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TEXTBOOK (ACADEMIC VERSION) THE CROWN PRINCE ANOINTING

COURSE: THE ANOINTING (OT545)

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THE CROWN PRINCE ANOINTING YOUR MANTLE OF ANOINTING IN THIS TIME OF TRANSITION!

by
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PREFACE

One of these days, I'm going to hear a sweet, sweet sound wafting far and wide: "The spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha." When this sound is voiced in my spirit, I'm going to start looking for my chariot because my generation has one major priority: to pour the anointing into the lives of Elishas. The anointing is all that really matters. We have machinery, methods and means, but without the anointing, the job of harvest will never be accomplished.

My generation got sidetracked with big buildings, satellites, cables, computers and water slides. God gave us the opportunity to bring in the harvest, and we did some good, but we mostly squandered it upon our own egos. This book is written for Elisha, not Elijah; for Joshua, not Moses. It is not intended for the leaders of my generation. We've had our opportunities and, for the most part, allowed them to slip by us; the next generation of leaders will be those who

gather in the harvest. I hope God lets me live to be one hundred so I can watch you and prod you with my cane. If not, I'll view it from Nebo and rejoice with you on the other side.

My purpose in writing this book is to help prepare leaders for the harvest which is just ahead. We are due a major move of God in the earth which will transpire very shortly. God is humbling and shaping His church into a vessel of ingathering, revival and harvest. My prayer is that He will use this book as one instrument of preparation for the coming harvest.

Elishas, listen to me! I may sound gruff and cranky, but I have a message you need to hear if you are ever to fulfill your destiny. I, and other Elijahs, made mistakes, but I am willing to acknowledge them so you can learn from them and not repeat them. I may be old and my gait slower than yours, but I have something you need—the anointing—and I want to give it to you; no, that's wrong, I don't want to give it, I yearn to bestow it upon my sons, but you must become a son who is worthy to carry it.

This book will help you obtain, retain and maintain your mantle of anointing. It will help you make the necessary adjustments God requires in this time of transition from one wind to the next.

CHAPTER 1

THE THREE WINDS OF GOD

Our text, which appears in full at the beginning of chapter two, says, "...Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11).

Have you noticed how winds are associated with God's movement in the earth? In Ezekiel 37, the breath of God comes from four winds and breathes upon the slain army, putting new life into them. On the day of Pentecost "...there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing, mighty wind..." (Acts 2:2). Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to wind: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). The Holy Spirit is likened unto the wind because

of His movements upon the earth. He cannot be seen, but He can be felt. He can move like a gentle breeze, or He can blow with gale force.

I have been a student of every major revival in the history of the church. From these studies, I have been able to draw together three "winds," or breathings of God, which are present in every move and have brought new life into the earth.

Every major move of God has experienced these three winds:

The Wind of Holiness
The Wind of Harmony
The Wind of Harvest

These winds are vital to God's program in the earth in these last days.

The First Wind—THE WIND OF HOLINESS This is a time of shaking and confusion, when God gets our attention.

This is an icy, sharp and sometimes bitter wind that God releases on His church when He's getting it ready for great things. He began releasing this wind in the seventies, but by the eighties it had reached gale force across the pentecostal/ charismatic church. This wind was so strong it blew a lot of leaders off the "trees" of their ministry positions, including me.

In 1982 I had a posh, ecclesiastical job. My offices were on the sixth floor of a lovely complex. I could see three counties from my windows which were on three sides. Anyone who wanted to see me had first to go through my private secretary and then walk 50 feet down a private hall. I could go literally anywhere in the world to preach by simply picking up the phone.

Then the wind started to blow...it blew me right out of that "tree." I landed six stories down, flat on my back on the ground. I looked up and asked God what happened. He said, "You were stuck on the tree of ministry by a denomination and by other people. I have now loosed you so I can graft you in by the Holy Spirit into the place you really belong."

If this hasn't happened to you yet, I've got bad news and good news. The bad news is it probably will happen to you! The good news is you will be far better off after the transaction is over. I look back on my transition from the old place where human glue put me to the new position I have been placed by the finger of God. I can say, with all sincerity, that it was the best time of my

life next to my salvation, baptism in the Spirit, marriage and the births of my son and grandson. Transition is always difficult, and mine was the nearest thing to death to me at the time. But the sweet life of God that it has since yielded more than makes up for the trials I endured.

Back in the sixties, I pastored one of the largest pentecostal churches in Southern California. A young Foursquare preacher by the name of Jack Hayford was beginning nondescript work over in the Fernando Valley. I could have been a blessing at that time, but it did not fit my concepts of church growth. An evangelist from Pittsburgh was beginning her West Coast ministry and called for two California pastors to help her get it started: Ralph Wilkerson and Ron Cottle. Ralph responded and was rewarded by his openness. I thought Kathryn Kuhlman was just a bit strange and refused to get involved. I grimace whenever I think of the blessings I could have received had I been more open to the Holy Spirit in those days. I want to help young leaders today with this book by pointing out various pitfalls. God has given me some keys which will help you; don't make the mistakes I made and miss out on what God has for you now.

In the first wind, God is saying, "Church, stop

playing games. The show's over. Get down to business because I've got big things coming down for you."

God is a master at upsetting ecclesiastical apple carts in order to free a true man of God who has become bound by the system.

The wind of holiness is unpleasant, but necessary. Every move of God throughout the history of the Church has begun in the Spirit but ended in the flesh. The primitive church began in great power and glory, but dissipated into the Roman church. The Reformation swept tens of thousands into the Kingdom under Luther and Calvin, but dissipated into ecclesiasticism under the leadership of their subordinates. Could anyone look at modern Methodism and even begin a comparison with the Wesleyan revival? Even the gale force of the rushing, mighty wind of Azusa dissipated into pentecostal denominations bound by form and legalism. The wind of holiness is necessary to freeing those who have true hearts but are lassoed by constraining systems.

The wind of holiness is a prelude to the wind of harvest. Both of these are mighty winds. But there is a trough between these two winds where a gentle breeze of harmony blows among God's leaders.