

## The Church – Bold Preaching, Hell Trembles

Dr. John Carmichael

**[2Ti 4:1-2 NASB95] 1 I solemnly charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

- The growth of the church has always been tied to the preaching of God's Word. From Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) to Paul's proclamation in the marketplaces, preaching has been the vehicle through which God saves, builds, and strengthens His people.
  - Spreads... [Act 6:7 NASB95] 7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.
  - Grows, multiplies... [Act 12:24 NASB95] 24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.
  - Prevails... [Act 19:20 NASB95] 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.
  - The church in Acts focused on the Word of the Lord and it spread, grew, and prevailed.
  - As we focus on the preached Word of the Lord, we are going to spread, grow, and prevail!
- Church programs, fellowship, and music all have their place, but it is Spirit-filled preaching that pierces hearts, transforms lives, and multiplies the church.

**What are the elements of bold preaching that cause hell to tremble?**

**Here are five elements of bold preaching that cause hell to tremble.**

### **I. Affection (For God, His Word, His People)**

- a. [Jhn 21:15 NASB95] 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, [son] of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."
- b. Love is the foundation of preaching. Without affection for God, His Word, and His people, preaching becomes mechanical and lifeless.
- c. Before you preach, check your heart. Are you motivated by love for God and His people? Let your compassion for souls fuel your words.

### **II. Authenticity (Right Motives, Right Living)**

- a. [1Th 2:3-4 NASB95] 3 For our exhortation does not [come] from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.
- b. People can sense when a preacher is genuine. Hypocrisy destroys credibility, while authenticity draws people to Christ.
- c. A Barna study (Dec 2024) asked respondents to pick traits they want a pastor to show while preaching. The top pick was honesty (48%), ahead of knowledge (37%) and compassion (36%).
- d. Preach what you practice. Live the message you proclaim. Examine your motives regularly. Are you preaching for applause or for the glory of God?

### **III. Accuracy (To the Scripture, the Spirit, and the Circumstance, it alliterates when spoken)**

- a. [2Ti 2:15 NASB95] 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

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- b. Accurate to the Scripture: Preaching must be rooted in the Bible, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and relevant to the needs of the people. Accuracy prevents error and builds confidence in God's Word.
- c. Accurate to the Spirit: Preach what He says and wants you to preach.
- d. Accurate to the circumstance: Younger adults (18–49) are more likely to expect regular cultural engagement than older adults. Preaching must reinforce a coherent, biblical worldview, not just offer moral advice. The risk of drift or syncretism is real.
- e. Spend time in both study and prayer. Don't just preach ideas. Preach the inspired Word, applied to real-life situations under the Spirit's guidance.

### IV. Anointing (Abiding Anointing and Present Anointing)

- a. [Luk 4:18 NASB95] 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
- b. Abiding anointing: [1Jo 2:27 NASB95] 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
- c. Present anointing: [Luk 5:17 NASB95] 17 One day He was teaching; and there were [some] Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting [there,] who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and [from] Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was [present] for Him to perform healing.
- d. Knowledge alone is not enough; we need the Spirit's power. The abiding anointing comes through ongoing communion with Christ, while the present anointing is the Spirit's fresh touch for each message.
- e. Seek God in prayer and fasting before preaching. Depend on the Spirit in the pulpit, not your notes. Let the anointing break yokes and bring freedom.

### V. Authority (Over Demons, Deception, and Disease)

- a. [Mar 16:17-18 NASB95] 17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly [poison,] it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
  - b. This authority is dependent upon the previous points. **No authority without affection, authenticity, accuracy, and anointing.**
  - c. Preaching isn't just about information; it's about impartation. True preaching carries kingdom authority to confront darkness and bring deliverance.
  - d. Preach with boldness. Declare the truth without compromise. Pray for the sick, rebuke deception, and stand against spiritual strongholds in the power of Christ.
- Preaching with affection, authenticity, accuracy, anointing, and authority is the key to church growth because it connects people to God's Word and releases His power among His people.
  - Church growth doesn't happen by gimmicks—it happens when God's Word is preached with affection, authenticity, accuracy, anointing, and authority. When preaching rises to this level, sinners are saved, saints are strengthened, and the church multiplies.