



table talk

5/3/26

“The Mantle”

I always loved attending the bi-annual General Council meeting of the Assemblies of God, especially in the days when there seemed to be as much (or more) emphasis on the preaching as on the business. Let it be stated that this is my opinion - my perspective - and I apologize in advance to those who disagree with my take on “the good ole days.”

At one such meeting, I was crossing from the parking lot to attend one of the sessions when I saw something that really caught my eye. A lone figure was walking a few yards ahead of me. He was wearing a nice grey suit, and, as I approached, his profile looked familiar. He wasn't moving fast. It seemed looking for someone. I got within a few feet, and I was pretty sure I knew who he was. This man was one of my heroes of the faith, and I had learned SO MUCH about prayer from him and his video school of prayer. And I was about to meet him personally!

I'll get back to that encounter in a moment.

I had presented his video school of prayer at almost every church I pastored, usually more than once. With the help of a ministry team of students from Central Bible College, we had used his “Every Home for Christ” packets to knock on every single door in our town, share the Gospel, invite folks to church, and offer prayer for everyone willing to accept it. EVERY HOME! It was breakthrough moment in the history of that church. The town was small, maybe about 6,000 people, but it was instrumental in bringing unprecedented growth and victory to our church and the community as well.

He wrote more than 20 books, many of which I have read more than once. I learned about prayer structure, prayer

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scheduling, prayer passion, and, above all, CONSISTENCY IN PRAYER. The incredible power of prayer that never gives up or never seeks an easy assignment. As he used to say - "Prayer is no easy road." He helped me understand how to live even when God's answer was "no."

I cannot say how many hundreds of lives have been transformed by his "Change The World School of Prayer." My prayer life increased and improved every time I hosted it.

As I came within speaking distance, I saw a mantle - a robe of some sort had settled upon him. It wasn't there earlier. It was not something he carried or that he put on. Nobody was near him except me, and I still wasn't close enough to even shake his hand. The mantle was perhaps the most luxuriant garment I have ever seen! It was absolutely other-worldly. Even though I say it "came upon" him, I also had the sense that it was there all along but had not been seen by human eyes. When I saw his face, I realized somehow he was not looking for someone but was praying specifically for people and events as he was being led by Holy Spirit.

I'm sure if I had spoken to him he would have smiled and conversed with me. But that mantle... it was speaking volumes to me. I knew it was a spiritual covering representing prayer and God's presence. I had never seen anything like this before. This wasn't a dream. I knew God allowed me to see into the realm of the Spirit.

I had planned on thanking him and asking him to pray an impartation upon me for my prayer life. I sensed almost immediately that I didn't need to ask for his prayer of impartation, it was already filling me as I stood near him. From that encounter, my sense of prayer was changed.

The man was Dick Eastman. His books are still in print, and you can still enroll in the Change the World School of Prayer online.

Dick went to Heaven this past weekend. He will be missed here but celebrated there.

Thank you, my brother for telling us: "Somethings happen when we pray that do not happen if we do not pray. Therefore, if I do not pray, then something very important in my life or the life of someone I love might go undone."

I love you,
Pastor Stephen