

"Spiritual Audacity & Moral Grandeur"

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Scripture: Luke

Message by Pastor Tommy Reid

INTRODUCTION:

I love the beauty of language, especially the beauty of the English language when used with skill. Language can create WORD PICTURES that stir our emotions and cause us imagine, dream and to see things that are even more wonderful and beautiful than what we see with our physical eyes.

We live in a SIGHT and SOUND generation, and most of the information that we utilize to create our lives comes from this media driven world. Gone is the world of the great orators when we sat spellbound by the beauty of their language and the power of their words.

And yet God used words to create the whole universe. Today, please go back with me to a former generation when our lives were influenced and created by the power of words and not images on a screen.

MESSAGE:

There are two phrases that have tremendous meaning and those phrases are: ***Spiritual Audacity*** and ***Moral Grandeur***.

The word pictures I want these words to create are these:

Spiritual Audacity: We can converse with God.

Moral Grandeur: We can do the works of God.

Those two phenomenal word pictures can change your life. They speak of the Spiritual Audacity of prayer ...the Moral Grandeur of doing the works of God and changing the world.

Take out your bulletin and read the words I have quoted from Abraham Herschel:

"Public worship is an act of the highest importance. However, it tends to become a spectacle in which the congregation remains passive, inert spectators. But prayer is action; it requires complete mobilization of the heart, mind and soul. I plead for the primacy of prayer in our inner existence. Prayer is either exceedingly relevant or inane and useless.



Prayer is not a stratagem for occasional use, a refuge to resort to now and then. It is rather like an established residence for the innermost self.

All things have a home, the bird has a nest, the fox has a hole, the bee has a hive. A soul without prayer is a soul without a home. Weary, sobbing, the soul, after roaming through a world festered with aimlessness, falsehoods, and absurdities, seeks a moment in which to gather up its scattered life, in which to divest itself of enforced pretensions and camouflage, in which to simplify complexities, in which to call for help without being a coward. Such a home is prayer."

This is the first Sabbath day of 2010. I want to urge you to develop a new life of prayer and fellowship with God.

Prayer is action! It will, as Herschell said, mobilize your heart mind and soul.

What a privilege for us to have fellowship with the very God who created the universe, and then redeemed us with His own blood.

In that new dedication that we will have to have fellowship with God, I would like to introduce you to our theme for 2010.

Kingdom Renovation
Renewing Your World, Kingdom Style

In a year long series of messages, we as pastors will be challenging you to let God give you an extreme make over spiritually so that you will become the hands, arms, feet, and voice of Jesus and remake the world around you.

Here are our themes for 2010:

1. Stewardship of our planet, and our individual lives.
2. Fellowship with one another as we build a relational model of the church.
3. Understanding the church by what we believe, and why we believe it.
4. The mission of the church - where are we called to go, and what are we called to do!

This hour calls for high Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity!



So, let's talk about those two things:

First, the Spiritual Audacity of Prayer

1. We can pray, and praying is the most powerful force in the world!

I quote the Jewish prophet, Herschell when he said: "Edifices are growing, but worship is decaying. The church has become the grave yard where prayer is buried. The spiritual leaders of the church have become members of a burial society. There are many who labor in the vineyard of oratory, but do not know how to pray, or to inspire others to pray."

I ask you, where has prayer gone in the church?

What do we do to make this a house of prayer and this people a people of prayer?

2. Praying is evidence that God is 'at home' within our being, and that we are the dwelling place of God, and that God speaks to us.

Ephesians 3:18b "...that Christ may dwell in your hearts..."

When a believer is in prayer, then God is 'at home' because Christ lives in our hearts. Prayer involves our entire being. And so, again I quote the prophet, Herschell, "Prayer is the microcosm of the soul. It is the whole soul in one moment. The quintessence of all our acts, the climax of all our thoughts. It rises as high as our thoughts."

If God does not have the power to speak to us, how should we possess the power to speak to Him?

The total spiritual situation of man and upon a mind within God is at home!

3. The issue of prayer is the issue of God.

There is something far greater than my desire to pray, namely, it is God's desire that I pray. There is something greater than my will to believe, namely, it is God's will that I believe.



4. Prayer changes the world!

Again, the words of the Jewish prophet, Herschell: "Great is the power of prayer. For to worship (or pray) is to expand the presence of God in the world."

God is transcendent, but our worship makes Him imminent.

When we say, 'blessed is He' we bestow His Spirit upon this world.

Prayer is an act of wonder and a radical amazement.

5. Prayer is the natural environment of the believer.

Here are some radical words:

We do not just refuse to pray, we abstain from it, for it is our natural environment!

To pray:

...is to notice the wonder

...is to regain the sense of the mystery that animates all beings

Prayer is the answer to the inconceivable surprise of living!

Now, let's get to our second statement or the second truth of our message today:

Moral Grandeur

If we are the righteousness of God in Christ, then we are Christ in the world & that is Moral Grandeur

If, then we are Christ in our world, then we are qualified to do the works of Christ!

We are His hands, His feet, His voice to the world.

If, then, our prayers can change the world and expand His presence in the world, and make God not only transcendent, but imminent, then we must move from Spiritual Audacity to Moral Grandeur!



Moral Grandeur is who we are & what we do!
What this new race of people can do on the earth.

We have just experienced Extreme Makeover and that brings several questions to our mind.

- A. Can we believe for a make over of our world and our culture?
- B. Do we have the Moral Grandeur to believe that we are the people of God?
- C. Do we have the Spiritual Audacity to believe that we are the people that God can use to change the world?

Moral Grandeur: *every deed counts.*
We can change the world with our actions!

What can this new race of people do on the earth?

But that brings us back to our first point of Spiritual Audacity.

Spiritual Audacity

We can talk to God & God can talk to us!
We can fill the world with His presence.
God is transcendent but prayer makes God imminent!

