



Teaching, Modeling, and Imparting Responsiveness to the Holy Spirit for Life and Ministry.

**TEACHING:
The Finitude-Infinitude
Connection**

by Mike Flynn

Years ago I was trying to explain what it must have been like for God to incarnate His Son as a human. The analogy that came to mind was of a human incarnating his son as an ant. Can you imagine the claustrophobia and vulnerability a human would experience in becoming an ant? But can you also imagine the glory that antdom would experience knowing that a human had become one of them?

Humans and ants can't communicate very well with each other. But God has made it possible for us to communicate with Him and for the connection between He and us to be rich, full, and glorious.

His role is to know everything, be everywhere, possess all wisdom and be simultaneously ready to listen to and be intimate with every person on earth. Our role is to seek that intimacy and profit from its benefits on an ever-increasing scale.

What an amazing thing it is that God doesn't scorn our lowliness, our incapacities (compared with His capacities), our fumbling, our blindness, our mistakes. He is just there, always eager to connect with us. His heart is so magnanimous that He loves

connecting with us. So He places Himself in the role of being our attendant, ever ready to listen, speak, enjoy, and be enjoyed by us.

This is partly why I've written chapters on listening to Him in three of my books. It is not only stupid to ignore His capacities, but it is also self-defeating to ignore His readiness to connect with us for intimacy. Being and not just doing is fulfilled by connecting with Him.

But the finitude(us)-infinitude(Him) connection means that connecting with Him isn't going to be simplistic, easily achieved, or quickly mastered by us. He is always going to be too huge to easily reduce to understandability. This is why Scripture exhorts us to seek Him, pursue Him, keep looking for Him. It's not that He's the problem. We are the problem. But if we keep seeking Him, the act of seeking establishes a connection by which He can give us little impulses of direction, understanding, encouragement, and enlightenment. But without the connection no electricity flows.

I just installed a new doorbell. The rate of electrical power is very small--13 volts--I couldn't even feel a shock when I tested it in my hand. But even with such little juice, the Westminster 8-note chime bonged noisily.

When we start connecting with God, we're like that doorbell mechanism:

we can only stand a wee bit of juice. Even so, there can be a very satisfying chime. But when we get more used to His power He can increase the voltage until its possible for Him to do a megawatt job through us.

Every time we seek Him. Every time we try to hear Him. Every time we shoot up an arrow of praise or thanks. Every time we implore Him for help. Every time: He's able to up the voltage a bit more. What do you hope to do for God before you cash out? Heal the sick? Raise the dead? Do miracles? Control hurricanes? Block evil intentions? Realize that if He shoves the power needed to do these things through you before you've expanded to accommodate it, the power will fry you on the spot. So He refrains. But He seeks to enlarge your capacity, which only happens through genuine intimacy with Him. So He keeps beckoning: "Come to Me." "Connect with Me." "Be with Me." "Do with Me."

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FreshWind Scheduled Events

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	CONTACT
Apr 20-22	Camarillo CA Vineyard	Healing conf. with Rick Taylor, Leah Coulter, and Mike Flynn	805-987-4113
May 4-6	Springfield, IL	Yes, These Bones Can Live	(invitation only)
May 19-21	St. Michael's Epis. Riverside, CA	Catching the Wind conf.	951-689-0642
Jun 8-10	Springfield, IL	Yes, These Bones Can Live	(invitation only)
Jun 28-Jul 1	San Antonio TX Conference	Order of St. Luke National	lyn_rosboro@ hotmail.com
Aug 3-5	Springfield, IL	Yes, These Bones Can Live	(invitation only)
Sep 8-10	St. Christopher Epis. Ch. League City, TX	(undetermined)	281-332-5553
Oct 13-15	Ontario Canada	Order of St. Luke conf.	905-842-4635
Oct 20-22	Eastminster Pres. Ch. Ventura CA	(undetermined)	805-647-3757

Comment. The Camarillo conference will be headlined by Rick Taylor, who is in charge of a renewal of "healing rooms" which flourished at the turn of the last century. There are now 400 healing rooms in the US, and they have a remarkable success rate.

Leader's Corner

John Wimber once said to a clergy group, "You pastors think you're in the people-keeping business, but I tell you you're in the people-processing business." This is undoubtedly true. And painful. Just when things are starting to go well, someone whom you think is indispensable to your church decides to move elsewhere. "Aaaahhhh!" you cry. But it's how things are. So what to do? Beg, manipulate, cajole your people into staying?

No, I think the task is to give them everything we can when we can so that they're more ready to serve the Kingdom when they move on.

