



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015

THE GOSPEL CHALLENGE

A Study in the Basics of a Praying and Confessing Church



My Afternoon with Ray Comfort

I am witnessing daily the conversion of sinners, I seldom go out but God gives me some Fruit.

John Oxtoby (*aka - Praying Johnny*)

If your hearts be not set on the end of your labors, and you do not long to see the conversion and edification of your hearers, and do not study and preach in hope, you are not likely to see much fruit of it. It is an ill sign of a false, self-seeking heart, that can be content to be still doing, and see no fruit of their labor.

Richard Baxter

What Are We Doing Here?

Go into the public assembly with a design to strike, and persuade some souls there, into repentance and salvation. Go to open blind eyes, to unstop deaf ears, to make the lame walk, to make the foolish wise, to raise those that are dead in trespasses and sins to a Heavenly and Divine life, and to bring guilty rebels to return to the love and obedience of their Maker, by Christ Jesus the great Reconciler, that they may be pardoned and saved. Go to diffuse the Savior of Christ and His gospel through a whole assembly and to allure souls to partake of His grace and glory.

Isaac Watts

You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. It is not your business to preach so many times; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness, without which they cannot see the Lord.

John Wesley

Excerpted from *The Twelve Rules*

Discipleship Matters

But is there something that must be considered EVEN MORE important?

There are men who feel they have special talents for the edification of believers, and so they give themselves entirely to building up Christians in the Faith. This was where I was side-tracked. I felt that I had special gifts for teaching and speaking to young Christians on the Deeper Life, and so I prepared a number of addresses with the idea of devoting my time to this work, until God mercifully opened my eyes and showed me how far I was astray. There is nothing that will deepen Christian experience, edify believers and build them up in the Faith so rapidly and thoroughly as seeing souls saved. Deep Holy Spirit meetings where the power of God is working mightily in the conviction and Salvation of sinners will do more for Christians than the teaching of years without it. Such was the experience of David Brainerd. In writing of the Indians among whom he labored he says, "Many of these people have gained more doctrinal knowledge of Divine truths since I have first visited them in June last, than could have been instilled into their minds by the most diligent use of proper and instructive means for whole years together, without such a Divine influence."

Oswald J. Smith

The Two

1. The Silent Church
2. The Confessing Church

Homo + Logos = Confession

Homologeō - Hah-mah-lah-gay-oh

Living, moving, and speaking in perfect agreement and stride with the Word of God

The Hallmark of the Twice-Born

They are giving away that which has been given to them - *They are Confessors!*

... **whoever confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **But whoever denies Me before men**, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:32-33

Recognizing Our Inadequacy

Drawing a Line in the Sand

Our cowardice and self-justification has ruled for long enough

We All Need Something In Order to Live This Out

What is that Something?

Let's Call it "Uction"

Uction is the Key to Christian Function

The "F-uction" of Christianity Earns an "F" if it's missing the "Uction" - But that "F"ailure and "F"ruitlessness is transformed into "F"abulous "F"ruitfulness when the "F" fervently seeks after the "Uction" and receives it.

Uction

the anointing for a spiritual office, the ointment that furnishes the power to do the work of the ministry

Chriō (khrē' -ō) *(the verb)*

to anoint; to smear with the Holy ointment; to furnish with the power required for the office of Messiah

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised . . .

Luke 4:18

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

Christos - Khrē-sto's *(the adjective)*

The long-awaited Messiah; the Anointed One, the One foretold, the One fully furnished for the Work, endowed with the Heavenly Power

Now He which establishes us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God.

2 Corinthians 1:21

Christians

The anointed ones; the smeared-with-Life; the heavenly drenched; the Spirit-saturated - those who have been immersed in The Anointed (the Christ) and have become the dwelling place of this Anointing.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalms 133:1-3

The Desperate Hour of the Confessors

Built to Repeat History

Unless there is “Unction”

3 in Every 1000

45,000,000 Protestant Christians in Germany in 1933 - and only 3 in every 1000 were willing to stand up and say that what Hitler was doing to the Jews was wrong

7,000 Impotent Churches in 1933

Excerpted from *The Revival We Need* by Oswald J. Smith (chapter two)

From my boyhood it has been my delight to read more or less of God's work along these lines, but lately I have been led to lay all else aside and to literally devour everything I could lay hands on regarding Revival work. And as I studied the lives of those whom God has signally used all down the centuries, especially the labors of the Puritans, the early Methodists and others of later years, and saw how wonderfully they were owned of Him--how they worked for, expected, and got what they sought --I was compelled to admit that I saw nothing like it today either in my own ministry or in the ministry of others. The average church does not aim at, let alone get, results. Men preach and never even dream of anything happening. Oh, how far away we have drifted! How powerless we have become!

