***PRESSING INTO THE PROMISES***

***NAYC21 Online Service | Keynote Message***

**OPENING REMARKS:**

* **Welcome to North American Youth Congress Online! Though we may be scattered in different places, tonight, we are all united around one purpose and one goal: and that is to experience the presence and the power of God!**
  + And while this is not how we originally envisioned NAYC to happen, I believe the Lord will use this online event and that he is going to do some incredible things in the lives of those who have gathered to take part of this service….
  + We are living in the greatest hour of the church and God is calling the young people of this movement to the forefront of the kingdom!
  + Without a doubt, you are in the kingdom for such a time as this!
* **Tonight, it’s my privilege to preach to the most powerful generation who has ever lived.** 
  + And I’ve come to declare to you that this is your moment, this is your day and now is the time for you to **PRESS INTO THE PROMISES** of God!

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **It was on August 14th, 1935, that President Franklin D. Roosevelt established what is known as the Social Security Administration…** 
   * Later, in 1980 this same administration was commissioned to also conduct the job of maintaining what is known as the “*death master file”*.
   * This master file serves as the database that records the death of every United States citizen who has a social security number.
2. **While this recording system is effective, it is not without error. It has been discovered, that along the way, each year, around 12,000 individuals are mistakenly declared dead by the Social Security administration.** 
   * This mistake often happens because someone will enter the wrong, single digit of a social security number into the system!
   * And as a result, around 12,000 living people are mistakenly counted as dead each year because of a typo. Death by a typo!
3. **And sadly, this means that for some people, bank loans, driver’s license, state benefits, compensations and payments that are rightfully theirs are no longer accessible to them…**
   * Because of the mistake of others, people who are alive and well, people with hopes and dreams, people with promises of a future, are erroneously declared and counted as dead…

**OPENING:**

1. **And while the residual effect of a global pandemic lingers on…**
   * And while negativity abounds all around us and fear is the common thread that runs through the world that we live in…
   * Society has begun to place low expectations on you, the average teenager and young adult among us…
2. **As a matter of fact, Generation Z themself is reportedly “unoptimistic” about the future and what lies ahead…**
   * And there are some who would look at this generation and say that you have reached the end and that there is no more hope and there is no more future for you….
   * Some would say that this is because religion is no longer effective, average Christianity is on a decline, faith is dead and divine operation is something of the past….
3. **Some would go as far as to say that there is no more revival to be had and no more evangelism to be seen…**
   * That you as a generation, the Millennials and Generation Z, you have reached the end and you are “dead”!

**THE TRUTH**

1. **But it is against this backdrop and in this context that we stand here and declare to you the Word of the Lord on this night: *That there is still life and there is still a future for this generation of apostolic young people!*** 
   * Though average opinion may say otherwise, the truth of the Word of the Lord says that your greatest days are not behind you, but they are right in front of you!
2. **Young people of the apostolic church take heart tonight: God is for you! And if God be for you, there is no one and there is nothing that can stand against you!**
   * The promises of God are resting on you, and they are in you!
3. **So just as the prophet Joel wrote, You, sons and daughters, will prophesy!** 
   * You, young people of this movement, will see visions!
   * You will lay hands on the sick and see them recover!
   * You will go and make disciples!
   * And you will be witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth!
4. **Hear me when I say that this is YOUR moment, and this is YOUR time!** 
   * And in the face of an enemy that would tell you *“you can’t”,* I’ve come to tell you that *“you can!”*
5. **You can lay hands on the sick and see them recover!**
   * You DO have power over devils!
   * You can operate in the gifts of the spirit!
   * And you do have what it takes to reach your family, your church, your city and your world!
6. **And just as the apostle Paul charged us in Philippians 3:14 to “press towards the mark…”…**
   * I challenge us that it’s time for us to reach for all that God has for us!
   * Because our greatest revival and our greatest harvest is just ahead and all we need do is ***PRESS INTO THE PROMISES!***