I got fed up with saying good-bye and commissioning people to leave St. Jude's (my church at the time) so I complained to God one day in my morning prayer time. He answered, "What do you want, to build St. Jude's or build up the kingdom?" "Well," I answered petulantly, "the kingdom of course," though I didn't feel like it.

Years later I began to realize that people we had invested in at St. Jude's were now in leadership positions all over the world. And I exulted in God's wonderful plan. But notice that it is years later that this occurs. We don't see and cannot exult in God's plan at the moment of sacrifice. All we can see is the pain of the moment. This is why it is a walk of faith, this business of Christianity.

Save 'em! Fill 'em! Train 'em! Disciple 'em as fast as you can. And because of your investment in them, God will be able to use them mightily in the places to which they go. "The uttermost parts of the earth" as Someone said.

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Leader's Corner
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I was trying to get a group of Brazilian clergy to accept this when I told a story about Agatha, who worshipped and participated in St. Jude's for about 5 years while getting her degree at Fuller Seminary. The Brazilian guys didn't like what I was saying. So I mentioned that several years after Agatha returned to Hong Kong she took us out to dinner on one of our ministry trips there. At dinner she handed me an envelope filled with cash, telling me that this was the Chinese way of saying thanks for what we had invested in her and that she was now discipling over 150 clergy every 2 weeks.

Suddenly one of the Brazilian pastors erupted, "You don't mean Agatha Chan do you?" "Yes," I replied. "Ohmygosh," he said, "I just spent a weekend under her in a leadership conference with 200 other pastors in Rio." All of a sudden, I had favor with this group.

You get it? I bet God foresaw that encounter 15 years earlier when we had to say good-bye to Agatha. He doesn't miss one single trick.

Bits of Feedback

From a conference in Minneapolis:

"Thanks so much for coming to Minnesota in January. The Lord used you in a mighty way to change many lives."

"I learned more this weekend than I have in my whole life!"

"Encouraging, strengthening, affirming, equipping ... Whoa!"

"It deepened my intimate relationship with Christ. I learned a lot about healing, prayer and how to take the leap of faith for God."

"Mike's openness and vulnerability were an inspiration. I learned how God can use ordinary people in extraordinary ways."

FreshWind's New Address

FreshWind is now located at 4406 El Corazon Ct., Camarillo, CA 93012. The phone is 805-383-1269. Email remains the same: mkfln@aol.com.

Please discard previous offering envelopes (printed with blue ink) and use the new one enclosed here if you wish to contribute to FreshWind.

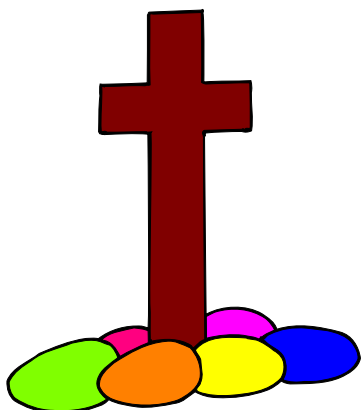
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The Email Connection.

If you'd be willing to help us save printing and postage costs by receiving the WindSock on email, please email us at batham@sbc-global.net or tizue at aol.com with "WindSock" in the subject line. If you have spam blockers, please release our address to come through. Thanks! Please enter your name and street address so we can correlate your screen name and mailing address.

Intercessors at FreshWind Events

We've decided to recruit on-site intercessors to pray down the power of God in the conferences we lead. If you are an experienced intercessor and feel called to a certain event, please notify the office of your availability. Travel costs will be your responsibility but we will seek to house you in the homes of hosts. It is expected that each event will have 3-5 intercessors on hand.



Resurrection Crucial.

"For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." --I Cor. 15.16-17. So it's crucial to settle it by a decisive act of willful agreement with Scripture that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead and will raise you too. If you've done that--

HAPPY EASTER!

If you haven't yet done that, may I implore you to realize that faith precedes comprehension. That is, once we do something God asks of us by an act of will, there follows intellectual understanding. It has always been so. As St. Augustine put it: "We don't believe because we see; we see because we believe."

Roxanne Light-Chaser

I was sitting in my recliner watching TV when it first happened. For several minutes I had been unconsciously shifting my head out of a narrow shaft of sunlight coming through the window over the TV. Finally, I had to hold my hand over my eyes to shade them. Suddenly there was a violent lurch where, a short space from my feet, Roxanne attacked the fireplace! I was stunned, bewildered at the sudden attractiveness of what had always been a rather ho-hum fireplace.

