

# Corporate Passion

## By David Bryant

Bryant:

That it was impending every time I came. I feel it more now than ever before, that God is willing and ready to pour out his spirit on this campus in order that the campus might look like the logo and might become a place of fire, of love for Christ, love for one another, and love for the world that is divinely initiated and that will bring life and hope to nations for years to come. You see, at the hall of Tyrannus, people were floating through there all the time they came for a short time. That's how the whole province of Asia got reached. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16. Halfway through that two year miracle, he writes back to the Corinthians from Ephesus, and he says, all the churches of Asia send you greetings. Which basically means that within a year, churches had already been planted all over Asia. How did that happen? Because people came to the hall of Tyrannus, just like you come here for a period of time. They got disciplined, they heard what God had to say to them, then they fanned out back to their home territories and began to share wherever God sent them.

That's the potential in this campus. If it's really on fire for Christ. That without any limits. Really. For years to come. God could fling out of this campus people who are in a passion for Christ. Who are sent around the world with great power because of the life we live together on this campus. In the deep movings of the Spirit of God. Sometimes with intense emotion. Other times with just a deep, pervasive quietness. But passion none the less. And I believe it's at hand because of the decisive person who Jesus is, because of the divine pattern of how God has done it before, because of the dark prospects for this world if God doesn't give it. Because of the

disturbing paralysis in your life in mine, if he doesn't give it because I see dramatic preparations that I believe means he's ready to give it, and because of the distinctive praying going on across this nation, as well as that which I already know is reflected in the praying of many of you in this room.

Now, there's one last and very simple reason. I told you there would be seven. This one doesn't have a D and a P. The last and most simple reason of all why I believe awakening is at hand for this campus is because you're here and I'm here this morning together to sit under the word of the Lord. And this has been the word of the Lord. 40 years after Acts 19, Jesus comes again to the church in Ephesus. He says, You've done a great job in many areas, but there's one place you blew it. You've left your first love, you've lost the passion. Then he says, I want you to repent, but if you don't repent, he said to them, then I'm going to come and take the candlestick right out of the place, and it won't be there any longer.

In a sense, this whole message this morning has been for the faculty and the staff and the administration of this campus. I know most of them probably aren't here. Maybe they can listen to the tape if they want, but in a sense, this campus is at a crossroads. And since you're a part of this community, you're a part of this as well today. There's one of two choices for this campus in terms of the global cause of Christ. Either we repent and come back to the Lord and say, Lord, we're going to give you passion together if we give you nothing else. Or else the Lord says regarding a campus like Biola, if that does not happen, then in terms of your impact for my kingdom work, the candlestick will ultimately be snuffed out, and it has happened on many other Christian colleges over the years, and it could happen here. There is so much at stake, and the

reason I believe God is ready to give revival to this campus is because this morning you're here and I'm here under this wonderful word of the Lord. It is a word of hope.

And the time has come. And I can't tell you how deeply I feel that not only for this campus, but for each of our lives, so much for the rest of our lives hangs in the balance of how you choose together to respond to this word. I'd like us to be silent for a moment before the Lord. I just want to have exactly 60 seconds of absolute silence, please. I believe there are multitudes outside this campus that also hang in the balance, in a sense, with what this message is all about. So I just want us to let the Lord Jesus now our wonderful Lord, our gracious, loving, precious Lord, to have these moments to speak to each one of us what we each need to hear. Let's just listen to him. Father, I know with what intensity I have shared this message, and I couldn't hold it back. I pray that any who may have been put off by that intensity will be able to get through my personality and hear what you're saying in this room. And I also confess to you that I need to hear this message as much as anybody else, although I can't really do with it what needs to be done, because it's a message for this community.

