

Dr T.L Osborn



Miracle Life Seminar

PART 3: OUR RESPONSE TO HIS MANDATE

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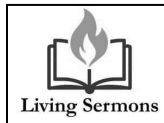
Miracle Life Seminar

Part 3: Our Response to His Mandate

Preacher: Dr. T.L Osborn

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

Watch Live Video [Here](#)



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Preacher: Dr. T.L Osborn

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Foreword

There are messages that encourage believers, messages that teach doctrine, and messages that inspire faith. Then there are messages that fundamentally redefine how a believer sees God, the Church, and his or her place in God's redemptive purpose. This book belongs to the latter.

In these pages, T.L. Osborn does far more than present another lesson on ministry. He issues a passionate call for Christians to rediscover the original purpose of the Gospel. With remarkable clarity, he reminds us that Jesus did not merely come to save us from sin—He came to reveal the Father, to demonstrate God's love in action, and to continue His ministry through ordinary believers filled with the Holy Spirit.

One of the defining themes of this message is responsibility. Osborn repeatedly challenges the modern tendency to pursue personal blessing while neglecting the world's desperate need for Christ. Instead of asking, "How can I receive more?" he urges believers to ask, "How can I give more?" Instead of waiting for someone else's anointing, he points readers back to the Holy Spirit already given to every believer. Instead of building ministry around personalities, he points us back to the person of Jesus Christ.

Throughout these pages, readers will notice Osborn's unmistakable warmth, practical wisdom, and missionary heart. His illustrations are drawn not merely from theory but from decades of preaching the Gospel across nations, witnessing countless lives transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. His stories are deeply personal, yet every testimony serves a greater purpose: to persuade believers that the Gospel still works, God's promises remain true, and the Great Commission is still the Church's highest calling.

Perhaps one of the strongest impressions this message leaves is that every Christian has a part to play. Whether in the marketplace, the local church, the mission field, or everyday life, God continues His work through people who simply say, "Yes." Osborn

presents ministry not as the privilege of a select few but as the shared commission of every follower of Christ.

As editors, our responsibility has been to faithfully preserve the voice, passion, humour, and teaching of this message while carefully proofreading and formatting the transcript for clarity and ease of reading. Every effort has been made to maintain the integrity of the original sermon while presenting it in a form suitable for careful study, personal devotion, and ministry training.

We encourage you to read this book slowly. Reflect on the Scriptures. Consider the questions the author asks. Allow the Holy Spirit to challenge long-held assumptions and renew your understanding of God's purpose for your life. More than simply acquiring knowledge, seek the transformation that comes from embracing Christ's commission as your own.

Our prayer is that these pages will rekindle a passion for souls, deepen your confidence in the Gospel, and remind you that Jesus Christ still continues His ministry through those who willingly represent Him in the world.

May this message strengthen your faith, enlarge your vision, and inspire you to respond wholeheartedly to the call of Christ.

Grace and peace,

— Wisdom Epsi

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **for Dr. [T.L Osborn](#)**

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— ***Livingsermons.com***

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

In the King James Version, the opening of the Book of Acts contains one remarkable sentence. You do not find a period until you reach the end of the fourth verse. Old-fashioned sixteenth-century King James English used many commas, semicolons, and colons, but very few periods. Their paragraphs were incredibly long, making them more difficult to follow. All of this appears in the first four verses of the Book of Acts, and I believe that is exactly where it belongs. I call it *the bridge sentence*—the sentence that connects the ministry of Jesus in a Jew from Nazareth with the ministry of Jesus in people like you and me, His followers.

After Jesus died and ascended back to heaven, this bridge sentence explains how His ministry continues. It contains, I believe, seven indispensable principles for carrying on what Jesus began. That is our mission, isn't it? That is the purpose of the Church—to continue what Jesus began. If the Church fails to do that, somehow she has missed her purpose.

These studies are offered to encourage believers everywhere. Let us keep on doing what Jesus did. If we embrace these seven major principles and allow them to become part of us, we will be able to fulfil that mission. Everything about Christianity is miraculous. Because of that, I chose the word **MIRACLE** as an acronym—a framework within which we can organise and expand these seven principles.

Everything about Christianity is a miracle. I have said it before, and I will continue to say it throughout these studies: if we remove the miraculous from Christianity, all we have left is a philosophy. Christianity is far more than a philosophy because it is the miracle-working power of God that makes Christianity what it is.

Future studies will focus on each of these principles.

CHAPTER ONE

Christ: Our Model

The first letter, **M**, comes from the opening words of Acts:

"All that Jesus began both to do and teach..." (Acts 1:1, KJV)

When I looked at that, I thought, *That's the M*. Christ is our **Model**.

Our first study was about absorbing His ministry and His teaching as our model. We must never drift away from that.

Inspiration from His Life

The next letter is **I**.

The next portion of the sentence says:

"...until the day in which he was taken up..." (Acts 1:2, KJV)

That was the subject of our last study together.

Nothing compares with beholding the ministry of Jesus as our model, our example, and our Leader in everything He did and taught—from Nazareth until His ascension.

That is where I draw my inspiration.

If we are not drawing our inspiration from Him—from what He did and how He did it—then we need to examine where our ideas are coming from. I want to stay with the ministry of Jesus. I want to watch everything He did from the day He began in Nazareth until the day He was taken up.

That inspires me.

I become excited as I watch Him.

I do not understand how some preachers can become dull and boring, and then make their congregations dull and boring as well. Somewhere they have chosen the wrong model. They have missed the wonder of Christ's exciting ministry of helping people.

Many preachers stand behind the pulpit without a genuine heart for hurting people.

But when you think about hurting people, you realise that pain is real. When people hurt, they truly hurt. When they are sad, they are sad. When they are lost or confused, they genuinely suffer.

Our goal is to help them—to bring them out of that condition and into joy.

That is why we call it **Good News**.

People often ask me, "Why do you always have such large crowds wherever you go?"

I answer, "It's simple. We always have good news. We never bring bad news."

If you preach good news, a hurting world will want to hear it.

The religions of the world have no good news. Go to a Buddhist meeting—they are lifeless. Go to a Muslim gathering and hear the repetitive prayers that seem to drift through the air with an atmosphere of sorrow.

But come to our meetings. They are beautiful because we are reporters of Good News.

Become one of those reporters.

When you finish these studies, make sure that is exactly what you become.

Our Response to His Mandate

Today we come to the third letter:

R.

Continuing in that same sentence in Acts, we read:

"...he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments..." (Acts 1:2, KJV)

Think about that.

He, through the Holy Ghost, **gave commandments.**

To whom?

Does it involve you?

Are you interested in it?

Do you believe those commandments are for you?

He, through the Holy Ghost, gave commandments.

He gave us a mandate.

That is where I found the third letter:

M-I-R

Response to His Mandate.

That is our subject today.

The remaining letters we will study in future sessions.

The Seven Lessons

Lesson One:

His Example for Us.

Lesson Two:

His Impact on Us.

Today's lesson:

His Choice of Us.

Lesson One answers the question:

How do we see God?

Jesus is the Model.

Lesson Two asks:

How do we see ourselves?

"...until the day He was taken up..."

That demonstrates what we are to become in action today.

Lesson Three asks:

How do we see our world?

"...He through the Holy Ghost gave commandment..."

