Special Celebration Service

Pastor John Bendixen 27 October 2024

I started to study the role that elders have played in the mind and heart of God in the nation of Israel. It's an amazing thing that when God sent Moses to deliver Israel, the first thing He told Moses was to go and talk to the elders. They were the older men of Israel that were given the authority to make decisions on behalf of the community because of their status of wisdom and age and maturity.

The church is in danger of being a commodity. How does the church become a commodity? I trade my energy and my time to show up at church and in return you trade with me by giving me some feel good spirituality and some good messages. But God never intended it to be a commodity, He always intended it to be a covenant.

2024: The spiritual meaning of the number 24 in the Bible encompasses Divine order, completeness, worship, priesthood, the establishment of God's Kingdom, judgment, holiness and consecration. As we encounter this significant number in scripture we are reminded of God's sovereign plan, our call to worship and to serve Him; and the importance of living lives that are set apart for His purposes. Furthermore the number 24 may signify a Divine shift or a season of change in one's life. It encourages us to trust in God's guiding hand and to embrace the new opportunities He presents.

In 2023 the Lord began to say, "It's time for us to crossover," and then in March 2024 the Lord said, "Reset time, it's a new season, the shift is over, it's time to go into the new phase." And then a month later Brother Jerry passed away. God is not confused about His plan. This is a moment for us to rejoice that we are in the middle of everything God is doing and saying and talking about right now. This should give us a whole lot of confidence that we can just go with God.

Covenant is a significant, formal, very purposeful agreement between parties. God has made covenant with us and He's intentional about it, He's been very deliberate about it, and it's His highest form of agreement that He could do, to get into agreement with Himself, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and then use the power of that formal arrangement to fulfill all of His plans on the earth and in our lives.

You are spiritually far more valuable to God when you're at a mature age than when you're 25. I'm not demeaning 25-year-olds, I'm elevating the elders. The Bible says that there are 24 elders that sit on the thrones in Revelation. They reflect eternal leadership, eternal spirituality, eternal authority, eternal strength.

The younger generation have disdain for the older generation because they don't run with technology or with social media. Because older people are not focused on that, younger people say they're not with it. But maybe older people have got something that can help the younger people move past the identity crisis that they're experiencing in social media. God designed it so that the older people would slow down the younger people. The younger people would use their energy to contribute to greater acceleration of things in the whole community and the two combined are supposed to make it work great.

The Church is the place that God has got a covenant with us as a people. It's not about buildings, it's not about events. It's about how many relationships God can use that are powerful relationships to reflect Christ.



The Lord has been speaking to me about our progression, our advancement, our promotion, things that God wants us to do and where we need to go. I believe that there is going to be through our ministry two pillars of strength that are going to grow. One pillar of strength is a young generation that wants to go across into the Promised Land and they will not take no for an answer. Alongside it, God is going to increase the strength of the maturing aging people and He's going to reveal His wisdom, His glory, and the secrets of His mystery of generations gone by because their renewal of their spirit will cooperate with a younger generation who want to pursue God.

God is going to elevate our voice as a church, as messengers that will be able to preach the Gospel to many people. I saw that there are older people that are waiting to give up their lives because energy has run out. When the Spirit of God touches them they will begin to have dreams and visions and begin to prophesy because their spirit man is renewed even though their bodies are weak. They can speak the mysteries of God into the earth. They can be the voice of God even though they may not be the voice of God in public places, they will be the voice of God in rooms, in hospitals, in homes, to children, to families, to communities because God can use them to speak.

When your lips are under the order of God and under His control, your inequities are removed. ⁷... Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." ⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:7-8, NKJV). Who do you think God was talking about when He said, "Who will go for us?" It was the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. "Who will go for us?" Then Isaiah's answer was, "Here am I, send me." After this Isaiah's life was never easy because he prophesied things that the children of Israel didn't want to hear because there was a repentance required. But what a moment that he could say, "Here am I, send me."

So, after 24 years of celebrating ministry together, I'm here for only one reason - because He sent me. I didn't come and start a church. I'm not a self-appointed one, I'm a sent one. I want to tell you, my time has just begun, and I'm inviting you to come on another 24 year journey with me. Will you? I've had these moments with the Lord, I will be here on this earth fully active in God for another 24 years at least.

It's always been in my heart that God would call us together and we would all be sent together. Do you want to be in agreement with me that we say to the Lord, "Here am I. Send me." We've got places to go, we've got things to do for God, we've got a message to preach, we've got God encounters to have everywhere we go. We've got God's order to bring into a world that is desperate. We've got people that need to get saved, we've got people to touch, we've got people to train and we've got people to transfer to.

