God.

TRAINING TO REIGN

We are, all of us, in training for reigning. Everything in our life right now is training. You are being trained. You are being equipped. It does not matter whether your situation is good, bad or ugly. In one sense, it is irrelevant. It is all about you being equipped. You are being equipped in every single situation that you face.

- You are learning how to stand on your promises.
- You are learning how to receive under pressure.
- You are learning how to stand your ground.
- You are learning how to say no to the enemy.
- You are learning how to say yes to God.
- You are learning how to look beyond your circumstance and see the hand of God.
- You are looking beyond what the enemy is doing and seeing that there is more with us than there are with them.

It is simple mathematics. There was a war in Heaven, one third of the angels fell and became demons. We still outnumber them two to one. And we have the Father, we have the Son, we have the Holy Spirit. This is not a fair fight.

NOT A FAIR FIGHT

I was watching that Indiana Jones movie years ago. There is a scene where Indiana is walking down an alleyway and this guy dressed all in black with two swords comes out and starts shaking the knives everywhere and the camera pans onto Indiana's face and there is a momentary look of panic.

Suddenly this flash of recognition crosses his face and Indiana pulls out his gun and shoots the guy with the knives. And the Lord says to me as I am watching the movie, "See! See! It is not a fair fight!" I am thinking, "I am in the cinema, hello? Let's just watch the movie." It is not a fair fight! It is a good fight. And a good fight is one that you do not lose, because that would be a bad fight.

He is changing you from being a foot soldier to being a warrior and a champion.

What God is doing in all your circumstances is, He is changing you from being a foot soldier to being a warrior and a champion - a man and a woman who has real substance in the Spirit. The one who knows the glory of God, knows the strength of God and understands the strength that is in joy alone.

3. On your belly you will go and dust you will eat, all the days of your life.

There will never be a day when he is not reminded of what he has missed out on. Never.

So here is the truth of that for us. When the enemy is confronted by God's people, when he is challenged by us, *the enemy must adopt a lower position.*

Have you ever see those police shows on TV when they surround a criminal, and the police are all pointing their guns saying, "Get on the ground. Get on the ground. Get on the ground! I will shoot you! Get on the ground!" That is all they say. That is it exactly. As I watch, I think, "I will try that one on the enemy next time." "Get on the ground, on your belly you should go; get on the ground!" It is a command.

The enemy must serve the purposes of God. It is in his DNA. He is cursed with extreme vulnerability to the people of God who understand that.

4. I will put enmity between you and the woman. And between your seed and hers.

You know the enemy goes to great lengths to denigrate - vilify, degrade, belittle, malign, depreciate, abuse, insult, disparage, humiliate, devalue, criticize, exploit, mistreat, mock, ridicule, shame, diminish, censure - women. Look at what is happening around the world - the whole human trafficking thing. Everywhere you look in society, whether the society is good, bad or ugly, women are exposed or denigrated or slighted in some way shape or form. Everything is done to make them appear as objects of desire, or people of inferiority. Why? **Because the enemy has a pathological need to prevent the Bride from emerging.**

History tells us that whenever women are treated with love and respect, a society flourishes. It is the role of women in the earth to be adored, and when they are, society is on the right track.

The enemy does not want the Bride to emerge. He does not want the church to understand her role in the earth - that she is the true Beloved.

Listen, any woman who is adored by her man knows one thing, "I can get anything I like out of the old boy." It is true. There is this intense vulnerability in a man when a woman looks him right in the eye and smiles, it is like the man says, "Here is my credit card." Something comes over you and it is like, the only two words that seem appropriate are, "Yes darling."

The enemy does not want to fight the true Beloved. Trust me; he does not want that fight because he is powerless. *I will put enmity between you and the woman.* He understands that he has to keep women at a lower level in order **to overcome society**. It is like for him, it is spiritual warfare 101. Denigrate women, put women down and **a society will begin to crumble**.

A POWER IN WOMEN YET TO BE RELEASED

He knows that there is a power in a woman that needs to be released. There is no finer sight than a woman moving in her destiny, knowing her standing in Christ, moving in authority with calm, precise declarations, knowing who she is. Any man worthy of his soul knows if you have a woman, it is in your best interest to let her be as free as a bird; to let her rise up; to let her understand her own destiny. Trust me; she will save you a lot of work. You let women go; they will take over the world.

For a long time in England we could rejoice when Maggie Thatcher was leading us because she was the best man in the country by a stretch. She cracked me up. That girl was so strong, so bold, and so full of life. I always loved watching the European summits. The before and after photographs when you had 12 guys all leaders of the other European countries, all standing in a little cleat, a little club, all smiling beforehand, and there would be Maggie Thatcher with her handbag over her wrist looking grim. And at the end of the summit, same photograph, 12 guys all stand there looking, you know, desperate, all shell shocked, "What just happened?" And she is standing there with the same handbag smiling. Best man in the country by a stretch. She was not called "The Iron Lady" for nothing. She was tough.

There is no finer sight than a woman moving in her destiny.

5. He (Jesus) shall crush your head and you (Satan) shall only bruise His heel.

The Offspring of the woman – Jesus - will crush the enemy's head, but His heel will only be bruised. Jesus referred to this ancient promise in Luke 10:19 when He says, "I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing will injure you." You will just get a bruise on your heel. Why? Because you will stamp on the enemy so violently it will hurt you.

