

# THE RESTORATION OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

*Micah 7*

*[1] Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape-gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first-ripe fruit.*

*[2] The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.*

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Here we find the prophet Micah crying out, “Woe is me” as he looked for the ripe fruit of the harvest, but could not find any fruit that could satisfy his heart. In another translation we read that all the faithful people of God had gone away and there was not even one good person that was left in the country. Everyone was waiting to destroy someone else; everyone was trying to trap someone else. They were doing evil with both hands. The judge’s decisions were bought for a price. How tragic this was! This is what we see even today. Rich people get what they want. Even the best of them is like a thorny bush pushing others away. The most honored person among them is like a prickly plant. Even if we touched the best of them, we would be hurt by the ‘thorns’ in their lives. Beloved saints, we are living in times when the words of the prophets are true of our times. We are not seeing or hearing imaginary things, but these are true of the very times we live in. This is that which the prophets saw in their days!

## *Psalm 12*

*[1] Help, Lord ; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*

*[2] They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.*

*[3] The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:*

*[4] Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?*

The prophets not only saw things related to their times but also saw things related to the end times. We can see how the apostle Paul saw these days from what he wrote in

## *2 Timothy 3*

*[1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

*[2] For men shall be lovers*

*of their own selves,  
covetous, boasters, proud,  
blasphemers, disobedient  
to parents, unthankful,  
unholy,*

*[3] Without natural  
affection, trucebreakers,  
false accusers, incontinent,  
fierce, despisers of those  
that are good,*

*[4] Traitors, heady,  
highminded, lovers of  
pleasures more than lovers  
of God;*

*[5] Having a form of  
godliness, but denying the  
power thereof: from such  
turn*

The word of God specifically declares that such gruesome times will come upon us. And indeed, those times are already here. And everything around us testifies that the very times the prophets had spoken of have now dawned upon us. The Lord was looking for a 'cluster' of fruit in those days. That is what could not be found. It is not that God is looking for a single believer today, one here or one there, but rather He is on the look-out for a

'cluster' or a bunch of fruit, that has ripened together. Beloved, that is what the husbandman is after, He is looking for a cluster of mature, ripe fruit, but cannot find it.

God is not going to give up that which He has purposed in His heart. The times are such that immorality and sin in all sorts of forms are abounding. The prophets saw that degeneration was universal. They wished to see the 'first fruits', the best that was there in the cluster. God today is after the pick of the fruit. He will work and bring forth that which is upon his heart. This is a reality that many people do not see and understand.

Will we see men again who have been utterly faithful, honest, and devoted as there have been in the past? We read of such men in history who had been unquestionably faithful to God. We admire, respect and cherish the ways they lived. We read their splendid writings, hear what they spoke, see the zeal

they had for God, see the strictness by which they lived, their devotion to God, see the heart they had, and the love they had for God. We read of their exploits and their focus in the pages of history. We have often wondered where are the true Israelites without any guile today, like Nathaniel of old? Where are those people that our souls desire to see? It looks as if that golden age has passed, never to return again. Will we find faithful men again in this age? But, let us not lose hope. We need to be given to God's Word and be obedient to His Word in our lives for it is sure that God will do a precious work despite all the deterioration that has set in. Our God is a mighty God of restoration! But to what measure are we open to experience changes in our own lives? That is the question that we must answer if we are to usher in His restoration in our mist!

We know that in the past, most of us have been a part of

the 'church system'. The reality is that most of us in this fellowship of believers, barring the young people from the second generation, have been a part of the 'church system' or an ecclesiastical form called 'church'. And as a part of that system we were given to many unsavory traditions and practices. Marriages were held according to a set pattern wherein all that the pastor or priest had to do was to speak a few predetermined words or set of well-worn lines, and that was all! That was enough to call it a marriage! We were part of a 'system' that governed all the church activities and events. There was an "order", a "form", a tradition that was in place. That was what the people wanted. These are just few small examples. Let us be fully assured that a **system or form called church can never produce what God wants!** Though some people may have come out of that form or system, they are still being governed by that system in many areas of their lives. The

ecclesiastical system with all its drawbacks is still at work in them and they are not open to change when it comes to specific areas and decisions of their lives. Yet, at the same time, they are quick to support and appreciate the men of God, their devotion, their strictness, and their discipline. They will speak highly of them, but they will not practice what such men tell them; and they do not fashion their lives according to the work of those remarkable men of God. Is this not true?

