

ZION CHAPEL VISION ENCOUNTERING GOD

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(Song with Slide Show)

(Title Slide)

Just One Touch from the King (*Godfrey & Gill Birtill, © Thankyou Music 2006*)

- We are a church that has experienced the touch of the King.
 - We have long valued that touch.
 - That touch has forever changed our lives.
- In recent years we found ways beyond Sunday mornings to experience that touch.
 - Prophetic ministry has extended into new venues.
 - Theophostic and Ancient Paths have introduced the touch of the King in life-changing ways.
 - Celebrate Recovery is a place of worship, ministry, and transformation.
 - Many other ministries involve the touch of the King.
- Encountering God is actually part of our vision as a church.

Zion Chapel Vision

- Encountering God
- Encouraging one another
- Engaging our world

Zion Chapel Vision: Making More and Better Disciples

Past imagery = How we accomplish our vision:

- A Mountain of Praise
- A City of Refuge
- A Light to the Nations
- A House of Prayer

Our vision hasn't changed

- We have only changed the way we communicate it.
- The original imagery is a bit vague to the uninitiated.
- While it is great biblical imagery, the meaning isn't immediately apparent to the first-time reader.
- We can still explain this imagery to people in the second layer of communication.
- This new wording makes our vision easier to grasp at first glance.

We began 2008 on a similar theme.

- Beginning each year with an emphasis on experiencing God is a good thing.
- Our church has always placed a high value on a personal God who reveals himself in his Son and by his Spirit.

Renewal

- This year our emphasis on encountering God is on renewal.
 - The touch of the King renews your spirit.
- Why do we need renewal? Left to ourselves,
 - We lose perspective
 - We lose passion
 - We lose perseverance
 - We lose purity

1. A God encounter is anytime we **interact** with God in a **meaningful** way.

- **Ephesians 2:18**
 - *For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. NIV*
 - *It is through Christ that all of us...are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father. TEV*
- The Bible is the story of God interacting with those he created.
- He reveals himself to them to love them, save them, encourage them, heal them...
- **Hebrews 4:16** *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. NLT*

2. It is more important that we encounter God **consistently** rather than **dramatically**.

- **Lamentations 3:22-23** *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. NIV*
- **Psalms 145:2** *Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. NIV*

3. Encountering God **renews** your spirit and makes you really **alive**.

A. You are a **spiritual** creature.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *May your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. NLT*
- **Deuteronomy 8:3** *He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that **man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** NIV*
- God created/allowed a material need.
 - God met the need in a supernatural and unfamiliar way.
- God taught them a transcendent principle.
 - You can have all your physical needs met and not be really alive.
 - Real life must transcend the material.
- God may allow material needs in order to reveal spiritual truth.
 - Don't only look for material provision.
 - Look for what God wants to do in your spirit.

B. You need your spirit **renewed**.

- Spiritual renewal
 - The sense of being made new is not about recent but different
- Initially through salvation
 - **Titus 3:5** *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. NIV*
- Continually through regular encounters with God.
 - **Colossians 3:10**
 - *[You] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. NIV*
 - *In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you. NLT*

C. When your spirit is renewed, your **circumstances** no longer **rule** you.

- **2 Corinthians 4:16**
 - *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. NIV*
 - *That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. NLT*
 - *So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. Msg*

How to encounter God

- Join with others
 - (Sunday services, community groups, small groups, prayer groups, ministry/mission teams...)
- Read and reflect on the Bible
- Invite God into your world.
- Watch for ways he will reveal himself.
- Get quiet – listen for him, let him love you
- Get loud – pray and worship

(God has also called us to be a Storehouse Church.)

Just One Touch from the King
Godfrey & Gill Birtill, © Thankyou Music 2006

There's a battle raging over this land
A deep damage in the people
Yet pride stops us
Stretching out our withered hand
Yet God has stretched out to heal us

This I know, this I know,
This I know, this I know that

Just one touch from the King
Changes everything
Just one touch from the King
Changes everything

There's a great darkness over this land
A deep darkness on the people
But a light is shining
That the dark can't understand
Light of the world King Jesus

Do you know? Do you know?
Do you know? Do you know?

O land, O land, O land,
Hear the Word of the Lord

RENEW, RENEWING (VERB AND NOUN)

A. Verbs.

1. anakainoo NT:341, "to make new" (ana, "back" or "again," kainos, "new," not recent but different), "to renew," is used in the passive voice in 2 Corinthians 4:16, of the daily renewal of "the inward man" (in contrast to the physical frame), i. e., of the "renewal" of spiritual power; in Colossians 3:10, of "the new man" (in contrast to the old unregenerate nature), which "is being renewed unto knowledge," RV (cf. No. 3 in Ephesians 4:23), i. e., the true knowledge in Christ, as opposed to heretical teachings.

Note: This word has not been found elsewhere in Greek writings as yet, though No. 2 is, which would prevent the supposition that the apostle coined a new word.

2. anakainizo NT:340 is a variant form of No. 1, used in Hebrews 6:6, of the impossibility of "renewing" to repentance those Jews who professedly adhered to the Christian faith, if, after their experiences of it (not actual possession of its regenerating effects), they apostatized into their former Judaism. In the Sept., 2 Chronicles 15:8; Psalms 39:2; 103:5; 104:30; Lamentations 5:21.

3. ananeo NT:365, "to renew, make young" (ana, as in No. 1, and neos, "recent," not different), is used in Ephesians 4:23, "be renewed (in the spirit of your mind)." The "renewal" here mentioned is not that of the mind itself in its natural powers of memory, judgment and perception, but "the spirit of the mind," which, under the controlling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, directs its bent and energies Godward in the enjoyment of "fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ," and of the fulfillment of the will of God. The word is frequent in inscriptions and in the papyri.

B. Noun.

anakainosis NT:342, akin to A, No. 1, "a renewal," is used in Romans 12:2, "the renewing (of your mind)," i. e., the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life; in Titus 3:5, where "the renewing of the Holy Spirit" is not a fresh bestowment of the Spirit, but a revival of His power, developing the Christian life; this passage stresses the continual operation of the indwelling Spirit of God; the Romans passage stresses the willing response on the part of the believer.

(Vine's Expository Dictionary)