What about in Judges 4? This is a fun story. Israel is being oppressed by Jabin king of Canaan and Deborah, the prophetess, prophesies victory. And Barack who is the leader at the time, he is still a little bit unsure and says in verse 8, "Well, what would be helpful Deborah is if you could come with us." And she says, "You do not need me to come with you, you can do it." "Well no, we would like you to come with us." "Well, ok, but you understand now that the honor is not going to be yours, God is going to give the honor to a woman."

The Canaanite army is destroyed and Sisera, who is the Canaanite general runs for his life. He ends up in this little village outside this tent where this woman, Jael, lives. He asks her to hide him, so he comes in, she gives him some milk and she hides him under some cloth, some blankets or furs. He falls asleep, and while he is asleep, she hammers a tent peg through his head. (Judges 4:21)

If that isn't messing with the enemy's head, I don't know what is. Messing with the enemy's head. Like David and Goliath. Yeah? Gives him a violent headache, puts a stone in his forehead, and then kills him, takes his head with his own sword.

What the enemy is using against us, we get to use against him when the moment comes.

Then David takes the head with him. (I Samuel 17:54) Everyone wants to see the head. You know, so he is walking down to Jerusalem, all the guys in the army are saying, "Dave, show us the head!" He's walking back to Jerusalem, little kids and old ladies lining up. Old ladies going, "Dave, show us the head!" Little kids, "Dave, show us the head!" Gets to the palace and what is the first thing the king says, "Show us the head!"

Everyone wants to mess with the enemy's head. It is your right, it is your privilege, more than that, it is your joy and your pleasure to mess with the enemy's head. He has messed with yours often enough. It is time to get some revenge. It is time to get some payback.

AGLOW, A TEMPLATE FOR MALE/FEMALE PARTNERSHIPS

The key requirement here though, if we are really going to produce the Bride, is the understanding of the particular partnership between men and women and what that means in the Kingdom.

God is not looking for partnerships between men and women in terms of the way that the world does. He is looking for partnerships in the way that the Kingdom does it. So we do not take our cues about partnership, about the reconciliation between men and women from the world.

We – male and female - need to be restored to our rightful place.

The world does not have anything to teach us. We are looking for revelation that comes out of Heaven. We are looking for what the Kingdom says. We are looking for what the Bridegroom says. We are looking for what the Father says, and we are looking for what the Holy Spirit wants to be doing in our midst.

There is a new type of partnership emerging between men and women and I really believe we are going to be a template for what that looks like. We are going to be a model for what that looks like. So it is important for us to begin paying attention to what the Lord is saying to us in that regard.

It is not enough to reconcile men and women; we must redeem the whole partnership. We must reconcile the partnership back to that first day when God said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for man to be alone, I am going to make him a helper."

We – male and female - need to be restored to our rightful place.

The truth right now is men are often not in their rightful place when they are not in real partnership with the other half of creation. That, I think, has been part of our problem.

So we must rediscover a partnership with absolute intention.

We need to understand the favor of God that exists when men and women come together in partnership and relationship - so that we can:

- rebuild the waste places and
- restore cities and
- set captives free.

II Corinthians 5:14-16a *For the love of Christ controls us. Having concluded this, the One died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all so that they who lived might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore, from now on, we recognize **no one** according to the flesh.*

The Greek word there for 'no one' means 'no one.' That means Christian and pre-Christian. This is another reason why I do not believe in judgment of mankind in this life. I believe we are here to judge the demonic. We do not recognize anybody according to the flesh. 'No one' means no one. No distinctions there between saved and unsaved. No distinctions whatsoever. No one means 'no one.' *Therefore, from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh.*

II Corinthians 5:16b *Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we do not know Him this way any longer.*

II Cor. 5:17-19 *Therefore, if anyone who is in Christ is a new creature, the old things passed away, behold new things have come. Now all these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Namely that God was in Christ, reconciling the world, everyone say world, not church. Reconciling the world to Himself. Listen now, not counting their trespasses against them. And He is committed to us, that same word of reconciliation.*

What does reconciliation mean? It means that God, through Christ, has opened a way for all mankind to know Him. So, from His perspective, everybody is reconciled to Christ. What that means is, God does not hold anything against anyone. They are all reconciled.

Does that mean they are redeemed? No! Everyone say, "He is not saying that."

MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION

Our job as ministers of reconciliation is to go into people's lives, no matter who it is, and say, "The way is open for you. God is not angry with you. He is not mad at you. He is not going to judge you. I am here as an ambassador of reconciliation to say to you, "the way is open for you before God, because He demolished every obstacle, every barrier. And while you are making your mind up about that, let's get your body healed. Let's get your son off drugs. Let's get your daughter into full employment so that you can taste and see that the Lord is good."

What if the biggest problem in America is simply the lack of Goodness?

We are here as ambassadors of Heaven, in the earth saying, "This is what Heaven looks like. This is what salvation looks like. This is what being with God looks like. This is what it means to be loved by God. This is what the favor of God smells like and tastes like. Have some." We are ambassadors of reconciliation.

What if the biggest problem, let's just pick America - what is the biggest problem in America? It is not drugs. It is not crime. It is not poverty or low education. It is not terrorism. It is not abortion. It is not the gay community.

