Bill Johnson

Interview Gabe & Bill

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# Recognise the time you live in

More people that made messes this year, how do we work with that? What do you think about that as a senior pastor or as a leader?

Recognize the time you live in. Ananias and Sapphire lied in a moment of outpouring and died because of it because they disregarded the moment that they lived in.

I have zero tolerance for someone who wants to follow Jesus. How honest do you want me to get? A 7 honest answer. We have been given a moment in history, 3 cities in Mark 11 no city in history had been given. The miracles in their day would have turned the great sin cities. They were given a moment, but their lifestyle wasn't equal to God’s standard.

Repentance is just a skill, if you have stuff from your history that comes up every now and then, go and repent. There needs to be a sorrow that leads to repentance. If people want to get drunk and sleep around go and do hell somewhere else. Don’t tell anyone you're following Jesus. We’ve paid too big of a price to get this messed up with carelessness. I have zero toleration for anyone who wants to know what he can get away with. If you have issues you do the stuff. if it pops up and it is still there you need to do something about it. This is the easiest environment there is.

People graduated and do this. Pressure causes whatever is in there to come to the surface. This is a safe environment, we don’t kick people out, but remove people that become a cancer to the environment. So precious, he’s ached for this for 40 years. Watching your mom and dad working their butt off for your home, then they see the house and it is not cared for. Didn't cost you anything, but it cost somebody.

# Correcting people

What does correction look like to you? The standard for me is it has to hurt me to correct somebody. Willingness to walk them through stuff. Places where correction is needed, but open-ended. Want to learn in the process so we both can grow. Always with hope that something can be healed and fixed.

They’ll obey me, outward obedience, but won’t follow the conviction of the Lord. Repentance is a lifestyle. Either you're walking in repentance or you need to repent. Jesus walked in repentance. The moment I start to compromise I need to repent.

Some people need to experience the consequences of their sin. Sometimes we have insulated from Gods feelings, some people need to feel the pain and they won’t feel the pain if you protect them. Unsanctified grace. It’s what Paul did in Corinthians give someone's flesh to satan.

# Pain

He will wipe the tears from our eyes, the implication is that there will be tears.

Moments you had pain? Anytime you make a decision for someone that you love and you don’t have pain there is something wrong. If we live in an environment we can compromise and there is no pain we need a doctor so that we can feel the pain again. A very large part of insanity is the result of avoiding pain.

If I punch you or bump into you, I still need you an apology if you have pain. An apology not because your intention was wrong, but because they were in pain and you didn't realize it.

# Building trust

Trust in measure is earned, but you have to give them room. That room is trust. Somebody abused a child I will not let them take care of children> I trust them to breathe air, not with my kids. Don’t feel mean by requiring that they gain a momentum of character before I trust them again. There has to be a willingness to see them improve again.

I can forgive in a moment, then I have to apply it every moment after that. Reaffirm that commitment to forgive 20 times a day, I am going to reapply that confession that I have forgiven them. I also need to give them room to have trust again. Sometimes you care less about trust, but more about forgiveness. Bitterness is like drinking poison.

Forgiveness without repentance means a very small measure of trust.

Mercy to people in need, help and serve your brothers and sisters. When there is repeated sin in an area and there is no repentance som of those folks will only wake up when they feel pain. You're the mom, your kid overspends and you pay their debt. At some time you need to let them feel the pain of the debt. As long as I pay it for them they will not experience the pressure of the situation they have caused.

# Proof

Somebody threatened me once; unless you can show me proof I will expose you. If I would have the x-ray in my hand I wouldn't give it, I would want to see how far you would go partnering with a demonic spirit.

How do you judge with which level of conviction you speak? Don’t think about a problem privately and build up an agenda, most of the time you're wrong and will overshoot. You have a limited amount of information, there is always more info. If I know the facts I will remove the mercy hat and put on the wait until you hear this hat.

# Stretching experiences

Biggest mistake he's made is giving authority too soon. Responsibility isn't authority. Give people responsibility but not authority. How did that bite you? Authority given too soon almost always means that people will suffer under that authority. Easier to lay hands on people than off. Don't bless and approve them to work before you think they're ready.

Having one of your primary leaders accuse you of wrong doing and misleading that is rough. Learning to walk in forgiveness and serve the person in spite of personal pain. Wish them happy new years, things that are painful. Stay in their life, in spite of what they think about you. Only hurts the part of you that should be dead, so not that bad. He came back one year later and asked for forgiveness.

# What is one characteristic any leader should posses?

Loyalty. I have zero toleration for disloyalty. I love giftings, sing, play, raise money or do whatever they can do. But I am not impressed by them in the sense of what I can have. Watched it for 40 years, highly gifted people and anointed people. God will anoint the words of a liar. Everyone views themselves as loyal, but heaven doesn’t.

People that seem to hate me because I am friends with people. Friends are friends, I just want to do well. That is the test of friendship.

# Why is God using you versus somebody more gifted?

Told Israel they were the least and that He would be more glorified by using them because they're the lowest. Bill grew up in a low home, ministry was never brought up to him. Never in his life, he didn't have interest. Lacked training, skills and stuff. Wouldn't do anything, just telling jokes. Writing and reading faked all his book reports. What he is doing now is all the stuff he used to hate.

He said to God I will do anything you want me to do. Signed the paper before anything was filled in. That I did what He said. Two standards: Did God show up? Did I do what He said? If it goes beyond that and I have a home that is a bonus, more clothes? Friends that like me. All bonus stuff. That is why I want to do well. I drive a pretty car because beauty is one of the expressions of the Kingdom, it is just for me. But I want to show them the Kingdom, excellence or beauty. I don’t use big pins, I want an excellent pin. I want to represent Him well. What I can do today is different than 20 years ago, but the values were already intact back then.

I will bring something I disagree with here to minister. I don’t value everyone's opinion, but if I don’t mind bringing someone in with different opinions. We need to see diversity. Being secure in what you believe in the middle of others. You need to know how to function with people that don’t always agree with you. You don’t have to introduce them and say I don’t agree with everything he says. Are you that insecure that you need to let people know you don’t agree with all their stuff? As a pastor you can clean it up.