[00:00:00] Hi everyone. Oh, that's loud. I moved that the last two mornings. I've been speaking without a mic, so I've been using my voice so everybody can hear. But now I've got a mic, so that's great. How's everybody doing? Yeah, it's been amazing, hasn't it? Gary and I, I've loved being here with you all and I've had some great conversations and connections with people.

[00:00:24] Hi, but it's not quite ended yet. Still got a bit more to. To do. so yeah, we've just loved being here. It's been amazing and the subject I've been given is about raising volunteers, but I've kind of changed it to, it's not just raising volunteers, but it's calling people to your vision, isn't it? Calling people to your vision and ministry and purpose that God himself has called you to.

[00:00:57] So to me, like just raising volunteers sounds a little bit cold, but actually empowering people and calling a team from the example that Jesus gave us in the gospel, because that's exactly what Jesus did. And with those 12, he changed the world. He had more, he had his 70, he had the women as well. But with those few people and the ones that gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, that was the day that the church was formed.

[00:01:34] The church began on that day, and it came as a result of the Holy Spirit's power. It didn't come as a technique or a strategy or a good idea. It came because of the Holy Spirit who fell down on them in that day and transformed them and empowered them, and they went out and they preached the gospel.

[00:01:57] Peter stood up in power from a place of failure, actually, and a place of disempowerment, disempowerment, and disappointment. All the things that Gary's been sharing about Peter had been in that place, and yet on the day of Pentecost. He gathered with the others in the upper room, the Holy Spirit foul. You know that story so well, and they went out into the marketplace immediately.

[00:02:23] They didn't wait, oh, let's, let's form a strategy, or let's do you know certain things and decide amongst themselves. They knew what they had to do because they were empowered. They went into the marketplace and they preached the gospel, and we read that 3000 people were added to the church on that day, that one day of Pentecost.

[00:02:44] going back to raising teams and volunteers, I remember a lot of years ago when I was young and I joined our staff team, Gary's already shared that we were younger ministry, but in those early years I was teaching so that I could raise some finance for us and our family in order to us to be in ministry.

[00:03:02] So I would always take like temporary jobs, teaching jobs. If ever Gary had a mission trip he wanted to go on, I would say I'll get a teaching job. And then one day I said, when you got engaged to me, Gary, you said you'd show me the world. And then I said, I didn't realize it would be in a postcard. Like I'm the one at home staying at home working and you are the one going.

[00:03:26] He went to India when he was young, twice and other places, and I was like, I'm just at home. I, first of all teaching and then with babies and like, but actually. Actually, that was a lot of years ago and I have actually seen the world. I've traveled to a lot of places. There's still more places I would like to go to.

[00:03:44] But, and Gary, when I joined the staff team, because I had a passion to gather women, and I've done lots of things over in my, especially in my first church and in my second church gathering women and in putting into them. I'm like, I don't wanna just gather women to enter. Entertain them. I wanna gather women to see their lives transform so they go out.

[00:04:05] 'cause that's my passion. Like as you can see, Gary and I are really different. And we have different talents, different gifts, different different passions, different ways we react to things. But we have the same heartbeat. We have the same heartbeat. And it is a passion for the loss, A passion for God's great kingdom.

[00:04:24] A passion to see his kingdom come on earth. And so, you know, I'll do whatever I can to see that happen. so when I did join the SAF team, and it was obviously for gathering women a lot of it, but then past general pastoring as well, I wanted to see women empowered. And one day we did a women's conference with quite a few, hundred, maybe a hundred or 200 women came, and two ladies came, and then the next year they came back again.

[00:04:53] And I went to speak to them and they said, 'cause I didn't know them. And I said, oh, it's so great to have you back with us again. And they said, yeah, it's not just us this year, it's 12 of us. And they said, all these ladies down here, these are the ones we've bought with us. But it's not that we've bought them from our church.

[00:05:12] We've actually bought them from our neighborhood. How amazing is that? We went back from this conference last year and we decided to to begin a small alpha group in our front room, in our living room because we felt so empowered. After we left that we then invited our neighbors, our friends from the school gate, and we asked them to come and to do an alpha, and these are the 10 that came and as a result of being baptized.

[00:05:38] Now we are 12. And that's what it's about, isn't it? It's going out and calling disciples and empowering them so that we are not alone in the ministries that God has called us to. we can't do everything, can we? We can't just be doers and, oh, I missed saying that, that when Gary talked about the staff team, he said to us all probably a group of about eight people in a room.

[00:06:04] He said, you are not here to do. You are here to empower. You are here to build a team, so you are here to equip people for the works of the ministry. So even on our staff team, our pastors, we are not called to pastor the people we are called to call forth the pastors and the teachers and the evangelists in our church.

[00:06:28] Equip them for the work of the ministry. And that went to my heart, really went to my heart because I was a doer then. I was like, I can do things. I can organize things, I can make things happen. I can serve, I can do all kinds of, serving tasks that maybe other people aren't standing up and doing.

[00:06:47] And then I, it was really challenged because, through what Gary said, the Holy Spirit said to me, call others. As a result, we did some a, a amazing things in our ministry and in my women's ministry as well. We did some big conferences. We did Girls Days for Teenage Girls, and like we did when we did the girls conferences, amazing things happen because I released the Creative girls in the church to actually.

