

Perpetuate the Memories!

Overview

Evangelist David Forrest is the third generation Pentecostal preacher and he has been serving the Lord with gladness and in pastoral ministry and also in itinerant evangelism around the world. He has spoken in 37 countries and recently finished speaking at a pastor's conference in Germany and his ministry is prophetic and we are delighted to have him back as our fall conference on the Holy Spirit speaker. He was here back in 2019 and how many were blessed by his ministry last night? Amen. What a blessing and he'll be back again tonight at seven o'clock. I just want to remind you please be here tonight at seven, six fifteen pre-service prayer in the lounge and Jonathan and Rebecca and their team will be leading worship again tonight and we're looking forward to their ministry. We're so blessed and so please please be here tonight at seven as for our final fall conference service. Pastor David, would you come to the platform? Would you put your hands together and welcome our guest in the house today?

Good morning to you all. The privilege is mine just to be here with you people. You certainly love the Lord and you know how to say so. You know how to worship him. You know how to praise him and what a joy it is just for me and how many of you would have been here maybe some years ago when Pastor Tom Richardson was the pastor. Well I bring you greetings from his daughter. His daughter is Cindy. Did you know Cindy? Well she attends the little church that I'm giving leadership to in Vineland that's down near Niagara Falls and what a delightful lady she is and what a compliment to our times in the house of the Lord.

Well this is exciting and I just want to tell you upfront that God is still doing things as he always did and more so and this morning as the praise was just a bounding again and again it put me I brought back a memory that goes back a few years not so many to a camp meeting I preached in Alberta. It was in a big old wooden we called it a tabernacle and it was established just for the people to come in the summer times and gather just a very crude but large building it could hold many people. Well it turned out on this particular week that I was there. I was there for about eight years in a row. They kept on saying let's have him back and see if he can get it right this time.

And so on this one particular year the crowds were just outstanding that the place was jammed to capacity every night. They had to open the windows all around the sides. They were as large as these. They were just made of wood hinged and they could just drop them down and the people were assembling on the outside. There was no room left in there. The young people were swarming in it was an incredible event. The services were starting at seven O'clock. I would be worn out by midnight, around the altar as people were slain in the spirit speaking in a fresh language that came from heaven young people were taking the microphone, young teenagers were taking the microphone and prophesying over the whole place I would be making my way back to the room because I had to be back in the morning to teach the morning Bible class.

I had to go and get some rest. When I would come back in the morning people would say you should have stayed. It began to happen after you left and here's what I learned. I learned that people had been slain in the spirit they got on their feet and tried to make their way to the cottage but they fell under the power of the Holy Ghost out in the yard. Cars were trying to leave, and there had to be teams out there picking up the bodies and moving them off of the way so the cars wouldn't run over them.

Someone got up in the middle of the night and went to the washroom and they found somebody on the floor of the washroom slain in the spirit and speaking in tongues. People were on their way to breakfast in the morning and there were people still just outside the tabernacle in the grass, slain in the spirit. Other people were still around the altar. This went on for a whole week. God wants to sweep over us and do such tremendous things. I love, I love this banner up here one generation so praise your works to another one will praise your works they will speak of your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

I want to speak to you this morning about perpetuating the memories. Perpetuating the memories and I choose first of all to read for you a passage out of the word of God that the Lord spoke through Moses. At the time these are the commands decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land, that you are crossing the Jordan, to possess so that you, your children, and their children after them, may fear the Lord your God as long as you live, by keeping all his decrees and commands, that I give you and so that you may enjoy a long life. This is real and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord God of your ancestors promised you. Hear, oh Israel the Lord our God the Lord is one.

Do you know that all Jewish people who are devoted to the king devoted to God to this day, they repeat this passage of my Belcherate they repeat it every day, morning and night hear Oh, Israel the Lord our God the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. Now listen closely, these commands that I give you today are to be on your hearts but further he says, impress these laws impress them on your children talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up, tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and your gates. Why does the Lord command them to do this? So that no matter what they did, no matter where they went, they were always sensing that God was with them.

The Lord God was saying don't forget, remember, remember, remember, because when you start to forget. When you start to back away. When you start to leave those things which the Lord has commanded you to do, when you start to back away. You start to back slide as it was, and then you have nothing to tell your children. Last evening we had a blessed time, a splendid time around this altar. What was happening here at this altar? We were establishing new memories, new memories, and I encourage you to perpetuate the memories.

