

Jake Hebert's Testimony (3/1/09)

On the Sunday of March 1, 2009, I was very blessed by things that were prophetically spoken about me. Prior to that Sunday, I had asked the Lord to speak to me somehow, and he did – twice!

From the platform, one of the speakers (I'm not sure of his name – it may have been Michael, the shorter one) said a number of things that were “spot on”! First, he said that he felt the Lord telling him that I had asked to actually feel the Lord's presence, almost like being given a hug or a kiss. Well, not too long before that, I had actually told the Lord that I wished he would give me a hug! Lately, in my prayer times, I have been simply telling the Lord that I love him and how grateful I am to have a clear mind (for many years, I had extreme difficulty concentrating, and the Lord, through the use of a “brain training” CD, has given me much greater clarity of thought – this itself was another answer to prayer, although that's another story). During my prayer times, my heart just overflows with gratitude and thanks, and I tell him how much I love him and thank him, rather than presenting him with a list of requests. Even though the requests I presented to him were not selfish ones (prayers for lost loved ones, etc.), somehow I know that these less structured and less formal prayer times are what he wants for us – he wants for us to relate to him like little children. Even though I still have prayer requests, I now make them in a less “mechanical” fashion than I used to. However, I don't know if this is a complete or partial fulfillment of what was spoken.

Second, he said that Psalm 133 came to his mind (the passage that says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” The speaker said that he felt I had been asking God for unity with men, and he said that he felt that the key word was “unity.” Actually, I haven't been asking for this, but I have felt for quite some time that Christians ought to humble themselves and try to learn from each other – isn't it amazing how each denomination thinks that it is completely right and can't learn anything from the other denominations? I have also felt for quite some time that Christians ought to be less quick to condemn one another. In fact, I often frequently say to myself, “Unity, man! Unity!” It's my private little joke, because when conservative Christians hear the word “unity” they tend to immediately think of hippies and cults!

Third, the speaker said that he thought that the Lord had told him that I had some really new and radical ideas for ministry. This is also true. I have some really radical ideas, and these have serious implications for the way we do ministry, especially evangelism.

Fourth, the speaker asked me if I liked to fish, as the Lord had apparently given him a mental image of me doing so. Actually, I don't like fishing, but I have an intense desire to do evangelistic work, so the imagery was probably symbolic of me being a “fisher of men,” as Jack suggested from the platform.

However, the Lord was still not finished speaking to me that day. After the service, I went

forward to ask for prayer for healing of the chronic fatigue and racing heart (a side effect of some medication I take) that I suffer from. The Lord did not see fit to heal me, but he did bless me in a special way. While a man and woman were praying for me, the Lord revealed a number of things about me to the man (I don't remember his name). What really impressed me was that he said that he had the impression that I had made vows to the Lord. This was indeed true, and I had been deeply troubled by the fact that I had not kept the vows. I had made them with good intentions, mainly because I felt that doing so was the only way I would feel enough "pressure" to overcome certain things in my life and grow spiritually in some areas. In some cases, I physically wasn't able to keep them, and in others I had just simply failed to do so. This greatly troubled me, because I knew the stern words that the Bible has regarding the keeping of one's vows (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6), and could just imagine my eternal reward shrinking in size (down to nothing!) every time I failed to keep these promises. Furthermore, each additional vow added an extra burden and duty to be performed that sucked more and more of the joy out of my life. The man said that the Lord wanted me to know that he didn't intend for me to make those vows in the first place, and that the Lord wanted to release me from them and to break their power over me. This was a tremendous comfort to me and a greatly freeing thing. Praise the Lord! Please understand that I was not looking for an easy "out" or an excuse to sin. I am a pretty serious Christian, but these vows were suffocating me and robbing me of all joy. I knew what the letter of the law said, and I could see no way out unless the law's Author released me. Fortunately, he did. Thank you, Lord Jesus!