[00:07:15] Put on this incredible day. We even had a girl's bedroom on the stage. I'm like, how did that happen? I could not have made any of that happen, but I released them. I empowered them, I encouraged them. I poured my life into them, the leaders, and they made it happen. we need to build teams and we need to look and notice the potential in people, just as Jesus saw in Peter.

[00:07:41] You are Simon, but I have called you Peter. Because on this rock, I will build my church. Jesus saw the potential. He looked ahead, he knew he would fail. He knew he would disappoint him, but he saw beyond that, he saw to the day of Pentecost. And further, when j when Peter would stand up and he would, equip his church, he would call many to righteousness.

[00:08:05] And, and that's what we have to do. We have to look at people with the eyes of Jesus and see their potential. I've got a quote from somebody. I was reading a book called The Culture of Empowerment by somebody called, well, actually two brothers called Steve and Phil Bland. It was just recently. I've been reading this book, so I had to read a little quote from it.

[00:08:25] It's very, very good. Have you been championed by someone? I'm sure you have. You have likely had times when someone believed in you more than you believed in yourself. They told you you can do it. Their encouragement became a rock to stand on against the waves of insecurity, doubt and fear. They were willing for you to try something challenging and new under their mentorship, and it caused you to find out that there was more in you than you thought.

[00:08:59] Who can identify with that? I've had people in my life who've spoken prophetic words over me, words of encouragement times when I felt, no, I can't do that. Even I've had times where I've been at the back of a large gathering and this prophetic minister started to speak a word over me and I'm looking round thinking.

[00:09:19] Who is that person? And he called me right from the back, but I was like reluctant to go forward 'cause I was like, wow, this is a powerful person. I didn't speak, I didn't feel that at the time. That was quite a lot of years ago. But it was true. God was speaking through that person. He was affirming in me so much.

[00:09:38] they were willing for you. To try something challenging and new under their mentorship, and it caused you to find out there was more in you than they, than you thought. They gave you permission to stretch yourself into a new person. Isn't that wonderful? When God gives us permission, when we are so used to be told what we can't do and what the restrictions are, when God gives, when a person gives us permission, it's amazing.

[00:10:03] It's a fabulous feeling. Now you as a leader, have this opportunity to create this feeling in others how incredible God uses us. a lot of years ago when I was a teenager, my parents had a vision to plant a church in their town, small town. And there wasn't a, like a Holy Spirit filled church in the town at that point.

[00:10:31] They had this vision, but they had limited resources during that time. And there was a lady that my dad and and mother came across who'd collapsed on the floor in the town, and they picked her up. They encouraged her. She wasn't really hurt, she just collapsed. They picked her up and they took her back to their home.

[00:10:52] And because my dad's a pastor, my dad was a pastor, he was a very caring person. He connected with people's hearts very quickly. This lady Rose, connected with my mom and dad very quickly. She ended up staying for dinner. She ended up kind of joining our family and joining our lives. She became an honorary grandma and she became a big part of our church.

[00:11:12] Actually. She never spoke publicly. She never did a significant ministry, but her face was radiant with the joy of the Lord. Once she came to know the Lord, her face was radiant, and we as teenage girls, me and my sisters, we loved having rose around in our family. We loved the fact that she was there at mealtimes.

[00:11:30] And, later on when she passed to be with Jesus, she left her home and all her possessions to my parents' church, and they were able to build an amazing, significant brand new building in the town where. They lived where we all lived at the time and that church is still there, a, a beacon of light in that town.

[00:11:53] In fact, they've got a fabulous new pastor now and his wife who are doing incredible things there still to this day, 30 years after my father passed. And I'm just so proud of my dad that my dad called Rose out of the darkness. You know what we found when she died? She was a hoarder, compulsive hoarder. Do you know what that means?

[00:12:11] She hoarded everything and she lived in a complete chaos. She lived in chaos, and my parents didn't even know that because she was very gar guarded. She loved to come to our home and be part of our family, but she would never invite us into her home, so we never went there. Until she died. And then obviously she'd left the building to my parents so that we all went to clean the house.

[00:12:33] And there was amazing things in that home. There was a lot of mess and rubbish, but there was also, and even like the gas and the electricity had been cut off because she was in such a desperate state and no one knew that she was alone in the world. She had no family. She was a recluse, and yet God needed her in his kingdom.

[00:12:56] He called her out of darkness on that day. She collapsed in that town. My dad picked her up and my, my mom, and took her home and embraced her and made her part of our family and our church. Her life was never the same, but our lives were never the same. And also, not only that, when she died and she left this, these resources to the church, they were able to put up this significant building because she had many valuable antiques and, and paintings and other things amongst her rubbish.

[00:13:23] So that's amazing. She literally ended up resourcing my parents' vision. How does God change the world? He invites us to partner with him in his great story. I love the fact that I am called to partner with Jesus. I'm not there to carry all the burden and the pressure. I'm just there to take his yoke upon myself and work with him in the coming of his kingdom.

[00:13:49] And I want to read a scripture to you and that is Mark three 13 to 14. And it's all about how Jesus called, called the 12, and he went up onto a high mountain and he called to to him those he himself wanted, and they came to him and he appointed 12 that they may be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

[00:14:18] That's in a nutshell, isn't it? It's in a nutshell. It's like. He went up to be with his father. He went up to a high mountain. He went to be alone with Jesus, with, sorry, with his father. It was out of a place of intimacy and empowerment that he was then able to call others. So remember that, that's so important when you are thinking about, strategy for building your team or who would fit into a certain role or which person to call.