The next lessons will answer:

- What do we do about it?
- How do we do it?
- Why do we succeed?
- What are our possibilities?

CHAPTER TWO

The Miracle Poem

I thought it would be nice to read you a poem that came into my heart about this whole subject. Would you like to hear it?

Poetry is wonderful. After all, the largest book in the Bible is poetry put to song, so there is certainly a place for it.

This is called:

The Way I Spell a Miracle

Everything about this is miraculous.

Our mission is a miracle that has seven golden keys.

M means **My Model**—

Christ who lives in me.

I means **Inspiration**—

Because the fields are white, I see vast opportunities to turn darkness into light.

Get the tape, copy it down, read it, put it to music, and sing it.

R is my **Resolved Response**.

That is today's lesson.

*I'm part of God's great plan.
Though few have answered, I will go.
God's will is my command.*

Can you say that?

The fourth great key in **MIRACLE** is **A**.

It stands for **Action**.

By deeds His seeds are sown.

Have I given you that little book, **Believers in Action**, yet?

Not yet?

Well, we will during one of these sessions.

On the back of that book I wrote a little piece. My daughter, Dr. LaDonna, and I wrote the book together, and each of us contributed something for the back cover.

What is written on the back is almost worth the price of the whole book—but we'll give it to you anyway, and you won't have to pay for it.

I wrote these words:

*We paint our picture of Christ in our world every day that we live—by our words,
our deeds, and our actions.*

You are painting a picture of Christ all the time.

That is why I wrote:

By deeds His seeds are sown.

Next comes **C**.

It stands for **Credibility**.

That will be our next lesson.

If the Gospel is for one, then everyone deserves a chance to know what Christ has done.

Do you believe that?

The next key is **L**.

It stands for **Legality**.

*Christ's blood declares I'm safe; I'm free.
There's no more penalty.*

This is only poetry, but every one of these lines can become a sermon. Preachers, take them and preach them.

Finally comes **E**.

It stands for **Experience**.

*Take Christ. Be saved. Obey His call.
Those who do are made brand new.
That's the miracle for all.*

So **M-I-R-A-C-L-E** means this:

Christ is my victory.

His mission in the Gospels is now His mission in me.

Say it with me:

"His mission in the Gospels is now His mission in me."

The Big Question

Today we are talking about **our response to His mandate.**

For every lesson, I have given you one major question. I introduced them all during our first lesson, and I will review them again in our final lesson.

Today's question is this:

What brings out God's best in a person?

Here are some smaller questions that accompany it.

Is Christ's miracle ministry applicable in today's world?

We have to settle that issue.

I told you that while I am speaking, your brain is clicking away. Listen carefully and make sure it is clicking positively.

Do not put ideas on a shelf saying, "I'll think about that later."

You are making decisions while I speak.

Make those decisions biblical.

Make them positive.

Do not allow your mind to store negative conclusions that you will wrestle with later.

Another important question is this:

Do you have a call from God?

Think about it.

Your mind is working on that question right now.

How do you know you have a call from God?

Or how do you know that you do not?

How do you judge it?

If you believe you do not have a call, why not?

Do some Christians have no ministry?

You are answering that question in your own mind right now.

God's Plan Depends on You

What brings out God's best in a person?

It is discovering that God's plan depends on you and me.

That truth is so important, yet many Pentecostals simply pass over it with a shrug. I have found Baptists and Methodists grasp it more quickly.

When we were in Abidjan, we had four thousand Methodist preachers, three thousand Baptist preachers, and only a handful of Pentecostals. The main Pentecostal group would not cooperate because they believed they were too holy.

Did you know I have never conducted a Pentecostal meeting in my life?

Never.

Because I believe what Jesus gave to the world is for everybody.

I dislike barriers.

I like banners if they proclaim something good, but I dislike barriers.

Think about this.

What brings out God's best in us?

It is discovering that God's plan depends on us.

Many people say, "If you don't do it, God will simply raise up somebody else."

That is nonsense.

If you do not do your part, your part will not be done.

God does not operate His plan with substitute workers.

He works through first-class workers who are committed to His purpose, who believe in it, live for it, and are willing to give their lives and even their blood for it.

There is no second-rate service in the Kingdom.

Never swallow the idea that if you fail, someone else will automatically replace you.

No.

If God cannot accomplish your assignment through you, then **your assignment will never be completed.**

I am not saying that to scold you.

I am saying it to inspire you.

I want to challenge you.

Think seriously about it.

His plan depends on us.

God Works Through His People

Perhaps I have said this before, and perhaps I will say it again throughout these studies.

Picture God seated upon His great throne, surrounded by His glorious angels.

He has magnificent plans, yet He has chosen to carry them out through people.

Why?

Because God is Spirit.

Spirit alone does not accomplish His work in the visible world.

People are afraid of spirits. Mention ghosts, and people become frightened. Speak about the Holy Ghost, and many become uneasy.

God longs to reveal Himself and do wonderful things on the earth.

I sometimes imagine the angels saying, "Father, let us go down there."

But God says, "No. I believe in My people. I am trusting them."

"I sent My Son and showed them how to live. He paid for all their sins so that nothing would stand between them and Me. Once sin was removed, I could come and live inside them."

That is why, when Jesus ascended back to heaven, the Father sent the same Holy Ghost who had lived in Christ to dwell in every believer.

Before that, the Holy Spirit could dwell fully only in Jesus because He alone was without sin.

John the Baptist could not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within him. The Spirit could come upon John, just as He came upon Moses, Daniel, and all the prophets of old, but He could not live **in** them.

Why?

Because they had not yet been redeemed.

They were descendants of Adam and Eve, and redemption had not yet been accomplished. God worked with them. He blessed them. His Spirit came upon them to enable them for His purposes, but He did not dwell within them.

Not even the believers we read about in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John experienced the indwelling Holy Spirit.

No.

They were still Old Testament believers. They were still taking lambs to the Temple, bringing sacrifices to the priests because that was all they knew. They were faithful Hebrew people, loyal to the Law of Moses.

That loyalty was important.

Then Jesus came, and everything changed.

They struggled to understand what was happening.

"Behold the Lamb of God"

I may have mentioned this before, but remember the day John the Baptist was overwhelmed by the power of God.

The Holy Spirit came upon him, and suddenly the Spirit spoke through him.

He looked at Jesus and cried out:

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

(John 1:29, KJV)

Think about what those words meant.

Those were fighting words. John was declaring that the final sacrifice had arrived.

In effect he was saying: "You no longer need the continual sacrifices."

"You no longer need the old system."

"The Lamb of God has come."

That proclamation challenged the entire religious establishment.

Eventually, they executed John.

They cut off his head. You do not challenge established religion without opposition.

You're sitting there very quietly.

What are you doing?

Thinking?

Good.

Ponder these things.

That is why we are here—to make you think.

I know what I'm talking about.

For almost sixty years I have travelled the world. I have faced demons, devils, witch doctors, every kind of disease imaginable, and every spiritual challenge you can think of.

That is not easy.

I have met the devil on his own territory.

Millions of demons have never given me any real trouble because when I arrive, they know the truth I carry.

They know what I know is true.

They are nothing but a bag of wind, and I have come to expose them.

So they leave.

Absolutely.

That is not boasting.

That is not bluffing.

That is Gospel fact.

We are somebody in Christ.

CHAPTER THREE

God Chose to Work Through Us

God has wonderful plans.

