



National Preaching Summit

MARCH 12-13, 2007



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S U M M I T S P E A K E R S



Randy Gariss



Dudley Rutherford



Tim Spivey



Jerry Taylor



Jeff Vines

Randy Gariss—Randy Gariss is a Missouri native and for 25 years has been the preaching minister of the College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, MO. College Heights has grown to averaging over 2,000 in weekend attendance.

He and his wife, Julie, have been married 30 years and have 3 grown children. In his spare time he is a woodworker, building custom furniture.

He is the author of the DVD series, *"A Lifetime Love...Building a Marriage You Want To Come Home To."*

His undergraduate degree is from Ozark Christian College and his Masters degree is from Cincinnati Bible Seminary.

Dudley Rutherford—Dudley Rutherford comes from a preaching family. His grandfather, father, uncles, brothers, and in-laws are all preachers, so it's not surprising that Dudley also received the call.

Dudley earned his Bachelor's Degree in Church Growth from Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri and his Master's Degree from Pacific Christian College in Fullerton, California.

He has also received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from St. Charles University.

In 1995, Dudley became pastor of Shepherd Of The Hills Church when God united it with Hillcrest Christian Church. Shepherd of the Hills Church presently has a weekly attendance of 6,000 people. During 2006, they had 654 Baptisms.

Dudley is also a respected convention speaker. He has served as Vice President of the North American Christian Convention and has had the distinction of speaking for several professional sports teams. He was also a featured chapel speaker for the World Series.

Dudley and his wife Reneé are the parents of three children. www.theshepherd.org

Tim Spivey—Tim was born and raised in Long Beach, California. He is the son of Jene and Sheila, the brother of Tammy, the hus-

band of Emily, and the father of Anna (4) and Olivia (2).

Since October of 2002, Tim has served as Senior Minister for the Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas, and remains a sought-after speaker at Christian events throughout the country.

A prolific writer, Tim has published a number of articles and reviews, as well as his first book, *Jesus the Powerful Servant* (College Press, 2006).

He holds the Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Masters of Science in Ministry and Masters of Divinity degrees from Pepperdine University. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from Abilene Christian University—which should be conferred in May of 2007. www.hocc.org

Jerry Taylor—Jerry Taylor was involved in congregational ministry in Georgia, North Carolina and Texas. He now teaches general education Bible classes at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX.

He graduated from Southwestern Christian College with a bachelor's degree in Bible in 1984. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1988 as well as his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1995 from Southern Methodist University. He is one of the organizers of the annual New Wineskins Ministers Retreat.

Jerry and his wife, Patricia, have two children: Alisha and Jeremiah.

Jeff Vines—Jeffery A. Vines spent twenty years on the mission field (Zimbabwe, New Zealand) planting churches and training leaders. From 1998-2005 he was the featured speaker on the weekly television broadcast, "Questions of Life," and frequently debated agnostic and atheist alike on national radio. Presently, Jeffery serves as the Teaching Pastor at Savannah Christian Church (5000+weekend attendance) in Savannah, GA. Robin and Jeffery have two children, Delaney (13) and Sian (11). www.savannahchristian.com

MONDAY, MARCH 12TH

1:00-1:10 p.m. Welcome & Introductions



1:10 - 1:55 p.m.
**LIVING IN THE
AWARENESS OF
GOD'S PRESENCE**
Jerry Taylor



2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
**THE PREPARATION
OF THE MAN**
Randy Gariss

2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Short Break



3:05 - 4:00 p.m.
I AM RESOLVED...
Dudley Rutherford

4:00 - 6:55 p.m. Dinner Break *(on your own)*



7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
**A REQUIEM
FOR EYORE**
Tim Spivey



7:45 - 8:00 p.m.
**SHARPENING OUR
OWN PREACHING**
Jerry Taylor



8:00 - 8:45 p.m.
**THE UNIQUENESS
OF CHRIST IN A
PLURALISTIC SOCIETY**
Jeff Vines



8:45 - 9:00 p.m.
**SHARPENING OUR
OWN PREACHING**
Randy Gariss

TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH

7:00-7:55 a.m. Krispy Kremes/Coffee/Juice *(provided)*

8:00 - 8:50 a.m.
**THE PREPARATION
OF THE SERMON**
Randy Gariss



8:50 - 9:00 a.m. Reflection Time

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.
**A COURAGEOUS
COMPASSION**
Jerry Taylor



10:00 - 10:45 a.m. Refreshment Break *(provided)*

10:45 - 11:35 a.m.
WHO IS MAN?
Jeff Vines



11:35 - 11:45 a.m. Reflection Time

11:45 - 12:30 p.m.
**ON FIRE: PREACHING
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**
Tim Spivey



12:30 - 12:40 Closing Remarks & Dismissal



National Preaching Summit
March 10 & 11, 2008

I Am Resolved...