*(If you’re going to press towards the mark/promise, why don’t you glorify God right now?!)*

**PROMISES OVER PROVISION**

1. **And while we are pressing forward to see the Biblical and prophetic declarations come to pass… And while we are obtaining all that God has guaranteed us…** 
   * Young people, I must caution us that we cannot make the mistake of replacing the promises of God for the provision of God!
   * Because provision is not the same thing as promise!
2. **God had rescued Israel out of their Egyptian bondage and brought them through the desert to the Promised Land…**
   * He had parted the Red Sea, turned bitter waters sweet, gave them manna and qual from Heaven and led them all the way to the front door of their promised land…
   * And the whole point of God rescuing Israel was so that he could take them out of bondage and put them into their promise! The point was for them to live in the promises of God!
3. **But they rejected the Promised Land and chose instead to wander in the wilderness for 40 years! Rather than pressing into the promise they settled for the convenience of provision.** 
   * And yet, while they were in the wilderness, God took care of them and provided for them…
   * Nehemiah 9:21 says that the Lord ensured that they had food from Heaven and even made sure their clothes did not wear out.
4. **And while they were trapped in their cycle of wanderings, Exodus 16:31 says that they ate manna which tasted like honey…**
   * Notice that they lived and survived on provision that tasted LIKE honey, but it wasn’t honey!
   * They lived on provisions that had the flavor of promise, but meanwhile a land flowing with milk and honey waited on them to possess it!
5. **Israel made the mistake of settling for the provision and missed the promises! This meant that one generation went through their cycle without reaching their full potential.**
   * Oh, they had clothing, identity, they had food, they had fellowship!
   * But the sad thing is that some of them died only knowing the provision of God without ever living in the promises of God!
6. **And it’s in John 6:49 that Jesus reminds us of the outcome of settling for less than what we should have when he said… *49Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.***
   * In other words, it’s entirely possible to live with a belly full of provision and die outside of the promises of God.

**THE CROSSROADS:**

1. **At some point in our journey young people, God will bring us to the crossroads where we have to decide what will sustain us---working in the flesh or walking in the spirit??** 
   * Will we rely on manna, or will we reap the harvest that is before us???
   * Will we live by provision, or will we live in the promises of God???
2. **Young person, I’m thankful that you’re in a great youth group, but what have you done to contribute to your youth group’s greatness?**

* He’s given you the truth young lady, but have you shared it with those who have never heard it?
* Young man, He’s given you that talent and ability, but will you surrender it to God?

1. **You desire a greater anointing, but are you willing to pay the price for that deeper anointing?**

* I implore you tonight: don’t settle for provision, but rather, go all the way in God! Don’t settle—press into your promises!

**A MOVEMENT:**

1. **But, I believe I’m speaking to a movement of young people who are rising to say that status quo, mediocrity and a maintenance mentality will no longer suffice!** 
   * But if there is more for us to have, then we want it!
2. **I feel in my spirit that there is a surrender that is happening right now in this generation that says: “be it unto me according to thy word.”….** 
   * *“If it’s in your Word, then we want it!”*
   * The call for this night is for us to not settle for provision… but to reach for, press into and pursue all the promises of God!

**THE PROMISE LIVES**

1. **He was the one of whom the double portion was to rest upon. Elisha had been promised a multiplication of the prophet Elijah’s ministry.** 
   * He was to follow in the footsteps of the generation before him, yet go further than the previous generation had gone…
   * Some believe that since Elijah had performed 7 notable miracles in his ministry, Elisha should have 14 notable miracles!
2. **This could mean that God was going to give Elisha greater blessings and manifestations than what Elijah had seen. More miracles, signs and wonders…**
   * But before the fulfillment of God’s promise could come to pass, Elisha died!
3. **And 2 Kings chapter 14 tells us that all that was left of Elisha were his bones…** 
   * Doubters and naysayers would say that if God was going to ever grant Elisha the double portion, it would have happened while he was still alive.
   * If all the things that God had told Elisha were going to come to pass, surely it would have happened by now!
4. **But you see, although Elisha had been dead for a long time, God had made a promise to Elisha…And therefore, there was still a promise to be claimed!** 
   * There was no power in the bones of Elisha—but there was power in the PROMISE that had been declared to the young man Elisha!