When I told you about that camp meeting out in Alberta some years ago, you were touched by

that I was perpetuating a memory that I have. Tonight the Lord willing I will perpetuate a memory I will share with you how I was deep in the heart of Africa in Kenya and suddenly I was surrounded by five hungry lions. There was no escape for me but they never got a toenail from me. I'll tell you tonight how I escaped five hungry lions. Perpetuate the memories because when we tell our memories when we speak of the things that God has done for us or through us. it raises the sense of anticipation and everyone who's listening in, when I meet people and I tell them do you believe in miracles? They might kind of, they're not really certain, I'll say well I believe in miracles and I believe in divine healing because it's in the book. But then I'm able to go on from there and say to them .. say by the way, not only do I believe in divine healing because I've read in the book, and I take about two to three minutes and I tell them the story of my wife. She was lying in a hospital dying of cancer. Her body was filled with a tumor the size of an inflated soccer ball and a woman got a word from the Lord to go to the hospital.

I had given up praying I was wasted I didn't know how to pray anymore she was down to 80 Pounds. She was about to die, and a woman came in there, with a word from the Lord. She prayed gently over her. That lady left the hospital believing that my wife needed to be left alone and to work, to rest, but my wife before that lady was off the elevator, I'm sure my wife pushed a little button that summoned the nurses, and said to them something's going on, something's going on. The nurses got afraid because something was now emerging from her birth canal and they thought my wife's insides were falling out. Well they were, it was Jesus delivering my wife from a tumor. And my wife is alive and well today. I need to perpetuate that memory. I need to keep that memory alive. I need to tell people everywhere. I need to tell little children, Jesus heals. Jesus works miraculously. And when we do it, we raise the expectation of people's hearts. They believe.

They believe because of our testimony and because we're not afraid to perpetuate what to us is a memory. So, you see, how did the Israel people, the people of Abraham, how did they perpetuate the memory. They're still doing it. Those who are devout Jewish people, they celebrate with a mezuzah. I'm not going to weary you with silly things but just let me tell you the mezuzah is a small decorative case in which Jewish households to this day attach this mezuzah at the right door frame of the entrance of their house. They put little parchments with scriptures and promises of the Lord and they actually attach it to the doorpost. So that every time they go into their house they're remembering God is in this place. And, when they leave their house they're saying and God goes with me wherever I am.

When Jesus was ministering to the people in that day, and in that hour, many of the devout people were wearing what we're called phylacteries. This is a leather little box, a very small box made of leather and inside our scriptures. And the Lord said tie it on your hand and so what they have done is, for the left arm they will take a leather strap, and they will tie scriptures on their arm, at about this location near to their heart. As close to their heart, as they can get on their limb, and wherever they go they're carrying the word of God, close to their heart. But that's not enough they also have another little box another phylactery, that they will wear between their eyes, and a leather thong holds it there, because they want it close to their eyes reminding them you need to read the word of God, and you need to keep it in your heart.

These people are people who perpetuate a memory. We need also, to perpetuate our memories we need to keep it all alive. When I was a youngster I used to hear this hymn and the hymn is called come thou fount. Maybe you're familiar with it, come thou fount of every blessing. Well in the second verse I always heard these words, here I raise my Ebenezer hither by thy help I'm come, and I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus taught me, when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, he to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood. Every word of that little verse meant something to me. Except that one little word in the fourth verse, the fourth word it said, here I raise my Ebenezer.

Here I raise my Ebenezer and so I looked up this man's history. His name is Robert Robertson and I read that he was a rascal. His mother paid for his trip to London England there to study and get a marvelous education. But in England he got into some nasty stuff and he became a rogue. He became a very desperate rascal, until he came under the sound of the gospel through a mighty evangelist at the time. And he surrendered his heart to Jesus, and his life was transformed literally overnight. And he read a portion of scripture about an Ebenezer and he declared in his own heart, this was his own little private thing that he would never forget the night that Jesus came into his heart and touched his life. And so every time when he would go before the Lord in prayer and now, eventually he put it to music, he would never forget the moment when Jesus salvaged him and saved him from a desperate life. And he sang it here I raise my testimony, here I raise my memory, here I raise my Ebenezer. But where did the word Ebenezer come from?