[00:14:55] Yes, call them, but do it out of a place of intimacy with your father out of a high, out of a higher place where you've ta spent time alone in God's presence where he's able to give you that greater revelation and wisdom. That supernatural empowerment that we have to have when we are leading others. We need to have the perspective of father, we need to be on the higher mountain with with him.

[00:15:24] And he said he went to a high mountain and then he was able to call others and he called them to himself. So when I was reading that scripture, I noted that a little bit. Jesus didn't call them primarily to this great mission, although they did go to that mission and they did go and become bearers of the good news of the gospel, and they did incredible things, but initially he called them to himself.

[00:15:49] Isn't that wonderful? I love that. He called them to himself. It's a heart connection. It's relational before it's functional. He appointed the 12, he, he selected them specific people. He appointed them. And I, I, so when a leader has that perspective, that God perspective, they have amazing ability to select the right people to be on their teams.

[00:16:19] And like I said, they see potential in those that would otherwise be overlooked. But first of all, we call them to ourselves to be relational. And after that, he sent them out to preach. He commissioned them and he sent them out. And there's so much in the scripture where first of all, even before Jesus died, he sent out his disciples in pairs.

[00:16:43] He sent out the 70, didn't he? In pairs to do the things that he, they had seen him do. Jesus' master plan was transformational and world shaking. Think about those disciples that came to Jesus. They weren't like special in the eyes of the world. They weren't incredibly, educated or wealthy. They were just ordinary people.

[00:17:13] In fact, on the day of Pentecost, when they were truly empowered and they went out full of the Holy Ghost and power. It says in Acts four that when the educated religious leaders of their day saw the boldness of Peter and John, they perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men. They marveled and they realized that they had been with Jesus.

[00:17:39] They had been with Jesus. It's amazing. Just recently, I went to California only two weeks ago. I. And I have to say, when I went to California to stay with my friend out there who I've known for 30 years, I was really broken. I was in a really low place. This is, I can hardly believe it now 'cause I'm not in that place today.

[00:18:03] That was only like two weeks ago. I was in a really low place and my friend, invited me out and she wanted to. take me to a women's conference out there in red, in California, in Bethel for those who know that church. And I went out there and I was like, oh, Gary mentioned this challenge that we all did.

[00:18:21] We went dipping in 18 leaks, 38 hours. Oh no, not 48 hours. It was a bit crazy, but I was like, I was feeling like I was, I've been in a, a period of transition probably for five years, six years now. my son got ill. That was, those were mothers, fathers, you know what? You couldn't imagine what that was. And it wasn't just a short thing.

[00:18:44] It was long, a long process. He had to have chemotherapy, radiotherapy. And even now it's like when he has his, scans, head scans, I'm like. Josh, please tell us all. Put it on the WhatsApp so we can all gather around you in prayer. Because he, he doesn't always think that way. But anyways, like I was carrying that grief, God had healed me of that and taken me through it.

[00:19:08] But then there was transition where I didn't know what my role was in the church anymore. 'cause we've handed on the church, but we still there. So I'm not on leadership team. I'm the church that we pioneered. And I'm like, I dunno what my role is. But then we come in and go in all the time. So I cannot take on a ministry anyway really.

[00:19:22] 'cause I'm not there enough. So I just started to feel, what, what is my role? What is my purpose? I know it's to share the good news. And God's been doing incredible things like with one-to-one relationships. I've been sharing the good news with my cousins, I've been mentoring them and things like that. But there's still that time of like feeling really tired.

[00:19:38] We, we really, we it weary. And then in all of that, my mom's got quite severe Alzheimer's. Dementia. And so for the last five years, myself and my sister mainly have been caring for my mom as well, 24 7. I don't care for my mom 24 7, my sister does, but I'm a support to her. So every two weeks I go and, take over for my sister and care for my mom in her own home.

[00:20:05] For like, maybe I stay for 48 hours or even a little bit longer sometimes. And when I'm there, I'm there just to do everything for her, like toilet her dress, her, prepare her food. You know, she cannot be left for even one minute really, because she just, she has no memory. She doesn't really, she knows I'm her daughter, but she doesn't remember my name.

[00:20:25] She's in that kind of condition. But I have to say this is not so sad because she's quite happy. She's happy because she knows in some way that she's being cared for and she loves the Lord. So if you say things to her like, sit down, mom. sorry. Stand up mom. She starts singing at the top of her voice.

[00:20:43] Stand up. Stand up for Jesus. And then I take her to church. And as soon as we walk in, she sings the worship. She knows the worship and she puts her hands up. And like Gary told the story of his mom, my mom, in a different way, she is like. Living for Jesus with a person who cannot remember what happened five, five minutes ago.

[00:21:01] And she's happy because she knows that we're caring for a while and we, we do. And also my sis she calls me my sister's name. I was gonna say that and I don't really mind that. That's fine. She said she knows my, I'm my daughter. so that's, that's just some of the context of when I went out to stay with my friend.

[00:21:18] And, when I first got there, we were traveling up to this conference. And there was a girl called me Shelly, who works in the church, who's 25 years old, and she was coming with us and I just met her that day. So this young woman, 25 years old, I just met her that day and my friend Heather said, would you mind sharing a room with me, Shelly, when we get to the b and b place?

[00:21:40] And I was like, 'cause I was tired, I was weary and I'd just done the dipping. Remember the dipping in the lakes? Dip, dip, dip, cold. I always got my wi what, what they call dry robe on my dry robe on this was in the dipping before. And literally I finished the dipping. We got home at 11 and I flew to California at five o'clock the next morning.

