

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



January 9, 2009

Dear Friend:

POWER BROKERS

I was in my upstairs office at the NorthShore location when the familiar sound drifted up. Prayer Meeting was in full gear and the Prayer Army meant business. As I leaned back to listen, the sound was bold but broken, victorious but beseeching.

Walking downstairs the sound got stronger and I stood behind the auditorium doors to listen a bit. Linda's familiar voice was recognizable but all the voices were lifted up. While standing there, I heard the call for God's anointing and outpouring on our church, our nation and our world. Then, names of those who were battling sickness and disease were lifted heavenward. I even smiled when I heard Michael and Linda's name sent God's way.

Expecting to see the crowd of intercessors, I opened the door to see just five ladies thoroughly focused on their prayer appointment.

Along with Linda were three life long friends and one fairly new friend who, because of a like Spirit and heart for God, was knitted into our hearts and quickly became special. It was a sweet moment.

Right in the middle of my short blessing sabbatical, I got ticked off.

Now, let me say that this isn't the typical church guilt trip speech on those who didn't go to Prayer Meeting. Quite the contrary, Linda and I are blessed with daily LifeGate Prayer Partners and a focused family of intercessors across this entire region. No, it ain't that.

I was actually bugged at the knowledge that this mighty prayer group might not be viewed by some as very significant since it was only five folks without fanfare. You see, we live in a time where the self promotion and personal drumbeats often drown out the diligent intercessions of a few.

Daily emails, snail mailings and flyers trumpeting revelational flash and dash seem to be the order of the day. Yes, God does call and equip and I am awed by what He can do but, just in case He misses a few appointments, there are plenty who will just christen themselves. Wow, add this to this month's latest Judas Tabernacle and you really have something to bust your buttons about!

The push for money, influence, control and place is heating up. The airwaves and print media are full of this stuff and our homes and churches are not immune to the attempted power grabs. While we certainly need the diverse gifts God has for His Body, with an *"every joint supplieth"* understanding, we need to know what is live or Memorex.

It just seems that while some might call themselves *"parachurch"* they are actually more *"parasite"* in nature as they merrily plod along. And although their programs are *"God called"*, our members, influence and mailing lists are always coveted and needed to succeed, especially if a few bucks can be made. It's open season.

Unfortunately, it seems that much restraint in the area of Godly protocol has been ditched. In fact, some of the bad behavior gets applauded and blessed by the deranged, thus motivating a *"ginned up"* misguided mentality that is reaching and grabbing. Turn to page 666 in your hymnals, *"We've finally got a piece of the pie"*.

In this hyper holy info age, how do we spot the real deal? First off, without the Holy Spirit discernment I've been writing about, we can forget it. While waiting for the yes/no information, here are a few points to ponder...

...The real deal will teach and point folks to the Father. The real deal will honor His Body. The real deal will demonstrate more than a syrupy lip service of honor. The real deal will not foster a control or approval dependency on one special potentate. The real deal, when finished, builds healthy church members. The real deal will leave peace in their wake, not confusion and empty wallets. In other words, the real deal will not use their calling to collect followers or finances. The real deal adds and multiplies. The opposite subtracts and divides.

What does this have to do with the ladies at the Prayer Meeting? Lots.

Many of the *"powerful"* and *"anointed"* aren't available to join the prayer sound unless they can be the hallowed focal point. Don't be alarmed, it's not new. Since man has breathed, humans gravitate to the photo ops, the palm waving parades and the free fish and bread buffets. Even on that momentous trip to the Gethsemane prayer meeting only three showed up and they dozed off.

God seems to get a kick out of shaking up the conventional and it doesn't take big numbers to pull it off.

He used one shepherd boy to take out a giant. One young lady va-va-voomed the heart of a king and saved an entire nation. One kid donated his fish po-boy and fed thousands. One angel took out 185 thousand enemy combatants. One man built an aircraft carrier in his front yard. One man said, "Let My People Go". One little lady fed a hungry prophet with what she had and she stayed blessed. And I especially like the account of how four lepers wiped out a whole army. The Word is full of such examples.

Even now, I am positive that airplanes have been kept in the skies as one humble person responded to an inner call to pray and something happened in the heavenlies. My old friend Dannibelle always sang, God uses *"Ordinary People"*. I think so.

The real deal is when the needs are met and God gets the ovation.

After seeing the charades and shenanigans, time and experience have help shaped this guy's opinion. When the storm rages and the foolish looms, I find safety and solace in the time tested truths. And, when things really get cranked up, I will reach for my secret weapons; proven artillery that can really break through and touch God when I need decisive, effective action.

First, I think I'll start with those five praying women.

Michael

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