

# WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

## Message #7: “GOD’S FIRE - POWER”

**General Introduction** – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God desires that we first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride. ☺

*Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”*

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### \*MESSAGE #8: FIRE– GENUINE OR PHONY?

**Intro** – Enjoying vacation, I decided to check my email. It was in doing so that I discovered the sad news about Todd Bently, and his stepping aside from ministry for a season. My heart grieved for he and his wife, as well as for the many people who had come to Christ and been touched by God’s power during the recent revival. My prayers go out to them all. However, it’s in light of all this and the potential fallout from it, that today’s message was birthed. God spoke to me that there are invaluable lessons that CAN and MUST be learned. So today, I pray that God will grant us all ears to hear what He has to say.

*Joshua 3:5 – “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you’”*

#### 1. GIFTS & CALL ARE IRREVOCABLE

\* *Romans 11:29* – “for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.”

**Further Discussion:**

1. In what way did Pastor Rich share that this message *can* cause deception?

#### 2. NEED GIFTS & FRUIT

\* *1 Cor 14:1* – “...eagerly desire spiritual **gifts**....”

\* *Gal 5:22* – “But the **fruit** of the Spirit is...”

- GIFTS WITHOUT FRUIT BRINGS DESTRUCTION
- FRUIT WITHOUT GIFTS BRINGS DESPAIR & DESPONDENCY

**Further Discussion:**

2. Why is it so important that we have power & purity, gifts & fruit, charismas & character?

#### 3. KNOWN BY THEIR FRUIT

\* *Mt 7:16* – “By their **fruit** you will recognize them.”

**Further Discussion:**

3. Why is fruit, rather than gifts and power, the determining factor for genuineness?

#### **4. LEADERS ARE TARGETED**

- **THEIR RESPONSIBILITY: THEMSELVES, THEN MINISTRY**

\***1 Tim 4:16** – “*Watch **your life and doctrine** closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*

\***1 Cor 9:27** – “*No, **I beat my body and make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

- **OUR RESPONSIBILITY: PRAY, OBEY, FOLLOW**

\***1 Tim 2:1-2** – “*I urge, then, first of all, that **requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving** be made for ... all those in authority...”*

\***Heb 13:17** – “***Obey your leaders and submit** to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.”*

\***1 Cor 11:1** – “***Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.**”*

**Further Discussion:**

4. How is it that leaders are in one sense more important than others?
5. So, what responsibilities do leaders have in all of this?
6. What are our responsibilities to our leaders?
7. What happens if any of us fail in our responsibilities? What is the potential fallout?

#### **5. MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT**

\***James 2:13b** – “***Mercy triumphs over judgment**”*

\***Gal 6:1** – “*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should **restore him gently**”*

- **FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION**

**Further Discussion:**

8. Why does mercy triumph over judgment?
9. How does the O.T. image of judges vividly display how we should act toward one caught in sin?