

## Prayer Transformation Ministries Email Newsletter – Teaching for 4/25/07

### Hold On to Hope

The daily news seems to cry out that things are getting worse. Headlines of shootings, violence, bombings, and devastating weather patterns dominate the airwaves. Political and racial divisions seem to be deepening. From a news perspective, we seem a long way from healing in our nation. One might rightfully ask, *what in the world is going on?*

Some might look at the circumstances around us with despair, wondering if we have stepped past the point of “no return” and into a time of judgment from God. While not claiming to be prophetic, it seems that we are actually approaching one of the most hopeful times we’ve ever experienced. This is not based on overactive natural optimism, but rather on the working of God in the history of the Church and on the promises of His Word. Those who are currently living in God-birthed, presence-based transformation (Fiji, Canadian Artic, etc.) can offer us hope with two key words: *desperation* with *expectation*.

Desperation with expectation seems to be the key to ushering in the greatest revival and transformation our nation has ever seen. Those key words have unlocked seemingly hopeless situations and opened the door for God to come with His transforming power to change lives, cities, society, and even the ecology of the land!

### Becoming Desperate

*Desperate* is defined as “reckless or dangerous because of despair or urgency.” A natural reaction would be to fear living in desperate times. We would rather have our life situations be peaceful and controlled. But when desperation is properly understood, it can be one of the best things to overtake our lives. Desperation brings us to that place of realizing that all our options have run out. It drives us to the place of saying, as King Jehoshaphat did in 2 Chronicles 20:12, *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.* In a society that continually looks for “plan B” as a way of escape, desperation leaves us with no other options. We can devise no other plans or rely on our own human creativity and ingenuity. We must rely solely on God for the way out.

Desperation, however, is always a choice. We don’t *have* to choose God’s way. God will give us plenty of warnings and sign posts along the way, but we can continue on our self-willed road. We are seeing such warnings today that are hard to miss in the daily headlines! We can choose desperation in our own hearts and begin to cry out, or God in His mercy will continue to allow circumstances that increase our hopelessness. Will we heed the warnings and cry out in our desperation to God as our only hope?

### With Expectation

The wonderful news is that there is indeed hope. In more than 500 locations around the earth, people of God have come to that point of desperation. They have sincerely cried out to Jesus and found that He is true to His Word. When the Lord says, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14),

*He means it!* God is always faithful and true to His Word—and will always keep His part of that covenant.

God is proving His faithfulness to His promise to people in seemingly hopeless situations. ***In total abandonment to Him, they have become reckless and dangerous in their expectation that God will hear them and answer with healing and restoration.*** They simply fall into His arms with no preconditions, no escape clauses, and no plan B—only the expectation of answered prayer according to His promise.

### **Live in Hope**

As we look around at the frightening condition of our nation and our cities, what is our reaction? Do we give in to fear and hopelessness? Or do we set aside our agendas and strategies to simply declare, *God, you are our only hope. If you don't show up we're done!* Allow God to show you everything in your lives, relationships, and communities that have hindered His manifest presence. Then confess and repent, looking with expectation for the transformation that only He can bring. In the midst of these times, hold on to the hope of desperation with expectation.