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Nyack Heritage

12 March 2023

Response Paper - Nyack Heritage

Over the course of my three and a half years at Nyack College, now called Alliance University, my life has been profoundly impacted with the teaching that this school has to offer, as well with the intentionality that this college offers through the professors and the community. This all boils down to the teachings that A. B. Simpson put forth as he founded the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Simpson was a pioneer to the church and the body of Christ within the American church as he was an advocate to those whom the gospel had not yet reached, and to those who wanted a deepened life with the Spirit of God.

One of the things that deeply impacted my life, and has completely transformed the way that I work in the ministry is the very presence and power of The Holy Spirit, and the gifts that He freely distributed. In the time of Simpson, the gifts of the Spirit were not something that was so commonly seen before Azusa Street Revival, and Simpson became one of the most important vessels in the church to bring forth a revival of the gifts of the Spirit within the church, because we were surely confident that the Spirit of God was still moving, as Jesus Christ was the same yesterday, today and forever. And this is one of the things in which I most look up to about Simpson, the fact that he was committed and obedient to the word of God. He did not and was

not willing to compromise because he knew the truth, but not just that, he had experienced that same power that brought it to life to him. I, along with the Alliance Seminary, are completely endeavored to Simpson's ministry and yielding to the Holy Spirit and His gifts and moves.

As I have taken this class in my later years at Alliance University, I have come into contact with plenty of different professors who have completely and profoundly impacted my time at this school, and whose works and teachings are still carried by me in all that I do. Professors like Constance Diggs & Anna Shuman with Personal Spiritual Formation, Ron Walborn with Divine Healing, Rob Reimer with Soul Care/Power Encounter, Wanda Walborn with Introduction to Spiritual Formation; I have learned plenty with all these professors and how to continually keep my relationship with Jesus fresh and constant because of the ministry by all of these professors. I have healed much, learned much and have been completely transformed with all of their teachings.

One of the ways in which they have completely impacted is the means into how they go about in prayer. I come from an extremely Pentecostal background as I was raised in a Brazilian Pentecostal household. With that said, I was used to always having to completely raise my voice and to live a loud life because I was simply told to do so. However, when I saw how these professors prayed and operated so supernaturally in the gifts of the Spirit, especially the prophetic, it completely showed me how I ought to steward my life of prayer well, and that all comes down to this: living a life that is quiet before the Lord and cultivating an inner peace. I cannot hear from the Lord if the inside of my soul is completely loud and shaken. I cannot hear His voice or expect an answer if I completely tune Him out. The moment in which I started channeling an inner peace by keeping a quiet, yet reverent, posture before the Lord, the more I

became sensitive to the Spirit of God, to the voice of God and to His Presence. I noticed myself becoming more joyful and constantly finding myself encountered with the Presence of God in each and everything that I do. This has cultivated into a deep friendship with the Lord, and I have become a completely transformed person!

What I sense the Lord leading me to do is to continue investing in my inner quietness, for I know that my calling is going to cost a lot of my physical, mental and spiritual life, and I cannot sacrifice my own time with the Lord for any other thing. My relationship with God is much more important than any other title or stage that I can acquire. I cannot keep on living if I cannot hear His voice. There is this worship song in Brazil which says "whoever has stepped in the Holy of Holies does not know where else to spend their lives but in the Presence of God." What His glory has done to me is that it gave me an urgency to focus on my primary calling above all else as I have seen the Lord continually convict me with His tenderness and kindness that it doesn't matter if I'm known by others if I am not known by Him. I would rather be completely known in heaven by God, the Father, than anything else in this world.

What I feel like the Lord is calling me to do is to keep that place of first love sacred, because plenty of people will see that it is a non-negotiable, and we will see the revival of reverence and of deep love for God which can transpire anything. As Song of Solomon says in chapter eight, love is an unquenchable fire, and if we continue to keep the furnace of heart continually ablaze, nothing can come between and take us out.

That to me, is what effective ministry is, and what I feel like the Lord is calling me to do.