

Going Out on the Streets
Under the Anointing or Presence of the Holy Spirit

From the Pews to the Streets Ministry
Pastor Alan Sharp

It's got to be God, not us, out on the streets. During Jesus' ministry on earth, the religious people thought they had the answer about God. They killed our Savior.

My experience at conversion was that I asked God to forgive my sins, to be the Lord of my life, and to change the things He did not like in me. The people of the church back then must have prayed 24-7 for me and definitely put up with a lot because the things that we Christians look at are the outward changes. God is looking at the inward changes. It took four months before God took my drinking, smoking, and cussing away from me and then helped me to start liking myself and other people. It wasn't the church, my family, or my wife, it was me praying the prayer of salvation and letting God change my life that took me from a life of sin to a life with God. Grant you, once He touched me after that prayer I wanted to go to church and read the Bible. So I think after the salvation prayer is spoken out on the streets with people, they do need follow-up.

As time goes on and a person matures in the Lord by reading the Bible and going to church, God empowers this person to do Jesus' ministry by the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Tell God, from your heart, how you pant like a deer which is out in a desert desiring for His presence. (Psalms 42:1) You hunger for Him to come near because you can do nothing without Him. You need His touch, and you need Him to break your heart so that He can take full control of you. Thank God when He comes and let Him have His way with you. Just flow with Him and enjoy His presence. Ask God to use you to share His message with others that do not know Him. Let Him work through you to touch others. People in the world are hurting, and they will be like sponges when Jesus radiates from us. We need to help people give Jesus permission for Him to work in their lives.

One Friday night before going out on the streets, our street ministry team had our normal worship before hitting the streets. I did the things I have talked about during the worship. The Lord manifested His presence in me, and I started to weep and felt lightening shooting through my body. That night I went on the streets with a college student and an elderly man. We were near the bus station in Lansing, Michigan. My two companions went over to a homeless person in order to witness to him. The Holy Spirit told me not to go with them. About that time, two sixteen year old girls shot past me. I shouted to them to stop and I told them I had something for them. As I walked over to them, I held out the "Special Lady" tract. The Holy Spirit impressed upon me that one of the girls had been molested. When I got to them, the hurting girl said, "Sir, there's something strange about you. I feel like crying." She asked me if I could give her a hug. I said yes and she started to cry. I told her that what she was feeling was God and that he wanted her to have His presence all the time. I asked if she would pray the prayer of salvation, and she consented and prayed with me. After we had finished, the other girl said to her friend, "I'm going to church Sunday, would you go with me?" The newly converted girl answered yes, and off they went, clicking their heels in great joy.

You see, it wasn't me. It was God touching her that made the difference. We just need to

let God use us to change other people's lives and be careful that we do not fall into a religious spirit. Keep praying in the Spirit continually while serving God.