

James Crawford "Exposing Our Lukewarmness - A Prophetic Word"

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As I sought the Lord for this week's Sunday sermon, He impressed upon me to preach on "Exposing Our Lukewarmness." Throughout history, every person and every church has had to be called into a season of repentance from time to time and this is a season we are in today.

In today's sermon we'll learn what lukewarmness is, how we are being infected by it and how we can be cleansed of it.

Let's get better together today!

Ephesians 5:25-26

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.

1. The Gentle Purifying Father

David understood well that God is a tenderhearted Father who is faithful to forgive and cleanse us gently.

Psalm 51

A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone into Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my

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transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions...

Notice here David also knew that He had to own his sin.

2. Some Lukewarm People Trust Their Nation

God is the ruler of every nation, our favorite politician is God's appointed leader. We may need to repent for nationalism and learn to trust the God who rules our nation. This keeps our hearts on fire for God and not our land.

This is very important in this generation because God is now starting to shake every nation with more intensity. If we are trusting our politicians more than God, it could be our undoing.

Isaiah 13

6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty...9 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

...11 "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible...13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the Lord of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.

15 ...And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. 16 Their children

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also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered, and their wives ravished.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NATIONS

This major section of The Book of Isaiah emphasizes the folly of trusting in the nations rather than in Yahweh. The section preceding it shows how King Ahaz trusted in Assyria and experienced destruction (chs. 7—12). The section following it shows how King Hezekiah trusted in the Lord and experienced deliverance (chs. 36—39).

In this present section, the prophet expanded his perspective from Israel to include the whole world. The God of Israel is also Lord (sovereign) of the nations. This whole section of the book expands the idea that all the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of God and His Christ, Immanuel (Dan. 2:44).

It would be foolish to trust in nations whom God has doomed. The unifying theme is the pride of these nations. The major lesson of this section is that exalting self and failing to submit to God results in destruction. "... He [God] will hold every nation accountable for its actions.

3. God's Acts 6 Revelators Will Keep You on Fire

Notice here that God appointed "certain" apostolic disciples (the 12) who's primary function in the body was to pray and minister the Word. This is the model of church leadership that we need. These were the some of the apostles who learned how to pray, fast and prophesy under the tutelage of Jesus Himself.

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Acts 6

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

4. Who Do You Listen To? The Influencers Will Deceive You

Mega influencers have many followers on their social networks, often more than 1 million followers on a platform. People with followers in the range between 100,000 and 1 million followers on a social network are macro-influencers. Most influencers are micro-influencers with between 10,000 and 100,000 followers.

Are you being influenced by God's apostles and prophets or carnal influencers. You will be deceived if you do not discern this.

I Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness"

5. Don't Let Them Poison Your Mind Against God's True Leaders

Some people will seek to divide you from the people God puts in your life to lead you spiritually. I believe this is a prophetic warning to us as a body now.

Acts 13:50–14:4

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13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

14:1 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.

6. God's Letter to the Lukewarm Church

God loves us and wants to help us get clean and free.

Rev. 3:14–22

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write...15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

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19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

7. Obey Your Spiritual Leaders

Spiritual authority is limited. We submit to our Pastors regarding our relationship to our church and through the anointed Biblical teaching that we sense is authentically God's Word.

Hebrews 13

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

8. The Spirit of Religion Is Infecting Some

These are the 4 primary characteristics of the spirit of religion.

Legalism, Form, Prayerlessness and Judgmentalism.

9. Don't Be Carried Away with Strange Doctrines

In the early church there were the same types of struggles present that we have today. We need to stick to the main, plain doctrines we find in the

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Bible.

Hebrews 13:9

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not benefited those who have been occupied with them.

10. The Call to Repent for Porn, Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Prayerlessness & Lukewarmness

John the Baptist was a forerunner prophet who led people to repentance the right way. Once a person hears the gospel and is convicted that his way of life is wrong, he must alter his present behavior and "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8). The fruits of repentance are visible actions—often called "works"—that show that a person has indeed changed.

Matthew 3

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance...

Pornography
Alcohol & Drug Addiction
Prayerlessness
Lukewarmness

11. Our Solidarity is Your Next Level

1 Corinthians 12:26

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If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Psalms 133:1

A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

12. What Attracts the Favor of God?

Though we're all subject to the blessings of God, some are more blessed than others. I believe that favor has something to do with that. What was it that attracted God to Mary? "The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'" (Luke 1:28)

1. Love God

Love God with all your heart. Without loving Him, we cannot expect to gain His favor.

"My son, do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around

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your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3:1-4)

2. Love people

What are you doing for the Kingdom? What are you doing for others? If you want God's favor then start caring for people. Ruth found favor with Boaz because of the things she had done and James says 'faith without works is dead'.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'." (Matthew 25:34-40)

"Boaz replied, 'I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge'." (Ruth 2:11-12)

Ruth's was noticed for what she had done, she received more than she asked for, special treatment, protection, more than enough!

3. Hate what God hates

As you make a stand for God and His causes His favor is released upon you

"But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." (Revelation 2:6)

4. Give gifts and offerings

Abel's offering found favor with God but Cain's did not. Make sure your offering finds favor with God. Giving gifts leads us to find favor with both God and man as we see from the example of Jacob who found favor with Esau following his substantial gift.

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"And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast." (Genesis 4:4)

"I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes." (Genesis 32:5)

5. Be faithful

Noah found favor with God due to his faithfulness. He walked faithfully with God and that led to favor.

"So the Lord said, 'I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God." (Genesis 6:7-9)

6. Be righteous/blameless

As we can also see in the example of Noah, being righteous and blameless is a key to finding favor. We also find this call to righteousness in the New Testament.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

"Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:12) You can be blessed with favor. Favor leads to blessing.

7. Be submitted

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Esther shows us how submission brings favor. She didn't take matters into her own hands. This is an ingredient to receiving favor. She exemplified submission, humility and confidence in God and won the favor of everyone who saw her.

"When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested." (Esther 2:15)

8. Be humble/have humility

Through her humility Esther received immediate care and attention, provision, the best place, helpers, assistants and attendants. Furthermore, her favor created favor for all around her. Through our humility, let's create an atmosphere of favor in our lives that can overflow to others.

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)

9. Be honest

Honesty is a key to favor. Joseph found favor with Potiphar because he could be trusted.

"The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with Him." (Proverbs 11:1)

"Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned." (Genesis 39)

10. Get Wisdom

Wisdom is a key to favor. As Solomon makes clear in the Book of Proverbs.

"For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 8:35)

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As you use these 10 keys, I believe you will see the favor of God on your life. And remember, favor comes in stages. You must grow in it. You do not necessarily receive maximum favor all at once. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52) If Jesus had to grow in favor then so do we!

God's favor is lasting. "For His anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime." (Psalm 30:5)

13. The Lake of Fire is For Somebody

This is the list of types of people you do not want to be like. Look where they will spend their eternity.

Revelation 21

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."