

## THE PURPOSES OF GOD - PART II

By Todd Bentley

### GOD'S WARNING: "DON'T DEPEND ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING!"

In North America today, there is a wasting disease in the souls of Christians because they haven't understood how to wait, receive and operate in the word of knowledge. Many just do whatever they want to and ask God to bless it because they don't have time to seek Him first. While I was in Moravian Falls, the Lord warned me to be careful of this tendency for us as believers to depend on our understanding instead of the voice of the Spirit. Along with a download of more of a prophetic mantle, the Lord also gave me a warning. He told me to be careful to always walk in His mandate and commission.

God said to me, "Everywhere you go, in every city, every nation and in every meeting, I have something to do and something to say. So Todd, I want you to be careful that you don't just do what you do because you've done it before and it worked. Because you've been in ministry so long now Todd, you could just preach the word and just do things the way you've done it before and my blessing would be there. But you may not be ultimately operating in the realm of power that I want to release. I want you to be more careful than you've been before. I'm bringing you into this season, Todd, to understand that you're not just having meetings, that you're not just getting paid to minister, not just filling another gap in your schedule and you're not just going to another city because they asked you to come so many times that you finally said 'all right'. I don't want you to just judge what's happening in a meeting in the natural."

I've learned how to gauge meetings pretty good in the natural. I've learned how to gauge what the church is like and what they will receive and what their stream is. I know what goes on in the Vineyard, over in the Prophetic churches and over in the Pentecostal churches. I've learnt what you can do in each stream. If I'm in a church that I know is into the river, I can go in there and just be really drunk. But if I'm going into a Pentecostal church I know that I don't want to go in really drunk and so I'm always a little bit more careful to try to conform to the pattern of what I think I need to do based on what I know about them in the natural. But we're talking about operating in the realm of the knowledge of God, not natural knowledge. Jesus said, "I want you to be careful, because I don't see it the way you see it". He said, "Even if there are only 10 people in the place, I don't want you to follow your human reasoning about what I want to do. I have a purpose, a mandate and a commission in every city, every province, and every nation, every night."

The Lord called this word to me "The purposes of God". Then He directed me to Ephesians 1:11: "Having been predestined according to his purpose, who works all things after the council of his will." Next, in verse five, God showed me that "He predestined us to the adoption as sons, through Jesus Christ himself according to the kind intention of his will". Then the Lord reminded me again to seek Him for His purpose and council in everything. Wisdom, knowledge and understanding are connected to the exceeding greatness of his power. I saw from the previous passages of scripture that those purposes were predestined. The Word "purpose" refers to things that God has set forth in eternity before the foundation of the world.

### SEEING GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES

In a recent discussion, Keith Davis gave me a great illustration for understanding eternity. He showed me a 30-centimetre ruler and pointed out that we can see centimeter one and centimeter 30. He said, from God's perspective, centimeter one is the beginning of time and centimeter 30 is the end of time. We discussed how God can see it all at once just like we can see the beginning and end of the ruler. God is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and end, the everlasting Father and the great "I am". He has seen the beginning of time, the end of time and everything in between. When you're in centimeter three, He sees number four. He sees every millimeter in between, because He is an all-knowing God. He is the great I am. Before anyone else was, He was. He is the one who was, who is and who is to come. There's never been anybody before Him or after Him -- He is God.

Then I realized that if I would abandon my natural reasoning, by the Holy Spirit I could go into the heavens where there is no time and catch a glimpse of God's purposes in any situation. The Holy Spirit will show me things that are yet to come. So I can see my 'Spirit of Elijah' conference even before I get there; I can see all my other meetings before I get there and I can see the miracles before they happen in the natural. God wants to give us these glimpses into the future because He has things that he has purposed and predestined in eternity before the foundation of the world.

All I have to do is get into those heavenly places and invite the Holy Spirit to breathe on me with His Spirit of wisdom, revelation, understanding, counsel and might. I've said to Him, "Holy Spirit, I want to see the millimeter. I want to see centimeter four even though I'm right back here in centimeter three." Hallelujah, that's the ministry of Jesus. You see, we need to understand, as it says in Ecclesiastes 3:1, that there is an appointed time for everything and every event under heaven. God does those things according to His divine purposes. Ministry is as easy as hearing. I have found that there is not one thing that God was not willing to talk to me about if I would take the time to ask him. His sheep hear His voice.

A while back Bobby Connors asked me if he could come to Canada. He said he had a word for our nation. I said, "OK Bobby, if you want to come to Canada I'll put on a conference". A while later the Holy Spirit began to deal with my heart. He said Todd, what are you doing? Have you even understood the things that I've set forth in heaven that I want to release for that conference? It wasn't until two weeks ago that I could actually say I had a visitation from the Lord Jesus and began to get the things that God wanted to do. It's not that God didn't want to do anything. It's that I didn't ask him. So I decided I was going to ask God. I lay down for an hour and had three visitations, saw the release of the anointing that was coming and things that God was going to do even before he had done them. Now I'm really excited because now I really understand what God has set forth in heaven -- it won't just be another meeting. You see, the Lord dealt with my heart -- I know now that there is nothing that God would not speak to me about if I would take the time to ask him.

### GOD GAVE US THE KEY TO THE NATION

A few weeks before going to Uganda recently, I came to the Lord and asked him what he wanted to do there. I went up into the spirit and saw the children, the miracles, the signs and wonders. I saw that my key to breakthrough in Uganda was the remnant. We need to understand that in Uganda the whole nation is just about to be wiped out by AIDS. Over 50% of them have the virus and in many areas it's just the children that have survived. God said, "Todd those are the ones I want you to pray for -- the blind ones, the deaf ones and those children with AIDS". There's a whole generation of young people that are 12 and younger that God wants to save -- they're the remnant.

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