Well I think you know that Israel had lost two battles against the Philistines but then they turned away from their wickedness and their self-dependence and under the leadership of Samuel they won the day in the battle. At the end of that day or shortly thereafter, it was Samuel who raised a special stone or maybe he just identified a stone, we're not sure of this and it wasn't to become an altar where you would slay an animal and offer a blood sacrifice or a burnt sacrifice. The stone was to be a memory, and he called it the Ebenezer stone. Ebenezer, meaning one word that means this so far the Lord has helped us and, he was telling the people, generations to generations will come along and they will say grandpa why do you call this the Ebenezer stone? And that will be your opportunity to tell your grandchildren, and so that they would remember and tell their grandchildren.

God never leaves us. God never forsakes us. And you would tell the story of how God intervened in their lives and did miraculous things. The story of my wife's healing is an Ebenezer for me. I've had so many stories like the lion's story and I have 88 stories that I love to tell. My son called me recently from down in the southern United States ... daddy we never knew where you were. You were all over the world. We never knew if you were alive, at times, well we didn't know that you were still with us, until you flew in. Because I didn't have a telephone, if I didn't have all of those wonderful amenities I just had to trust God. He said dad please put it in writing so that I can pass it on to my grandchildren and say to them here's what God has done. Here's your grandpa's experience so now I have written a book and I'm referring just now to it.

It's my Ebenezer and in that book I'm reminding people of things that I saw, like and I'll probably speak a few minutes tonight and tell you about this. I was preaching at a camp meeting out in

British Columbia and I tell you, I never saw, but there were 20 men in the meeting who saw an angel. They all say they saw the very very same thing, and that angel was moving among the men touching them and they're being slain in the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues. iAnother one, again an angel, visited us at a meeting. That's one of my Ebenezer stories. Do you have an Ebenezer story? And if you do have one when's the last time you told your story. I want to remind you that as we gathered around this altar last night.

To me this altar, just as it is. This is an Ebenezer. This is a memorial place we, we, we, reserve this space, right here, and what is it about it? Well the call, the color of the carpet is not any different. When the custodian comes in here and runs the vacuum cleaner over here I don't think when he gets up here, he starts staggering under the power, because there's nothing unique about this. Except, except this, when you intentionally out of a sense of devotion and at times, a sense of a need for something fresh from God, when you visit this Ebenezer.

This Ebenezer becomes a powerful agent for you to get blessed in the Holy Ghost. So I assure you I compel you today never let this Ebenezer become less in your mind, in your heart. The gathering together in this house is an Ebenezer. We come here to memorialize our love for Jesus and to express our love for Him but we come also expecting that when we visit this Ebenezer together, as a corporate body, God will visit us in a magnificent fashion. When we come it's a fashion, it's a portion of our Ebenezer. Do you have an Ebenezer in your house?

Some years ago our church was putting on a special Christmas presentation and we had a downstairs, as well as a main floor and while the people were in practicing and getting things ready for our Christmas celebration, as someone was looking after the children, one of the little fellows got out of their room, and went missing. They found him at the foot of the concrete stairs laying on a concrete floor at the bottom. He was bleeding out of his ears out of his nose and they rushed him off to the hospital. I got a phone call, pastor, pastor, pastor, you know Kathy the new Christian her little fellow fell down the stairs and they're worried about his brain. It is swelling and he's not expected to make it through the night. Our prayer team started calling. We had what we called a prayer team. A prayer chain, and so a one called one, and then that one would call five more, and each of those would call five more, and we could have 2-300 people praying through the night.

First thing in the morning, I went down about seven o'clock in the morning to the hospital. I went to the desk and I said I want to see this little fellow and I mentioned the name and the nurse said oh yes just go down the hall. She said it so casually. Just go down the hall, he's in that room. I went down as I stepped and I looked in the room, there were I think maybe three cribs and whatever. And I looked, as this little fellow was sleeping quietly. This little one was playing with something. This one sitting there with his dumb dumb in his mouth and he's chewing away on it like he's chewing it away. I went back to the desk, and I said to the lady, I think there's a mistake. I can't find the little fellow I'm looking for. Oh, she said, he's the first one, right inside the door.

Who, I said no, no I said that little guy? That little child is fine, I said. She said, oh heavens I heard all of the nursing people, all of the doctors were absolutely amazed. About four o'clock this morning the little child's condition began to change and she said it's a miracle sir, it's a miracle.

