



**COMMISSION ON HOLY  
SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT  
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Combined Conversation  
Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st  
Century**

**Dallas, Texas  
Marriott Solana Hotel  
October 6-7, 2009**

The combined conversation on the Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was held in Dallas, Texas at the Marriott Solana Hotel on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2009. The conversation commenced at 9:30 am by Pastor Billy Wilson who, following a short time of praise and worship, introduced Dr. Jack Hayford to do a devotional.

The devotional text, Isaiah 35: 1-3, was used as a reference point to a dream that Dr. Hayford had a few days prior. He noted that in his dream the Lord was pulling him down, through a whirl of sand, into the dryness of this generation. While this was happening the Lord said, "There shall be streams into the desert and the desert shall blossom as a rose." Dr. Hayford further noted that, as in his dream, God wants to pull us down into the dryness of this generation. Letting the hand grab us down into the dryness of what is going on is His way of using us to help bring about streams in the desert placed of people's lives and cause the desert to blossom. God wants to open up His torrents in all of us with freshness. There is something that always should be transferred from generation to generation: Experience. He further encouraged the audience to allow God to pull them down into the dryness of this generation so that we can make a difference in it. He concluded by noting that, the location of the Empowered 21 congress is very significant. It will be held at a training institution, because it is going to take both education and impartation to prepare the next generation.

Following lunch, the attendees convened in their specific groups- scholar, leadership, or next generation- in order to answer the first in a series of questions that will be explored into the following day. This first question was, "What have you discovered from your specific conversations over the past 10 months?" The scholars group, which was represented by Dr. Vincent Synan and Dr. Thomson Mathew, noted that: The movement needs a solid historical/theological understanding of where it came from; scholars can articulate a reason for

the hope within us. They are our servants, not our enemies; scholars can show pattern of the revivals from the past to discern future revivals; scholars can write position papers on difficult issues for the consideration of the church and its leaders; leaders need to take responsibility for training their people and future leaders - beware of bureaucracy and support learning; leaders need to examine the relationship between the movement and institutions; support the institutions to keep your influence on them and to let them serve the church; leaders need to be vulnerable, accountable, and theologically informed ministry practitioners; instead of ignoring current vocabulary and imposing new ones in a hurry, we can give new and shared meaning to biblical vocabulary; to what degree any Christian vocabulary must be grounded in biblical vocabulary and biblical language; we need an ongoing polity of non-threatening gatherings for reflection and dialogue; as the fastest growing and largest Pentecostal movement, we need to discover the central truths we cannot give-up; and we can demand authenticity, but at the same time youth should never neglect their responsibility to honor their mothers and fathers in obedience to the Bible.

The leadership group, which was represented by Dr. Jack Hayford and Mr. Mart Green noted that: We need to create a framework for generativity connections (a sociological study), and have older people speak into the lives of the youth; there needs to be a reengagement of joint prayer where generations pray together; rebirthing the power of the testimony, by giving both adults and youth the freedom to tell their story; youth are so text savvy that they can converse about a subject that they are no knowledgeable of with such excellence. This allows them to move onto third base without ever having to go pass first base; there is need for transgenerational spiritual father/son relationships; and we need to train young people to live in accordance with

the Word and help them know who Jesus is and get involved in the community of faith; help cultivate a belief system in our youth.

The next generation group was represented by Mr. Ron Luce and Mr. Devin Webb who noted that: Youth are earnestly desiring spiritual fathers, mothers, and mentors who are willing to guide them out of a spirit of brokenness and not out of their successes; youth require authenticity and transparency from their leaders; and the popular rhetoric of the older generation has created a huge gap between them and the younger generations. Thus youth are requesting a language that is relevant and biblically sound.