Some of you are looking at me, wondering whether you should be listening to all this.

Yes.

You should.

My life has been tested.

Follow my ministry around the world. You will never find an immoral scandal connected with T. L. Osborn. You will never find a sex scandal. You will never find doctrinal corruption.

Pastors from churches of every denomination have welcomed me and spoken well of our ministry.

Your pastor invited me because he trusts me.

I'm sharing truths that will help you.

Today we are talking about **our response to His mandate**.

What will your response be?

God has these magnificent plans, but He has chosen not to accomplish them apart from people.

Why?

Because He is Spirit.

If He simply appeared in overwhelming spiritual manifestation, people would be terrified.

That is why He redeemed us.

Our sins have not merely been forgiven—they have been **remitted**.

Remission means they have been removed completely.

With sin removed, God can now come home to us.

He says,

"Now we can get the job done."

For a time He had only one person through whom He worked—His own Son.

Jesus had only two hands and two feet.

He used them until He became weary and exhausted, showing us how God's work is done.

Now He has shown us the pattern.

God says,

"Now I can live in all of you, and all of you can continue doing what My Son began."

That is the wonder of the New Testament.

Hallelujah!

Do you believe that?

Young people, believe it.

The world is before you if this truth settles deeply into your heart.

Understanding Our Response

On your outline, our study today follows this order:

1. What response means.
2. What Christ's mandate is.
3. The dynamic of response.
4. Christ's example of response.
5. What stimulates our response.
6. Seven things that stimulate response.

Let's begin with the first.

What Does Response Mean?

I spent a long time studying this question. How could I best communicate what response really means?

I finally wrote down seven action words—seven verbs. Write them down, and leave yourself some space because we'll expand each one.

1. Feel
2. See
3. Understand
4. Value
5. Realize
6. Comprehend
7. Assume

Now let's add to each one.

1. Feel What Jesus Felt

Response begins by feeling what Jesus felt.

2. See What Jesus Saw

Learn to see the world through His eyes.

3. Understand His Mission

Understand His mission, because His mission has now become your mission. You and He now share a **co-mission**.

4. Value What Jesus Paid

Value what Jesus paid to accomplish redemption. What a tremendous thought.

5. Realize His Trust in Us

Realize how much confidence Christ has placed in His people.

6. Comprehend Our Part in the Programme

Understand our responsibility. We Pentecostals have become very good at praying.

Sometimes we send so many requests toward heaven that we keep the Holy Ghost and the angels busy all the time. We have even learned how to tell the angels what to do.

Wonderful!

But while we're doing all that, sometimes we forget our own part. Response means understanding **our responsibility**.

7. Assume Our Role as His Co-workers

Assume your place as God's fellow worker. That is what response means.

Feel What Jesus Felt

What did Jesus feel?

One passage immediately comes to my mind. As He looked over Jerusalem, He cried:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often would I have gathered thy children together... and ye would not!"

(Matthew 23:37, KJV)

He felt compassion.

Do we?

When you think about an entire nation, do you weep?

I encourage people everywhere:

Whenever you have an opportunity, travel.

Go overseas if you can.

Even if you never preach, simply go and look into the eyes of hurting people.

If you cannot travel abroad, visit the broken places in your own country.

Look into the eyes of suffering people.

You will come home changed.

You will come home bigger.

And you will never forget them.

That is what keeps me moving, even at my age.

People ask why I still travel. Why would an old man head for Thailand?

Not only Bangkok, but even north to Khon Kaen near the borders of Laos and Cambodia, where there are very few Christians and the region is spiritually barren.

Do you know what we have found there?

A large piece of land where we have permission to hold meetings.

Would you believe it?

It is surrounded by seven Buddhist temples.

Isn't that wonderful?

To stand in the middle of all of that and lift up Jesus!

Hallelujah!

Believe with me.

I know those Buddhists are going to come to Jesus.

Jesus Was Moved with Compassion

Feel what Jesus felt.

The Bible says:

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities..."

(Hebrews 4:15, KJV)

Jesus is touched by the suffering of hurting people.

Are we?

Do we really care?

Or do we simply rebuke people for not having stronger faith?

Sometimes I think we Pentecostals give people only one chance.

We teach them our doctrines, our creeds, and our formulas until they can repeat every one of them perfectly.

Then we expect everything to happen automatically.

I have often said:

We preach faith.

We condemn hope.

We ignore love.

Yet Paul places all three together.

Yes, love is the greatest.

But faith and hope belong together.

This morning I heard two preachers.

Both praised faith, but both criticised hope.

Paul never did that.

Hope and faith work together.

Hope paints the picture.

Faith possesses it.

See What Jesus Saw

The next step in response is seeing what Jesus saw. Seeing has always been one of the great acts of faith. When God brought Abraham to the mountain, He said:

"Lift up now thine eyes... for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it."

(Genesis 13:14-15, KJV)

Seeing is powerful. If you can see it through God's Word, you can receive it.

The Word gives you the picture.

Hope receives that picture.

Faith reaches out and says,

"I'll take that."

Both hope and faith come from hearing the Word of God.

You cannot have biblical hope without knowing God's promises.

Learn to think.

One of the hardest things for Christians is learning to think thoughts that have not already been thought for them.

Many believers have been trained to believe that thinking is dangerous. They quote:

"...the carnal mind is enmity against God..."

(Romans 8:7, KJV)

But my renewed mind is not God's enemy. My mind has been transformed by the Word of God. It is being brought into harmony with God's will and God's purposes.

Understand that.

CHAPTER FOUR

Keep Growing

I believe we've planned to give each of you a copy of my book, **The Message That Works**.

If you have not received it yet, you will.

I have recently revised the entire book.

Not because it was inaccurate before, but because I have continued growing.

- I continue thinking.
- I continue reading.
- I continue learning.

I'm better than I was last year. And when I return from Thailand, I'll be better than I am today. The new edition is organised more clearly. It includes fresh teaching about spiritual warfare, prayer, and many of the ideas being discussed throughout the Church today.

You're going to enjoy it. I believe it will give you a fresh understanding of prayer. I remain loyal to the Church.

The Church trusts me.

I've spent my life serving believers across denominations around the world.

Because of that, you can trust what I am sharing.

That gives confidence as you study these truths.

Faith, hope, and love are all God's gifts.

Isn't that wonderful?

His Mission Is Our Mission

So what does response mean?

It means:

- Feel what Jesus felt.
- See what Jesus saw.
- Understand His mission.

Because His mission has become our mission.

That is why He came.

He came to reveal both the Father and our own calling.

The Bible says:

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."

(John 1:14, KJV)

For the first time in history, humanity could see God revealed in a human life.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

And we beheld His glory.

For three and a half years, the disciples watched Jesus in action.

How long does it take for us to understand what He came to show us?

The Holy Spirit faithfully recorded those three and a half years for us.

Did Jesus need to come back and live another three and a half years?

No.

He had already done enough.

He revealed God in human flesh.

Sometimes we repeat that phrase—*"God manifested in the flesh"*—almost mechanically, the way religious formulas are often repeated, without stopping to appreciate what it truly means.

God came down to our level.

He was born in flesh and blood.

He walked among us.

People could see Him, hear Him, touch Him, and observe how God acts when He lives in a human life.

In one of our later lessons, I want to explain how carefully Jesus introduced that truth and why it stirred such opposition.