[00:22:01] So there was no time to recover at all. And I'd been like, I've done some wild, has anybody done wild swimming? Open swimming. Some of you have. I love it. I love it. So when they said we are gonna be doing this dip sponsoring to raise children for money, for the deprived children who need to go to children's camp to hear the gospel, I'm up for this.

[00:22:22] I wanna do it. And I never really thought through what it would make, what it would mean, and what it would take out of me to dip 18 times in. So many different 18 different lakes over such such a short period of time. It look, it almost broke me physically. It was so hard. You'd get back in the bus and you'd get put your dry robot and get warm.

[00:22:44] I always had a hot water bottle inside mine and then we'd have to do it all over again. And like the second day I was like, I don't think I can do this. I just don't think I can. And I just did it by grit and determination. So when I got to California, I felt like I was physically broken, emotionally broken from the things that I've walked through.

[00:23:04] and spiritually I was like disorientated. 'cause I didn't know really what God's called me to or anything. specifically I know he's called us to a lot of things, but a lot of thing things for me are more supporting. so, and Gary does a lot of things with the lines. I'm not really involved with that.

[00:23:20] I go to supports if every weekend and they have training, I'm there to support, but I'm not there to lead a ministry or have any kind of role. in fact, I said some to somebody funny. All I feel I do now is toilet people. Put people on the toilet and wipe their bombs. No, because I was looking after my little granddaughter, who's only three years old.

[00:23:44] And she had a little bit of a tummy trouble, and the next day I was like with my mom, like looking after her, putting her on the toilet. So I was like. This is what God's got me doing now in this season. Life just toileting people and wiping their bottoms. It's not true, but you know when you're feeling that way, a bit low.

[00:24:03] So I went to my friend and my friend, who I loved dearly, and I led her to the Lord like 30 years ago when her little boy was four, and my little boy was four and they're 35 now, our boys. I led it to the Lord and took her on an alpha course. She's become one of my best friends. She's so precious to me.

[00:24:20] She's like a prayer partner. She's lived in Sweden, she's lived in China, now she's living in Los Angeles, and she just prays for me all the time. I pray for her. She works on a pastoral team in a church out there as well. So I was with the best person to be when I was in that low state because she just said, right, tell me everything.

[00:24:38] I told her all, and then we were like just together. But then when we went to the conference, she said, would you mind sharing a room with this? This girl called me Shelley, the one I was just mentioning. 25-year-old girl. She's a new, fairly newish Christian. She come to the Lord, she's being baptized and so is her husband, and she wants to be trained in leadership.

[00:24:56] and I said, this is where I was. I said, no, I feel uncomfortable with that. I'm like, I just met this girl this morning and you're asking me to share a room with her. I'm like, please, Heather, I'd rather share a room with you. I've known you 30 years. And she said, oh no, Helen, do it. I think I feel like you should share a room with her.

[00:25:15] And I've got my daughter here who wants to share a room with me, so. Heather, I'll do it for you. So I shared a room with me, Shelly, and we had four days together, the four of us. so my friend, her daughter, and me, Shelly and myself, we had the most incredible time, and I just became a mother to her, like our hearts connected.

[00:25:34] She just asked me question after question. Turned out she came from a very dysfunctional background. She'd not been parented properly. She had no father figure in her life. No grandfather or anybody, any male figure. Her mother was controlling. Didn't even go to her wedding when she became a Christian and chose to marry a man that she didn't approve of.

[00:25:51] 'cause she'd been a single mother and she'd controlled her daughter a lot. Then the daughter met this man at, at at work. They got married and. They got mentored before they got married, they got mentored and they're called to leadership, but the mother had rejected her and I was like, oh my gosh. I just connected her with her heart and she connected with mine and she became a real blessing to me.

[00:26:16] I'll say something about her in a minute, but, I poured myself out into her when I, I felt like I was beaten by the, the storms of life battered and beaten, but, and before that happened. I think because of my obedience, 'cause I positioned myself and because I asked, I went there to the conference and I said, I'm not leaving this conference till I have what I need from the Holy Spirit.

[00:26:40] The holy I encountered the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit encountered me. On that trip, it was incredible. Like I'm talking about less than two weeks ago, I had this amazing encounter with the Holy Spirit. I went on the floor and I'm not the person who goes on the floor, I assure you. Like, if anybody's pushing me, I'll push 'em back.

[00:26:59] But it was the Holy Spirit. I was like just on the floor with the Holy Spirit and this lady there, the pa, the pastor, of the whole conference, and, women's pastor at Bethel, she prophesied over me the most incredible prophecy. She said, I see you in the wilderness by assignment. She started with that and I was like, yes, I've been in the wilderness.

[00:27:21] And she went, I see you in the wilderness by assignment. She didn't know really anything about me, and I'm like, by assignment. By assignment like Jo, like Jesus went into the wilderness by assignment. Like John the Baptist went into the wilderness by assignment. So, God uses these wilderness seasons in our life, these seasons where we laying down stuff, where we yielding stuff, where we feel lost and alone.

[00:27:46] Sometimes he uses them to prepare us. It's not the end. We are not left there. We're not abandoned there. We are being prepared to come outta the wilderness in with fire. Fire burning in our heart for a lost generation. And that's what I saw. She saw me standing at a door consumed with fire, and I've even got a picture of it as well, which I'm gonna put in by my desk because I bought a picture there that just was exactly what she prophesied over me.