The second discussion question was, “What are the top five things you are hearing in this process about the future of the Spirit-empowered movement?” After an intense collaboration between their member, the groups noted that the top things they are hearing about the future of the Spirit-empowered movement are: The need for biblical and spiritual literacy; there is need for the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, because demonstration will always outweigh conversation; there needs to be clarification on what things can be changed as against those that should not be changed; intergenerational relationships need to be developed, because relationships are the catalyst to true conversation and impartation; the problem is not about language, it is about the baggage; every generation goes through a similar cycle; are we really reaching the emerging generations? Saying it to them does not mean that they are getting it; the next generations desire to be authentically mentored/fathered; they need to understand the attributes of the Holy Spirit and His role in everyday life; the Holy Spirit never contradicts scriptures; consider the kids as we speak about the next generations; alleviate Biblical and historical ignorance by placing greater importance on studying church history; we need to share more testimonies of God’s power, intergenerationally; we need to clarify definitions; there is

need for more joint prayers; we cannot let institutions get in the way of the body of Christ; and we need to focus on how much we are alike than how we are different.

The third discussion question was, “What is the Holy Spirit doing today?” The group noted that they are convinced that the Holy Spirit is: Outpouring in a fresh way; convicting fathers of their responsibility; helping us return to the cradle of Christianity – preaching on the Blood and Cross; raising a remnant even in famine; calling us to biblical lifestyle; preparing His body; moving into a new phase of healing at the core of our humanity; calling us into a higher level of holiness toward the end of the race; moving new people to reach the lost; moving across denominational boundaries; helping us understand who we are and our own inheritance in the kingdom and in creation; preparing His church to the point where He can express Himself in the way He desires; bringing us back to the unity of the Spirit; personal purification of Church leadership; decentralization of church leadership and changing from controlling to empowering demeanor; spiritual alertness through prayer; resorting to His people an identity of love; creating an atmosphere that will not afford us that luxury of being complacent; and revealing Himself through new movements that transcend our own understanding.

The fourth discussion question was, “List three to five things that are on the horizon for Spirit-filled Christianity around the world.” They group noted: Deep conviction of sin; move transcending denominational and racial boundaries; cleansing of sin through trials and persecution; more power and anointing to live bright and joyous lives; fervent intercessory prayers; new wave of global evangelism through personal practice of true believers; unique opportunities coming to those positioned by the Spirit; wars, financial crisis, and moral decline, but believers will be watchful, alert, using talents wisely, feeding the poor, and keeping our lamps full of oil; stronger Islamic presence and influence; secular humanism; an army of sold out

young people; revivals in Africa, Latin American, and Asia; fall of Babylonian terrorists; the Holy Spirit will be released in all churches; ministry from broken leaders; attacks on the church's unity; children who have been hurt and have left the church will return; the light will grow brighter as the darkness grows darker; moral unity; a desperation and brokenness for God; harvest of children; greater hunger for disciple-making; return to objective faith (word of God); greatest awakening ever; greater loss of leaders; a pivotal shift in expression and belief; and greater reliance on biblical principles, instead of human philosophies.

The final question of the conversation was, "What are five to eight things that we must do and address in the near future of the spirit-filled movement?" After a brief period of brainstorming for ideas, the group arrived at the following: Authentic lifestyle among leadership; clear biblical teaching on the Spirit-led lifestyle; a spirit of repentance and remorse is key to the future; authentic intergenerational connections (mothering/fathering), helping new generations embrace the power of the Holy Spirit; shift church denominational structure to release, relate, and be resourceful; a new Jesus-centered spirituality rooted in relationship and prayer; relevant terminology connected to biblical truth and history that builds a bridge to new generations; global participation, leadership and recognition of the Holy Spirit's work; healing, wholeness, and hope; and a corporate understanding of the Church.

Considering that there was not much time remaining to refine to comments from the final question in order to arrive at one thing that must be addressed in the near future of the Spirit-empowered movement, the Conversation Chair, Pastor Billy Wilson, requested permission from those present to complete the brainstorming process among the Executive members at a later date. This petition was granted by all present, and after a few final comments and announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.