What if the biggest problem in America is simply the lack of Goodness?

Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

We overcome evil with good, so why are we building more prisons? Why are there ‘no go’ areas on the streets? Why is 46% of the population struggling to keep a roof over their head? And what is it about the church that makes her think it is ok for us to be railing against sin and calling down judgment on people? The Bible says in Romans 2:4 that it is the goodness and the kindness of God that leads people to repentance.

Acts 10:38 says that *Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.* It is not our job to rail against sin. That is the role of the demonic. It is called an accusing spirit.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

- It is our job as ministers of reconciliation to call down the grace of God on our communities.
- It is our job to be salt and light.
- It is our job to be ambassadors of reconciliation saying to people, “The way is open for you.”

The church is a redeemed community in a reconciled society. The whole world has been reconciled to God. It does not mean they are saved, it means they have a really good chance to get saved. It is like when you get a credit card through the mail. All the benefits of that card belong to you, but you cannot activate them until you get in touch with the principle.

You have to phone and register the card. You have to get in touch with the benefactor behind the card. That is what reconciliation is.

The church is a redeemed community
in a reconciled society.

We are saying to people, “All the benefits of Heaven are available to you and we are here to connect you with the Creator so that you can find Him and discover Him. There is a part of that process where you discover who He wants to be for you. We are going to do you good. We are going to let you taste and see what God is really, really, really like.” That’s how I live in the earth. This is how all of us should live in the earth.

So let’s read **II Corinthians 5:18-21** again. *All these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.* Namely, that God is in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. He is not counting their trespasses against them and He is committed to us that same world of reconciliation.

*Therefore, because of that, **we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were making an appeal through us.** We beg you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. Open your heart to all the possibilities of God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

GOD’S PASSION

Never underestimate the passion that God has for souls and the passion He has to see bodies healed, lives renewed, cities rebuilt, and waste places brought back to new life.

When I lived in South Hampton on the south coast of England, I used to do drive by blessings in my car. I would drive around the city and pray. I would walk around certain places and pray. I was always

attracted to a part of town - a big manufacturing part of town - big commercial area, and I always hated to see factories that were run down, and empty, sitting on wasted ground.

I used to drive around these places and just pray the blessing of God, just pray favor: "Lord increase that manufacturing base." I hated the fact at that time in our city, we had 11.3% unemployment. I just began to drive around and pray, "Lord, bless this city, bless the commercial district, we want more jobs in this city, help us."

As I was driving around one day, I came across a factory there that was doing quite well and there was a piece of waste ground next to it and the Lord gave me a word for the guy who owned the factory. So I called him up and he refused to speak to me.

So I wrote to him. I wrote this prophetic word 26 times. "You know the Lord says, if you will buy that piece of waste ground and extend your factory, and if you will begin to employ and train unemployed people, He will make sure your order book is always full."

Do not take on the enemy in the Heavens unless you are prepared to have something on the ground that can reap the benefit of the overthrow that you generate.

So I wrote to him 26 times in like 16 months. I have the word of the Lord. I am not quitting. Just because he does not want to hear, that has got nothing to do with me. I still have a message.

So in the end, he wrote to me, I think just to get me off his back. I went to see him, and he says, "I want you to know that I am seeing you under duress because you are bombarding me with all these letters." And I said, "I can appreciate that. If I was in your position I would feel exactly the same. But here is the reason you are under duress, you do not know what is happening." And he says, "Excuse me!" I said, "You do not know what is happening. I am threatening to upgrade your business. I am saying to you there is a cast iron promise from Heaven that if you will do these three things, God will upgrade your order book and you will always be profitable. I am guaranteeing your profitability. I am doing something the government cannot do."

He looks at me and said, "I do not know if you are mad or.... ". I looked at him and said, "Prophetic?" He said, "Well I do not really understand what that means." I said, "Really what it means is I am a futurist. I just told you your future." And he said, "Well, I was thinking about buying the piece of land anyway." So I said, "Then we are in business. All you have to do is, when you extend it, take some unemployed people and train them in house. The government will do a deal with you." And he said, "I've never known the government to do deals." I said, "We have 24% unemployment in this country. They will do a deal with anybody to get people into work."

What I did not know was that two years after that I would start a company working with the government to get unemployed people into work, in my own city. And I supplied some of the people to that guy. He has had a full order book since.

BENEFITS OF WARFARE

Here is the thing about warfare - **Do not take on the enemy in the Heavens unless you are prepared to have something on the ground that can reap the benefit of the overthrow that you generate.** You got to bring to earth your warfare at some point. There is no point in taking on a spirit of unemployment unless you are ready to do something on the street to get people back into work.

So I am driving around my city taking authority over the enemy. I start this company and over a three year period, get 400 people into work. I persuaded the government to give me money, local authorities to give me money, colleges to give me free places, and businesses to give me a training opportunity on their premises. At one point, the company was generating, around, it would be three million dollars US per year.

I was doing jobs in the community that could not otherwise be done. We went and painted every children's home, and every home for the elderly. We painted churches. We spruced up the whole community and I worked with companies that got 400 previously unemployed people into work.

If you are going to tackle the enemy in the Heavens, you want to have something on the ground. You know that God starts a fight when He wants to do something on the earth. He starts a fight in the Heavens in order to benefit something or someone on the earth itself.

The church is the only power on earth that exists for the benefit of its nonmembers.