1 Cor. 2:1-5



Dudley Rutherford

I. _____: To _____ or _____

for consideration. (v. 1)

II. _____: To make a _____

about something. (v. 2)

III. _____: To _____ or to _____.

(v. 4, 5)

"The preacher's life must be a life of large accumulation. He must not be always trying to make sermons, but always seeking truth, and out of the truth which he has won the sermons will make themselves. Here is the need of broad and generous culture. Learn to study for the sake of truth, learn to think for the profit and joy of thinking. Then your sermons shall be like the leaping of a fountain, and not like the pumping of a pump." — Phillips Brooks



The Uniqueness of Christ in a Pluralistic Society

Romans 8: 18ff

In a pluralistic world, what makes Jesus so unique? The truth is that only Jesus offers a workable, consistent answer to the deepest, most penetrating questions of our lives.

He answers our cry for _____ in the midst of _____.

He answers our cry for an _____ for the predicament
of the _____

He answers our _____ cry for the promise of _____.

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way: The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear, fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear."

— Edgar A. Guest

Reflection on Day 1

The exercises offered at the end of each conference day are designed to help you reach your summit in your preaching potential.

What is the most important insight or idea that made an overall impression on you today?

After reviewing your notes, what was the key take-away from each session today?

- Identify your own, personal take-away today.
- Identify your action step from each session.

Session	Personal Take-Away	Action Step
Jerry Taylor Living in the Awareness of God's Presence		
Randy Gariss The Preparation of the Man		
Dudley Rutherford I Am Resolved...		
Tim Spivey A Requiem for Eeyore		
Jerry Taylor Sharpening Our Own Preaching		
Jeff Vines The Uniqueness of Christ in a Pluralistic Society		
Randy Gariss Sharpening Our Own Preaching		

"I want a preacher who knows he can't preach."

"It is not so much how does one preach as it is how can one preach."

"You may not have a message without a mess – you can't even spell it."

"God is making his appeal through us."

"Preaching is just hard work."

"I'm not sure for many of us if it is as hard as it should be."

"You must have different kinds of arrows in your quiver if you want to hunt big game."

"This happened to Daddy too..."

"A few points from a text – that would be nice."

"Who dares to preach – knowing what preaching is?"

"My life is ripped open by the Word of God."

"I am saying that everything happens for a reason – sometimes the reason is we're stupid."

"When I say Monica – you know who I'm talking about."

"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."

"I worry about us preachers."

"Good looks take the long view."

"You don't like what you are hearing because there is a lot at stake – you have old sermons."

"I've heard you before – you're not that good..."

"I may be called to walk by faith but sometimes I still preach by sight."

"Jesus lived and preached from the blessing."

"If I'm not careful I can get lost in my chicken suit."

"The sooner you leave your ego at the door – the better."

"He's not feeding me really means he changed my formula."

"Make way for the Word."

"If the gift of preaching is the heavy machinery – a heart baptized and broken in God's love is the operator's license."

"The assembly begins with the Word."

"The sermon is perched between the baptism and the table."

"Much of our preaching is foam . . . take some of the froth off."

"We often see in the nature of God a divine playfulness."

"I'd rather bare people with the truth than entertain people with heresy."

"Humor can often fragment but it can also heal."

"Knowing how the book ends frees us, of all people, to laugh."

The great Scottish preacher Alexander Maclaren once went to hear another man preach, a young man with a reputation for being a gifted preacher. Much to Maclaren's surprise, the young man said at the outset of his message, "I've had such a busy week that I had no time to prepare a sermon of my own, so I'm going to preach one of Maclaren's." He did not know Maclaren was in the audience until Maclaren greeted him afterward. He was very embarrassed and became even more so when Maclaren looked him in the eye and said, "Young man, I don't mind if you are going to preach my sermons, but if you are going to preach them like that, please don't say they are mine."

Resurrecting the "What the Bible Says" series...

The Holy Spirit? Preaching? Worship? Women? Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage?

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Have you ever been asked this question or wondered for yourself? Obviously, there are situations that are not directly addressed in the Bible because of societal changes, culture, and technology. Yet, if the Bible is the ultimate authority on life and relationships, it is therefore **the** essential source of guidance to impact our everyday decisions.



