

## A NEW WINESKIN

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Anna, the prophetess mentioned in Luke 2:36-38, was a unique and unusual woman for her time. First, she was called a prophet/prophetess, the only named female prophet in the New Testament. Luke tells us she comes from the tribe of Asher, making her one of the few people in the New Testament with a tribal description. Her extreme age also distinguishes Anna. She was married for seven years, and depending on which translation you read, she was either a widow for 84 years or is now 84 years old. She could conceivably have been over 100 years old, an amazing feat in itself.

But what sets Anna apart from so many others, even people today, is the freshness of her zeal for God and her passion for His ways, no matter how many familiar things she had to let go of.

As a young widow, Anna could have easily lived from a place of sorrow and grief that grew into bitterness. She could have held onto her old way of life that would have closed doors to anything else the Lord wanted to do through her. But she did not. She chose God and His plans and purposes over anything else.

In Luke's account she never leaves the Temple (v. 37). She worships night and day, fasting and praying. She is available every hour of every day, yet she has not become weary. She is mobile, articulate, alert, spiritually discerning and unselfish. Her vision aligns with God's vision. She never once holds onto the old wineskins, but passionately pursues God. Her intimacy with Him, through her constant prayer and fasting, kept her in sync with God's heart, so much so that God allows her to meet the Savior, baby Jesus in the Temple.

At the 2017 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Global Aglow Conference in Richmond, VA., Dutch Sheets said,

*A new wine skin has nothing to do with age. It has everything to do with the heart.*

*God spoke to me a couple of decades back, maybe somewhere in the late '90s. He said to me, 'You are well on your way to becoming a wise old wine skin.' You can have wisdom, but not have current revelation. An old wine skin is not a person who is unsaved, and it is not a person that does not like God anymore. It is a person that cannot receive the new. They have not stayed flexible enough to embrace the new and flow with it.*

*I started watching and I found wise, very wise, old wine skins with great wisdom from yesterday. But today's wisdom is yesterday's revelation processed over time to become wisdom. But there is revelation for today that will be tomorrow's wisdom.*

*I do not want to harp on this too much, but well done, leadership of Aglow, for remaining a fresh wine skin that can move in both wisdom and revelation.*

How well are we receiving the new? How passionately are we willing to release the old and familiar when God tells us to let go and follow His Holy Spirit?

We are the new, according to 2 Corinthians 5:17.

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

*New* means something that is different from the former or old. It also means something that is different than what has previously been in existence. *New* implies something that is fresh or never before used or seen. To be *new* implies that what is has never been before.

In 2008 Graham Cooke gave a prophetic word to Aglow and one part mentions us becoming a visual aid in the earth. If you think about God standing in our future and speaking back to us in the present year of 2008, He was saying, you will become something new, fresh, something never before seen and you will be a visual aid for all to see the pattern to follow.

### **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

1. When you think of your Lighthouse/Area Team becoming a visual aid that will be a pattern for others to follow, do you think that your group demonstrates the new day that Aglow is in?  
\_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO
2. Share your thoughts with the group about what you believe the new day in Aglow is.
3. A foundational piece that has positioned us for the new day we are in is the specific training that all Aglow leaders (and Lighthouse attendees) must go through. Have you and/or your group been through GameChangers? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO LifeChangers? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO
4. At the Leader's Summit in 2017, Kathy Sanders told us that this would be a year of transition. She asked us to stop having speakers as we have always done, and to begin using Fireside Chats. Has your group done this? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO
5. If so, what fruit have you seen come forth?
6. If you have continued on as is, having speakers who bring nice messages, you are missing the fact that a time of transition has been in place. Just as all of Israel left out of Egypt to go to the Promised Land, Aglow has left the place of who we have been for 50 years and are finding our way in the new. Take a few minutes to purpose as a group, as the leaders of the group, to align with the direction Aglow is going.

Make a commitment to go together into the new because you love God and you love Aglow.

Set a date to begin, AS A GROUP, to start GameChangers. Use this as the 'speaker' for your monthly meetings. Thousands have gone through this course and found LIFE in it. You and your group will, too.

If you have already been through GameChangers, but you have continued on with monthly speakers, decide now and commit as a group that you will process through 6 months of Fireside Chats to see and hear what the Holy Spirit will do amongst you. Prepare to experience the same zeal that the Prophetess Anna experience daily as she waited the birth of Christ. Just as she had a promise that had not been realized, your group, and you as individuals have promises that are waiting to be birthed on earth as Heaven has declared. Lift your eyes to see His bigger picture for your community. Your group is the help God has sent and this is the time of your arising!

7. All that God has poured into Aglow in our first 50 years has molded us and built us into the global company of warriors and champions that we are today. God intends for us to move from where we have been into a new place of discovery to find who we are becoming in our communities. In Chuck Pierce's message in 2017, he talked about the transition that happened in the New Testament. When Jesus began His ministry, He spent time pouring into the disciples to teach them, train them, and fill them up with the Gospel so that after He went back to Heaven, they could carry on. Something amazing happened during their transition time from being disciples where they were learning, to becoming apostles who were sent out with the Gospel – the Holy Spirit came and filled them!

One of the amazing things that took place at the 2017 conference is when Jane was commissioned as an apostle, who in turn, commissioned us or sent us out into the nations. We had gone through a portal into a new place spiritually. Many of us know who we are and who God will be for us and we are ready for the new assignments that God is giving us for our communities.

If you have gone through GameChangers and been using the Fireside Chats, now, you are ready to ask God to birth through your group the assignments He has saved up for this day. Do what the early church was doing.....wait for Him to speak through a scripture, a prophetic word, a song, a vision, a dream and write them down. You are becoming His Visual Aid in the earth!