## Our Non-conforming, Unchanging God

It is well known that with only two hours of learning in a day, a child cannot make any significant progress in education. A child needs more time to study and be grounded in the basics. Alas, when it comes to our spiritual life, we are unmindful and slack. **Let our concern be to bear the fruit of**

**our devotion as men of old did in their generation.**

In God's mercy, forty years of ministry would soon lie in my past. Forty, in Bible numerology, talks of the period of a generation. In the old, bygone days men of God travailed, wept, and spent themselves for God and His people in their generation. This realization brought me to tears. There has therefore been a fresh desire in my life, not to count the number of years as such, but to seek the Lord as one generation of my ministry was passing away.

We need to seriously ask ourselves, **where are the men of God today that brought about spiritual growth of the people, as the old stalwarts did in the past?** Ministry is not just about having or conducting some spiritual activities. The issue is, has God received what He has been looking for these many years? The cry of my heart is not just for the years gone by but for God to help us in this ministry so

that we may do something that would meet God's need in this hour. This is the challenge when we see the devotion and discipline of men of old. They gave themselves to God with such complete devotion and unselfishness that puts us to shame.

We are living in a time when everyone wants preachers to align themselves to the present world. **Jesus Christ never adjusted Himself to the then world and that is the way we should also be. Even serious men of old in history never adjusted themselves to their generations.** Many a time we look at ourselves with the church backgrounds that we come from and we have difficulty in accepting this in reality. When our eyes are open to see our calling, we shall surely be delivered from every hesitation and reluctance to align ourselves to all that God is speaking to us. **Our call to come into maturity, to look at the full purpose of God for our lives, to be a part of that bridal company**

**that God is building in this age, demands a different life altogether.** God's remnant people must never get adjusted to the world's systems and patterns. **Jesus always wanted the world to adjust to His own way and life. That is what Jesus came to the earth for.** He loved the world and came into the world, but He did NOT conform or become one with the world. He called the world to change and conform to Him! Amen!

**Beloved, God has not changed for He is the same from everlasting to everlasting; it is the world that is constantly changing, in a negative way.** The world is NOT getting any better. Many think the world is getting better, but the truth is the opposite, it is getting more corrupt and immoral. However, God's remnant church must be different. Every believer should cling to God and become one with Him. **As we are living in a changing world, the pressure of the world is upon us and our children to conform to the**

**changes in the world. God has never changed His purpose and His intentions.**

Many will readily agree that God has never changed despite the revolutionary changes that the world has witnessed. **Yet we see that today many spiritual leaders have brain-washed Gods people to turn to modern interpretations and their liberal teaching. The emphasis is to interpret the Bible in the light of new developments.** Many years ago, a preacher told me that he knew of a country where a particular tribe considered the lamb to be a dirty animal. So, the preachers who went there changed the word 'lamb' in the Scripture to another word that the people of that country found to be acceptable. The name they decided to choose was 'swine', which the people of that country thought to be good, clean animal! They changed the Word of God to fit into man's thinking and acceptance. They changed the Word of God! **Saints, we need to remember that the**

**"Lamb of God" is an eternal thought and concept, and it cannot be changed by man for man!**

In these end times we need to maintain a watch and stand in the faith. Just as our God never changes, we need to place our trust in Him. People talk of faith in such a loose manner, but the Lord Jesus asked whether the people would find faith in Him and trust Him when He will come again! Will He find a persistent, complete faith in the lives of the people when the Lord returns? (Luke 18:8). Beloved, God will have what He has promised despite the fact that faithful men are disappearing from the face of the earth. Will God find a people who are faithful till the very end, even though godly men are not found or seen in the churches today as in the past? Will God have such a people? Saints we need a real trust in God. **The faith that we talk about is a true trust in God.** We need to trust God and His Word He is ministering for the fulfilment of

His purpose.

Jude 1

*[3] Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

These words of encouragement from the book of Jude are for all those who have been called of God, who love the church and keep their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In another translation we read,

*“Dear friends, I have been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share, but now I find that we must write to you about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted to you once for all times through His holy*

*people.” (NLT)*

*“I fully intended, dear friends, to write to you about our common salvation, but I feel compelled to make my letter to you an earnest appeal to put up a real fight for the faith which has been once and for all committed to those who belong to Christ.”  
( JB Phillips NT)*

In verse 4, Jude says that this is because some ungodly people have come into your churches. They are saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live in any way we want. If that was so at that time, how much more in these ‘end times’ must we rise to defend our faith.