It is reported that there were 7,000 churches that did not win a single soul for Jesus Christ in an entire year. That means that 7,000 ministers preached the Gospel for a whole year without reaching even one lost soul. Supposing that they preached, putting it at a low average, on 40 Sundays, not including extra meetings, that would mean that these 7,000 ministers preached 560,000 sermons in a single year. Think of the work, the labor, the money expended in salaries, etc., to make this possible. And yet 560,000 sermons preached by 7,000 ministers in 7,000 churches to tens of thousands of hearers during a period of twelve months, failed to bring a single soul to Christ.

Now, my brethren, there is something radically wrong somewhere. There is either something the matter with these 7,000 ministers or else with their 560,000 sermons, or with both.

Oswald J. Smith

57,000,000 Christians in America Today

And with every year that passes that number shrinks. If the Church was actually confessing, that ought not to happen. If only three in every 1000 of those 57,000,000 began to live as confessing Christians the world would be altered.

171,000 willing to confess, prayerfully pursuing one new believer every month, and discipling all these new believers to do the same

- Year One - 2,052,000 new believers
- Year Two - 24,624,000 new believers
- Year Three - 295,488,000 new believers
- Year Four - 3.5 Billion new believers

Gospel Month in China

At the Current Rate of Growth in the Chinese Underground Church, there will be more Christians in the illegal Chinese Church in 10 years than there are people in the United States of America

So, How Do We Access this “Unction”?

Unction cannot be learned, only earned - by prayer.

Leonard Ravenhill

Prayer, much prayer, is the price of preaching unction; prayer, much prayer, is the one, sole condition of keeping this unction. Without unceasing prayer the unction never comes to the preacher. Without perseverance in prayer, the unction, like the manna overleapt, breeds worms.

E.M. Bounds

This unction comes to the preacher not in the study but in the closet. It is heaven's distillation in answer to prayer. It is the sweet exhalation of the Holy Spirit. It impregnates, suffuses, softens, percolates, cuts, and soothes. It carries the Word like dynamite, like salt, like sugar; makes the Word a soother, an arranger, a revealer, a searcher; makes the hearer a culprit or a saint, make him weep like a child and live like a giant; opens his heart and his purse as gently, yet as strongly as the spring opens the leaves. This unction is not the gift of genius. It is not found in the halls of learning. No eloquence can woo it. No industry can win it. No prelatical hands can confer it. It is the gift of God - the signet set to his own messengers. It is heaven's knighthood given to the chosen true and brave ones who have sought this anointed honor through many an hour of tearful, wrestling prayer.

E.M. Bounds

The *Uctionized* Often Spend Hours in Prayer Daily

Why would they spend their life this way?

I wonder how long we might beat our brains before we could plainly put into word what is meant by preaching with unction. Yet he who preaches knows its presence, and he who hears soon detects its absence. Samaria, in famine, typifies a discourse without it. Jerusalem, with her feasts of fat things, full of marrow, may represent a sermon enriched with it. Everyone knows what the freshness of the morning is when orient pearls abound on every blade of grass, but who can describe it, much less produce it of itself? Such is the mystery of spiritual anointing. We know, but we cannot tell to others what it is. It is as easy as it is foolish, to counterfeit it. Uction is a thing which you cannot manufacture, and its counterfeits are worse than worthless. Yet it is, in itself, priceless, and beyond measure needful if you would edify believers and bring sinners to Christ.

Charles Spurgeon

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalm 133:3



This divine unction is the feature which separates and distinguishes true gospel preaching from all other methods of presenting the truth, and which creates a wide spiritual chasm between the preacher who has it and the one who has it not. It backs and impregnates revealed truth with all the energy of God. Unction is simply putting God in His own Word and on His own preachers. By mighty and great prayerfulness, it is all potential and personal to the preacher; it inspires and clarifies his intellect, gives insight and grasp and projecting power; it gives to the preacher heart power, which is greater than head power; and tenderness, purity, force flow from the heart by it. Enlargement, freedom, fullness of thought, directness and simplicity of utterance are the fruits of this unction.

