

## THE BIG IDEA: Simple obedience produces supernatural outcomes.

### The Take-Off

We're kicking off a brand new series called FLOODGATES, and this first message is super simple so let's jump right into the first point

### 1. It's bad when things get clogged

- a. At my house, when I think of clogs, I think of drains first
- b. [IMAGE 01 - hair drain]
- c. Drains aren't the only things that can get clogged. How about these?
- d. [IMAGE 02 - arteries]
- e. I don't have first hand experience with this, but I do know that clogged arteries are NOT good
- f. What about traffic? We don't see a lot of traffic here, but can you imagine being in this?
- g. [IMAGE 03 - 50 lanes of traffic]
- h. This is an actual interstate in China and this was caused by a new checkpoint that made 50 lanes of traffic have to merge into 20.
- i. But these aren't the only things that can get clogged.
- j. What about miracles? Matthew 13:58
- k. What about the move of the Spirit? 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- l. What about God's blessings? Malachi 3:10

### 2. Removing the clog unlocks the uncontainable

- a. Let's talk a bit about how to remove the clogs
- b. The key is found in the passage we just read from Malachi
- c. **Malachi 3:10** - the floodgates being down is what is preventing the blessing from flowing
- d. When the floodgates are raised, the blessings are released
- e. It's our obedience that unlocks the uncontainable!
- f. If it's that simple, then why aren't more clogs getting busted up? Great question. Here's the answer:

### 3. It costs something to open the floodgates

- a. At a minimum, it would cost me a the time to go to the store and the money to purchase drain remover (in our house, it's usually two bottles)
- b. At a maximum, it's going to be the cost of a plumber who removes a clog that is too big for that
- c. Now, stay with me - I'll bring it back in the end if you don't follow this
- d. We pay the cost, but we don't remove the clog
- e. Many people work harder and harder to unclog their own souls, and yet that's what the power of the Holy Spirit is for
- f. Our responsibility is obedience - "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse"
- g. God's responsibility is opening the clog - "see if I will not throw open the floodgates"
- h. Our simple obedience unlocks the uncontainable - "a blessing you can't contain"
- i. **Simple obedience produces supernatural outcomes**
- j. Obeying opens the floodgates that are holding back the blessing
- k. The reason things stay clogged is because we're ok with it
- l. Sometimes we're content with the little bit of God's power that makes its way through the clog
- m. But God needs somebody to recognize that a little stream of God's power isn't what He intended!
- n. God is calling His children out of complacency with a little into urgency for more
- o. Look at this video I found
- p. [VIDEO - 04 Truck through traffic]
- q. Many believers are content to live in a clog because occasionally something good slips through
- r. But God wants to pour His power through us, and we need to be clean vessels for that
- s. The Holy Spirit needs to bust through us so that he can flow through us
- t. As we heard at Encounter, there's a cost to Pentecost, and not everyone is willing to pay it

### The Landing

I showed you that picture of the 50 lane traffic jam, but I didn't show you the worst traffic jam in history

[**IMAGE 05 Worst traffic jam ever**]

This happened in Beijing, China, in August 2010

The traffic stretched for 62 miles and lasted for 12 days. Some were in the jam for as many as 3 days, and traffic moved at .6 miles per day.

Get this, though: many stayed in that traffic jam, bypassing potential exits on the freeway, simply because the exits led to roads that charged tolls and they weren't willing to pay the price to get out of the jam

When I told Wendy that story, she simply said, "Pay the toll!"

That, friends, is what I'm calling you to do.

Pay the toll to get out of the jam you're in.

This isn't about earning our salvation - that price has been paid! It's about paying the price of obedience and sacrifice in order to open the floodgates and unlock the uncontainable.

2 Samuel 24:24 - David refused to offer sacrifices that cost him nothing - he paid the toll

Will we?

Let's pray.