

PLENARY SESSION 5:

FRANCIS CHAN

- ↵ We have a problem with having church leaders that have more information than the disciples but do not have the boldness that is demonstrated in Acts
- ↵ You only need one spirit filled person in a room teaching others, but if he is not spirit filled then what is the purpose
- ↵ The disciples prayed for boldness and received it!!!!
 - Paul asked for help with his boldness...and he seemingly had plenty to begin with
 - Peter and John said to pray for boldness
- ↵ Story about Francis struggling with boldness...
 - How sometimes he feels like he is in tune with his purpose and other times when he wonders if God really called him to start the church
 - How several book ideas he had were ruined by continuing to hear of books that John Piper wrote before he could...
- ↵ **God uses the weak to shame the strong...he wants to use the ordinary “uneducated, common men”**
 - It is easy to get dissuaded when we go to conferences and see the awesome speakers, awesome bands, awesome church buildings, and feel like we could never do that
- ↵ We get scared of making mistakes and scared of feeling inadequate
- ↵ Somehow we feel like if we had the right band, the best technology, and the right budget we could make it work....
 - But then there are moments when we don't even preach that well and someone comes up to give their life to Christ and we realize that we had nothing to do with their decision...it had to have been the Holy Spirit
- ↵ **Exegesis...start with the scriptures and objectively study what it says after praying**
- ↵ **Isogesis...when you already have an idea and you take verses from scriptures and theology to prove their point**
 - False religions and cults use isogesis to prove their religion...BE CAREFUL!!!
- ↵ Chan – I've preached exegetically for 15 yrs. but have not been living exegetically...I can create systems and show you how it works biblically...
- ↵ Illustration: the devil stole God's play book
 - A gang member had come to Jesus through a relationship with Francis...after reading through Acts he stopped attending the church
 - Francis approached him about it...the guy said once you get initiated into a gang you have an immediate family (they would give their life for you, you sleep together on the streets, and eat together in the alleys)
 - After reading Acts he thought the church would be the same way once he was baptized and became a member of the church...but it was absolutely nothing like that...so he quit
 - **Its sad that the gangs demonstrate a better picture of an Acts church family than our churches today**
- ↵ **HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS?**
 - When church leaders today say yeah Francis I hear what you are saying but things are different today than in the first century...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SAME TODAY AS HE WAS 2000 YRS AGO?
- ↵ We need the boldness of Elijah when he confronted the 450 prophets of Baal and said my God will take you out!!!!!!
 - He mocked them and then got on his knees and prayed that God would show himself to those people...the prophets then said, “The Lord is God”
 - **When is the last time people left our church saying that our God is the real God...that our Jesus is the real Jesus?**
 - **Too many times we resemble the prophets of Baal dancing and worshipping all day but not really experience the true God...**
- ↵ “Elijah was a man just like us” – James 5:17

- We may have an advantage over him because the Holy Spirit is alive in us!!! But Elijah prayed with an amazing faith...

✚ **If we stop looking at the Holy Spirit then we will lose boldness and confidence!!**

✚ If the Holy Spirit doesn't come upon us or our people it doesn't matter how good the worship band is or what the building looks like...

- Either He will manipulate and convict them or He won't
- There is nothing we can do but pray

✚ ARE WE BEING FED BY THE SYSTEM, saying that I need a band, a building, a staff, to start a church....

✚ I feel like God has spoke to me this week:

- **GET ALONE BY YOURSELF AND GET INTO THE BIBLE...SPEND TIME IN PRAYER ASKING GOD WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO TAKE FROM IT!!!!!!**