

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

FRANCIS CHAN

"ARE WE MISSING IT?"

Francis Chan challenges us to look at the times that God moved in power and how we can be faithful to the Lord, instead of just attempting to “feel good” at church events.

MESSAGE OPENER:

A famous Methodist evangelist named Peter Cartwright was known for his uncompromising preaching. However, one day when the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, "Old rough and ready," came to Cartwright's church, the elders warned the Pastor not to offend the President. In those days, the President had great power to influence a denomination for good or bad. Content, that their Pastor would not say anything to discredit their church, the elders retired to the back of the sanctuary. When Cartwright got up to speak, the first words out of his mouth were, "I understand that President Andrew Jackson is here this morning. I have been requested to be very guarded in my remarks. Let me say this: "Andrew Jackson will go to hell if doesn't repent of his sin!" The entire congregation gasped with shock at Cartwright's boldness. How could this young preacher dare to offend the tough old general in public, they wondered. After the service, everyone wondered how the President would respond to Cartwright. When Andrew Jackson met the preacher at the door he looked at him in the eye and said, "Sir, If I had a regiment of men like you, I could conquer the world!" When we appreciate the power of the word of God and the Holy Spirit speaking from the lips of people with conviction we will make eternal differences.

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-paul-fritz-humor-sharingmytestimony-communicationgeneral-endurance-4854.asp>

READ: James 1:22-25

WATCH: Francis Chan—Momentum 2012. 47 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/arewemissingit>

KEY POINTS:

When God shows up. The times in Scripture when God “showed up” in power and glory—typically were times when God's people's lives were on the line: Daniel, Elijah, Stephen. Why do we want it at a concert so we can feel good, when there is no cost?

Why power is given. Why was the Holy Spirit given? Was it to feel good? No. It was so that God's power could be released, empowering the disciples at Pentecost to go out and do what God had called them to do—preach the Gospel to all nations.

Trying shows faithfulness. Going out and sharing the gospel is like popping out of the Bible—its attempting to actually be like Jesus and love people like he did. Trying is the first step. It shows faithfulness.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

Heart Check: Have you ever felt like you are “missing it” or are caught up in “all this stuff” like Francis shared at the beginning? Being honest about this is a good thing. It isn't something to feel ashamed of and be locked from changing. If that is you—this is a moment to talk with God about that and to repent.

Power Hungry: Has there ever been a time that you have wanted God to “show up” because it would be cool or feel good? What do you think of contrasting that to the Biblical examples of those who did see God's power, but it was because their life was on the line by those who hated them for their allegiance to God?

Pray for Boldness. God still does the miraculous, and he shows up inside of our faithfulness to him. Close your night at youth group praying with each other for boldness—repenting, asking God to expand your vision for his power through the Holy Spirit, and then go out and live a life of faith to make disciples of the unseen.