*Jude 1:4*

*[4] For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of*

*our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*"I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."(NLT)*

*"For there are men who have surreptitiously entered the Church but who have for a long time been heading straight for the condemnation I shall plainly give them. They have no real reverence for God, and they abuse his grace as an opportunity for immorality. They will not recognize the only master, Jesus Christ our Lord" (JB Phillips NT)*

Saints, it's a matter of our

having faith in God who will build His church and fill it with His glory. We need to defend and trust God that what He has spoken He will do. This is the faith that the Scripture talks about. This faith is a practical faith which is a trust in what God has spoken. Mind you, **there is another faith we can call "nominal faith". That faith is only in theory, in doctrine and in name. Practical faith is something we hold on to, day by day, within our heart. This is the faith that must be alive in us. Though we may not be gripped by a situation where we can apply our faith, yet that faith is alive in us.** The practical faith we have, is a living faith in us, even though there may be no situation or circumstance where we need to exercise faith. But when the situation arises, that faith in us will be demonstrated. **Our faith will be proved in the very situations we face because we already have it within us, and it is alive.** It is a trust in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ with whom we have fellowship. That is

practical faith, and it is persistent and consistent within us because we have fellowship with the Lord of our lives. **Nominal faith is excellent in ordinary circumstances and we cannot find fault with it, but it is not the same! Doctrinally, nominal faith will be sound and right, but we need practical faith which is a challenge to our lives.**

Jesus came into this world several centuries ago. He lived, did many miracles, and then died and rose again and ascended to heaven. Then He sent his Holy Spirit into the world, to His church. Everyone in the Christian realm accepts this truth. However, many of them say that since those days, many things have changed drastically. The ages have gone through multifarious upheavals, such as social revolutions, industrial, economic, commercial, philosophical, technological and communication revolutions. There have been sweeping changes in the world through each of the revolutionary

changes that they brought. Hypothetically, if you were to live with someone of the first century, it would be impossible to convince him of the manner of our lives in the twenty-first century. It would be unimaginable for them to see the condition in which we are now living. The question that we need to ask ourselves is, have these changes in the world compelled God to change? Has it caused God to modify His plans for man and the church? It is here that we have fallen short, even as Gods people in the church of Jesus Christ. We have fallen by the wayside. We have moved away from the chosen path and need a restoration, a purging, a cleansing by the word in our lives. We need a restoration of the faith which our spiritual fathers had. **To believe the truth and to live by it, is very crucial in our generation.**

We are familiar with that vibrant and moving hymn, "Faith of our fathers living still".

*Faith of our fathers! Living still,  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
Whene'er we hear that glorious Word.*

*Faith of our father, holy faith,  
We will be true to Thee till death.*

*Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,  
Were still in heart and conscience free;  
And blest would be their children's fate,  
If they, like them should die for Thee.*

*Faith of our father! We still strive,  
To win all nations unto Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
Mankind shall then be truly free.*

*Faith of our fathers! We will love,  
Both friend and foe in all our stride;  
An preach Thee, too, as love knows how,  
By kindly words and virtuous life.*

**It may be easy to sing that song, but does it provoke us to live as they did?**

The Lord is expectantly waiting for that cluster, a body of people who will come into the full stature of Christ and fulfil His purpose in the earth. Despite every decline, departure and falling away in these end times, there will be a remnant who will live by God's Word and have their faith and trust in Him alone.

**Beloved saints, the restoration of the faith of our fathers, the trust in God and His unchanging Word, is the need today! May the Lord open your spiritual eyes!**