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CHAPTER TWO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

We have explained the person of the Holy Spirit; we now begin our discussion of His work. The work of the Spirit may be divided according to the two aspects of knowledge and power. It is crucial to keep these aspects of His work separate in this chapter we are discussing the way the Holy Spirit gives us knowledge which is through the Bible. God gives us knowledge, we receive His revelation. God can reveal knowledge to human beings in different ways. Some of these are "general revelation," which is knowledge to all people. There are two basic kinds of revelation: His own glory as the Father (19:1-2; Rom 1:19-20). His general will for all nations (His moral law made in His own revelation are called because they have

- I. The Holy Spirit and the Origin of the Bible
 - A. Revelation and Inspiration
 1. Revelation
 2. Inspiration
 - B. Revelation, Inspiration, and the Holy Spirit
 - C. Sole Scriptures
- II. The Holy Spirit and the Understanding of the Bible
 - A. The Protestant Doctrine of Illumination
 1. The Doctrine of Illumination Studied
 2. The Alleged Biblical Basis for the Doctrine
 - B. Critique of the Doctrine of Illumination
 1. Illumination and Sole Scriptures
 2. Illumination and God's Ability to Communicate with Men
 3. Illumination Bypasses the Normal Learning Processes
 4. Illumination and Contradictory Beliefs
 5. Illumination and Total Depression
 6. Illumination and Biblical Exegesis

- C. Will God Help Us Understand the Bible
 1. Providential Intervention in Answer to Prayer
 2. Prayer for Wisdom
 3. Taking Advantage of the Spiritual Gifts of Others
 4. The Process of Sanctification
- III. The Holy Spirit and the Truth of the Bible

come to certain human beings at specific points in history and in specific locations. Such special revelation has taken numerous forms. God has spoken directly and audibly to many individuals of Bible history, e.g., Adam and Eve (*Gen 3:8-19*), Abraham (*Gen 12:1,7; 17:1-22*), Moses (*Ex 3:4-14*), and Peter (*Acts 10:19-20*). He has spoken directly and audibly to large groups (e.g., *Ex 20:1-22*). He has spoken in dreams and visions (e.g., *Num 12:6; 1Sa 3:1-18*). He has spoken to individuals and groups through prophets and apostles (e.g., *2Sa 12:1-15; Acts 2:14-39*). He has spoken to individuals through angels (e.g., *Mt 1:20; Lk 1:26-38*). He has given messages to men through direct writing (*Ex 31:18; Dan 5:5,24-28*). He has communicated His will through many in the words of Jesus of Nazareth. He has spoken directly to groups (e.g., *Ex 20:1-22*). He has spoken directly to individuals in dreams and visions (e.g., *Num 12:6; 1Sa 3:1-18*). He has spoken to individuals and groups through prophets and apostles (e.g., *2Sa 12:1-15; Acts 2:14-39*). He has spoken to individuals through angels (e.g., *Mt 1:20; Lk 1:26-38*). He has given messages to men through direct writing (*Ex 31:18; Dan 5:5,24-28*). He has communicated His will through many in the words of Jesus of Nazareth. In these and other ways, God has given knowledge to mankind.

As dramatic as some of these forms of special revelation were during the era of Bible history, and as important as all of them were for their purposes, no form of special revelation from God is more important than the written words of Scripture, the Bible. This may be intuitively recognized by simply observing the fact that our very knowledge of all of these other revelatory events comes to us through one and the same source: the Bible. Of course, the Bible gives us knowledge of these things and much more. The point is that the Bible is God's one comprehensive means of communicating knowledge from Himself to the whole human race today. Scripture can serve this purpose because it is by definition God's written message (*scriptura* is Latin for "something written"). As such, it preserves the knowledge that God desires for all mankind in objective, permanent form and thus transmits this knowledge across cultures in all ages, including our own.

The Bible is God's one comprehensive means of communicating to the whole human race.

The importance of the Bible is overstated.



Archie Word said, “Here I stand, my Bible and I. I dare not add to it in either large or small things. It is the divine Word of God, equipping the man of God for all things. If a thing is in the Bible I will live for it and if needs be, die for it. But if it is not in the Bible I will fight it with all the God-given strength I have. Who will meet me on this ground? I can meet you on no other!” (*The Church Speaks*, Nov. 6, 1949).

“Sermons don't just give information about God. They are encounters through which listeners meet a living God, not simply an ancient text. Such encounters require thorough preparation. Like Jacob's, these encounters come only after intense wrestling. But coming in contact with God himself is worth the effort.”

