



THE PASTOR'S VOICE

Insights from Church Leaders

The Pastor's Voice Podcast Season 2: Episode 8

Transcript: The Power of an UnAdulterated Heart

Reuel Sample: Rachel, I am so glad that you are here with us on the podcast. How are you doing today?

Rachel Herrington: I am doing amazing. So excited. Thank you for having me.

Reuel Sample: And it is that kind of attitude that that I have been looking forward to hear on the podcast. It is just so fantastic. Rachel, your podcast is described as a journey together into what it looks like to become childlike before the father. I have found such a release of Revelation what I've sat at his feet like Mary. I think that's beautiful. So please tell us about your ministry. Tell us about your podcasts and also the insights that you've had from guests along the way.

Rachel Herrington: Ok. Absolutely. Thank you so much. Yeah. The podcast has been so fun. Such a journey. I know, you know, because you also have a podcast. So it's just it's incredible what Holy Spirit will download whenever you're willing to just take the time, sit down with him and listen to what he has to say. So the podcast I named it and welcomed it, created it, put that bio in there, if you want to say because. I came out of a season of rebellion, and then out of that season, I came into this place with the father where I've never known what it actually was to know him as a forgiving, loving father. I knew him that he was the creator of the universe. I knew that there was a heaven and a hell, and it was kind of terrifying to think about, you know, trying to live correctly. For him, that was my mindset for so long. And then he out of the rebellion, I truly found out

what it was to repent and turn away from those sins. And then whenever I did, he it was like the way I described it in the podcast in season one is it was like a waterfall or it was like a volcano eruption. Like, that's the magnitude that I try to describe it as his love just pouring out on me because he saw my heart in that moment that I truly wanted to be free and clean from all of the sin that I had been living in.

Rachel Herrington: I just didn't want it anymore. I was disgusted by it and I knew he existed, and I wanted to know if this loving God that people talked about. If that aspect of him was true and come to find out, it's so is. And it was just it was outrageous the way the way that his love poured out. And so in this place of the secret place, right, like Mary sitting at his feet, just soaking it all in not doing and going and having to get things right and perfect, but just seeking his face to know him more in that place. I just got so much revelation poured out of his word and just who he was, his character, and I couldn't get enough of it. I would just spend hours upon hours, upon hours worshipping and reading his word and just pressing in praying, dancing, just just falling in love with him. And I've never known him that way before. So in that time, I started making voice notes on my phone, actually, and because I've always kept the diary, but so much revelation was being poured out that I was like, Listen, this is way too much to write down right now.

Rachel Herrington: I need to, like, find an easier way. So in comes voice notes. So I'm I'm taking all of these voice notes on all the revelations he's pouring out. And it's it's outstanding. It's so good and so clear, so clear. His word is becoming to me. And then so I called my friend, my best friend, who we've been best friends for, like since we were like 14. So and she's a believer as well. She was on fire way before I was. I just kind of was slow getting there. But so we we started, we started having these incredible Holy Spirit filled conversations about just what God was doing in me, what God was doing and her, and then the revelation we would put together. And then God would just be in the midst because it says when two or more are gathered as he is right now even and then that he is in our midst. So within that time, he's just pouring out this, this amazing, incredible revelation on both of us now. And so these voice notes started having both of us on it and the conversation back and forth or laughing. We're carrying on and just also pouring out, and there's so much wisdom.

Rachel Herrington: It's incredible. And then I'm talking with another friend on a walk one day and just about what God's doing. We're just sharing glory stories, really, and I share with her. One of the voice notes that Darlena, that's my best friend's name, and I were recording and she's like, Oh man, this sounds like a podcast. And I was like, What? It does, actually? Ok, like, that's something to think about. And she gave me this resource that was really easy to make a podcast. And so I just went for it. I was like, Holy Spirit, listen, I believe you work through people. They they they sometimes can speak into your life and help with guiding you. And so I was like, Listen, if you bless, if you're blessing this, if this is something you want me to do, I'm just going to I'm just going to do it. Whatever you say, I will do it. And so I just went for it and it has been phenomenal. I have absolutely loved it. And so I've gotten so much feedback that people have been blessed by it. The hearts change just conviction, and you know, so much goodness has come out of it. I'm so excited to see what God does more with it, but

Reuel Sample: It's it's it's it's incredible to hear your story that you went from an impersonal relationship, you knew, God, you never denied that you knew God, you knew you knew all the the rules and the laws and write and do it, do it right. You go up, you do it wrong, you go down. But it wasn't until you came into a repentant. A frame of mind with a frame of soul with him, that everything exploded and it's exploded in such an incredible way that you've seen how we can use technology to, to worship and to praise and to grow and connect with others. I think that's just an amazing story.

