

WHAT NOW?

AWAKEN SERIES #11

Introduction: Are you getting enough rest?

- Each of us needs a certain number of hours sleep to refresh our body and to function well.
 - The number of hours required can vary from person to person.
 - The quality of that sleep is important.

QUOTE: (from Asbury attendant) *“We don’t want something more, but something distilled and real”*

- Distilled = having been shortened/reduced so that only the essential meaning, or most important aspects remain.

Exodus 33:14 *The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

Hebrews 4:9-10 *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.*

1. Freely Give

Luke 9:1-2 *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

- Power from the Holy Spirit that rested on Jesus he gives to his disciples.
- Authority to represent Jesus.
- Various types of healing:
 - Curing disease is the elimination of a specific disease or condition (e.g. blind receiving sight)
 - Healing aims for a deeper sense of wholeness.
 - Healing can occur on physical, emotional and spiritual level.

- Requires the patient’s engagement in their own recovery.
 - e.g., some physical healing requires the release of unforgiveness, bitterness and anger.
 - Matthew records an extra phrase “*Freely you have received; freely give.*”

2. The Strategy (from Luke 10)

BACKGROUND: Jesus sending out the seventy.

- They had witnessed the feeding of 5,000 (Luke 9:10-17)
- Some had witnessed the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)

(a) Pray for Workers

Luke 10:2 *He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

(b) Pray for Peace

Luke 10:5-6 *When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.*

- Rarely will you get anywhere with argument.
 - See how you are received; if conversational or hospitable, then continue...

(c) Pray for the sick

Luke 10:9 *Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’*

(d) Share the gospel.

3. The Report

Luke 10:17 *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*

- They wonder that it really worked!
 - Even the demonic must submit.

Luke 10:18 *He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven...”*

- Satan’s fall was swift
 - Speaks of Jesus’ pre-existence and power.

Luke 10:19 *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

- “Snakes and scorpions” is a reference to evil spirits
 - All venom and pain caused by spiritual darkness can be overcome in Jesus’ Name.
 - It’s like Jesus is saying “why are you surprised?”
- Counterfeit faith can arise

Acts 19.1-7...11-16 *While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all...

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

- In these circumstances it doesn't pay to fake it.

Luke 10:20 “...However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

- Rejoice that God knows YOUR name...

Conclusion: An Iraqi war medic who visited Asbury during the outpouring was being interviewed by a reporter. He described the look of desperation on a soldier's face prior to death. He said, “I saw a similar look on the faces of some of the visitors at Asbury.”

- Are we desperate enough to “let go and let God”?