To that point, Roxanne--an English Springer Spaniel--had been the model pet: loyal, friendly to a fault, enthusiastic, and great fun to be around. But now, right there in the living room, she had suddenly gone bonkers. I watched her carefully for the next hour or so. It was apparent that something about the fireplace had seized her attention, for she peered intently at it as though waiting for it to do something which she could attack. But she did not, and I remained mystified, until a few weeks later.

I was outside barbecuing when she did it again. "Now that's odd," I thought, "the fireplace is way inside". I barely had time to think that when she did it again, pouncing on a spot of pavement a few feet away. This time I saw the attraction: a tiny spot of sunlight was reflecting off my wristwatch onto the pavement, and something about Roxanne's make-up could not, could NOT, ignore it.

I have since entertained both her and myself many times by splashing light around with the same result--she is absolutely seized by the need to possess that light. Whatever else is happening in her world ceases to exist once that darting tidbit of light catches her attention. She will wait for a hour for it to appear again: attentive, patient, absorbed, captured.

With Roxanne it's instinctive, of course; but with us it's a conditioned response. We're attracted by the Light, but we're not absorbed with It, possessed by It, until we condition ourselves to respond to It like that.

"Narrow is the door and few there are that pass through it," Jesus observed. I wonder if that's because so few are seeking it to the exclusion of all other things. Maybe most people miss His door simply because they're not looking for it.

Interestingly, when Rox is waiting for the light to re-appear, she adopts a posture which almost looks like prayer. Her body is still, her head kind of cocked off to one side, ears drooping, eyes alert--she's waiting for the light to reveal itself again. And when it does, she is utterly taken with it, fulfilled, satisfied, happy to give her all to its pursuit.

My friends, there is Light waiting to splash across the prayer-room of your soul. Roxanne would urge you to give yourself to its pursuit.

And so would I. So would I!

Love ya,
Mike

Faith Pledge

If God has touched you through FreshWind Ministries, would you consider making a faith pledge to support FreshWind's work? It would just be between you and God. If the money comes in, then thank God and relay it to FreshWind. Thank you.

Responses

FreshWind often donates its time and energy to foreign and domestic churches and organizations that cannot afford to pay normal honoraria and travel expenses. Many of these are missions-focused, as is FreshWind.

About 75% of FreshWind's budget comes from people like you who believe in and feel led to support what we're doing to extend the kingdom.

Here's the bottom line:

+ **renewed, disciplined, and anointed people produce ministry and mission**

+ **FreshWind produces renewed, disciplined and anointed followers**

We ask you to help us "produce" FreshWind.

We highly value all forms of aid: prayer, finances, and ministry team participation. Please look over this response form and see if the Lord would speak to you about your support of this ministry.

PRAYER:

_____ I/we would like to receive Mike's monthly intercessor's letter and pray regularly for your ministry. If we're on email, our email address is _____. Please copy and email this to Mike or mail by postal system.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

• I/we pledge: \$_____ per month for the support of FreshWind Ministries. I understand that FreshWind is a 501(c) (3) religious non-profit corporation and that I will receive regular IRS-approved statements for tax deduction purposes.

• I do not feel that the Lord is leading me to pledge regularly at this time, but I want to send a one-time gift of \$_____.

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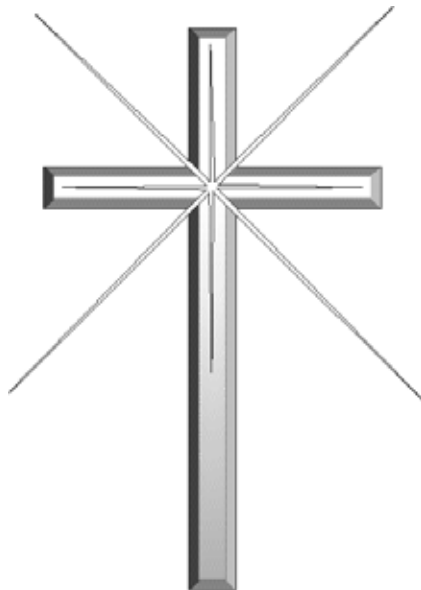
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Making Disciples, Following Jesus' Model. \$5

The Mustard Seed Book, Understanding and using effective faith. \$10

Inner Healing, A handbook for helping yourself and others. \$14

Holy Vulnerability, The risks and rewards of opening up to God. \$12

All 5 books, \$41 (a 25% discount) \$44 in California includes sales tax

Plus \$2 shipping for the first book and \$1 for each added book

*Make checks out to Mike Flynn.
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