[00:28:13] And it's like this woman standing just before a door. And that's where I feel I'm at now. It's like I'm going through, but this is not for me. 'cause I know this subject is about empowering others. This is now God empowered me so I can empower others. So I can call like Michelle, the lost generation, the fatherless generation.

[00:28:32] The motherless generation. Those young people who have had their identity stolen away from them, they don't know who they are. bombarded with lies day by day. We are the mothers and fathers. All of you in this room, you are the mothers and fathers. Even if you're young in years, you are a mother or a father to many, many young, young people who will come and follow you when you call them, who will come into God's kingdom.

[00:29:01] And we will see the world changed because this is the season. This is a silent. Revival, as Gary was talking about, that will not be silent forever because the world will become aware of it. So have an incredible vision for yourself and your organization, but actually you've already got one. Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

[00:29:25] That's it. Do we need more? I don't think so. We have to have a big vision and we have one. Our vision is ultimately to change the world. And then amazing people with vision and resources will be drawn to you and you will empower them too. But they have to, it has to come from the Holy Spirit. So I am re, I am actually in this season where I felt like I was in the wilderness.

[00:29:55] Somebody did ask me last year if I would go and have a look at, a ministry in Albania. And that's because when I, was in pastoring my church with Gary. For many years I had a ministry to the street girls in the city. You know, the real broken women, the real marginalized women, the women who were involved in prostitution and addiction.

[00:30:16] I loved those girls. I love them to this day, and we saw many come to know the Lord. We used to take them to rehabs a lot of the time so that other people could help them further because we could only just reach them and love them, but we weren't specialized enough to actually help them. So we used to em to rehabs, but sometimes some girls either came back to us or stayed with us and we walked the journey and two of those women became one.

[00:30:40] Two of my best leaders in the ministry, the ministry was called Cherished Hearts because we actually. Felt or knew that they were cherished by God and two of those girls were baptized and the power of God came on them. The power of God came on them and they brought more ghost to the Lord than ever I could.

[00:30:58] So it was just amazing. but because of that, I was grieving because we weren't in that position to lead that ministry anymore. Part of my grieving in that wilderness time was 'cause I'd left that ministry too. But actually just in recent days, recent months last year, that's been opened up to me again in a little way in that a good friend of ours had been in missionary in Albania for years and years and was on the trust of something called Eagles Wings in Tara.

[00:31:26] it's a ministry that, prevents young women from being trafficked. So they could be orphan girls, or girls with. Very, very difficult backgrounds. Like one girl who was in the HO and they set up a re residential program. So those women can come into the home and they can experience what it's like being in a home, being cared for.

[00:31:49] They're introduced to Jesus. They taught from the Bible, they're taken to church and become part of church communities. So this is this charity in Albania that I didn't set up or anything like that that's there already, and it's amazing. But my friend Richard, was a director on this charity. He said what they do in this charity is incredible, but they need someone to champion it.

[00:32:11] So he said, would you like to come out and visit them and see the girls, meet the girls, meet the staff, meet the directors, and then get involved? And I said, well, I'll come, but I can't tell you whether I'll do it or not. I just need to come. So I went out there and it was amazing. We had a wonderful time.

[00:32:29] so I've been out there, I've been out there doing that. But I also call my friend. So not a different friend called Tracy. And she has a cake business and she, her cake business was, or originally set up to help the girls in Kingdom Hearts and, and provide resources for them. So she decorates, she makes cakes for celebrations like weddings, birthdays and things like that.

[00:32:54] And she, donates money as well, profits from that business. But then in this period, 'cause I've not been running cherished hearts, she had nothing to give her. Kate business resources do in any way. And so I said to Tracy, would you like to come to Albania to Tara with me? And she like cried. She jumped at it.

[00:33:13] She cried and she said, oh, Helen, that's what I've been praying for. She said, I've got a business called Kingdom Cakes and I'm not giving any money to the kingdom. So now she's come. She came with me and we had fun. We had an adventure. We had lots of meals. We met lots of people. We're in Toronto for a week last year.

[00:33:31] And so who knows that's going to, I am definitely called to, to ca to help support and champion that min ministry. But, we have to, oh, let me just say one thing, 'cause I talked about heart relationship. Heart connection, calling people to yourself, having fun together. Celebrating together, eating together, sharing challenges, praying together.

[00:33:54] That's all part of being a team, isn't it? It's just so important, caring for valuing the whole person, not just what that person can do for us. Like when Tracy and I went on an adventure to Tarana, we had fun, we had laughs, we had jokes. It was just amazing and we loved it. but then there's another guy that we relate to, his name's Gavin.

[00:34:17] He has been involved in our ministry in different ways, myself and Gary. Gary's a good friend of Gary's for many years now. He's a little bit more like a systems person. Do you understand what I mean? He's like, he's set up many charities. He could never run one, but he is what they call, like he's got a lot of blue skills.

[00:34:37] Do you understand what that means? And he just came to me. This was only recently. And he said, oh, here you were. You've been to Tara and he said, and he went years ago with Gary to Albania a few times. So he'd got a bit of a passion for Bannu. He said, ask me what I was doing out there. And I told him, and without me even asking him, he just went, oh, do you want me to set up a charity for you?