And that little fellow was released that afternoon perfectly well. About two years later, I was in the morning service. Between two services, I went to the door to greet people and one little fellow got away from the care of his mother. And this little boy standing there with his eyes big and he's looking up at me. I said, I do this all the time. I looked at this little fellow. I said, I didn't know whose child he was. There were hundreds of people there. Little children everywhere. I said, well, who do we have here that little boy went like this, I am a beaser. His mother has told him he has a new nickname. You're my little Ebenezer and the day surely would come when the child would be having his breakfast, his lunch, whatever and he'd say mom why do you call me that silly name? I don't want anybody to .. well, I don't know anybody else who's ever called that. So, well why did you call me that. The mother would have said oh Ebenezer, I'm so glad you asked me the question. Then she would unfold the story. I'm your little Ebenezer, I am a perpetuating story of a miracle working God.

I was preaching out in the interior of Ethiopia. If you know Ethiopia you probably don't know it but it's a beautiful country with marvelous culture. The food is a little different, but it usually is wherever I go. And it doesn't matter. That part doesn't matter. So we went by vehicle and we went way off into the wilderness. We went as far as we could, in the vehicle. Now we have to get out and now we have to walk. I'd have forbidden going to this part of the country. I didn't know what to anticipate. We walked forever climbing over trees, trails that were growing over, like this was incredible and finally we came upon a clearing. Now down into a valley. Now I had to cross over a creek, but there was a log there, so I had to do a balancing act to get across the creek. Now I had to scale what looked to me like a mountain. It was as least as high ... higher than this ceiling it was. And it was all ever so steep. When I got to the top there was a beautiful clearing. There were just three little mud uh structures. Little homes and they swept one of them clean just for the muzungu David, who was visiting.

So I had my own little place but it was still crawling with lice and whatever, because by morning I found out that even the little creatures in the ground love this kind of guy. I guess my blood is sweet. Anyway, it was a wonderful week that I spent with them. People started coming from the villages all around. Villages that you would never know they're there because they're often the you know, off here, there and all over. Pretty soon there were literally thousands of people out there. No sound system to help me. I had a voice in those days like a fog horn and I was preaching to them about the mercies and the glories of Christ.

On this one afternoon I asked how many by the raising of hands, how many of you want to experience Jesus. You know he's in your heart and it looked to me like the majority uh we're saying yes. I'm saying well to be just on the safe side, I said look, I want everybody in the place, please I want everybody here, I could barely see the back rows of the people. They were just laid out there like sardines as far as I could see I'm shouting. I said lift your hand now and pray this prayer and I was doing this through an interpreter because I don't know Amharic which is the language.

So through him they're praying the sinner's prayer and I told them when they completed the prayer, I said everybody who's now accepted Jesus, before or even now, right now. The Holy Spirit is taking up residence in your heart. Listen, listen, listen I said the Holy Spirit has come in

and he's already now, upon arrival in your heart he's already talking to the Father in Jesus name, on your behalf. You now have a prayer partner but he's praying inside But he wants to invite you right now to participate in that prayer. He's praying silently from your heart from your spirit but he wants to use your tongue.

How many would like to allow the Holy Spirit to use your tongue, while he prays for you. Well hands went up by the thousands. I said everybody wants to be filled with a spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to do this. Stand to your feet. They stood like an army of thousands. I turned to my interpreter, who was standing beside me. I said, "What did you tell them?" I told them what you said. I said no, you did something wrong. They all stood. Tell them to sit down. So he told them in the crowd, please be seated. I said, now do exactly as I tell you everybody. I repeated it right, so only those who want to receive the Holy Spirit ... The whole crowd stood as far as I could see there were people standing.

I said I'm inviting you right now to lift your hands, both your hands, high in the sky as though you're reaching out to the king of kings, and the lord of lords. You're reaching out with your hands expecting to receive a wonderful miracle of language transformation. Then I shouted .. NOW, Begin to shout ... Jesus, tell him you love him. I love you Jesus. I love you Jesus. And folks there were people there who would verify the story I'm telling you. They started dropping on the ground, on the ground like chopped down trees. Bang, bang, bang, bang and I'm looking, even the little children right here, just with whoop, they hit the ground. I'm looking at their little tongues going like this. Beloved, thousands of people experienced the outflow of what originally had been the inflow of the holy spirit. He came in, and now he was flowing. As Jesus said he that drinks from me, out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

I turned to my brother, my interpreter. I said I don't know harrick. I can hear people shouting what language they are speaking. i'm harrick, he grabbed a hold in my arm, and started shaking. He said, no brother, the Lord made the promise and He's making the promise good. They're all speaking in a new language. Nobody was speaking in their harrick. As far as we could tell, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. God showed up. Suddenly, Acts chapter two, says and suddenly there was a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the entire place and they all began to speak in a language that came from heaven. It was a glorious ebenezer moment. They would go, and when they would, they'd tell villagers far and wide not what the mzungu had done but what Jesus had done when they allowed the holy spirit to do whatever he chooses to do.