They became furious because He declared that God was His Father, that He was God's Son, and that He perfectly revealed the Father.

Ultimately, they never stopped opposing Him until they crucified Him.

Why?

Because He came to show us what God wants to do through humanity.

That truth may not excite everyone, but it is what keeps me going, even in my later years.

I look at Jesus and say,

"That's me."

What He did, He showed me how to do. The way He ministered, we can minister. There are no limits.

Why?

Because it is not our ministry. It is **His** ministry. People may feel our touch, but it is His nail-scarred hands that heal them. People hear our voices, but it is His Word that performs the miracle. People experience our embrace, but it is His love that lifts them.

We are His interpreters.

We are His representatives.

Jesus represented the Father and showed us how. Now Jesus, living in us, continues to reveal the Father through our lives. We are somebody important in God's plan.

Assume your role.

Understand His Mission

See what Jesus saw.

Understand His mission.

Jesus said:

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

(John 10:10, KJV)

Never come to wound people. You have no right to wound people from the pulpit.

I can often recognise the secret struggles of a preacher simply by listening to what he constantly preaches against.

Think about that.

Sometimes preachers stand in the pulpit condemning people, repeatedly attacking certain sins.

In many cases, they are revealing more about themselves than they realise.

Jesus said:

"Ye shall know them by their fruits."

(Matthew 7:16, KJV)

Should I have said that?

Yes.

Because His mission is to love people—not to abuse people.

He came so people could have life, and have it more abundantly.

The Purpose of the Anointing

Jesus declared:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me..."

(Luke 4:18, KJV)

Why was He anointed?

What is the purpose of the anointing?

Is it merely to speak in tongues?

I believe in speaking in tongues.

I speak in tongues.

But thank God there is more to the anointing than that.

Jesus said the Spirit had anointed Him:

- to preach the Gospel to the poor,
- to heal the broken-hearted,
- to preach deliverance to the captives,
- to recover sight to the blind,
- to set at liberty those who are bruised,
- and to proclaim that God's salvation is available **now**.

We are people of **now**.

Jesus was a "now" preacher.

God is the great **I AM**.

The I AM lived in Jesus.

Now the I AM lives in us.

CHAPTER FIVE

Living in the Reality of His Presence

Many people believe they must constantly "pray through" before God can use them. I understand that way of thinking because I began my ministry under a preacher who required me to pray through every day.

We prayed three hours daily. By the time I married, I had calluses on my knees. From the age of sixteen until I married, I never even had a date with a girl. He simply would not allow it.

Looking back, I thank God.

He kept me on my knees.

Of course, everything changed when a young lady named Daisy walked through the door one day in Alamo, California.

That was different.

It was love at first sight.

Three dates later, we were married.

Afterwards, he sent me back to Oklahoma.

Perhaps he was trying to separate us—I won't accuse him of that—but our courtship continued through letters.

When I finally returned to California, I had almost no money.

I borrowed a suit from my brother-in-law.

I had been working in the Sand Springs cotton mill for sixteen dollars a week and had saved just enough to ride with a family as far as Los Angeles.

Daisy lived much farther north, near Merced in the San Joaquin Valley, so I hitchhiked the rest of the journey.

I was embarrassed because the man who picked me up was her pastor.

Everyone had warned Daisy about "that Oklahoma boy," but she remained faithful.

How did I get onto that story?

Let's return to the lesson.

That's why I keep good notes.

Value What Jesus Paid

Have you ever read this passage?

**"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...
and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."**

(2 Corinthians 5:19, KJV)

What an incredible truth. God reconciled the world through Christ. Now He has entrusted the ministry and the message of reconciliation to us. Value what Jesus paid.

He died so that we could go into the world and tell people they can receive Jesus Christ. Because He bore their sins and removed them, Christ can now come and live within them. Had He not paid that price, we would have no message.

The best we could have done would have been to tell people to bring another lamb for sacrifice. But aren't you glad we no longer travel the world telling people to offer animal sacrifices?

Jesus died once and for all. He redeemed humanity from sin. That is why we respond to His mandate. We value the price that made our ministry possible.

Realise His Trust in You

Value what Jesus paid.

Then realise how much He trusts you.

Jesus said:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..."

(John 15:16, KJV)

We are His choice. That makes me stand tall. I refuse to crawl through life apologising for the Gospel. If you crawl to the pulpit as though you are carrying bad news, no one will want to listen. Some preachers seem upset because other ministers draw large crowds.

Perhaps the difference is simple.

Brighten up.

Be joyful.

The world already has enough problems.

Do not give people more despair.

Be a healer, not merely a critic.

Comprehend Your Part

Comprehend your place in God's programme. The ministry of reconciliation has been committed to us. Jesus said:

"As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

(John 20:21, KJV)

Understand your part.

God stands behind you.

God lives in you.

God has called you.

Yet God has chosen to work through human lives.

He communicates His message through people.

That is His plan.

If you understand that, ministry becomes beautiful.

If you do not, ministry becomes nothing more than a profession—a way to pay the bills.

You simply gather enough people to cover the cleaning bill, the grocery bill, and the repairs on your old car.

Then you spend your life complaining from behind the pulpit until everyone grows tired of religion.

No.

Know who you are. You are somebody in Christ. If you do not know how to smile, stand in front of a mirror and practise until you do. Smile at people. Be happy in the pulpit. Then the world will listen to you.

We are God's messengers to the world. God is depending on us. He has sent us to be His voice. Whenever we faithfully proclaim His Good News, He will always confirm it. He does not promise to confirm our bad news. If you preach condemnation, you will stand alone. But if you preach the Good News of Jesus Christ, God will confirm His Word.

Assume Your Role

Assume your place as God's partner.

The Bible declares:

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."

(2 Corinthians 5:20, KJV)

Jesus also prayed:

"I in them, and thou in me..."

(John 17:23, KJV)

And the Lord promises:

"...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

(Hebrews 13:5, KJV)

Isn't that enough?

Do we trust Him?

Do we believe Him?

Earlier I told you how Brother Dillard required me to pray through for three hours every day. Looking back, I honestly cannot explain exactly what I was praying through. Many believers are still trying to "pray through."

But when you truly understand who you are in Christ, everything changes. As these lessons continue, they are not going to become harder. They are going to become better.

Assume your role.

His Calling Demands Our Response

We are talking about the continuation of the ministry of Jesus through us.

Since He has chosen us...

Since He calls us His partners...

His calling demands our response.

It cannot be ignored.

While you are here at Victory Bible Institute, your mind is making decisions every day about what you will do with your life.

Ask yourself again:

Have I been called?

Do some Christians have no calling?

Do some believers have no ministry?

No.

Absolutely not.

Every believer has been chosen.

Because He has chosen us, He deserves a response.

That response may be positive or negative.

We respond by our actions.

Response requires:

- decision,
- commitment,
- acceptance,
- and agreement.

Agreement about what?

Commitment to what?

Decision concerning what?

To continue what Jesus began to do and teach. He is our model. He showed us how God's work is done. Our commitment is to continue His ministry.

That is what our response is about.

It is about the harvest.

It is about the labourers, who are few.

These are the issues involved in His choosing us.

The Bible says:

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother... And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

(Matthew 4:18–19, KJV)

I often pause at those words:

"Follow me, and I will make you."

Isn't that exactly what He still says?

