

## **Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire**

### **Jim Cymbala**

#### **Chapter 2**

##### **Catching Fire**

- From this day on, the prayer meeting will be the barometer of our church. What happens on Tuesday night will be the gauge by which we will judge success or failure because that will be the measure by which God bless us.
- You can tell how popular a church is by who comes on Sunday morning.”
- You can tell how popular the pastor or evangelist is by who comes on Sunday night.
- But you can tell how popular Jesus is by who comes to the prayer meeting.
- We never knew who might come to Christ at the Brooklyn Tabernacle. There were junkies, prostitutes, and homosexuals. But lost lawyers, business types, and bus drivers turned to the Lord there too. We welcomed them all.

#### **Chapter 3**

##### **A Song for the Desperate**

- Prayer cannot truly be taught by principles and seminars and symposiums. It has to be born out of a whole environment of felt need. If I say, “I ought to pray,” I will soon run out of motivation and quit; the flesh is too strong. I have to be driven to pray.
- The more we pray, the more we sense our need to pray. And the more we sense a need to pray, the more we want to pray.

#### **Chapter 5**

##### **The Day Jesus Got Mad**

- Does the Bible ever say anywhere from Genesis to Revelation, “My house shall be called a house of preaching”? Does it ever say, “My house shall be called a house of music”? Of course not.
- The Bible does say, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Preaching, music, the reading of the Word-these things are fine. But they must never override prayer as the defining mark of God’s dwelling.

#### **Chapter 6**

##### **A Time for Shaking**

- George Barna reports that 64 percent of “born-again” Americans and 40 percent of “evangelical” Americans say there is no such thing as absolute truth.
- More than three-fourths of current church growth, Barna adds, is merely “transfer growth”.
- Church attendance in a given week during 1996 was down to 37 percent of the population, a ten-year low...even though 82 percent of Americans claim to be Christians.
- Today in Cymbala’s church, people are in the church seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, praying in three-hour shifts or longer.

## **Chapter 8**

### **The Lure of Marketing**

- Instead of trying to bring men and women to Christ in the biblical way, we are consumed with the unbiblical concept of “church growth.”
- The bible does not say we should aim at numbers but rather urges us faithfully to proclaim God’s message in the boldness of the Holy Spirit. This will build God’s church God’s way.

## **Chapter 9**

### **The Lure of Doctrine Without Power**

- Isn’t it remarkable that only two of the seven churches of Revelation (Pergamum and Thyatira) were scolded for false doctrine? Far more common was a lack of spiritual vitality, of fervency, of closeness to the Lord.
- The Scriptures are not so much the goal as they are an arrow that points us to the life-changing Christ.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Too Smart for Our Own Good?**

- People who have a seeking heart still make mistakes. But their reaction to rebuke and correction shows the condition of that heart. It determines what God is able to do with them in the future.

### **A Word to Pastors**

- Ephesians 4:11, “it was he [Christ] who gave some to be ...pastors and teachers.” The ministry was not your idea or mine; it was God’s plan from the beginning of time. He has entrusted us with a sacred privilege.
- Churches must be saturated with prayer.
- It is very important to discern God’s guidance as to the true spiritual temperature of a congregation and what the next step should be
- Let us never accept the excuse that God cannot work in our situation.