Chris Altrick

Christian Chronicle 12/04

Richard John Neuhaus writes:

A good general rule for preachers is this: If a story does not serve the gospel, it will distract from the gospel. Too often, homiletical “illustrations” employed to illuminate the scriptural text displace the text. How often have you gone away remembering the cute story but forgetting the scriptural text, or even the point of the story? Richard Lischer teaches preaching at Duke University and writes in the *Christian Century*:

“In the pulpit, preachers tell the story because God got involved with a particular people in a specific time and place, and that involvement generated a history in which we are privileged to participate by faith, baptism, and the common life. We [preachers] are not generic storytellers. We are nailed to a particular plot. The preacher's task is not to tell bunches of substitute stories, which in the end deflect our attention from the searing reality of the person before God, but to tell that one story, the one that precedes the general category of ‘story,’ and to tell it in such a way that it makes our stories permeable to it.”

“Since preaching was central in the ministry of Jesus so it should be in the church. The church always stands in need of Biblical preaching. While the church may not always want Biblical preaching, the church always needs Biblical preaching. The church needs Biblical preaching to survive as Christ's body. John Stott is correct, ‘Preaching is indispensable to Christianity’ (*Between Two Worlds*, 15). The message which saves is also the message which nurtures. Nothing will replace Biblical preaching unless it is better Biblical preaching.” —**Mark Scott** (Excerpt from *One Body* magazine article)

“I would say that a ‘dull preacher’ is a contradiction in terms; if he is dull he is not a preacher. He may stand in a pulpit and talk, but he is certainly not a preacher.”

— **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**



Who is Man?

Matthew 15: 21-28

When we ask the question, “Who is man?” We are essentially questioning the purpose of our existence. Indeed, why are we here? What grand role are we to play? In His encounter with a Canaanite woman, Jesus solidifies a major theme found throughout His teachings. In this penetrating passage we learn a timeless message.

- I. The fact that man is more than animal and is the result of a Creator (Intelligent Designer) is easily defensible.

- II. Jesus, in His encounter with a Canaanite woman, reveals the “why” concerning man’s existence.
 - a. The Canaanite Woman’s faith
 - b. The Disciple’s hard heart
 - c. Jesus’ hard lesson
 - d. Deliberately induced frustration
 - e. Lessons from “little doggies”

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, came down from heaven and changed the gears, came down and changed the gears so all nations could shift again. Way back yonder under the Mosaic Law it had ten shifts and only a Jew could shift the gears. Way later on it got to where the Jew couldn't shift it. Jesus came down and put in a shift with five gears, and now teach this to all nations. Thank God for the church has five gears. Easy! No wonder he said my yoke is easy and my burden is light. He tells you in Mark 12:29 shift it up into hearing. It tells you in Hebrews 11:6 shift it back in belief. It tells you in Luke 13:3, shove it up into repentance right where nobody don't want to go, shove it on up there in repentance. And after you push it up into repentance, pull it back into confession, and then last of all pull it way back into baptism and rise in high. Rise in high—on your way to heaven if you keep enough gas in your tank. If you keep enough gas in your tank. What is that, Bro. Keeble? The heart, with the heart man believeth. The heart is the tank and it must be filled with the love of God. God declares, "If you love me you will keep my commandments."

—**Marshall Keeble** (David Lipscomb College, Winter Lectureship, January, 1948)

Reflection on Day 2

The exercises offered at the end of each conference day are designed to help you reach your summit in your preaching potential.

What is the most important insight or idea that made an overall impression on you today?

After reviewing your notes, what was the key take-away from each session today?

- Identify your own, personal take-away today.
- Identify your action step from each session.

Session	Personal Take-Away	Action Step
Randy Gariss The Preparation of the Sermon		
Jerry Taylor A Courageous Compassion		
Jeff Vines Who is Man?		
Tim Spivey On Fire: Preaching and the Holy Spirit		

from Jerry Taylor...

- *They Like To Never Quit Praisin' God* by Frank A. Thomas (Pilgrim Press, 1997).
- *How Shall they Hear?* by Samuel D. Proctor (Judson Press, 1992).
- *Isaiah, Spirit of Courage, Gift of Tears* by Daniel Berrigan (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1996).

from Randy Gariss...

