

Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent. (Jeremiah 20:9)

The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy. (Revelation 19:10c)

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Launch Out Into the Deep (Word)

During July 1995, I was away from home on a business trip. I took a book along with me to read in my leisure time, *The Names of Jesus* by A.B. Simpson (Christian Publications, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, 1991, pages 183-187).

As I read this book, a little phrase caught my attention in a chapter titled *The Baptizer*. I remember praying the phrase to the Lord with very little comprehension of what I was praying. The phrase was: ***“Launch out into the deep.”*** The following is an excerpt on this word as presented by Brother Simpson. I have added the **BOLD ITALIC** because these are critical words to what I am sharing. This word was contained in the subsection titled...

The Spirit of Hope

11. He is the Spirit of hope. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). He, and He alone, can take the fears out of your heart and the shadows from your future. He can thrust away the dark clouds of dread that blot out all light and confidence and that cover everything with the dismal shadow of despair. He can illuminate your own path through life with sweet and heavenly confidence. ***HE CAN UNFOLD TO YOU THE VISION OF THE LAND THAT IS VERY FAR OFF.*** He can show the stretches of the outreaching of God’s blessed promises for you and all His glorious work for you. ***YES, HE CAN SHOW YOU THE COMING OF THE KING IN HIS GLORY AND EVEN TOUCH YOUR HEART WITH THE THRILL OF PERSONAL HOPE AND THE EXPECTATION OF BEHOLDING HIM WITH THESE MORTAL EYES AND PREPARING THIS WORLD FOR HIS GLORIOUS ADVENT.***

What is implied in receiving this baptism?

1. The very thought of baptism suggests the deeply solemn thought of death and resurrection. Baptism is burial and a new life; and, therefore, to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit there must be death—the death of all that will and can die, for only that which is imperishable ought to live. The gold cannot be burned; therefore, you need not fear to die in the arms of Jesus to everything that is capable of dying. Everything that will not die is safe, for only that which is divine can stand the fire of God. Yield yourself unto His death in all the fullness of His thought and then rise

into life in all the fullness of His will and be baptized into the Spirit. Therefore you that have died to self and earth have received, and will receive in that measure the fullness of His Spirit and life, even in those very places where you have most truly died. And you that have not received the fullness of His baptism are, perhaps, hindered because in some place you have not died with your Lord, or having died, have not risen again as well as to die, and the voice of heaven, which says, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).

2. The term baptism suggests great fullness. It is into an ocean that you are baptized. It is not a sprinkled drop, but it is a great unfathomable sea, and God is calling us to go out into the depths of Himself. Too long we stayed in the shallow surf, swept by its mighty breaker. Out beyond are the depths of calm, the fullness unfathomable. **LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP, OUT INTO THE FULLNESS OF GOD.**

When I read this material, the *only* thing that struck me at the time was *launch out into the deep*. I did not even realize that this phrase was from scripture, for the translation that I normally use (NASB) states it differently. It is also quite amazing that I was blinded to the rest of the message, which was about the coming of the King. I drove home that day; and as I drove along the interstate, I remember praying to the Lord and crying out: “*Lord, launch me out into the deep.*”

I must confess that I did not know what I was praying. The spirit of God must have put this cry in my heart on that day. But the real shock was coming. When I arrived home, there was a letter waiting for me. A dear sister in the Lord, who faithfully prayed for us, wrote me a letter that arrived in the mail on the very day of my cry to the Lord. This is what she wrote.

As I was praying for you yesterday, the Lord gave me a word for you, Stu. It may be that the Lord has already given you this Scripture in the past—if so, may this be a confirmation. It’s Luke 5:1-11. “**Launch out into the deep**” was the first word He put on my heart as I was praying, so I looked it up in the Concordance and there was the wonderful account of the huge catch of fish and the Lord telling Peter that, from then on, he would be “catching men.” I just rejoiced at all the implications this has for you, Stu. It involves stepping out in faith—may the Lord give you understanding.

Then there was a verse in “Daily Light” that I know was for you, also—actually, two verses: “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.” Psalm 118:8,9 (July 28, 1995)

Launch Out Into the Deep

The Lord had given me this word just hours prior to receiving her letter. His timing is always impeccable. The number *two* signifies witness, and I had received two words on this matter of launching out. This was no coincidence. It was the Lord's doing.

Our testimony is that the Lord launched us out into the depths of His love. It was not a word about reaching the lost; it was a personal word of what the Lord is doing in our lives as He has led us to know Him as our trust.

However, within 248 days, the Lord launched us out into our first trip to Ghana, and in less than four years, He launched me out of my secular job.