The community that we create in the Spirit is not just for ourselves. It is also for those who need God, whether they are seeking Him or not. The church is the only power on earth that exists for the benefit of its nonmembers. You want me to say that again? The church is the only power on earth that exists for the benefit of its nonmembers.

We care about the people around us. We care about poverty. We care about poor education. We care about everything, because God cares about everything. So just going into a school and giving a grant because a lot of schools cannot afford books - going in and giving schools a grant for books has been a real pleasure. I own a book house, why should I not donate books? I am not only giving my own books, I am buying textbooks to give.

What you care about you need to do something about. It is not about you sitting there saying, "Well I am only small." You are the perfect size! And you are the perfect age to do something outrageous. It is in your DNA. There are loads of things you can do.

There was a guy in our city who was a very prominent business man. I knew him. You know, he was very fastidious about everything, the way he was dressed, and he did everything by the clock. He always left his home at exactly the same time, drove down exactly the same streets, got to exactly the same store to buy his newspaper. He got to work at exactly the right time; he did everything by the clock.

This guy lived in a gated community. He was really removed from real life in lots of respect. One day, he got into his car, he drove down the street, and there were signs saying detour as there was some work being done. Actually there was no work ever done in those streets. No one knew where the signs came from.

So he went on this detour, which meant he could not go to his regular store to get his newspaper. He ends up driving into this poor neighborhood, finds a store, goes in, buys his newspaper, comes out and he hears the sound of wailing and it affects his heart, and he is saying to people, "What is that sound?" And no one can hear anything. He hears the sound of crying, like many people crying. Everyone he asks, no one can hear it. Only him.

All he can hear is the sound of wailing, so he gets in his car, he finds his way to work and for some reason he is profoundly upset all day long. The next day, he comes out, hits the same detour sign, goes to the poor neighborhood, goes to that same store he went to yesterday, gets the newspaper, comes out and hears the sounds of wailing. This happens for five days, Monday thru Friday, he hears that sound of wailing.

Saturday is normally his golf day. He gets in his car and he goes to the poor area and he drives around. He has the windows up tight. He has music on the radio, but he can hear the sound of wailing. So he goes to one of his best friends who is prophetic and he says, "Something is happening to me."

Our role is to evict the enemy
in the place where we live.

This guy ends up buying six houses in this poor area and staffing it with youth workers and children's workers for the benefit of that whole subdivision. Then he brings in crews to begin painting houses and repairing the area. He creates a children's park, and scores and scores of families get saved.

This is a business man who is completely immune to real life in a poor neighborhood. He lives in his own little kingdom almost, yet he hears a sound, gets affected, and realizes that the Lord wants him to lead this subdivision out of poverty. So he creates jobs and starts businesses - all for this subdivision.

Everyone wants him to do it all over the city, but the Lord has only called him to a subdivision. So when things start to happen, other people say, "Well come here, come here." He says, "No, I am called to this subdivision." So he elevates that whole subdivision totally out of poverty by himself by simply trusting the Lord.

When the local government started seeing what was happening, they started putting money into it and other businesses started putting money into it.

WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD ARE YOU CALLED TO TRANSFORM?

One person walking with God is always in the majority.

We must see the world as belonging to the Lord. Our role is to evict the enemy in the place where we live. We are to evict the enemy and call down the resources of Heaven into that community.

Why on earth do you think you live there? (Acts 17:26) It is because you are the one! You are the one that God wants to walk the streets and look around. You and your company, your lighthouse, your group – you are to walk the streets where you live, look around, see what is happening. There are resources allocated in your area and you get the fun of calling it down. You get the fun of evicting the enemy and bringing down the resources of God and seeing what God will do.

TWO COMMUNITIES

There are two communities that have been created in the *unbelieving* world.

- **One of them is the fact that God has put all the pre-Christians in your area into a place of reconciliation with Him - into a place where He wants to connect.** The way is open. He is prepared. He is ready with signs and wonders and miracles and healings and provisions. They are in a state of reconciliation. All they need is an ambassador to come along and energize that whole thing. They have the potential to be touched by the goodness and the loving kindness of God through the ambassadors of reconciliation which is the church.

As the redeemed – we are bringing our life, our love, our laughter, our favor, our health, our blessing, our prosperity, our faith, our glory to the reconciled, so that they can be redeemed.

- Here is the other community in the unbelieving world. **The devil has created a community that reveals a religious system of intolerance and suspicion.** That system sees everyone in the world as sin sick, evil and to be avoided. It judges sinners. It creates “no go” areas while the objective of that community is to get people into a building where their message is to change people to be like them.

You can forgive the world for saying, “No thank you. I do not want to be like you.” But given a shot of being like Jesus, I have never known anyone to turn that down. The Gospel is the glad tidings of great joy. Therefore, it cannot be represented by a joyless people who are always pointing their finger in a negative way.

THE CLASH OF TWO KINGDOMS

In the life of Christ, the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus brought collided with the monstrosity of the Hebraic religious system. They (the two systems) clashed. He was not apologizing. Pharisees and the Sadducees sought to kill Him. They tried everything to disrupt Him.

Here is the clash between two kingdoms right here.