[00:34:58] I didn't even ask him, but he just sense my passion and he has those skills. I don't have those skills. Even when we had a charity for the street girls called Cherished Tarts. I didn't even set it up. He, he helped me years ago to set that up and another person helped me, like, he said, can I do that for you?

[00:35:15] I'll take that pressure off you. He said, I'll be, I'll even be chair of trustees if you want me to. I went, oh, Gavin, yes, I'd love you to do that. So he's doing that. He's getting, involved with me as well. So at the minute now, there's me, there's Tracy, and there's Gavin. The three of us. I know there's all the workers in Toronto, they're there, they're working, they're on the ground.

[00:35:40] and there's the trustees, but I'm talking about in the uk, we need to champion them where we are. We need to raise finance. We need to set teams out to maybe train the girls, teach them skills that they don't have, train the staff, even teach them things that they, skills that they don't have as well. So that's something that God's just opened up to me as well.

[00:36:00] But one thing I'd like to say before I finish is. Overcome disappointment. I think Gary talked a lot about this when he talked about not dying on the wrong hill, didn't he this morning. This is really important in relationships because often, well, all time, I think in every relationship when we're working with someone we've join, they've joined our team or we're in relationship with, It's exciting to start with. It's new, it's different. That person comes with their giftings and we're, we are enjoying getting to know them and working together. And often there comes disappointment doesn't there because we're human. We have weaknesses and we will be disappointed. There will be conflict.

[00:36:41] There always is. But what ma what usually happens is that we separate, we go our separate ways or we work through it and we stay together. Actually, we go to a deeper level, a more effective level because we're in unity and we work through stuff. So we are the sent ones as Jesus sent his disciples. We are sent into all the world, but sometimes we're sent into conflict too, aren't we?

[00:37:09] It's not always easy. Sometimes it's disappointing and I just think about two relationships, but I'm gonna tell you one. This is my last, last thing I'm gonna talk about really. But one girl who's been, woman who's been such a blessing to me in my life, she's probably my best friend in the uk. Her name is Yvonne, and I met her a lot of years ago when she came and joined our staff team.

[00:37:35] In our first church, and she was only 24. She's in her fifties now, so it was a lot of years ago. She was only 24 when she first came, and she had a lot of rough edges because she'd come out of brokenness and she'd come into God's kingdom and she was fairly new Christian, but she had a lot of skills and a lot of passion.

[00:37:53] So we quickly brought her into our team and she quickly rose and became the leader of the girl. The girls that worked in the office at that time, the administrator, she became the leader of them. And yet she annoyed me. Let me just tell you straight. She really annoyed me because she was too, I felt like I was a lot shyer then and she was, I was finding myself as well as a young leader, and I felt like she was too confident.

[00:38:18] She knew too much. I've been raised in a Christian home, like I've known Jesus all my life, and she was like, like almost acting like she knew more than me. And I was her leader as well. 'cause I was the pastor of the church and she was just in, you know, working in our office and yet she would sometimes boss me year round.

[00:38:36] So I used to get annoyed with that. And then one day we were having a staff meeting in my husband's office. You know what she did? She said, I'm cold. So she walked over and picked up Gary's coat and put her, his coat on. He was thinner in those days. And I was, see, I was like, seething, I thought. That's personal.

[00:38:58] How could she do that? How could she pick my husband's coat up and put it on without even asking? She's sitting there in his coat and I was annoyed, but I was annoyed with her anyway. And then I was more annoyed. And then just after that, this is the true story. You will not believe it, but it's true. Gary came home and said, Oh, you'll never guess what's happened. Oh, let me go back a step that this was the day before I was having a conversation with Gary in our own home, just me and him, and he said, oh, we're going to a, we, we were going to a wedding. It was one of our young staff members called Matt, who was getting married to an Irish girl.

[00:39:36] So we were all gonna go to the wedding in Northern Ireland. And our whole team was going. And this woman, Yvonne, my friend, she doesn't mind me sharing about this by, by the way, because we are really good friends and she thinks it's funny when I share it. 'cause we love each other now. so I, we were all going, my friend was going myself and Gary was going, and Gary said to me, oh, after the wedding's finished at the weekend, on the Monday, we'll stay over and we'll play golf.

[00:40:05] He's already said, I don't play golf. So I said, oh, well what will I do then when you play golf? And he said, well, there's you and Yvonne. You can go shopping. And I said, no, I'm not going shopping with her. Remember, I mean, my own home with my own husband. No one else is there and I'm still really not happy with this girl.

[00:40:27] I'm not gonna shopping with her. What do you think? Don't you don't expect me to go shopping with her. It's just not something I want to do. Anyway, that was kind of more or less the end of the conversation, me being grumpy and saying I wasn't gonna do that. And then the next day, Gary went to the office, came home, and he said, oh, I need to speak to you.

[00:40:45] Something's happened. And I said, what's happened? He said, Yvonne came and spoke to me and said, is Helen okay? And I went. He went, yeah. Why? And she said, I heard that conversation that you had with her yesterday where she said. I'm not going shopping with her. She heard it. She heard the whole conversation because his phone in his pocket pocket called her.

[00:41:11] Has that happened to anybody? They've had a pocket call. Well, hopefully it's a conversation that you don't mind I'm hearing, but that was a terrible moment for me. It was terrible and like I was just like, I felt saddened, really sad, disappointed with myself. I felt ashamed. I felt humiliated. I was like, I'm her leader.

