



## HIS WORD IS SUFFICIENT:

Last week I was asked to teach at a conference in a remote area outside of Mexico City. The history of the area is bleak. The gospel first arrived, according to my source, not too long ago from a couple of American missionaries. After spending most of their lives in the area, one was martyred and the other fled. As usual, this suffering led to the growth of the body, but unfortunately, it was without direction.

I was asked to teach on the role of women in the church... and walked into a very different situation than what I had anticipated. I arrived to find that it wasn't a conference for a church, but that all the pastors and female pastors of the churches in the area (around 25) had come to learn. They were a zealous group. They had a map of all the different little towns in a 15 mile radius, knowing which ones had a Christian church and which ones didn't... and also a plan to reach them. Yet, in the conversations before the conference, I knew I was going to have to set my notes aside. *"God told me last night in a dream,"* one said to the other, but then the other responded, *"How interesting, God told me..."*

And so, I spent the first hour establishing one simple fact: it mattered little what I thought, what they thought, or what anyone thought God told them, in comparison to what God has already written in His Word. Everything we need for life and godliness is there... He has spoken to us in His Son... in the faith once for all delivered to the saints. The Word is the only means by which we are made into His likeness, and without it, we are lost to our own subjective experiences.

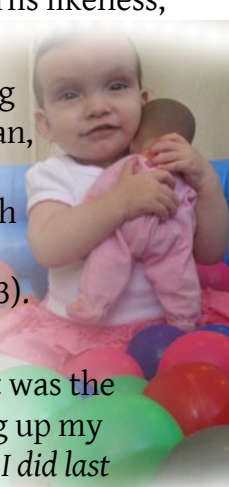
But now the hard part, how do you tell a group of female pastors, who are zealously laboring for the kingdom, that when Paul says that a woman should not exercise authority over a man, he meant it! It wasn't a cultural issue, it wasn't an optional issue, it was an issue established from the beginning<sup>1</sup>... established in the order of creation and in the very purpose for which He created the world. It reflects not only the authority structure between Christ and the Church God created for Him to enjoy (Ef. 5:32), but also the authority in the trinity (1 Co 11:3). Christ isn't less than God, just as woman isn't less than man, but there are distinct roles.

You can see how my one hour conference quickly turned into a six hour marathon. So what was the response? I suppose that is best described by the response of one woman. As I was wrapping up my time, she raised her hand and asked, *"if what you're saying is true, you mean to tell me that what I did last Sunday was wrong? I didn't preach as I sometimes do, but during the middle of my husband's sermon, the Lord gave me a revelation that the other elder was committing adultery, so I stood up, and rebuked him in the Lord. It hasn't been proven yet, but it must be true, because the Lord spoke through me."*

Having already taught for five hours, my brakes blew out and I responded, *"The Bible knows of only two options: either it was you speaking in the flesh, or it was demonic... the Holy Spirit would never contradict His Word, and He specifically states that: 1) an accusation against an elder should not be received except by two or three witnesses, 2) a rebuke should originally be made in private and 3) a woman should not have authority over a man."* Perhaps, not the wisest response... she composed herself, and quietly left the room. Yet not 5 minutes passed, and she was back. What is more, at the end of the conference, she was one of the women begging me to come back again (which I agreed to), zealous to learn more of what the Bible taught. She said, *"To be honest, I never felt good preaching, but everyone always said it was just Satan trying to stop me..."* She was encouraged, and plans on asking the congregation's forgiveness, now seeking to teach/evangelize within the role that God has given her... and I hear she's an excellent teacher!

It was tremendously encouraging to watch the power of the Scriptures, not only to speak to any and all questions they had, but also to pierce their hearts... may He have His way with us too!

<sup>1</sup> Paul's says a woman must not exercise authority because man was created first, and Eve sinned first 1 Ti. 2:13-14.



## HEALTH:

A few days ago, I “accidentally” hit my knee against our coffee table. I say “accidentally” because God’s universe is not one where He permits or allows anything to happen outside of His direct control. A large hematoma developed quickly, which alerted us to a very serious problem. We were able to make it to the hospital and find that my blood level was dangerously thin... at nearly the same level as in 2003 when I vomited a gallon of blood in one day and ended up in a wheel chair for six months! We are resting at home until my blood stabilizes (should take only a couple of days), thanking the Lord for the manifold “coffee table” experiences of life, many of which we perhaps never understood. Oh that we would thank Him more often, instead of the usual questioning.

I must confess that this is not an isolated occurrence. As time progresses, I am experiencing more and more health issues, such that my doctors are recommending we leave Mexico City. Though we don’t write about health issues too often, I feel that as our partners in this ministry, you deserve to know a bit of why we are making the decisions we are making, which brings me to my next point...

## OUR TWO YEARS ARE UP:

For health reasons, we originally committed to spending two years here in Mexico City... well, our two years are up. Though we looked at a number of other places we could minister in Latin America as missionaries, it appears that the place where we would be most useful to the Lord’s Kingdom for the moment, is right back at home. As many of you might remember, during my years as a hospital chaplain in Los Angeles, one of the things that burdened me most was the spiritual weakness of the Spanish speaking churches in LA. Because of the general nature of those who only speak Spanish (Typically adults with little education and economic hardship), pastors are also typically weak in the Scriptures (either due to lack of education or the lack of time due to finances). We would like to help.

We have been asked to return to LA to help establish a Pastor’s training center on the Grace Community Church campus. It will be called, *The Expositor’s Institute*. It will begin as a night school, and for the moment, I will be the only full-time professor. Classes begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and we anticipate around 50-100 students (based on a pilot class already in progress and the interest in the community already).

So where do you come in? Obviously, we covet your prayers. If this news seems quick to you, it was perhaps quicker to us... but we are excited! Also, since very few of our students could afford to pay for classes, we have decided to remain as GMI missionaries, so as to not burden them. Though we understand the challenges that face us as missionaries at home, even charging the little we plan on charging, many of our students will need a scholarship.

We understand that many of you made a commitment to support us for the two years we would be in Mexico, so we don’t want anyone to feel obligated, yet we feel compelled to ask: would you consider scholarshiping students to attend the institute? Or perhaps supporting us for 6 months to a year longer until, Lord willing, we can be supported by the institute? Whatever the case may be, please know that we are very grateful to the Lord for His love to us through your prayers and gifts these past two years, and we hope that we can serve you even better now that we will be returning to the US. Our tentative return date is the last week of July.

4 gen’s of smiling Mendoza ladies



### Gifts to the Institute:

Instituto de Expositores  
13248 Roscoe Blvd.  
Sun Valley, Ca 91352

### Gifts to us:

GMI  
13248 Roscoe Blvd.  
Sun Valley, Ca 91352

(“Josiah Grauman” in the memo line)

**For more info. about the Institute, visit: [www.grauman.com/josiah](http://www.grauman.com/josiah)**