In the advancing Kingdom, the Gospel collides with everything in its path. But here is the thing, **we collide with people with love and grace and beauty and smiles.** Because we know we get to win. Right? So we do not need to be angry at anybody, because you can beat them just by smiling. I can beat you just by laughing at you. I do not have to fight you.

We are not fighting flesh and blood. We are not fighting any human being, but I might be fighting whatever is behind them. I am not fighting a human being. I am going to be gracious, kind, loving, and funny because I know that I am going to win.

It is the power of the one with the one. Nobody can resist the Grace of God. No one resists God when He is being charming. It is impossible. You cannot resist the Love of God. So we do not need to

be in opposition with any human being. We just need to be loving and gracious. They cannot resist that. We just need to stand our ground.

All we are really talking about then is time. I have met people who are violently opposed to what I was doing in their areas. They just said, "As long as I am here you will never get this passed. You will never get any grants from us." I said, "Ok, you have laid down the conditions – 'as long as you are here.' What does that mean to you? Because that could mean anything. Does that mean as long as you are alive? Does that mean as long as you are in power? Does that mean as long as you are living in the city? What does 'as long as you are here' actually mean to you? Because right now you understand, you are setting the parameters for this, not me. So, you will get loved and blessed in the Goodness of God. But if you are saying that the condition for God doing anything is that you are going to be removed. Well, you said it."

Here is the thing, I can wait. I have patience. The enemy does not. You know that the enemy does not have access to any Fruit of the Spirit. That means he has no patience. So you can beat him with your patience. I have beaten the enemy with patience before.

The Fruit of the Spirit is a more powerful weapon against the enemy than the gifts. You can weary him with your joy. You can depress him with your grace. You can undermine him with love. He is intensely vulnerable to the Fruit of the Spirit.

As it happened, that guy who told me that I would never get anything passed while he was in office was not elected in the next election! A few weeks later, I got my bill passed, and I got my cash. **No one resists the Love of God.**

The Fruit of the Spirit is a more powerful weapon against the enemy than the gifts.

No one resists the power of God. Therefore, there is something irresistible about you when you stay in God. It is that irresistible nature of the life you carry that always wins the day. Most of the time we learn how to stand and not quit - how to keep bouncing back. "Hi, it is me again. Here I am. Yes, it is Graham time, and here I am. And I would talk to the mayor." He would say, "What is it you want?" I said, "I want my hand in your pocket. I want you to give me lots of cash." I am very upfront. "I want a building. I want some cash. I want you to talk to the college to help me. That is what I want because we want to get these people back into work so give me cash, give me a building, and get the college to help me. That is it. You are the mayor, it should be simple."

You would be surprised. You know what people are looking for? Often what officials are looking for is boldness like that. I said to him, "Listen, let me do the work. You can have all the credit. I do not care. I do not want the credit. I do not want my name in the paper. I am happy to say that you helped me, but we need to help these guys. So, how about it?"

MAN'S IMPOSSIBILITIES ARE GOD'S POSSIBILITIES

Never underestimate who you are in the passion of Christ.

- There are loads of stories all over the UK. One, a band called the Worldwide Message Tribe started a movement in Manchester, my home city in the north of England. They took on the worst crime ridden area full of poverty, and unemployment. All the major problems in society were at epidemic levels in this particular region. It was governed by drug gangs and crime

lords. It was all run down. All the facilities - the buildings were run down and looked awful. They created a project, where they took 20,000 Christians into that region and completely remodeled it.

Crime was running at 46%. In the month that they were doing these projects, not one single crime was committed. The police gave them a million pounds to build a youth center. They went in to every home and they said, "We are going to paint your home outside and every room inside. We are going to remodel your house. We are going to take care of your yard. What kind of wallpaper would you like? What kind of paint? Choose some colors. 20,000 people did the project.

We remodeled every home. We built a children's park. We built a youth facility. People were saying, "Do not leave us." The crime rate in that place has jumped from not 46% but to a massive 2%. All the criminals moved out. 20,000 people were praying and working together on every home. It took six years to get that project off the ground. And now the government is saying, to the church, "Ok. What do you want to do next?"

In a time of recession, there are thousands of opportunities available to us. It is cheaper for the government to work through us than any other agency because we have excellence. We have this huge army of volunteer labor that really understands excellence and that are committed passionately to love and grace and doing things right. It is cheaper for them to work with faith based organizations than their own government initiatives and agencies.

The key is for you to see your group as a viable part of that community

A recession is absolutely tailor made for us to do signs and wonders and miracles in the earth.

The key is for you to see your group as a viable part of that community - to stand in that community, to walk around it, to see the degradation, and to let compassion rise up in your hearts and **to know that you are the overcoming, breakthrough spirit, that God has already placed in that community.** God wants to resource you. He wants you to grow up to become the strong man in the city - the strong man that takes on poverty, and unemployment and degradation and crime, and does something about it.

ONE PERSON WALKING WITH GOD IS ALWAYS IN THE MAJORITY.

- We had a high incidence of teenage pregnancies in that same city of Manchester. A bunch of housewives started a project called Fir Grove Trust. It was called Fir Grove because they got a property on Fir Grove Road. So it became Fir Grove Trust. They just started helping teenage girls who got pregnant.

Then gradually, over the years they progressed until they would do all the sex education in all the schools in the city. These same group of housewives now have contracts from the government, not just in England but in Africa. In South Africa they have a huge contract. I think in Nigeria they do all the sex education training in all the schools. They teach people how to run sex education clinics, and health clinics and so on. A bunch of housewives.