E.M. Bounds

All the minister's efforts will be vanity or worse than vanity if he have not unction. Unction must come down from heaven and spread a savor and feeling and relish over his ministry; and among the other means of qualifying himself for his office, the Bible must hold the first place, and the last also must be given to the Word of God and prayer.

Richard Cecil

Without this unction there are no true spiritual results accomplished.

E.M. Bounds

Without this unction on the preacher the gospel has no more power to propagate itself than any other system of truth. This is the seal of its divinity. Unction in the preacher puts God in the gospel. Without the unction, God is absent, and the gospel is left to the low and unsatisfactory forces that the ingenuity, interest, or talents of men can devise to enforce and project its doctrines.

E.M. Bounds

Stony Hearts Await us Out There

If we go forward without the “Unction” we WILL fail

When the hammer of logic and the fire of human zeal fail to open the stony heart, unction will succeed.

Leonard Ravenhill

Aggressive Christianity

A Call To Action issued by the Salvation Army in 1880

What if we could erase from our minds all knowledge of the history of Christianity from the close of the period described in the book of Acts - and then looking at the book of Acts, sit down and try to calculate what was likely to happen in the world? We would most likely expect very different results - a radically changed world as the outcome of it all. A system which started with such power, under such promises and declarations on the part of its Author, and producing, as it did in its first century, such gigantic and momentous results! We would have thought (if we knew nothing of what has intervened from then until now) that the whole world would have fallen long ago to the influence of that system, and would have been brought under the authority of its great Originator and Founder. I say from reading these Acts, and from observing the Spirit which moved the early disciples, that we should have anticipated ten thousand times greater results - and in my opinion, this anticipation would have been perfectly rational and just.

Catherine Booth

Introducing John “Praying” Hyde

The praying missionary to India

A question:

What if his life and focus became a pattern for our church?

One Soul a Day

It was about this time that John Hyde laid hold of God in a very definite covenant (p44). This was for one soul a day, not less, not inquirers simply, but a soul saved, ready to confess Christ in public and be baptized in His Name . . . by the end of that year more than four hundred were gathered in. Was he satisfied? Far from it. How could he possibly be, so long as his Lord was not? How could our Lord be satisfied, so long as one single sheep was yet outside His fold? But John Hyde was learning the secret of divine strength: the joy of the Lord. For, after all, the greater our capacity for joy, the greater our capacity for sorrow. Thus it was with the Man of Sorrows, He who could say: “These words have I spoken unto you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full (p45-46).” John Hyde seemed always to be hearing the Good Shepherd’s voice saying: “Other sheep I have, other sheep I have.” No matter if he won the one a day, or the two a day, or four a day, he had an unsatisfied longing, an undying passion for lost souls. Here is a picture given by one of his friends in India:

As a personal worker he would engage a man in talk about his salvation. By and by he would have his hands on the man’s shoulders, be looking him very earnestly in the eye. Soon he would get the man on his knees, confessing his sins and seeking salvation. Such a one he would baptize in the village, by the roadside, or anywhere (p46).

Two Souls a Day

Again John Hyde laid hold of God with a definite and importunate request. This time it was for two souls a day (p47). *The result was over 800 more souls gathered in (p50).*

Four Souls a Day

The eight hundred souls gathered in since last year’s convention did not satisfy John Hyde. God was enlarging his heart with His love. Once again he laid hold on God with holy desperation. How many weeks it was I do not remember, but he went deeper still with Christ into the shadows of the Garden (p50)! . . . He at length got the assurance of four souls a day (p51).

I remember John telling me that in those days if on any day four souls were not brought into the fold, at night there would be such a weight on his heart that it was positively painful, and he could not eat nor sleep. Then in prayer he would ask his Lord to show him what was the obstacle in him to his blessing. He invariably found that it was the

want of praise in his life. This command, which has been repeated in God's Word
hundreds of times - surely it is all important! (p53-54)

The Ache of the Barren

Lord, give me Thy heart of love for sinners, Thy broken heart for their sins, Thy tears with which to admonish night and day .
. . But, O Lord, I feel so cold! My heart is so hard and dead. I am so lukewarm!