Without Him, we accomplish very little.

But when we follow Him, He makes us into what He intends us to become.

The Scripture continues:

"And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

(Matthew 4:20, KJV)

Jesus then called James and John.

They also left everything and followed Him.

Do you remember when He first called you?

Do you remember when you first heard His voice after you were saved?

I certainly do.

Chosen for a Purpose

The Lord said concerning Saul:

"...he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."

(Acts 9:15, KJV)

Later Paul recounted the Lord's words:

"Rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose..."

(Acts 26:16, KJV)

We Pentecostal believers need to take those words seriously.

God has appeared to us with purpose.

He has not merely come to bless us.

So many people today are occupied only with receiving more blessings.

Sometimes all we hear is,

"Give me more."

"Bless me."

"Pour out more."

Many believers move from church to church, conference to conference, always looking for another blessing.

I remember one pastor joking that some members belonged to one church this week and another church the following week.

We have to become serious about the Kingdom.

Are you hearing me?

"...For this purpose I have appeared to you."

God did not simply come to bless us. All I heard from those preachers was how to get more—how to talk right, how to say it right so you can get more. Then we go to conventions asking, "Heal me. Bless me. Touch me. Anoint me." Everybody wants someone to anoint them.

I don't want anybody to anoint me.

If you do, you're chasing a rainbow.

I don't want anyone's second-hand anointing. I've got my own. I believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. I believe in the Holy Spirit who came into my life.

I'm aware that He could never have come into my life if Jesus had not gone to the Cross, redeemed me from my sins, put them all away, and cleared the way for the Holy Spirit to come. I'll never deny Him by looking at somebody else and saying, "Touch me. Make me holier."

I hope you never do that.

Don't ever dishonour the Lord and the Holy Spirit whom you claim to have received. Don't dishonour Him by running around looking for someone who looks prettier than you, dresses

better than you, and thinking that if they will just touch you, you'll receive some of their anointing.

Forget it.

I don't want their anointing. I have my own.

I'm not angry with anybody. I love everybody. But I don't want somebody else's second-hand anointing.

If you do, go get it. But when the devil jumps out at you in the tough places, second-hand anointing won't help you. If you don't know who you are, don't go where it's tough. Stay home where it's safe. Or you can go to a different church every Sunday looking for another blessing if you need it because you don't know who you are.

But once you know who you are, you can go anywhere. When you arrive, the devil will start looking for the nearest exit.

He's a coward.

He's just a puff of wind.

Yes! Yes! Yes!

"I have appeared to you for this purpose—to make you a minister and a witness, and to send you to the Gentiles."

That means everyone who doesn't know God.

Hallelujah!

Wonderful!

Say it:

"For this purpose the Lord appeared to me—to make me a minister and a witness."

To go to those who have not yet heard.

All week I've been preaching to ministers who came from all over America. I'll do that a few more times in America, but I've been telling those preachers that one reason many of them don't have a crowd is because they never preach to sinners.

They're spending all their time trying to make church people holier.

They're constantly trying to discover how to get more from God.

Why do you want more from God?

Give away what you already have, and you'll receive more.

If you pour out what is in you, more will be poured into you.

You don't need to memorise another church doctrine just to get more information in your head.

I want what God gives me to be in me so I can give it away to people.

Do you understand what I'm saying?

You're listening to an old man—a man who's been there. I know what I'm talking about.

The only reason I'm doing this a few more times in America is because I'm deeply concerned about our country.

Our Christians all claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit, yet many do not believe in the Holy Spirit who already lives in them.

If we don't believe in the Holy Spirit who has come to us, then we disgrace Him.

I don't suppose I can straighten all of that out. I know I can't. You can't change people. All you can do is plant seeds for change.

If I can leave a few seeds scattered across America, then if I live long enough, I'll keep doing it once or twice each year.

But my ministry—His ministry—is overseas, where people are hurting. That's where He wants me to go so He can minister to them, bless them, heal them, save them, and bring them into the Church of Jesus Christ so they, in turn, become gospel workers.

When we first went to Congo, there were only a handful of preachers.

When we returned, there were fifteen thousand preachers.

Every day I saw them, and almost every one of them carried an old, worn copy of my French book, *La Vie Comblée*—which means *The Good Life*.

Get that book.

You'll love it.

I wrote it for new converts in France, but it has become much more than that. It's practically a Bible school in one volume. It includes the eighteen cardinal doctrines of the Church, even the Apostles' Creed, all written in language ordinary people can understand.

One precious brother came to me weeping. He hugged me and said,

"Brother Osborn, I wish I had a better report. I've only planted forty churches."

Then he added,

"Most of the others have planted fifty, sixty, or seventy churches."

But one man had planted over three thousand churches.

Do you remember the Muslim man who came to our meeting in Kenya with three companions? They came carrying cattle whips, intending to beat me and drive me out of Mombasa.

They brought a blind woman from their village with them and said,

"If he doesn't heal her, we'll beat him and drive him out."

Well, you know what happened.

The woman was healed.

She began screaming with joy.

Those Muslim men were terrified because sincere Muslims want to remain on good terms with God. They loved Allah according to the light they had, and when they saw a blind woman instantly healed, they knew God had done it.

They ran.

They fled the city.

But missionary Bud Sickler found them while they were hiding. He led them all to Christ, and one of those men became a missionary.

God called him to what was then Zaire—now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

That man planted more than three thousand churches before he went home to be with the Lord.

Well, I'm rambling a little.

Let me get back on track.

Throughout these meetings, I have felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to appeal to those preachers. I tried to do it diplomatically because I didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

I asked them,

"If you don't have a crowd, what are you telling your people?"

Listen.

We're all running a race.

Three or four countries in Latin America are begging us to come.

I must return to French-speaking West Africa.

They're all asking me to come.

Let me tell you something.

Right now, three nations in Latin America are asking me to return:

- Dominican Republic
- Venezuela
- Costa Rica

Do you know why?

They're asking me to come for a National Day of Repentance.

Some of you may think I'm saying this to pat myself on the back.

No.

I'm telling you this so you'll know that if you remain faithful, preach the gospel honestly, stay true to God, refuse to become proud when success comes, and refuse to become discouraged when times are hard, then when you grow old you'll be amazed at the fruit your life has produced.

And all the glory belongs to Him—not to you.

It's His Word that accomplishes it.

Not ours.

These three nations are asking me to return because they want to repent publicly for the way they treated Daisy and me when we first ministered there.

They've never gotten over it.

I've forgotten about it.

Who cares?

They threw us out.

We simply went to the next place and kept preaching.

Paul did the same thing.

I'll show you that in Scripture.

Sometimes people's response isn't positive.

Sometimes it's negative.

But you don't tuck your tail and run home.

You simply go somewhere else and keep preaching.

When we returned from what became the first great mass miracle campaign in history—in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in 1950—the entire island had been shaken.

Jesuit priests were brought from Spain to try to stop the meetings.

They did everything they could.

But Puerto Rico was American territory, so they couldn't stop us.

When we flew home, our old four-engine propeller plane stopped in the Dominican Republic.

The Catholic priests there had already informed the authorities that the Osborns were on board.

Everyone else was allowed off the plane.

Only Daisy and I were kept aboard.

The priests had ordered the police not to let us enter the country.

Today those same leaders are ashamed of what happened.