You know, their kids are in high school, what do they do? They look around, they see the stats, some of their daughters have friends who got pregnant and they get together. They know nothing, and now they are this world beating, supernatural power that gets contracts from foreign governments to come in and do something.

- At the height of the troubles with the IRA, a bunch of ladies in Belfast, Northern Ireland, start a peace movement. They started it by looking at all the prophecies in Belfast about peace. They go out, and there was a prophetic word, that actually I gave that said, “All the places where the IRA congregates, the Lord will have ministry coming out of those places.”

One of the reasons why Northern Ireland has the best knee surgery on the planet is because of the number of knee capping that the IRA did. They put a shot gun behind your knee and pulled the trigger. There was one particular bar that they operated out of and now it is a youth center run by Christians.

These girls went out and they went up against these guys and said we are sick of it. We are calling down Heaven on you guys. They did not call down judgment or hell, they called down Heaven. A number of guys in the IRA began to have encounters with God. Anything is possible and it is possible because of who you are in Jesus. All things are possible.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

All that the Lord is looking for is a group of people who will believe in all the possibilities of Heaven.

There are adventures out there to be had. There are some amazing things that can be done. Your whole life can take on a whole different meaning. You are a citizen of Heaven living here on earth. You have got access to things that the government no longer has. Like money.

We have to seriously upgrade our theology of Christ in us. It is not enough for you to be in Christ. You have to understand that Christ is in you and you can do all things. You have access to the Kingdom of Heaven. You are an ambassador of that Kingdom. You can bring Heaven to earth exactly where you live.

All that the Lord is looking for is a group of people who will believe in all the possibilities of Heaven.

The church is not a subculture of what is happening on the earth. We are aliens and strangers to a world system, but **we are citizens of Heaven**. We do not use the world’s methodology. We act as the Household of God on earth.

I wish I could convey to you the willingness of God to resource people who are prepared to stand and believe Him against all the odds. You do not get the money upfront; you get it as you go. You go out knowing that you are going to collide with your resources at some point. You start things rolling. You ask the Lord what He wants to do and you follow Him, step by step in the process. And yeah, it is going to be difficult. It is going to be weird. It is going to be strange. That is why God choose *you*. I might have just paid you a compliment. *That is why God choose you.* **He has chosen you to confound everything!**

There is something about the spirituality of the Body of Christ that causes confusion to a world system.

How on earth did they do that? That would be the Lord. You are ministers of reconciliation. That means:

- You have the power to restore.
- You have the power to rebuild.
- You have the power to bring agreement.
- You have the power to call people together.
- You have the power to render your community favorable to the Kingdom.

FAVOR GALORE

We are joyfully using our favor. You have got tons of favor. It is not just for you and your family. I have got enough favor for my whole community. I am walking around, prayer walking around my community. I am asking the Lord, “Ok, every house in this community has favor on it because I am living here. Now if they are not using their favor, can I borrow it for a week?”

There are unclaimed upgrades all over this room. There is unclaimed favor all over this room.

Your mission in the earth as an ambassador is to take all the favor that is on you and yours and begin to give it out. As you give it out, it will grow. God wants to give you favor for a whole town, for a whole city, for a whole subdivision, for a community. You have enough favor on you to start something miraculous where you live.

It is time for us to come together. Jesus did *not* say, “I have come that you might have meetings and have them more abundantly.” He came saying, “I have come that you may have life and life in abundance.” When all the ambassadors get together in an area and demonstrate their life and demonstrate their favor and demonstrate their trust in a powerful God who cares, who has compassion, all Heaven can break loose!

Your mission in the earth as an ambassador is to take all the favor that is on you and yours and begin to give it out.

It is your joy to call down the resources that belong to you in Christ. Read the gospels again. Look at Jesus and the way that He lived. How many babies do you know that get a gold bar when they are born? He had enough money to buy His parents a business even while He is still lying in swaddling clothes. He was resourced from day one. Kings came to give Him wealth.

He would say to the disciples, “Go into the next village, someone will meet you and they will take you to a place and everything will be ready.” “Peter, can you pay your tax? Go fishing. The first fish you find open its mouth then go see the tax collector. “

Miracles are everywhere. A few fish sandwiches enables thousands of people to be fed and the leftovers feed thousands more. Nothing is impossible. He was resourced every single step of the way and He is in you!

CHRIST IN US = RESOURCES

What that means is, if Christ is in you, then all the resources that He possesses for you to do your ministry belong to you right now!

- You have got to stop looking at the problems of the world and start looking at the promises over your life.
- Start looking at the scriptures to really understand what it means for Christ to be in me in any situation.
- You have got power over every curse.
- You have power to overcome unemployment.
- You have power to see a poverty spirit broken.
- You have power to restore and rebuild.

We demonstrate the power of the Kingdom on the ground, in people's lives.

I was reading in the paper that 46% of people in this country (United States) are living either just above or below the poverty line. We have amazing opportunities right now to create something out of nothing.

LIES OF A POVERTY SPIRIT

A poverty spirit is not about economic deprivation. It's about living with meager possibilities. All the possibilities for getting your country back on its feet lies with us. They do not lie with a government, a senate and a congress who have not even got the decency to agree together to help the poor in this nation.

