

## AN URGENT CRY FOR UNCTION

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MUCH OF MODERN day preaching is powerless. Powerless because it is ununctionless. The urgent cry of the hour is for divinely-anointed power to be restored to church pulpits. O for preachers to have tongues of fire again! So little fire falls from heaven nowadays— to ignite the many cold, carefree hearts.

Similar to Samson, from whom the Spirit departed without his knowing it, many preachers seem to have little awareness that God's power has vanished from their pulpits.

At the heart of this present day dilemma is a lost confidence in God's power to use His Word. The failure is always with the preacher's lack of faith, never with God's ability and His unfailing Word. Faith, animated by travailing prayer, must always be at the receiving end.

While many hold to the inerrancy of Scripture, some preachers do not seem convinced of its infallibility and sufficiency when preached to bring about God's desired results. So they exhaust their energies by pursuing new trends, the latest church-growth programs, alternative worship styles, and corporate marketing plans to build their churches. Their aim is to achieve spiritual ends by turning to drama, dialogue, video clips, and similar means.

Unwittingly (with the best of intentions of course), they find themselves, sooner or later, carrying the Ark of God on a Philistine-type new cart (2 Sam. 6). When such a thing happens, tragedy of some sort is inevitable.

E. M. Bounds' timeless advice abides: "Man is looking for better methods. God is looking for better men. Man is God's method."

If God-called preachers are determined to whole-heartedly believe His Word and to boldly preach it with the authority invested in them, God will—as He has so faithfully done in the past—mightily accomplish His high and holy purposes through their proclamation.

Today's God-called preachers would do well to revisit the lives of God's prophets in the Scriptures and pay attention to their examples as proclaimers of God's Word.

Soli Deo Gloria