What difference did it make?

We simply got off at the next stop.

No big deal.

Years later I received a letter signed by the nation's highest-ranking naval officer, the top army officer—both Pentecostal believers—and the country's leading businessman, who owned the stadium, the baseball team, and the Hilton Hotel.

They wrote,

"If you'll come, the President wants to meet you in the stadium. He wants to read a national apology. The presidential suite is yours for as long as you stay. The stadium is yours free of charge. Just come and let us apologise."

I would never allow that.

It would only make the ordinary people hate me.

I wouldn't permit it.

The same thing happened in Venezuela.

After the Cuba revival, we travelled there with very little money. We rented the stadium, secured newspaper advertising, and arrived on the first night only to find soldiers surrounding the venue with rifles.

No one was allowed inside.

Orders had come from the top.

The priests had said,

"Don't let them hold the meeting."

Today those same pastors in Maracaibo have written asking me to come for a national repentance gathering. They say they have already spoken with the president, who is willing to present the apology himself.

Again, I would never allow it.

But isn't it remarkable?

Young preachers, hear me.

Be faithful to your calling.

Be honest.

Have integrity.

Never change.

Follow me around the world and you won't hear bad stories about me.

Wherever you go, you'll find honour attached to my name.

Not because of me—But because I determined to remain faithful.

You can do the same. Costa Rica was another great crusade. The bullring was filled to capacity.

The impact of the gospel shook the nation.

One well-known crippled man, who had travelled on a little four-wheeled cart, was gloriously healed. Afterwards he went through the streets of the city, stopping traffic as he testified about Jesus.

Then the army arrived.

The priests insisted,

"We cannot allow this to continue."

They surrounded the bullring.

We couldn't even enter.

We packed our bags and went home.

I was so discouraged that I told myself,

"I don't think I'll ever go back to Latin America again."

And, for the most part, I haven't.

But they need help.

Now they're asking me to return.

They want to apologise.

Now, what do you think about that?

What I'm saying is simple:

The gospel works.

Help people.

Love people.

Reach people.

Preach to people.

Live honourably.

Don't become proud when success comes.

Don't drag yourself through life when difficulties arise.

Remain steady.

Know who you are in the Scriptures.

Believe the Bible.

Preach the gospel.

Never change.

When you grow old, you'll be amazed at what God has done.

Everywhere I go overseas, preachers come to me and tell stories. When I met those fourteen or fifteen thousand preachers in Kinshasa, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I heard testimony after testimony. I received letter after letter.

Why?

Because the Word works.

We spent one hundred and sixty thousand dollars printing fifty-two tons of our books in French.
We shipped them there and gave them away.

I'll tell you something—the devil is in trouble.

He cannot stop the truth.

When you put God's truth into people's hands, it produces fruit.

Do you believe that?

The same is true for you as it is for me.

There is no difference.

People everywhere say,

"Oh, Brother Osborn has the gift of miracles."

"He's got the gift of healing."

Forget all of that.

I'm a preacher.

I'm a witness.

I love Jesus.

I'm a farmer.

I know you cannot change people, but you can sow seeds for change.

The seed contains the power to produce the harvest.

Give people the seed.

Don't hang out your sign saying,

"I'm the healer."

"I'm specially gifted."

"If you touch me, you'll receive what I have."

Forget it.

Give the gospel the credit it deserves.

Young preachers, if you'll do that, you'll succeed.

If you don't, you'll spend your life competing with a handful of church members, all trying to become a little holier than everyone else. You'll become frustrated because someone else has a larger congregation.

And you'll never build a crowd that way.

Throughout every session of that conference, where ministers had come from twenty-two states, I kept saying:

"Preachers, go home and preach Jesus."

Preach salvation.

Preach forgiveness.

Set your mind on the lost.

Think about the lost.

Preach about the lost.

Plan for the lost.

Sing about the lost.

Teach your people about the lost.

It will take time to reshape people's thinking. It takes time to renew minds that have become focused only on themselves.

But if you keep preaching Jesus...

Keep preaching souls...

Keep preaching the gospel...

That's exactly what Jesus commanded us to do.

He never said, "Go into all the world and make everybody as holy as you can."

He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel."

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Do you understand that?

This isn't some strange doctrine. It may sound unusual in some circles, but it isn't strange. If you continue doing this, your people will eventually begin thinking about those who don't know Christ.

They'll begin dreaming about reaching the lost. They'll come telling you about people they've seen, people they've met, and people who need Jesus. Something else will happen.

When your congregation becomes genuinely concerned for unbelievers, they'll become like magnets. Your church will begin attracting lost people.

You'll be amazed.

It will happen.

But if all we do is shout our religious slogans at one another, unbelievers won't come.

They're tired of religion.

They're looking for life.

You're very quiet today.

Well, we're talking about serious business.

I wouldn't speak this way if I didn't know your pastor.

This is his life.

He's a soul-winning pastor.

He's a missionary pastor.

He goes into the nations.

He knows exactly what I'm talking about.

That's why Victory is what it is.

It's a magnet for unconverted people.

Every time I preach here, crowds come to Christ.

Be conscious of the unconverted world.

That's why we're saved.

We're saved to become saviours to others.

Healed to become healers.

Lifted to become lifters.

Blessed to become blessings.

Not to spend our lives saying,

"Touch me."

"Bless me."

"Heal me."

"Help me."

"Anoint me."

Forget it.

One of the great preachers attending those meetings cornered me one evening with tears in his eyes.

He said,

"Brother Osborn, for the first time in my life I've realised I have the same anointing you have."

He only missed it by one step.

He should have said,

"I have the same anointing Jesus has."

Because what I have is His.

Suddenly it dawned on him.

You don't have to pray for it.

You don't have to beg for it.

You don't have to fast for it.

You simply accept it.

If you don't believe that, why call yourself a preacher?

Some people are always looking for another preacher to give them a special word.

My Lord...

I've heard some of those "words."

I don't want one.

I've already got the Word.

If you spend your life chasing every new voice that comes along, you'll only become confused.

Get this settled inside you.

In one of these sessions I'll be talking about finding yourself in the Scriptures.

Well...

I suppose that's enough about that.

As that comedian used to say,

"That's about all I have to say about that."

"For this purpose... to make you a minister and a witness... to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God."

Then Paul said in **Acts 26:19**,

"I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

Hallelujah!

And in verse 22:

"...continuing unto this day... witnessing..."

He declared only those things which Moses and the prophets had foretold:

That Christ would suffer...

That He would rise from the dead...

And that He would bring light to the Gentiles.

That's our ministry.

We bring light to those who do not yet know Christ.

Our calling is not simply to make one another appear holier.

We're already so "holy" sometimes that we're difficult to live with!

People don't want "holy people."

They want Jesus.

Let Him be the Holy One they encounter.

Now don't get hung up over that statement.

You're intelligent.

You'll understand what I mean.

The secret of Paul's ministry...

The secret of our ministry...

Has been bringing light to those outside Christ.

That brings out God's best in us.

Discover what brings out His best in you.

God's plan depends upon you.

I tell ministers everywhere I go,

"Everybody is praying for God to open China."

That's a waste of time.

God isn't going to open China.

We're going to open China.

You and I.

The Body of Christ.

You can't simply pray for angels to overthrow governments.

No.

Christians will open China.

If you could read the reports that come from there, you'd weep as I do.