The power to get your country back on its feet is sitting in this auditorium. **You, one person, walking with God is in the majority.**

You, one person, walking
with God is in the majority.

A poverty spirit tells you that you cannot win. It is fixed on the world's scene. It is fixed on recession. It looks at the manufacturing base; it cannot create jobs.

A poverty spirit tells you, you cannot do anything about this. But God works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

SILENCING A POVERTY SPIRIT

The real issue is, what is God saying to you as an individual? There is no longer any opportunity for a single one of us to go through each day blind. Look around you. What you see needs to be done; you step into it, even if it is just for one person. Step into it.

I have a friend and she just buys a grocery card for 20, 25 bucks. She goes around the store and she looks and asks the Lord, "Who do I need to give these to?" It is a simple thing, but it makes somebody's day. And all she does is she goes up and she says, "Excuse me, the Lord told me to give you this because He knows what you are battling and He wants to say to you this is proof that He is with you and you can start to pray and He will bless you."

She has it written down on her card, she gives them the grocery card and she gives them a card and she walks away. She has a phone number on the back and they call her. Now, she has got a Bible study with a whole bunch of women who are fighting things - you know single parents, husband left them, husband in jail, whatever, and they are fighting just to bring their kids up, and now she has a group.

It is not difficult to recruit people who need to be blessed. It is the easiest thing in the world.

SEEING POSSIBILITIES FOR MIRACLES

God is looking for people who can provide lunch for thousands and feed thousands of others on the leftovers. Wealth creation is as big a miracle as healing the sick. A recession can clearly work in our favor. God is not subject to lack of funds.

We need to develop men and women of renown, Calebs, Josephs, Daniels, Pauls, Esthers, Miriams, Ruths, Deborahs - people who look around and see the possibilities for a miracle.

When something is so bad, you do not know what to do, it is ripe for a miracle. It needs someone who wants that miracle to come, who is prepared to step into that gap and say, "I want to see this miracle here." And he is prepared to work and stand and fight and work and stand and fight and work and stand and fight with a smile on their face because they know - I am supported by Heaven. I am a citizen of Heaven. I am just standing here long enough for all of the resources that we need to finally come down into this place.

You can do it. You have it. You have that spirit – you, Aglow, are that community!

Every circumstance comes with an upgrade.

CONFESSION IS PARTNERING WITH GOD

What if Heaven has placed resources in the worst possible places in our communities? What if they are there waiting for someone to step into that place and claim them? There have to be miracles in the places of deprivation because that was the mission statement of Jesus.

In Isaiah 61, let me read this, "The Spirit of the Lord God, it's on Me, because the Lord has anointed Me." What He gets to say about Himself, you get to say about yourself.

Every circumstance comes with an upgrade.

If He is in you, you get to say the same thing that He is saying. That is what confession really is – I am agreeing with God. "I'm here to bring good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the broken hearted. He sent me to proclaim liberty to captives. He sent Me to give freedom to prisoners, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, give them a garland instead of ashes, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness. The planting of the Lord that He may be glorified. Then those people will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will raise up the forms of devastation. They will repair the ruined cities."

It is in your DNA! You are a restorer! You are a builder! You are a repairer!

Do not say to yourself, “I am just a man. I am just a woman.” **One person walking with God is in the majority! It is always about the power of the One, with the one.**

God wants to partner with someone. Surely there is someone in this room who is going to have compassion and step into the gap. Surely there is someone who will stop railing against sin and start to really understand that you are part of a redemptive community that is living in a reconciled society. Surely there is someone who recognizes that I have a voice and I can do something and it does not matter if I have no resources up front; I expect to get them when I need them. When I get to the point where I need money, I am expecting it to be there.

In Christ, everything is an invitation for you to encounter and experience Heaven on earth. Everything is “yes” and “amen”.

In Christ, everything is an invitation for you to encounter and experience Heaven on earth.

What is the question? What if you have a green light? We are not waiting around for God to do something. You know, we do not need 14 prophecies to give us confirmation of something that is blinding the obvious. You know, there are people who are always sitting, saying, “I’m just waiting on the Lord.”

Well, what are you waiting for? He says everything is “yes” and “amen”. That means **everything has a green light until God turns it red.**

Some people sit there and say, “Lord God, if a pigmy in an admiral’s uniform knocks on my door and tries to sell me a loaf of bread I know that that will be a sign that You want me to do this.” For goodness sake! You have a green light!

How many of you have had dreams about doing some stuff in your community? Come on, you need to show me your hand. You have got a green light. God is looking at you saying, “Ok, let’s do it. Talk to Me. Let’s get connected. Let’s get this partnership going. It is ‘yes’ and ‘amen’.”

The question is: are you prepared to become what you want to see? You cannot have what you are unwilling to become. If you see yourself as an ambassador of reconciliation, every ambassador I have ever met has always been resourced by the Kingdom behind them. If you see yourself as an ambassador for Christ, then you have resources allocated to you straight away. They are allocated to your identity.

In Christ, we are learning to upgrade the way we look at problems. We often look at problems in terms of the deficit that is present, not from the perspective of the promises and prophecies of words that God has spoken over us. The truth is you are a blessing waiting to happen. You are a miracle waiting to happen. You are a sign and a wonder waiting to be seen. But you need to stand up to be seen.

