

HILLTOP HOUSE OF PRAYER - SUNDAY SERVICE

RECEIVING THE MANTLE

Receiving The Mantle

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This past week was an historic occasion as Rev. Billy Graham lay in repose at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Many government leaders spoke at the event and came to show their respect, including the President, Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.
- B. The President spoke in his honor, recounting how this North Carolina farm boy went on to impact the globe, preaching the Gospel to more than 200 million people in person, and countless others through radio and television. Our President thanked God for Billy Graham's extraordinary life as "an ambassador for Christ who reminded the world of the power of prayer and the gift of God's grace.
- C. Then in his closing remarks, the President prayed a very poignant prayer for our nation, "that all across the land the Lord would raise up men and women like Billy Graham to spread the message of love and hope to every precious child of God!"

II. THE MANTLE OF AWAKENING

- A. Many leaders believe that the passing of Billy Graham marks a specific season on God's time-table that signals the greatest move of the Holy Spirit the world has ever seen! Lou Engle wrote on the day of Graham's passing, "It is my conviction that his passing is the signpost of a new day of evangelism and stadium Christianity breaking forth in America Again!"
- B. Then Benny Hinn prophesied in 2012 that when Graham transitioned into glory there would be a company that will, "move in manifestation of power where there won't be just power on one or two, but on multiplied thousands". He said, "It be the key, the sign, of the beginning of the greatest revival on earth!"
- C. Chris Berglund, a prophetic leader of TheCall and friend of Lou Engle, had a dream shortly before Azusa Now in which he saw T.L. Osborne, Billy Graham, and Derek Prince circled in prayer in the upper section of the stadium. Then last summer he was told in a dream, "At Billy Graham's home-going the greatest evangelistic outpouring will be ushered in!"
- D. I believe this is a season where we need to specifically pay attention to the prophetic sign-posts, and pray into them, that God will fulfill all of His purposes for this generation.

"Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you!" (Isa. 60:1-2)
- E. "Your light has come..." Church! Yes, the darkness is trying to overtake our land, our nation – but God's power is being released upon the Church in dramatic proportions, in this hour!

III. THE MANTLE OF ANOINTING

- A. There is a mantle of anointing that God has for us to walk in today, but we must enter into it!

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- B. The example of Elijah and Elisha describe the passing of the mantle. “The mantle”, was a cloak that the prophet covered himself with. It represents the anointing of God, (the power of the Holy Spirit that is available to each of us.)
- C. 2 Kings 2, describe the passing of Elijah’s mantle to Elisha. Elijah kept telling His protégé, Elisha – “Stay here!” (2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6). Elisha responded, “I will not leave you!” each time.
- “Then Elijah said to Elisha, ‘stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!’ So they went down to Bethel” (2 Ki. 2:2).***
- D. Then, before Elijah leaves this earth, he poses a question to Elisha:
- “...Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?’ Elisha said, ‘Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’ So he said, ‘You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you. It shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so’”. (2 Ki. 2:9).***
- E. The mantle, the anointing of God -- the presence of the Holy Spirit is available in a new measure to you and I today. There are new levels of anointing that God wants to impart to us! Anointing to preach the gospel, to release powerful miracles of healing and deliverance, and to see people set free!
- F. But here is the key: We have to want it! We have to desire it! We have to seek it! Elijah said, “*You have asked a hard thing!*” (2 Ki. 2:10). Why? Because it will not come to just the casual seeker! There has to be a fire burning deep on the inside that says, “*I want God’s presence! I must have more of Jesus now! I can’t live without you, Lord!*”

IV. THE STARTING PLACE – PRAYER!

- A. The starting place for receiving the Mantle is prayer. Throughout scripture, Elijah is a picture of what happens when people give themselves to seeking God through prayer. I know Billy Graham new the importance of this principle. It is said of Elijah, that “he prayed!” (James 5:16b-18)
- “... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth produced its fruit” (James 5:16b-18).***
- B. Three times in 1 Kings 17, we see the miracle working power of God operating through the prophet Elijah. Binding/loosing. No rain – rain! (1 Ki 17:1) Second, miracle of provision (1Ki. 17:4-6, 8-16), Third, miracle of healing of widows son – (1 Ki. 17:17-24)
- C. Do you want the mantle of the Holy Spirit? Are you ready for the mantle? Elijah said, “*You have asked a hard thing!*” But it is available, and it is possible!