Believers are imprisoned...

Beaten...

Tortured...

Electrocuted...

Yet they continue preaching Christ.

They're opening China.

Meanwhile, many of us stay where it's comfortable.

The early church suffered to proclaim the gospel.

We often want to preach only where there's no suffering.

Now, I'm like you.

I don't deliberately look for dangerous places.

I'd rather be a live coward than a dead hero!

But I keep preaching.

And China will open.

Russia has already opened.

Preachers opened Russia.

I had the privilege of ministering in ten Russian cities.

Hallelujah!

The world belongs to Christ—not the devil.

And the gospel remains God's healing power for the whole world.

Remember these lessons:

Lesson One: Christ came to show us God.

Lesson Two: Christ came to show us ourselves.

Lesson Three: Christ came to show us how much God values people.

God's plan values people.

And that plan depends upon us.

He is our model.

He is our inspiration.

His mandate gives us purpose and motivation.

He calls...

We respond.

He calls because He needs us.

He will not do it without us.

That was the first point on your outline:

What does response mean?

Now let's move to the second:

CHAPTER SIX

Discovering Christ's Mandates For His Ambassadors

- **To believe His Word.**
 - *"Have faith in God."* (Mark 11:22)
- **To receive His power.**
 - The promise of the Father. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4)
- **To be His witnesses.**
 - *"You shall be witnesses unto Me... unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)
- **To share His gospel with the whole world.**
 - *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)
- **To seek and save the lost.**
 - (Luke 19:10)
- **To love a hurting world.**
 - *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for Me."* (Matthew 25:40)

Without us...

He won't.

If we don't...

He can't.

Write that down.

Think about it.

Reflect on it.

Consider these Scriptures personally.

They concern you.

They concern me.

Luke 5:31–32

"They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick... I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Does that concern you?

Of course it does.

That's our ministry.

Luke 14:12–14

Jesus said:

"When you prepare a banquet, don't invite only your friends, your relatives, or your wealthy neighbours."

Instead...

Invite the poor.

The crippled.

The lame.

The blind.

Then you'll be blessed because they cannot repay you.

Does that concern us?

Certainly.

Matthew 25:34-40

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Welcome strangers.

Clothe the naked.

Visit the sick.

Go to those in prison.

These are Christ's priorities.

And they must become ours.

Among Christ's final words were these:

"Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations." (Luke 24:47)

Let me ask you a difficult question.

Who here has a call to Kirov?

Nobody?

Kirov is a vast region, about the size of England.

There are people there.

The doors are open.

Communism no longer keeps us out.

Millions live there.

We have work to do.

Our assignment is not merely to stay home, become religious, attend conventions, and wait for someone to touch us.

The whole world is waiting.

And if we don't learn to speak the language of ordinary people, we won't help them.

We laugh about Catholics once conducting services in Latin that nobody understood.

Yet we sometimes speak our own religious language that ordinary people cannot understand either.

Speak the language of the people.

Communicate where they live.

Too often, especially among Pentecostals, we've developed our own religious code words.

The world listens with blank expressions because they don't understand what we're saying.

I never want to become so "spiritual" that I've forgotten how to speak ordinary language to ordinary people.

When I write, I try to write well.

But I keep it simple.

Not long ago I picked up a book by a respected Pentecostal preacher.

I read about one-third of it.

Then I threw it into the wastebasket.

Not because he wasn't a good man.

Everyone respected him.

But the writing was dead.

He spent the whole book trying to prove how intelligent he was.

If you want to write books simply to impress preachers, save your money.

Write to help people.

Write for hurting people.

They're the ones who need what we have to say.

Do you believe that?

Now then...

Does anyone here have a call to Yakutia?

I think I saw a hand.

Most Christians don't even know where Yakutia is.

It's an enormous region—about the size of Texas.

Almost no Christian bookstores.

Almost no Bible literature.

Listen...

McDonald's had enough sense to go there and sell hamburgers.

People lined up around the block to buy them.

If someone would establish Christian bookstores throughout those regions, people would line up around the block to buy Christian books.

You'd prosper...

And they'd be blessed.

There are almost no Christian bookstores there.

What an opportunity.

He said:

“I need £20,000 to get started. If I can open those first two bookstores, the profits will enable us to build a chain of Christian bookstores.”

I gave him the money.

He went home.

I never heard from him again.

Well, that rather spoiled my plans! But you have to keep believing in people. Perhaps I was not the best judge of character. That is what happened.

But I am telling you, it remains one of the greatest business opportunities in the history of the world for Christian entrepreneurs—a chain of bookstores across Russia. Russians are readers. They buy books. There is already a wide spectrum of excellent Christian books translated into Russian and ready to be distributed.

Hallelujah!

Does anyone here have a call to Tomsk?

See, many of you do not even know about these places. What am I talking about?

I am talking about Christ's mandate.

We are Christians. We are learning. My prayer is that during these seven sessions together, some of you will become strong enough to move to Eurasia—take your families and live there.

That is how missionaries used to do it.

They moved to China.

They moved to Africa.

They moved to India.

They did not go for three weeks, three months, or even three years. They moved there, made it their home, and many of them died there.

We are ripe for that kind of commitment today.

I thank God for planting that idea in your hearts. Somebody will go.

Is anyone called to Khabarovsk?

Try your luck pronouncing that one!

It is an enormous region.

What about Arkhangelsk, the size of California, with almost no gospel witness?

Kamchatka.

Kazakhstan.

Some of you are going to Kazakhstan!

Hallelujah!

It is the size of Australia.

What a day!

Oh, Brother Billy Joe, I pray that ten years from now some of these students will come back to Victory and report what God has done in Yakutia. It is nearly half the size of the United States.

You could become one of the greatest gospel preachers in the entire region.

You do not have to compete for a street corner in America where another church already exists.

Half a continent is waiting for someone to come.

Go for it!

Hardly anyone is there.

Perhaps there are only one or two believers.

Start a chain of Christian bookstores.

Hold annual conventions for your converts.

Preach these truths I am sharing with you.

Train missionaries.

Send them throughout Russia.

Do it all from Yakutia.

I am planting seeds.

There are thousands of towns and tens of thousands of villages throughout Russia that have no gospel witness.

Yet they are open.

Meanwhile, we sit here trying to find another place to preach.

Jesus said the whole world belongs to us.

Wherever you go, He promised:

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5, KJV)

I am not trying to burden you.

I dislike missionaries who come home making everyone feel guilty because they are supposedly holier than everyone else.

That is not my spirit.

I come to you as a practical man.

As a preacher.

As a thinker.

As a gospel minister.

The world belongs to us.

The whole purpose of Jesus was to send us to preach to the nations.

That is why He saved us.

That is why we study.

That is why we read the Bible.

That is why we read books.

We know enough to teach others.

We are blessed.

Let us keep learning.

But the moment we learn the truth, let us go to the world.

Amen.

Nobody is too old.

Nobody is too young.

Hallelujah!

I knew an elderly Assemblies of God woman whose denomination would not send her as a missionary.

Her husband died.

She received the insurance money and said,

"Bless God, I will go myself."

She went to Kenya.

She was elderly.

She could hardly walk.

She climbed aboard crowded trains and overloaded buses carrying bags full of gospel tracts.

If you have ever travelled on those old Kenyan buses, you know how crowded they could be. Sometimes you shared the journey with goats, ducks, and whatever else people were taking to market.