All I am saying is, ask the Lord,

- What do you see me doing in my neighborhood?
- What are the problems in my community?
- What do you see me doing about them?
- What kinds of partnerships are offered here?

PROBLEMS TRIGGER PROVISION

God's word is given so that we are challenged by His goodness to stand still and see the salvation of God. What are the words over your life?

It is good to ask questions.

- **How can this problem trigger my provision?** Every problem comes with a provision attached. It is designed to show you where your provision is waiting for you.
- **How can this problem trigger my provision?** Notice I am not saying, "How can *my* problem trigger this?" I do not own the problem. I own the provision. The provision is mine. The problem just tells me that I have a provision waiting. It is like your call waiting signal. The problem tells you that you have a blessing close by. Go pick it up.
- **What is my inheritance in this matter? What is my inheritance in this city?** If I am an ambassador, I am living here.
- **What are my resources that are allocated to me just because I am here?**
- **What does God want to be for me now?**
- **How much favor are You giving me in this situation?**

Great questions because they open you up to Goodness.

This is a time when America is trying to reinvent itself. So is every country on earth. God is looking for men and women of substance in the Spirit.

Problems are designed to take us to the next level of our anointing. Can we just go there? Can we just understand the problems are not meant to suppress us? Problems are meant to release us. They are meant actually to lift us up, because you know that if a problem is here, a provision is here. God is at work.

So we are looking for people who will step into this thing and go to the next level of their anointing. We need people who are not threatened by circumstance. We need people who are not threatened by people or the task at hand, but people who are excited and energized and refreshed by problems.

What would it be like for you to be refreshed and energized in the warfare? It is like, come on, attack me again, that was so cool! I will still beat you!

We are refreshed by problems. We are not weary. We are not stale, **there is a refreshing in the Presence of God when you do the will of God.**

There is a refreshing in the Presence of God when you do the will of God.

We are learning to be refreshed, not weary, not tired, not stale. None of those things exist in the Kingdom of Heaven. They do not exist in Heaven and they cannot exist in you if Christ is in you.

So you are learning to be your own internal river. You are learning to draw water out of your own well. You are learning to be refreshed in Christ. Every day you get the chance to be replenished. You get the chance to live refreshed. You get the chance to do more because you are so up in terms of who Jesus is for you. That is a citizen of Heaven.

- We are looking for people who are excited by God.
- We want people who see the possibilities and who can rise up and pull down Heaven's resources.
- We want leaders who can equip and train other people to occupy territory in Jesus name. Not just to go in and be a blessing, but to take over that place from the enemy and say this belongs to us. Our role in the earth is to evict the enemy and bring down Heaven. Heaven on earth in that community. You can do it because God is in you and God is with you.

It is time for all of us to really examine ourselves in the light of what the Lord is speaking to us.

- Can you partner with all of God's possibilities?
- Are you prepared to become what you want to see?

That is the question over us.

This is an amazing moment for us. To step into a place, to bring the joy and the laughter of Heaven, the love of God, the mercy of God, the compassion of God, to do everything with a smile and a good heart. Listen; **when God grants you something, He gives you permission to take Him for granted.**

Are people out there going to abuse your generosity? Hopefully. Are people out there going to think that you are stupid and try to take you for everything? Hopefully.

Here is the issue. It does not matter. It is not your money anyway. We follow the heartbeat of God. We are not afraid of anything. I am not afraid of my generosity being abused. I am not afraid of it running out. Give and it shall be given. I do not care if someone takes advantage of me. I am taking advantage of God. Give and it shall be given, pressed down, shaken together, running over.

This is our moment where we live, in our groups, in our lighthouse, so look around and ask the Lord,

- What is our contribution?
- What is our favor in this area?
- What are the resources that are available to us?

And walk into that place in your community and stand and be an ambassador for Christ. See the fullness of Christ. See abundance come down. And do it joyfully, happily, with a smile because it is your moment, I think, to discover yourself.

- Who you are.
- Why you are there.
- Why you are living in the place that you are living.
- What God wants to do.

And to discover God in ways that are going to be amazing to you.

Let's pray.

Father, my prayer is that we would take every advantage of the curses that are already pronounced upon the enemy. That we would find shelter in those curses, knowing that we have that same anointing to overcome, to overthrow, that we are the ambassadors of God, that we are the light of the world. We are the joyful inhabitants of Heaven, living on the earth, being a blessing. No one is safe from a blessing. We have no enemies, except the enemy. Every human being, no one is safe from a blessing and the favor of God around us.

I want to thank You, Lord, for the adventures and the opportunities that are available to every single one of us. Every one of us can do something for someone. My prayer, Lord, is that that compassion would multiply and multiply and multiply, and that the Goodness of God would cover the earth, and the earth would rejoice and give God glory.

Jesus went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, and we are His people, and He is in us. We can do all things because He is saying "yes" and "amen" to us. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

My prayer, Lord, is that we will all find our place. We will all find ourselves in places where we are restoring and rebuilding and doing it joyfully and happily and seeing more money come through our ministry than we have ever seen before because we have learned how to be ambassadors of a Kingdom that is richer than all the nations of the earth combined because everything in the earth belongs to the Lord anyway and He is going to find a way to give it to us.

And again Lord, I just want to ask that we would just have the pleasure of representing You with absolute excellence because Jesus deserves that.

Amen