

Constraining The Lord

prayer Holy Spirit spiritual intimacy

Basic Information

- Date & Time: 2024-04-24 18:36:08
- Location: Oasis Bible Training Center
- Instructor: Steve Porter
- Title: **“Constraining the Lord”**

Summary

In this special chapel message, Steve Porter shares a key biblical principle that can unlock greater visitations and manifestations of God's presence in our lives and gatherings - constraining the Lord to come. Drawing from the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus who constrained Jesus to stay with them (Luke 24:29) and the Shunammite woman who made a room for the prophet Elisha and constrained him to come (2 Kings 4:8-11), Pastor Steve exhorts us to go beyond casual invitations to God and instead fervently urge, compel and press the Lord to come and meet with us.

Through personal testimonies and biblical examples, he shows how creating a welcoming place for God and earnestly entreating Him to come can open the door to dramatic visitations of the Lord's presence, both corporately and personally. Pastor Steve gives practical ways to “constrain the Lord” through wholehearted prayer, worship, and cultivating a desperation for more of God. He encourages us to never be content with "church as usual" but to

keep pressing in for a greater habitation of God's manifest presence that can change lives and draw the lost.

If you desire to see Jesus show up in your life and ministry in unprecedented ways, this message will stir your faith to start practicing the lost art of constraining the Lord to come. Get ready to be ignited with a renewed passion to seek God wholeheartedly and pave the way for His personal visitations and supernatural breakthroughs.



Knowledge Points

1. The main theme of the teaching is spiritual preparation and anticipation for an upcoming move of God, with an emphasis on prayer, spiritual authority, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Invocation of Jesus' presence** The speaker starts by invoking the presence of Jesus and expressing gratitude, acknowledging technical difficulties and asserting spiritual authority over them.
- **Prayer for the Holy Spirit's touch** The speaker prays for the audience to feel the Holy Spirit and for the Spirit to bring life and presence into the chapel service.
- **Spiritual warfare** The speaker engages in spiritual warfare, pushing back against the enemy and any hindrances, including technical issues and witchcraft.
- **Acknowledgment of Jesus' supremacy** Jesus is acknowledged as the one above all, with everything under His authority, and the speaker confesses Jesus as Lord.
- **Prayer for an open heaven and anointing** The speaker asks for an open heaven, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and for the chapel service to proceed with power and presence.

- **Personal surrender to God** The speaker expresses personal dependency on God, surrendering fully to allow God to work through them.
- **Proclamation of victory** Despite technical issues, the speaker proclaims victory in the gospel message, emphasizing that Jesus saves.
- **Adaptation to technical difficulties** The speaker mentions using a phone instead of a camera due to technical difficulties, ensuring the service can still be viewed.
- **Anticipation of the conference** The speaker builds anticipation for an upcoming conference, mentioning that there will be no chapel or class in lieu of the conference.
- **Introduction of guest speakers** The speaker introduces guest speakers for the conference, highlighting their backgrounds and the impact they've had.
- **Conference schedule and sessions** Details about the conference schedule, including the days and times of sessions, are provided.
- **Meals provided during the conference** The speaker informs that meals will be provided on Saturday during the conference.
- **Call for prayer and preparation** The audience is encouraged to pray and prepare for the conference, with mention of ongoing projects at the venue.
- **Biblical reference to the Emmaus Road** The speaker references the story of the Emmaus Road from Luke 24, setting the stage for a lesson or principle to be shared.
- **Personal reflection on a principle** The speaker mentions a principle that has been significant in their life and ministry, which they plan to discuss.

2. The teaching focuses on the significance of inviting and compelling Jesus' presence into one's life and ministry, contrasting genuine, Spirit-led encounters with routine religious practices.

- **Conversation on the Emmaus Road** The teaching begins with a recount of the conversation between Jesus and two disciples on the Emmaus Road, highlighting their inability to recognize Jesus initially.
- **Jesus' unrecognized presence** The speaker reflects on the idea that Jesus or angels can be present without being recognized, sharing a personal anecdote from Jamaica.
- **The power of anointed words** The speaker emphasizes the difference between ordinary words and anointed words, suggesting that anointed words can cause a spiritual burning within people.
- **The importance of yielding to God** The speaker encourages yielding to God to allow Him to speak through individuals, rather than relying on one's own ability.
- **Critique of taught prophecy** The speaker criticizes the practice of teaching people to prophesy at will, advocating for spontaneous, Holy Spirit-led prophecy instead.
- **Personal experiences with prophecy** The speaker shares personal experiences where they received or delivered prophetic words that had a significant impact.
- **Constraining Jesus to come** The concept of 'constraining' Jesus is discussed, meaning to compel or urge Jesus to be present, as illustrated by the Emmaus Road story and the Shunemite woman's actions.
- **Creating a space for Jesus** The speaker talks about the importance of creating a welcoming space for Jesus to visit and dwell, both physically and spiritually.

- **Desiring more than church as usual** The speaker expresses a desire for a genuine habitation of Jesus' presence in their gatherings, beyond routine church services.
- **The impact of Jesus' manifest presence** The speaker recounts instances where Jesus' manifest presence in a meeting led to significant spiritual experiences and revival.
- **The role of the Holy Spirit in ministry** The speaker asserts that ministry should be born of the Spirit of God, with the Holy Spirit guiding and speaking through the ministry.

