

## FIREPLACE 6: Transformative Prayer Ministry

### **Just INFORMATION or is it TRANSFORMATION?**

Hopefully the preached Word contains good INFORMATION, at least some INSPIRATION, maybe some healthy MOTIVATION.

But the real question is, does it produce TRANSFORMATION?

- \* INFORMATION: What God TEACHES me
- \* INSPIRATION: What God SHOWS me
- \* IMPARTATION: What God GIVES me
- \* TRANSFORMATION: What God CHANGES in me

What's the difference between knowing what God says and allowing His Word to change the way we live?

Can you think of a time when God's Word moved beyond information and made a real difference in your life?

What role does the inspired, revealed Word have in transformation?

### **The DANGER: We only let the Word in so far**

We have to let the Word in DEEP ENOUGH to make a DIFFERENCE.

- \* Does it CHALLENGE me to change a HABIT?
- \* Does it CONVICT me to repentance, realignment, redirection?
- \* Does it offer me a PROMISE to pull me back from SAND onto ROCK?

A sermon can remain good INFORMATION, sprinkled with INSPIRATION, dosed with ENCOURAGEMENT, without ever becoming TRANSFORMATION.

What can stop us from allowing God's Word to challenge our habits, attitudes or decisions?

How can we recognise when God is inviting us to repent, realign or redirect something in our lives?

### **Every Word from God INVITES a RESPONSE (James 1:22-25)**

#### 1. WORSHIP

What kinds of worshipful responses might God's Word evoke in us, beyond simply singing?

#### 2. ANSWER the CHALLENGE

Why is it sometimes easier to nod & agree with a sermon than to take the next step of obedience?

### 3. PRAYER MINISTRY (James 5:13-16)

- \* It's not a 'Walk of SHAME,' but a 'Walk of FREEDOM.'
- \* We don't go for prayer because we're SPIRITUALLY INADEQUATE, but because His GRACE is INEXHAUSTIBLE.

Why might people feel embarrassed or hesitant about asking for prayer?

How does seeing prayer ministry as a *walk of freedom* rather than a *walk of shame* change our perspective?

What would help us become more willing to receive prayer ourselves or to encourage others to do so?

### **What might God WANT to DO?**

- \* Release you into new levels of FREEDOM
- \* Could it be your day for HEALING?
- \* Give you REVELATION leading to the BREAKTHROUGH you've been seeking for ages
- \* An impartation of spiritual STRENGTH, FAITH, HOPE
- \* Perhaps a PROPHETIC WORD

Which of these possibilities particularly resonates with you at the moment, and why?

How can we remain expectant about what God might do without trying to dictate exactly how He must work?

### **WHAT will I experience WHEN I get there?**

1. You will be WELCOMED
2. You will be prayed for by an EXPERIENCED, GIFTED team
3. CONFIDENTIALITY
4. We will LISTEN CAREFULLY to the Holy Spirit

What difference should these assurances make to someone considering receiving prayer? Does it allay any fears in you?

Do you personally feel a call to prayer ministry?

### **CLOSING THOUGHT**

We don't want to be people who merely TALK ABOUT the FIRE.

We want to COME CLOSE ENOUGH to be CHANGED by it.

What is the correlation between our response to the Word of God and our role in the fireplace?