**THE MIRACLE:**

1. **For 2 Kings 13:21 says that as a dead man is being buried by his friends and family, he comes in contact with the bones of Elisha. And when that happened, the dead man was “revived” and brought back to life!** 
   * Notice that when the need of a dead man came in contact with the promise of God that had been given to Elisha, the miraculous happened!
   * That’s because the promise only had to come in contact with a need for there to be an activation…

**ACTIVATE THE PROMISE:**

1. **Young people, I’ve come to tell you that because the promises of God are resting on you, all you have to do is to come in contact with the needs around you and you will see the manifestation of the power of God!** 
   * And you will see the activation of the miraculous!
2. **Right now, you are surrounded by opportunities and open doors everywhere!** 
   * There are needs, there are lives that are broken, there is a world that is lost and dying….
3. **And all we need to do as a generation is to let the promises of God that are on us come in contact with the needs of the world around us…**
   * Because the promise only requires a need in order to be activated!

**ENDING/FAITH STORIES:**

1. **I’m excited to share with you that the fulfillment of promises are happening among us….**
   * Young people and youth groups across our movement are marching boldly into the contexts of need and seeing God fulfill His Word before their very eyes…

KANSAS CITY, MO:

1. **In Kansas City, Missouri, at the Life Church pastored by Brother Stan Gleason, something has been awakened in the Vindicated Student Ministries/youth group…**
   * The youth pastor, Brother Santomieri, shares that along with young people being used in the gifts of the spirit ….
   * Recently, during a youth service Brother Santomieri asked if there was anyone in the youth group that needed a healing. A young man was there with a physical need that night....
2. **Brother Santomieri asked the youth group to lay hands on and pray for this young man….**
   * No pastor or preacher, only young people prayed for this healing….
   * *And a few moments later, the young man was miraculously healed of his condition!*
   * **Because there were teenagers who believed in and exercised the Word of the Lord!**

TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND:

1. **In Tiverton, Rhode Island, a fire of evangelism has begun to burn in FUSE Youth Ministries…**
   * Recently, two sisters, Torrie and Annie, have been witnessing in their school and in their local neighborhood as well as teaching P7 Bible Clubs…
   * They have won 3 of their teenage neighborhood friends to God and now these teenagers are beginning to bring their parents and guardians with them to church.
   * *And because of the efforts of Torrie and Annie,in the past year, a total of 10 young people have been won to the Lord and added to their youth group!*
   * **All because there were some young ladies that decided that the promises of God are not something for yesterday, but they are for today!**

**CONCLUSION:**

1. **Like never before, we are poised and positioned to see the greatest outpouring of God’s spirit that this world has ever seen. And you, the young people of this apostolic movement, will be and are mightily being used by God to see His Word come to pass!** 
   * And so, I appeal to you to on this night: **GO!**
2. **Link with your pastor and spiritual authority and GO into the promises!**
   * Go and walk into the prophetic!
   * Go and have visions!
   * Go lay hands on the sick!
   * Go and make disciples!
   * Go and be witnesses in all parts of the earth!
3. **God is calling you to your harvest! God is calling you to fulfill your purpose in His kingdom!** 
   * *The time is now, the place is where you are, and you are the generation!*
   * *It’s time to PRESS INTO YOUR PROMISES!*

**PRAYER APPEAL**

* **Lift your hands and begin to pray a prayer of surrender…**
  + Don’t settle for the provision but press into the promises.
  + Commit that you will allow the power of God to be activated in your life!
  + There are needs around you and the miraculous will happen when you come in contact with the need!
* **Press towards the mark! Press into what God has for you!**
  + PRESS INTO YOUR PROMISES!