- Bryson, Harold. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching through a Book of the Bible* (Broadman & Holman, 1995).
- Buchanan, Mark. *The Rest of God* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2006).
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon* (Baker Academic, 2005).
- DeWelt, Don. *If You Want to Preach* (College Press, 1977).
- Lowry, Eugene. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2000).
- Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker* (Zondervan, 2003).
- Piper, John. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* (Baker Book House, 1990).
- Ramsey, G Lee. *Care-full Preaching: From Sermon to Caring Community* (Chalice Press, 2000).
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001).
- Robinson, Haddon & Larson Craig. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching* (Zondervan, 2005).
- Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds* (Grand Rapids: William B Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1982).
- Webb, John David. *Preaching Through Tears: Essays in Honor of Wayne E Shaw* (Lincoln Christian College & Seminary Alumni Association, 2001).
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 1999).
- Scott, Mark. *Planning Your Preaching* (2-part audio series from Ozark Christian College).
- Robinson, Haddon. *Planning for a Richer, Deeper Sermon Series* (Preaching Today website: <http://www.preachingtoday.com/16763>).

from Dudley Rutherford...

- *China's Christian Millions* by Tony Lambert (Monarch Books, revised 2006).
- *The Signature of Jesus* by Brennan Manning (Multnomah, 2004).
- *The Multi-site Church Revolution* by Geoff Surratt, Greg Ligon, and Warren Bird (Zondervan, 2006).
- *Power in the Pulpit* by Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix (Moody Publishers, 1999).
- *Playing with Fire (How the Bible Ignites Change in Your Soul)* by Walt Russell (NavPress, 2000).
- *The Fall of the Roman Empire : A New History of Rome and the Barbarians* by Peter Heather (Oxford University Press, USA, 2005).
- *Fire Evangelism : Reaching the Lost through Love and Power* by Ché Ahn (Chosen, 2006).
- *Proverbs in a Haystack* by Dudley C. Rutherford (Shepherd of the Hills, 2005).
- *Romancing Royalty* by Dudley C. Rutherford (Shepherd of the Hills, 2005).
- *Keeping a Smile on Your Faith* by Dudley C. Rutherford (Shepherd of the Hills, 2006).

[Note: Dudley's books can be purchased online at: <http://www.callonjesus.com/store/catalog/Books-9-1.html>]

from Tim Spivey...

- *Good to Great* by Jim Collins (HarperBusiness, 2001).
- *Confessions of a Reformation Rev.* by Mark Driscoll (Zondervan, 2006).
- *The Gospel for the Person Who Has Everything* by William H. Willimon (Judson Press, 1978).
- *The Cherry Log Sermons* by Fred Craddock (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001).
- *Sermons from Duke Chapel: Voices from a 'Great Towering Church'* edited by William H. Willimon (Duke Univ. Press, 2005).
- *The Great Omission* by Dallas Willard (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006).
- *360 degree Leadership: Preaching to Transform Congregations* by Michael Quicke (Baker, 2006).
- *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix* by Edwin Friedman (Seabury Press, 2007).
- *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*, ed. Haddon Robinson and Craig Brian Larson (Zondervan, 2005).
- *Jesus, the Powerful Servant* by Tim Spivey (HeartSpring Publishing, 2006).

from Jeff Vines...

- *Cries of the Heart* by Ravi Zacharias (W Publishing Group, 2002).
- *Deliver Us From Evil* by Ravi Zacharias (Word, 1996).
- *A Shattered Visage* by Ravi Zacharias (Baker, 1993).
- *Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias (Word, 2000).
- *Walking From East to West* by Ravi Zacharias (Zondervan, 2006)
- *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Phillip Yancey (Zondervan, 1996).
- *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Phillip Yancey (Zondervan, 1999).
- *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul* by John MacArthur (Victor, 2006).

"The demise of the book has been predicted for years now — its doom supposedly inevitable after the advent of the digital age. Well, someone forgot to tell the reading public in general, and preachers in particular, that the book is supposedly dead. Among preachers, the book is very much alive.

"This is for good reason, of course. Books are the arsenal of the pastor's work, the basic equipment of the pastor's study. Those called to preach the Word find themselves the friends of books.

Of course, the question is this — which books shall we read?" —R. Albert Mohler

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“I didn’t try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple:

**first Jesus and who He is;
then Jesus and what He did—
Jesus crucified.**

I felt totally inadequate—I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it—and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else.

But the Message came through anyway.

**God’s Spirit and
God’s power did it,**
which made it clear that
your life of faith is

a response to God’s power,
not to some fancy mental or emotional
footwork by me or anyone else.”

(1 Cor. 2:1-5, *The Message*)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR’S SUMMIT • MARCH 10 & 11, 2008