Rachel Herrington: Thank you. Yeah, it is. He is. So he is so amazing. I cannot take any of the credit because without him, I am filthy rags. I am just I am a no good person without him in my own strength. I am nothing. And it just it's it's incredible to me. Like, yes, like you said, I have always had faith. I have never doubted for a moment of his existence. The difference is when you grow up having this impersonal relationship with him where you think that you have to amount to something like a slave, you will. I mean, I can't say you will never. I just I'm speaking for myself. I could not grow with that. I I was I felt so condemned all the time for so judged that there is no way that I could amount to his glory, to His Majesty, to His Holiness, to his righteousness. There's no way and we can't. That's why Jesus came. He died for a personal relationship, not because we were sinners, but because we were lost sons. And when we really get that, when we really understand the magnitude of his love, like the prodigal son, I talk about

this in season one. This hit me so hard when I was seeking him in the secret place. He gave me a vision of the prodigal son and how the dad he was watching from a far way away.

Rachel Herrington: He saw me coming. It was so personal to me. He saw me coming from a long way away and his arms were open from across the hills. He saw me coming and then he said, That is my girl. Where is my robe? Where is my ring? Get the best for her? Let's kill the fatted calf. Let's throw a party. And here was the kicker. He didn't welcome me home with open arms just to turn around and say, But you knew better. You knew I existed, and you just acted like a fool. All this time, so all disappointed. Like, you know, annoyed. Irritated. No, he did not say that. He was like, I am so happy that you are here. I am so happy that you want clean heart. I can't wait to give it to you. Those sins that you repented of, they are as far as the east is from the West, I don't even remember them any longer. You are free. You are completely out of the realm of darkness and into the light. You are my girl. I love you so much. Now let's get moving. I got stuff to do, and I was like, OK.

Reuel Sample: Exactly. And my wife and I spent some time reading Timothy Keller's book *The Prodigal God* a few years ago. And one of the most powerful things that that Keller pointed out was not only was he there waiting with open arms, but you see the father running across the field to welcome his wayward son or wayward daughter back. You actually see Jesus saying, God is running to you. Wow, welcome you back. That's an incredibly powerful message, isn't it?

Rachel Herrington: Like the God of the universe is running towards you, pursuing you light even in your sin, even in your wayward ness, even in all of the the rebellion? He was right there. He could not wait for your eyes to be opened and for you to come home and not to not to judge you and to say you knew better and be annoyed and be like, Oh, here we go again, Rachel, with your sin. Oh no, it was like, I, you want to be free. You're repenting, your sin is not of you anymore. You are not in that anymore. This is not who you are. And then he just poured into me who I was, and I can't go back now. There's no way that I can ever go back to a lifestyle of rebellion because I am so in love with him now. It's everything is different. My eyes are open and living. The Christian life now isn't difficult. There are hard times that it is very there are challenges, yes, but he has changed my desires inside from the worldly desires that I used to have to his righteous

desires. And I want it. I want to be live a holy life for him, not because I feel like I have to, but because I want to, because I'm in love. It's a whole different. It's a whole different mindset.

Reuel Sample: Now we talk about World View here a lot on the pastor's voice. You've talked about your faith. Worldview is how we interact with and impact the world around us. What are some specific ways that this new life, this new energy? She this new outlook, how has that impacted you and how how has that impacted your interaction with others and how you interact with the world around you?

Rachel Herrington: Absolutely. I mean, these times are crazy, right? There's there's so much uncertainty and anxiety going on. And myself, I have felt a lot of anxiety in the past, and especially today I am. I am a single woman now. I am kind of out there doing it on my own. If you want to go, if you want to stay, supporting myself and things like that and in this uncertain time, it's very it could be very scary. But since I am walking in the will of the Lord, I am not afraid. I know that every step that I take in his will, he will be there to guide me and to to provide for me because the plans that he has for me are good and to prosper, not to harm me. So with that, because I know that I have a knowing in my heart that I am the child of the most high god. I have nothing to fear. So even whenever things are uncertain. He is he is faithful. And I know that no matter what happens. I am more than a sparrow to him, you know, like he he cares for me more than the sparrows.

Rachel Herrington: He dresses me like the Lily. I don't have anything to have anxiety about, and now I just went with my interactions with others. I. All of that. It's a 180 people that have known me in the past and people that know me now. It is. They have seen a complete transformation. It's a whole different person. My language is different. My, my, my joy. Because there's a difference between joy and happiness, you know, like the the joy of the Lord really is my strength. I can. I can. Even in the lonely times when I'm thinking about being alone and things like that, loneliness will try to come upon me and bring me down. But then I have to remember this. This season of waiting is preparation. There's no need to feel loneliness. There's no need to be down and depressed and have anxiety. No, this is a preparation time. This is a me and Jesus and Holy Spirit time. This is this is a time for growth and transformation to prepare me for the plans that God has for me.

Reuel Sample: Now, Jesus never promised happiness. He never promised. Matter of fact, he said, Follow me and you're going to be downright miserable at times. But he did promise joy. And that's what that's what you are talking about is that living in a state of being called joy is an action of the Holy Spirit pouring out upon us.

Rachel Herrington: That's right. Amen.

Reuel Sample: Rachel, there is a scripture that says. We are not given a spirit of timidity. That's what one of power and I can tell you just from the few minutes spent talking here with you. You've got more than your fair share here. I think we can just we can just hook up wires to you and solve half of the world's energy crisis. Your your, your, your energy and your enthusiasm is contagious.