My baptism in the holy spirit is quite a story and I won't bore you with it this morning. But I exercised my ebenezer prayer language all the time driving down the highway. I lift my ebenezer and there's times I have to pull over to the side of the road. It's hard to see through my tears. It's hard to... are you in pain, oh no hon it's tears of joy. It's tears of joy because when I speak in another language, here's what I know, that I know. That I Know, when I speak in that fresh language, I'm prophesying under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. I'm speaking not of what God did but, I'm speaking of what God's doing and what he's going to do. Oftentimes unbeknownst to me, I'm prophesying what the Lord's going to do in my life tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day.

I have one more little ebenezer to tell you, two more and then I quickly close. I was in a hospital in Florida in a couple weeks, it'll be exactly nine years ago. I ended up in the hospital in florida and I simply said to a nurse I have pain right here. She said go through that door! I didn't even have a chance to tell her my name. Go through that door, as I went through that door, she bellowed out something and a big fellow came, and he said come with me. He told me to lay down on a cart. And he did this, and this, and he wired me up and then a doctor came in. He looked at me and he said, we don't like what we see, sir. You are in big trouble. Suddenly, I was surrounded by 14 doctor people in white coats. Every one of them asked me a question, this, this, this, this, and all they knew to date, at that moment, my name was David. The doctor said I've ordered a helicopter in case we have to do surgery. It's on the way. There's a surgeon downtown right now putting on his gloves and masking up. He's getting ready. I think we might have to send you downtown. Are you ready he said. I said let's go, and he said now I want you to know David, I've had patients in better condition than you are in right now, and I couldn't save them. You need to know. I don't know what I can do for you. I said okay doc let's go.

He said, I don't think you heard me. I said, I did hear you and I think we're wasting time! Can we go? They ran down the hall pushing my cart into an elevator. There was a policeman there holding the elevator. The word had gone out throughout the entire hospital. They're yelling this code thing. Code, code, code. They were saying it's stupid David, we're going to do something to him. They reached me into a room and they did this, and this, and this, and I came to, exactly 12 hours later. I never knew anything that had happened during those 12 hours I was out to lunch or some other meal. It's 2:30 in the morning, and I'm disturbed from my slumber by somebody touching me. They're taking my BP? I, I don't know, and as I opened my eyes there stood a cute little nurse a Latino, and then tears were racing down her cheeks. I said are you okay? Oh David you're awake.

She only knew .. watch this, she only knew my name was David. She knew nothing else because you know students. They could, they knocked me out and started you know, invading my heart. I said, why are you crying? She said because I read your chart. I don't know what a chart is. I said, I .. okay. She said according to your chart you can't be here. You never should have survived. I said, but why are you crying? She said I've never, in my history as a nurse, ever been present for a miracle. She's weeping. She didn't know who I was. And she said, but do you know why you're still here?

I thought she was looking for a clever answer. I guess I came to the best hospital. I said I don't know. Maybe you want to tell me? And with tears gushing down her cheeks, she went like this, pointing to heaven. She said because He has a mission for you that you must carry out. Sobbing, sobbing she probably thought she had a big task on her hands. She's got to lead this man to the Lord, or something. She said does this make any sense to you? I said, oh dear Jesus yes! You know who I am? She said you're David, that's all anybody knows. I said, I'm preacher David. What?

Then I learned that normally she lives in Buffalo, New York. I can practically see her house,

from my house across the river. She lives in Buffalo, New York, and her daddy is an elder in the church of one of my very best friend pastors. God sent her down there to look after me, and to remind me I just had my life saved.

I have another ebenezer. I believe that we're here this morning to experience the renewal of an ebenezer in every one of our lives. I asked those people in Ethiopia how many want to receive the Holy Spirit. They all raise their hands. So I'm looking at this illustrious crowd and I'm going to be looking now. How many want to receive a special ebenezer moment in your life? Can I see your hand? Yes yes, oh yes!