The Rebuke of the Friend

Why are you looking down at your poor self, brother? Of course your heart is cold and dead. But you have asked for the broken heart of Jesus, His love, His burden for sin, His tears. Is He a liar? Has He not given what you asked for? Then why look away from His heart to your own?

Calling Out the “Point Three” Percenters!

What if 3 out of every 1000 Evangelical Churches in America took up the Gospel Challenge? And what if 20 members of each congregation began praying for and actively pursuing one new believer a month?

- 300,000 Christian Churches
- 0.3% of 300,000 = 900 Churches
- If 900 churches each submitted 20 soldiers to this battle for souls, and each new believer gained were disciplined to emulate this lifestyle and attitude toward Christ and the Lost, then . . .
- This “Salvation Army” would start out consisting of 18,000 Christians (1 out of every 3,000 of the professing Christians currently in America)
- Year One - 216,000 new believers
- Year Two - 2,592,000 new believers
- Year Three - 31 million new believers
- Year Four - 373 million new believers
- Year Five - 4.5 Billion new believers

What Can One Church Really Do?

The Statistics: If we figured 200 of us signed up for active duty

- Church-wide - One Soul a Week = 52 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- Church-wide - One Soul a Day / Seven Souls a Week = 365 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- 200 of us each praying for One Soul a Week = 10,400 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- 200 of us each praying for One Soul a Day = 73,000 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- 200 of us each praying for Two Souls a Day = 146,000 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- 200 of us each praying for Four Souls a Day = 292,000 new believers needing discipleship in this upcoming year
- 200 of us each praying for One Soul a Week for three years, with each of our 52 converts each year praying for one soul a week = 10,400 year one - 54,800 year two - 28,121,600 year three
- 200 of us each praying for One Soul a Month for three years, with each of our 12 converts each year praying for One Soul a Month = 2,400 year one - 28,800 year two - 345,600 year three

Pause Right Here for a Metaphor

The Seven Years of Plenty

Some Perspective, Please

If 200 of us covenanted together to seriously alter the course of history and reestablish the ancient strength of the Almighty in this dying world, and we were all willing to each individually seek the unction to prayerfully and actively seek one soul a month over these next seven years of plenty—and we were to disciple these new believers in the unction of the Spirit-empowered life to go and do the same—what might the Church of Jesus Christ look like at the close of these next seven years?

- Year One - 2,400 new believers
- Year Two - 28,800 new believers (Windsor's population is 20,422)
- Year Three - 345,600 new believers (Northern Colorado is 554,000)
- Year Four - 4,147,200 new believers (Colorado's population is 5.3 million)
- Year Five - 49,766,400 new believers (entire country of Canada is only 36 million)
- Year Six - 597,196,800 new believers (US - 319 million + Canada 36 million + Mexico 122 million + Central America 42 million + Caribbean 39 million)
- Year Seven - 7.16 billion new believers (the population of the world is 7.13 billion)

Hey Guys! I've Got An Idea!

Let's go get the Unction and help Jesus build a Mega-Church!

Avy's First Song

Written May 30th, 2015

When the Wind Blows

By Avy

When the Wind blows

It's a really good time to come outside

Believe in Him

The Three-Year Gospel Challenge

Imagine 120 Students for Three Years

- Pray Four Hours a Day
- Study One Hour

- Work Eight Hours a Day
- Evangelize Four Hours a Day

Let's Get Practical

- I want us, each one of us, to begin to ask God for ready souls
- I want us to do this daily, even hourly. Let's start at least with adding such a request prior to every meal and always injecting it into every time of devotional prayer
- I want us to be ready to share - always ready!
- I want us to take bold steps forward, initiating conversation, and asking questions about people's souls
- I want each of us to get up fifteen minutes earlier than we are right now, and take those fifteen minutes for bonus, extra prayer for unction for our church, for our families, and for every individual (including you) in this Body
- I want us each to read one of the following books in these next two weeks: *Why Revival Tarries* by Leonard Ravenhill; *Power Through Prayer* by E.M. Bounds; and/or *The Revival We Need* by Oswald J. Smith
- I want each of us to attempt to come to the Chapel here at Ellerslie this upcoming Tuesday night
- I want each of us to begin, even now, asking God for the specific "unction" for Tuesday night - that what happens here on Tuesday would not be a derivative of men's wisdom but of God's power