Rachel Herrington: Wow. Thank you for saying that.

Reuel Sample: So with all that said, what? Christians are facing a lot of things today and and you in in your both in your old outlook and in your new outlook have run into them. So what do you think are the biggest issues facing Christians today?

Rachel Herrington: So the first thing when I was praying about this and is there are so many things that we could talk about here, but the biggest thing to me right now that the father laid on my heart was specifically the American church, because this is where we are and this is what I know of. We lack power. We really do. We the Christian church in general in America, we're all about. Comfortability and that is not OK, that Jesus did not, like you said, sometimes we're going to be downright miserable. But here's here's another thing Jesus said to pick up our cross and follow him, go out with the great commission is a go. It is. It is not. Sit in the church, get get filled up and then come back next week and do it again. That is not what it's about. This lack of power is, is is too much. So I think what's missing in a lot of Christians lives is their secret place with the father, their intimate time with Jesus at home, by themselves. We have so many distractions, you know what I'm saying? There's so much busyness and that we, since we are so busy, we allow. Other things to come before intimacy with him. I did it myself, I was guilty of it myself when when I was first, I first got on fire for Jesus back in my early 20s. I'm 32 now. I was on fire, pressing in all the time.

Rachel Herrington: It was awesome. And then I got to this place later down the road a couple of years where I was so busy with work, I was going to college at the time again. I was married at the time and I was in a couple of different ministries. I was in the worship ministry and I was in another ministry, you know, church and all this stuff, right? And so I was getting so busy that because some of it was ministry stuff and church and all that, I allow that to take the place of the secret place with with with God. And because of that, I got very, very dry, very quickly. And so not my cup is empty. And so I'm pouring out from an empty cup. That's extremely dangerous. So now I'm becoming very burned out. Why do you think there are so many burned out Christians? Probably because they're not getting filled in the secret place. The only place that there is to get filled is in the secret place. You're listening to sermons is awesome. Participating in ministries. Awesome. We're supposed to be the hands and feet of the Lord. I am not saying that any of that is bad. It is good. But the problem is, if it all takes away from your secret place time and your intimacy with the father, it is not OK any longer. We are. We need.

Reuel Sample: Tell me about the secret place. Tell me about the secret place. It's different for different people, I imagine. But tell me, what is the secret place?

Rachel Herrington: Absolutely. I love that. I love that question. So the secret place for me, and you're right, it is very different for everybody. Everybody is very unique and has their own personal relationship with Jesus, and Holy Spirit will convict you on if you're getting into the secret place or not. For me specifically, my secret place is I don't even have a place in my house right now that is specifically my secret place, except for upstairs somewhere because I walk around a lot. I'm very active, which you can tell in my voice. So I'm here and there and everywhere. But specifically, what my secret place is is I am shutting everything out. My phone is on do not disturb or I'm just ignoring messages and things like that. My my mind is solely focused on the Lord only I love worship. I always encounter God, mostly in worship. That is that is mine and his like place together where we just, you know, we are just so worship. Worship is big for me, so I'll put on my favourite worship music. I will sing to him. I will worship him in spirit and truth, just fully pouring out my heart to him. I will ask him to search my heart. I will ask him to remove whatever it is that hinders me. I will. I will repent of anything that I know of.

Rachel Herrington: That is that is keeping me away. I will I will open his word. I will not go to specific places. Sometimes I'll even just like, flip through and like, look at different scriptures and just read some and then thank him. We enter into his presence with Thanksgiving and praise right scripture. So I will be thankful to him and thank him for everything that he's done for me. And then I'll thank him for his word. Thank him for his promises, things that I know that are in his word, like delight myself in the Lord and he will give me the desires of my hearts. I will thank him for that. I will thank him for any other promises that the prosper to me, any promises that he has laid on my heart, I will thank him for and then I will just spend. However, I don't put a time limit on it for myself because I'm able to do that. You know what I mean? I'm able to take that time and spend up to three, four hours. Sometimes if that's where it's at, other times it's like a half hour because I have so much going on. But here's what I've noticed. The the quantity of the time spent in the secret place pouring out to him is less important than the quality of it because. If your heart.

Rachel Herrington: Is seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, all the other things are added, right? So with that, when you can focus your mind and sometimes as Americans, that's really hard to we have like ADHD, man. Like we're we're all over the place and I know I sound like I do a lot, but I can really focus. I can see, I can really focus with the father and really just think about. Sometimes I even just lay there and put on instrumental worship music and think about what the throne room looks like. Sometimes I think about what he is doing. Sometimes I think about his face. Sometimes I think about walking in the garden, how we were created to do. So my secret place changes all the time from time and what I'm going on and things like that. But but mostly in the most important thing is to be able to make it a priority to sit there and not have an agenda with him. I think that's really important, too, because sometimes we we go and praying for things we're supposed to. We're supposed to bring our prayers and petitions to the Lord and and and pray about specific things. Absolutely. But I wonder how how much we take the time to actually listen to Holy Spirit and hear if he's trying to speak to us in any sort of way.