[00:41:33] I should be more mature. I've known Jesus all a lot of years and she's new, fairly new Christian, and I felt like I'd let myself down, let her down, let Jesus down, most of all. And that night I was tossing and turning and. And struggling with it. And I was like, I feel like I wanna run away from leadership.

[00:41:48] I don't wanna be a leader anymore. And then by the time the night had finished the Holy Spirit, I was yielding to the Holy Spirit 'cause I was felt broken and I felt the Holy Spirit told me exactly what I had to do. I had to go to her in humility. Ask if we could just talk. And we did. We talked. I shared how I'd felt leading up to it.

[00:42:07] I said, sorry, I repented. But you know how she responded? She did the same because I modeled that to her. And then she responded back in exactly the same humble spirit and we we're able to embrace each other, pray for each other, and we've never had an argument since. Doesn't always happen like that though, does it?

[00:42:30] Sometimes there's still conflict after, but we still have to yield to the Holy Spirit sometimes. We do go our separate ways. We've had other relationships where we've gone our separate ways, just like Paul and Barnabas did. and they argued over Mark, didn't they? Somebody in that yesterday's session said at the end of Paul's ministry, he wrote in Timothy, remember that scripture bring Mark.

[00:42:56] It's like Paul wanted restoration and there was restoration and ultimately the there is restorations even with those broken relationships. Even when we do separate and go our different ways, I think ultimately if we allow the Holy Spirit to control it, he will bring restoration. But actually those people who call to work with actually try, first of all to see if you can work things through with the Holy Spirit's help and leading.

[00:43:23] So that you come back into unity so you understand each other. 'cause we're so different. We come from different perspectives and different backgrounds, different understandings. But God wants us in unity because actually when all men know that we are one, they will see. They will see Jesus, won't they? And that's what we want.

[00:43:43] We want that. Okay. I am gonna just read one thing before I finish. If I can find it. It's on a different thing. So going back to my experience in Bethel, when I had an encounter with the Holy Spirit, there was a, a speaker there called Haley Brown Braun. Has anybody heard of her? Haley Braun. She's only like, she's not, she's like a woman in her early thirties, a early, early forties, I think.

[00:44:13] But she was preaching and she explained how she had an encounter with the Holy Spirit that lasted for six weeks. I had encountered with the Holy Spirit out there that lasted for a couple of days and I carried it home with me. Still have that fire burning, but she said she had this encounter, so everywhere she went, even when she went to the grocery store, she just was seeing people as God saw them and she was weeping.

[00:44:37] The Holy Spirit was like a consuming fire in her heart. And she would see people that, like when her children were going to school, she'd see them at the school gate and she'd just start weeping. Weeping because she saw them as Jesus saw them and she gave this incredible message and she said she'd had that time in wilderness and brokenness.

[00:44:55] And then God had had given her this open vision almost. He'd filled her with his spirit and her life, and she's actually written a book called The Holy Spirit. And I went, before I heard her speak, Hayley speak, I went into the bookshop and I asked the Lord to give me a book. He's, I didn't wanna buy one book and I want it to be the book that you've called me, asked me to read.

[00:45:14] And it was like, pick that book, the Holy Spirit by Haley Brown. I had no idea who she was. And then I went into the, the, auditorium, heard Hailey speak, and I was like, that's the book. That was all part of everything that God did. He did so many things. But, she had this open vision, and it was in the, I think it was about 2019 when she had the vision, and I'm gonna read it to you, and then she had a prophetic word.

[00:45:42] So I'm just gonna read this now at the end. Because actually, I know we've been talking about raising and calling people and raising them, but actually we've gotta get back to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Like in the day of Pentecost, they were all gathered in one place in unity together. Their hearts were linked, and they were waiting.

[00:46:00] They were waiting. They wouldn't go out and preach the gospel till they had the empowerment. It was so important. It's how Jesus told them, wait in that room till the Holy Spirit comes upon you. So this is Haley Brown's prophetic word. These aren't my words, but I'm gonna finish with it. And she said time is starting again.

[00:46:22] Time is starting again. 2019 to 24 has been the time of man. At the end of 2024, he has put a. She said Will, because she said this be she had this word before this. She had this word in 2019, but she said, will, but I'm gonna say it as, as has at the end of 2024. God has put his hand back on the dial and started the time of God.

[00:46:53] I am flipping the order of authority. This is God speaking. I am flipping the order of authority and old systems are going to be turned in my favor. Now that's the systems of the world where you stand politically, that's not really relevant 'cause we're kingdom people. But actually we've seen great change in turmoil in the world, haven't we?

[00:47:15] Just in recent times. I am flipping the order of the of authority. The old systems are going to be turned in my favor. You'll see a sign in the natural of a birthing of a new order of authority in government. The natural order is being shifted around. A new favor will rest on those who have surrendered to my fire.

[00:47:37] So what's happening in the world? The unrest. The changes in government, they're just a sign. They're just a sign of what God is wanting to do in power. He's wanting to give new favor, is wanting the fire of God to fall upon us like never before as he's called out ones and they will fa carry a fire for reformation.

[00:47:58] If there is a remnant rising, this fire has been tested in in the trip. In the in. I can't remember what she said there, but the fire has been tested. It's been tested. Everything that has built, been built has been built under another or other apart from him, will be consumed. I'm revealing myself through sons and daughters who are yielded to my nature and likeness never before.

[00:48:32] Have you seen what I am about to do? The fire of Acts, the fire of Zuzu will rest on a company of people. For those people who dunno about Zuzu, that was where Pentecostal revival started in the 20th century in a place in America called Zuzu. But actually what God is saying, he's bringing his fire down.