I thank you, Father, that in our Lord Jesus Christ we have one who is worthy of all passion, both personal and corporate, and we worship Him. We bless the wounds in his body, the marks of his passion. And we confess to you right now that our hearts are cold, our faith is weak, our vision is dim, we find our hearts torn in a hundred directions. We have all kinds of things on which we've set our affections. But we hear the words to Mary: only one thing is needful. And here, this morning in this room, for those who feel they want to do this, I now lead us in prayer to say we choose that one thing needful and may it never be taken away from us again. And we pray,

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Father, that you would work even before this school term is over in a visitation of Your spirit upon this campus that is not only a reenactment of the hall of Tyrannus but is a visible demonstration of the picture that is here behind me. Our campus, our life together becoming a flame in his hands. For the sake of our generation. We do not deserve this, Father, but by the grace of the Lord, we ask for it. In the authority of the name of Jesus, who deserves you to answer. We ask for it in unity of heart with one another in this place. We ask for it. For the sake of many generations of students yet to come to this campus. We ask for it. And with a measure of hope and anticipation that you have put in our hearts that you're going to answer us, we ask for it. I'd like us to sing to the Lord.

Bryant (singing):

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice to worship you, o my soul rejoice take joy, my King in what you hear may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Bryant:

You say, Where do I go with this message? If you want to in the next session, we're going to talk about how to develop a personal passion, very practical ways. And then this evening, we're going to have a concert of prayer where we're going to dig in together and do some distinctive praying together to ask the Lord to visit us.

Announcer:

David Bryant will remain right here. [Audio cut]

Bryant:

I'd like you to look straight up that direction, would you? Lord Jesus, we stand in front of you this morning with gratitude for the great work you're doing around the world, the evidence of which we've just heard these last minutes. Thank you, Lord Jesus, as we gather in front of Your throne for how you're ruling and reigning among the nations with such power and such effectiveness and such fruitfulness. We bless you for your work all through South America. The revival in your church that's going on this very moment, the sending out of labors as a result. And we pray that in the hours we have together this week on this campus you would give us something of a taste of what you're doing there. We just honor you. Your ways are perfect. Your victory is sure. Amen. Thank you. Please be seated.

Well, it's fun for me to be back to Biola for the fifth time in ten years. Three times for missions conferences and a couple of other times on other occasions. There's always something interesting going on here at Biola. I've been watching some of the important elections taking place across the country over these last few weeks for governors and mayors and other important officials. And I felt probably as a result, I ought to at least begin my talk here this morning by giving my heartiest congratulations to Dave Ingles, who has taken the presidency here on this campus. So, Dave, wherever you are and if you are here this morning, congratulations. And also to extend my condolences and sympathies to the loser, Herman Neurotics. Was that it? Hermann Neurotics. Thank you so much. So to Herman, I just want to say there's always a second chance. Try it again.

Every time I've come to this campus, I have found myself always speaking on the very same topic. And that topic has always been passion. And I found myself speaking from the very same text all five times. It's a text on passion. A few months ago when Arlene called me and asked if I'd be willing to be one of the speakers for this year's missions conference, and I found out the theme of the conference even though my schedule was so jampacked, I said to myself and to the Lord, I really believe you want me to be there for at least one day of that conference. Because I believe, Lord, you've given me a message very specially tailored for Biola from the same text on the same topic, the fulfillment of which is yet to take place. Now, it may seem strange to you that I would come and want to speak on the topic of passion. I'm going to tell you something that most people don't know, and that is that I dated my wife more often than not in a cemetery. There was a cemetery near the campus where we were in school together, and it was the only place where we could get alone.

There wasn't anybody there to interrupt us, and there was not much competition. So maybe you sort of wonder if a person who dated his wife in a cemetery would have much to say about passion. The actual truth of the matter is I asked her to marry me in another cemetery about two or three years later. Again, we lived in a busy place in the world, and that was a place of quiet. The second cemetery didn't have any tombstones in it, so you could almost pretend it was just a nice wooded area. But I have always felt as I've come to this campus that there was something very unique that God wanted to do here, not on an individual level. I know that you heard some [audio cut].