3. The main theme is the importance of actively seeking and inviting God's presence into one's life through worship, personal desperation, and the practice of 'constraining the Lord.'

- **Desire for more spiritual experiences** The speaker expresses a strong desire for greater visitation beyond what they have previously witnessed in Michigan and Ontario.
- **Constraining the Lord** The concept of 'constraining the Lord' is emphasized as a means of inviting and pulling God's presence into one's life.
- **Importance of worship** The speaker highlights the significance of worship and their personal practice of going with the flow of worship to invite God's presence.
- **Personal desperation for God** A personal sense of desperation and longing for God's presence is portrayed as crucial for a deeper spiritual encounter.
- **Jeremiah 29:12-13** The speaker references Jeremiah 29:12-13 to support the idea that seeking God with all one's heart will lead to finding Him.
- **Individual and corporate practice** Constraining the Lord is presented as a practice that can be done both individually and corporately.

- **Tangible presence of God** The speaker shares personal experiences of feeling the tangible presence of God, especially in private moments.
- **Anticipation of meeting Jesus** The speaker anticipates an emotional and profound encounter upon meeting Jesus face to face in eternity, reflecting on a life spent seeking Him.
- **Urgency of spiritual pursuit** The speaker conveys a sense of urgency in pursuing a deeper relationship with God, emphasizing that time is short.
- **Inviting God into everyday life** The speaker suggests inviting God into all aspects of life, including during long trips or in moments of loneliness.
- **Experiencing God in the mundane** The speaker describes how even in mundane activities like driving, one can experience God's presence through worship and focus.
- **God's response to a sincere heart** The speaker believes that when one sincerely seeks God with a desperate heart, God responds with His presence.
- **Difference between genuine and half-hearted seeking** The speaker acknowledges that there are times of half-hearted seeking which do not result in experiencing God's presence.
- **Spiritual intimacy in stressful situations** The speaker advises inviting Jesus into stressful situations to cultivate intimacy and experience His presence.
- **Avoiding spiritual junk food** The speaker warns against filling one's spirit with 'carnal junk food' and instead seeking the manifestation of the Lord.
- **Jesus as the pearl of great price** The speaker refers to Jesus as the 'pearl of great price,' emphasizing the incomparable value of a relationship with Him.

- **Life as a dress rehearsal** The speaker views life as a short, preparatory stage for eternity and stresses the importance of cultivating intimacy with God now.
- **Desire to be recognized by Jesus** The speaker expresses a desire to be recognized by Jesus as a faithful servant rather than a stranger at the end of life.
- **Encouragement to practice constraining the Lord** The speaker encourages the audience to practice constraining the Lord in their church services and personal lives.
- **Flexibility in church services** The speaker suggests that church services should be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit rather than rigidly adhering to schedules.

? Questions

1. What does it mean to “constrain the Lord” and how can we practically do this in our personal lives and church gatherings?
2. Why do you think Jesus sometimes waits to be constrained or compelled before manifesting His presence more powerfully?
3. Steve shared examples of Jesus and the prophet physically coming when constrained - do you believe this still happens today? Why or why not?
4. How can we cultivate a deeper desperation and hunger for God's manifest presence in our lives? What hinders this?
5. In what ways might we settle for “church as usual” rather than passionately pursuing a habitation of God's presence?

6. Steve emphasized the importance of anointed, Spirit-led words that cause hearts to burn. How can we grow in releasing this type of ministry?
7. Do you agree that ministry done merely in human strength and wisdom profits little compared to what is born of the Spirit? Explain.
8. What is the difference between just wanting a blessing from the Lord versus desiring a dwelling place for His presence? How do our motives impact this?
9. How can we balance “constraining the Lord” with also resting in His sovereignty and timing? Where might this get out of balance?
10. Reflect on a time you experienced a unique visitation or manifestation of God's presence. What precipitated this and what was the impact?

Quotes

1. “Jesus is walking up the I-90 and wondering to himself, is there a church? Is there a gathering? Is there a people that really want me? He's coming close to the exit where he can get off... and suddenly there is a group of people that is so in love with him that they refuse to accept no.”
2. “I don't want to just go through the motions. To me, it's not worth the sacrifice of giving up your life just to have church as usual. I want more. I want a habitation - where even when people come near the property, they sense a manifestation of God's presence because we're constraining the Lord to come.”

3. "Do you want visitation? Do you want habitation? Then you have to search for God with all of your heart. You have to say, 'Lord, I constrain you to come.' This is not just a corporate thing, it's also an individual practice we can do in our prayer closets."
4. "When I really get desperate, and I begin to constrain Him, and I mean business, He responds. Heart to heart. Spirit to spirit. Deep cries out to deep. As our spirit cries out to His spirit, then He comes suddenly with the manifestation of His presence."
5. "This life is short. Now is the time that we must cultivate intimacy with the Lord. I do not want to stand before the Lord a stranger. I want to stand before Him and hear 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

Assignments

- Read your notes
- Read your books