[00:48:50] He's gonna bring his fire down like never before. I believe it, for I long to revere my glory, the time has started. You have been in a season of maturation, of maturation, incubation, and birthing. I have asked for much. And you have been willing. I love that, don't you? So in that time of wilderness, when God set us apart, he asked for much 'cause he was jealous for our hearts.

[00:49:14] Really. And we've been willing. We've been yielding. But now I am stepping in. Now I am coming through. I'm a covenant keeping. God, I never go back on my word as I kept my covenant with Abraham, with David, with Hannah. I will keep my covenant with you. I have searched and I have found a united church is coming.

[00:49:38] A three cord strand is not easily broken. I am birthing a fresh move, move of apostles and prophets consumed with a heavenly mind drawn to gaze at my, at me, at my throne. The throne of God, and she went, then went in to describe this open vision that she had of the throne of God. I think we've sang about it.

[00:50:00] We've heard about it already at this conference. So multitude of angels before the throne, singing glory, glory, glory. The lamb upon the throne,

[00:50:14] where our attention and affection is consumed with his majesty, his beauty, his splendor. Where we are crying worthy, worthy, worthy. And she saw in this vision, she saw bowls being poured out into bowls and these bowls being poured out into the earth, and it was the oil being poured out. She saw the fragrance of a lover song, the prayers of the saints, the worship to his heart, the oil being poured out.

[00:50:45] And she said the Holy Spirit is coming with oil. He's coming to prepare us with fire and we need, and she said she had this great passion, which I have too as well. To awaken the bride, to awaken the bride, and for the bride to be consumed with God's glory and his presence to be consumed with passion, to awaken us in our hearts to all that Jesus has done for us.

[00:51:14] And then she said these words as my chur, as my church. Oh, has, sorry. In the past has my church exchanged wonder for understanding. Has my church exchanged fascination for information as my church ex, ex exchanged? Predict, predict, knocking and crying and calling out for predict predictability and comfort.

[00:51:46] Let it not be so, so in the past, that's where we've been as a church. Hasn't, hasn't it Very often we've been, we've just been content with information and predictability and comfort. Yet, God has got more for us. He's got so much more. He's got his glory. He's asking us to be caught, to be those who are ready to carry the fire of His spirit, to be the scent ones.

[00:52:15] And if we are to answer to that call, let's stand, shall we? Let's stand. Shall we all stand If we are to answer to that call? We have to cry out to him again. Cry out. When I was at Bethel. I was, I received a word from God right at the very last moment of that conference. I had ama most amazing speakers, and I'd been around with my sisters.

[00:52:39] I'd had a wonderful time, but I still didn't have what God had sent me there for. I didn't still have that encounter with the Holy Spirit. So let's just, in these few moments, just ask him and pray again. Let's cry out to him again because we cannot do it without it. As we leave this conference, we go our separate ways.

[00:52:58] We cannot do it without the fire of the Holy Spirit burning on the inside of us and filling us again. Like on the day of Pentecost, when they were all gathered in one place and they were sent out full of power, they were consumed with passion for his great name.

[00:53:18] Lord, we come before you Now. We come before you now, and we call out to you yet again. We've called out to you in this conference, in these times of worship, and as we've heard your word being preached and our hearts are towards you, but we come one one more time as we stand in this room together and we say, Lord Jesus, come to us again.

[00:53:38] Consume us with passion for your kingdom, for your name, for your glory. Give us open visions of heaven. Lord, take us beyond our comfort

[00:53:53] burning us. Again. A great desire to see the sons and daughters come into your kingdom, the fatherless and motherless generation, Lord, we are the ones that are, we are saying, send us Lord. Send us Lord. We are not just gonna call them out of darkness. We're gonna raise them up as, as sons and daughters and warriors in your kingdom.

[00:54:16] They are gonna take their place and it's going to be a mighty army. Lord. Lord, we want to be part of that mighty army. But we don't wanna just be part, we wanna be those that call others out of darkness to see them equipped, see them empowered, and see them send in toward the world to preach the gospel.

[00:54:36] Consume us with that passion, Lord, stir up our hearts again. Stir up our hearts to make the first thing, the first thing. Forgive us for all the times that we've sought comfort and we've, and we've sought Lord, just to compromise. Lord, no longer let us be single hearted in our mind, in our purpose, in our passion, we will serve you.

[00:54:59] Lord. We will stand again and we will serve you. As for me Lord, I will serve the Lord. And if you are echoing that prayer with me, say amen. Amen. Thank you for listening. Keep seeking God and his spirit. Give any of you, oh, I never gave any of you any chance to say anything either. Any questions or anything?

[00:55:24] but any, anybody want to say anything or speak or, not necessarily. You don't have to have, ask a question. That's fine. We, by me. I'm not good at answering questions. That's why the first day I said to Gary, stay in with me in case they ask me something I can't do, can't answer. So the first session two days ago, Gary sat in with me and then we did have a question time, and you never guess what one person said.

[00:55:50] He put his hand up. I thought he was gonna ask a question, and he went, what I really want to see is you, Gary, sitting out on that field having a rest.

[00:56:02] And I'm like, yeah, but will we rest in the Lord, don't we? We can all rest and when we are busy, we can be restful, we can be yielded, we can be dependent, we can be leaning on him. So any questions, any thoughts? Happy for you all to go as well.