Yet that dear woman travelled all over Kenya distributing gospel literature.

She died there.

She died happy.

Hallelujah!

The world is beautiful.

Do not spend your life looking for what is wrong.

Look for what is beautiful.

You will find beauty in every race.

Beauty in every nation.

Beauty in every culture.

Most of all, you will find opportunities.

I become discouraged when missionaries constantly tell me,

"This is the hardest country in the world."

That is nonsense.

Go looking for what God is doing.

The world is beautiful.

People often ask me,

"Which country do you love most?"

All of them.

For years Daisy and I would visit a country and immediately begin talking about buying property and moving there.

We fell in love with every nation.

They are beautiful.

The Dynamic of Response

Now, let us look at **the dynamic of response**.

What is the energising force that produces action?

Ask yourself these questions.

How are we conforming our lifestyle to His plan?

Does His design for the world truly concern us, or are we too occupied with our own plans?

I believe we are here to fit into His plan.

That is what it means to live, move, and have our being in Him.

Another question:

Does God actually depend on us?

If so, in what way?

Remember His final instructions before His ascension:

"Go into all the world."

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that after He purged us from our sins, **He sat down**.

It was time for Him to sit down.

But it is not time for us to sit down.

It is His sitting-down time.

It is our getting-up time.

Yet many Pentecostals are still trying to keep Jesus busy.

They do not want Him to sit down.

They keep saying,

"Lord, move in the hospitals."

He moves where **you** move.

When you go, He goes.

What an honour.

What a privilege.

God trusts us.

It is really very simple, if we do not make it unnecessarily complicated.

Write down these Scriptures and never forget them.

- **Hebrews 1:3** — After purging our sins, Christ sat down.
- **1 Timothy 1:11** — The gospel has been committed to our trust.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:4** — We have been entrusted with the gospel.

The Church of Jesus Christ is God's witness to the world.

What Energises Our Response?

Revelation gives us the answer.

"Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." (Revelation 5:9, KJV)

That energises me.

We get to tell them.

How beautiful!

Then Revelation 7:9:

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne..." (KJV)

That is what keeps me going.

When I was a little boy, I was out in the woods looking after the cows.

Suddenly I began crying.

I did not know why.

I knelt between two large boulders and asked,

"Lord, why am I crying?"

Then a thought came into my mind.

I believe someone in church had planted that seed years earlier by saying,

"Tommy, I think you are going to be a preacher someday."

Out there in the woods the thought came back to me:

"How would you feel if one day you became a preacher?"

Something inside me exploded with joy.

I laughed.

I laughed until I could hardly stop.

I was supposed to be looking after cows, but I walked through those woods laughing to myself.

Seed people.

Speak life into young people.

Those seeds grow.

Hallelujah!

What Stimulates Our Response?

Christ's mission becomes our commission.

He sent us to continue the very ministry He began.

Jesus said,

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." (John 8:31, KJV)

Our actions depend upon our knowledge.

For years Daisy and I subscribed to magazines from China, Africa, the Muslim world, and South America.

We wanted to understand the world.

Here is an important principle:

If we do not know, we do not care.

Think about that.

Our caring depends upon our knowing.

Imagine Christians gathered together celebrating.

Meanwhile, down the road, a young mother carrying her child is struck by a car and falls into a ravine, injured and bleeding.

If we knew, we would stop celebrating and run to help.

But because we do not know, we continue celebrating while she dies.

Is that not a picture of our hurting world?

People are dying without Christ.

Why do I feel the way I do?

Because I have seen their faces.

Many times I arrive at a crusade early, walk among the people, sit beside them with my interpreter, and simply talk with them.

I look into their eyes.

I want the world to remain in my heart.

I am here for His purpose.

If we know, we will care.

That is why I asked about places like Kirov.

Most people know nothing about them.

So they do not care.

Learn.

Study.

Look at maps.

Read magazines.

Discover the world.

What Stimulates Our Response?

Write these down.

1. The knowledge of Christ's power.
2. The knowledge of people's need.
3. The knowledge of redemption.
4. The knowledge of Satan's defeat. He is defeated. Glory to God!
5. The knowledge of God's will.
6. The knowledge of the ripened harvest.
7. The knowledge of Christ's mandate.

Closing Declaration

Let's stand together.

Take your paper.

Read it loudly enough for every devil in hell to hear.

But only read it if you believe it.

Let it come from deep inside your heart.

God is listening.

I love you.

I love speaking to you.

Thank you, Pastor Billy Joe, for allowing me to come.

I wish I could come more often.

God is doing something wonderful here.

This Bible school has its feet firmly planted in the gospel.

There is no point believing something good unless you give it a face.

Let the world see your doctrine on your face.

If it is truly good news, it ought to produce a smile.

My daughter, Dr. LaDonna, says,

"There is no faith until you put shoes on it."

Put your faith into your shoes.

Take it to the world.

I love every one of you.

You are going to shake the world.

The devil is worried.

He has already called his demons together wondering,

"How did we ever allow that Victory Bible School to get started in Tulsa?"

But the poor devil cannot stop what God is doing.

We are the people of God.

No devil in hell can stop us.

Hallelujah!

Every time I come to the Mabee Center and preach, I leave convinced that God is at work in my city.

This pastor and his wife mean business.

Be proud of leadership like that.

Hallelujah!

Now, are you ready?

Take a deep breath.

Read it with all your heart.

"O Lord Jesus, You have chosen me as Your partner. Today I respond yes to Your plan. Since I know that I am Your choice, that brings out Your best in me. Your plan for me is to believe Your Word, to receive Your power, to be Your witness, and to share Your life and love. Dear Lord Jesus, You purged me from my sins so that You could live in me and continue Your ministry through me. You have entrusted me with Your gospel. My purpose in life is to represent You. You came to do the will of Your Father; now I am here to continue doing His will. Your mission has become my mission. We are workers together. Ours is a co-mission. Religion is ritual; Your miracle life is You living in me. My mission is to share Your life and love with others. Jesus, You began to do and teach a new way to God. You showed me His life and love in action. Thank You for continuing what You began through me. Your miracle life is unlocked in me."

Hallelujah!

Poor devil!

We are the people of God.

We are taking our world.

What this pastor is doing—these meetings around the world—is shaking nations.

Others are being inspired.

That is what we do.

Jesus began it.

Now we continue His ministry.



About The Speaker

Dr. T. L. Osborn (1923–2013) was an American Pentecostal missionary evangelist, author, and Bible teacher whose ministry profoundly influenced global evangelism during the twentieth century. Together with his wife and co-minister, ***Dr. Daisy Washburn Osborn***, he carried the message of Jesus Christ to more than 70 nations through large outdoor evangelistic and mass-healing crusades, often preaching to hundreds of thousands of people at a time.

Dr. Osborn was widely recognised for his unwavering emphasis on the believer's authority in Christ, the power of the Gospel, divine healing, and world missions. His ministry inspired countless pastors, missionaries, and evangelists to proclaim the Gospel with confidence while demonstrating God's compassion through prayer for the sick and the proclamation of the Good News.

The messages preserved in this volume continue to encourage believers to embrace their identity in Christ, rely on the Holy Spirit, and faithfully carry the Gospel to the nations.

Connect With Dr. TL Osborn via:

- [*Official Website*](#)
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