

Revival Harvest

Feb 22, 2009 -- By Pastor Dr. Ron Wolfe

Acts 18:10 *For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*

I. THE PROMISE

- A. "I am with thee"
- B. When Jesus was on earth, his name was Immanuel: "God with us."
- C. Now that he is gone, he gives us a promise that he will "never leave us nor forsake us." (Heb. 13:5).
- D. 2 Cor. 11:23-28 READ
- E. Ye in all of this, God was with Paul in all of his travels and his troubles.
- F. Now he is in Corinth, and God says that he is still with him.
- G. In bad or good, in good times, in troublesome times, God is with us.
- H. We need not fear man nor what men can do, because God has promised his presence with us. Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- I. So with boldness we must go forward and give the gospel to every creature: Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- J. This promise will be very important as we continue in this message.

II. THE PROTECTION

- A. "No man shall set on thee to hurt thee"
- B. If God wants a missionary to go to a foreign field, he will, first of all, prepare him; then he will protect him.
- C. We have known of missionaries who go to the mission field with great dangers lurking in the shadows. We have even now some who could be in very great danger if they were exposed to certain people in certain ways.
- D. Our own dear Bro. Bob Jones was taken to jail in India, and he did not know whether he would be able to come back to the United States, but God protected him; and he is now back with us in the states.
- E. If God wants us to be a witness in this city and the surrounding areas, he will protect us. He will supply our need according to his riches in glory, and he will be with us. If it is his will, he will not allow anyone to set on us to do us hurt.
- F. In great stress of heart and mind, many preachers and missionaries have been faithful to their work throughout their lives with tremendous odds. Should we do less as their sponsors? Should we simply send our money to them and excuse ourselves from the same labor and interest that they have for lost souls? Of course not.
- G. We have a human fear, because we really do not believe that God will protect us, even though theologically and doctrinally we believe that he will.

- H. If we do not believe it in practice, then we have no right to believe it in theory.
- I. I understand the fear, because my nature is not one of superiority over others but of submission to others. But in God's work we must stand up straight, fight the battles, and, having done all, to stand (Eph. 6:13).

III. THE POWER

- A. "I have much people in this city"
- B. As we sit on the boardwalk on the edge of a bay, we can see the sailboard whipping along as the wind carries them. This is a beautiful sight! It is a natural sight.
- C. This scene can teach us much about the harvest of revival.
 1. If the wind blows and the man on the sailboat does not raise his sails, he will not reap the reward of the wind's blowing his sails so that he can travel along on the water to his destination.
 2. Sometimes, when the wind of revival is blowing, we forget to raise our sails, and the wind just blows by, and we are in the same place as we were before the winds began to blow.
 3. There is some wind blowing now in our area. People are actually listening to the gospel from time to time.
 4. Many are listening to TV programs and radio programs.
 5. There are many religious groups out there with their sails up. They are catching the wind of interest from people who have religious interests. Some catch them into their churches and teach them all sorts of doctrines.
 6. The sail is the Gospel. It is that which can catch the wind and help us travel on the Gospel way.
 7. If we do not raise the sails of the Gospel, then we will not catch the winds of revival's harvest.
 8. If I believe that First Baptist Church is the best church in town, then why do I not raise the sail of the Gospel and catch the wind?
 9. Many are waiting out there for our Gospel to be preached, the Gospel of grace, of assurance, of hope.
 10. But our sails are down. We are going around and around on the water as if we are in a whirlwind.
 11. Let's get our sails up!
 12. Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
 13. One day the wind may stop stirring. With a new socialist government coming and steps toward Communism seeming to be coming our way, the advantages that we have right now to preach the Gospel should be exercised in a great way.
 14. While the winds are stirring, we should be giving the Gospel on every doorstep, in the market, and in our homes.
 15. Some of us are no longer strong enough to walk from house to house to give the Gospel; let the younger people do that. We can, however, discover other ways to get the Gospel to as many as possible.
 16. Today I want volunteers to sign up to be captains of the Gospel Ship so that we can

- raise the sails and capture the wind.
17. I don't know of any place where truly born-again people can learn and enjoy the things of the Lord more than right here at First Baptist Church.
 18. Come help us raise the sails! Let's get the Gospel out. If we plow, the harvest will be ours. God will increase the crop according to his will and will add to the church as he sees fit. But the Gospel must first be preached in all the world—that is our job.
 19. By catching the wind, that means that we have a purpose and a destination.
 20. The Great Commission tells us that we are to teach all nations, baptize them, and teach them all things that the Lord has taught. This is our duty and privilege.
 21. I do not know of any more truth anywhere than right here in this church. I am thankful for the truth, and I am not ashamed of it.
 22. Many are being caught up by modern religions, which are not satisfied with their salvation. They are constantly seeking for something greater. We are satisfied with God's grace and rest in the assurance of this grace. We want to praise and worship him in spirit and truth.
 23. Let us catch the wind so the wind can catch the blessings of truth.