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# THE MOST HOLY PLACE

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The veil at the entrance to the Most Holy Place signifies Jesus as **THE LIFE**. Behind the veil, there was only one item of furniture, which was the Ark of the Covenant. It consisted of an oblong chest made of 'shittim' wood, over-laid with gold within and without. It had a covering of pure gold, called the Mercy Seat, which was beaten and fitted as a covering for the Ark. Two Cherubim - divine symbolical figures - were placed at each end of the Mercy Seat. Their wings stretched upwards and they

faced each other above the mercy Seat. They were the symbols of the Holiness of God. The Ark was not just a symbol of His Presence, but His very Presence was there. It was a place of meeting with the living God. *"And there I will meet with thee and, will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two Cherubim"* (Ex. 25:22). The Lord God was literally dwelling there, for we read in 1 Sam. 4:4, *"which dwelleth between the Cherubim"*. It was

at this place that God manifested His Glory, Presence and Power. This was the climax of God's pattern, where one man was alone with God. The High Priest could enter this place only once in a year. But that one day was more precious than all the other days in the Outer Court and Holy Place. This is where the Lord is bringing His people to. It is to come to this Most Holy Place that we have been chosen and redeemed. This is the realm of the lordship of Jesus. **The Lord Himself is the light here!** The people who enter into this realm shall know Him as a wife knows her husband. There is a knowledge and intimacy the saints shall come into in this realm. God's people shall be perfected in this realm.

In the Most Holy Place, the people of God have deeper experiences beyond those experienced in the Holy Place. But, they lie behind the veil! This veil literally hides the place and a privilege to which we are called. **The secret of the fullness**

**of this life in Christ lies behind the veil.** Are we not to enter the Most Holy Place to see and experience what lies there? Firstly, we see that the veil typified the flesh of Jesus Christ (*By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; Heb 10:20*). When He died "the veil" in the temple was rent in twain from "top to the bottom" (*And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; Matt. 27:51*). Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin 'condemned sin in the flesh.'"(Rom. 8:3) So the veil is a figure of Christ here on earth in the flesh. When the veil was torn, there remained no ragged ends on the veil, but it was torn apart into two pieces. No ritualism or formalism or Law remains to hinder us from entering in; nothing hinders us but the "flesh". In this pattern, secondly, the veil is a figure of our own flesh. Flesh is not ugly, but the sin that dwells therein

is. However, we can have victory over the flesh when we subject our will totally to the will of the Father, even as the Lord Jesus did. That is why we read in 2Cor. 3:15 (*But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart*). that ‘the veil is upon your heart’. In verse 16 we read, “*nevertheless when IT shall turn to the LORD, the VEIL shall be taken away*”. The pro-noun notifies a noun and here IT signifies the HEART. That means that when our heart shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Our self-will must put on the will of the Father, which would mean dying to our own self will.

## **ENTERING IN BY FAITH**

Since the day we met Jesus, our Saviour, we are alive in Him. However, we have to move from that Outer Court experience into Christ (the Anointed One) our Baptizer, in the Holy Place. In a similar manner, we have to

further move from the Holy Place into Jesus, the High Priest, after the order of Melchizedec, in the Most Holy Place. How did you come to Jesus first? He drew you towards Him, and you came and accepted Him in FAITH. How did you receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? It is by FAITH. So it is by FAITH that you pass through the veil into your High Priest. You have to have a revelation for each step. In like manner, you have to have a desire and revelation as you read this and other verses in the Scriptures, concerning this experience. Many have settled down with the Outer Court experience, and if you talk about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, they will not like it. They do not want anything more; they are happy with their experiences of repentance and water baptism. Similarly, those who have gone beyond, to the Holy Place realm, are happy with being in the realms of Holy Spirit baptism and gifts. They have no desire for further truth and experiences in Christ. Likewise, there are many believers today,

who have no desire for coming into fullness in Christ Jesus. However, some are hearing the trumpet call to move on beyond to their fullness in Christ Jesus their Lord.

In the Gospel of Matthew 13:1-23, we read about the parable of the sower, where Jesus clearly classified people into three categories. When the harvest came, some brought forth 30-fold, 60-fold, and 100-fold yield. These three categories easily match the three realms of the Tabernacle. Those who have the Outer Court experience are '30-fold': born-again Christians. The ones who have pressed on into the Holy Place experience are '60-fold': Spirit-filled Christians. But those who would go further, through the veil into the Most Holy Place are '100-fold' Christians.

Beloved, no one can reach the 30-fold, or 60-fold, or 100-fold realms overnight. When we accept Jesus and are born-again, we do not become 30-fold

Christians straight away, but start from one and then reach forward till we come to the 30-fold stage of being baptized in water. Similarly, after we are baptized in water, we progress from thirty-one and keep on growing till we reach the 60-fold realm, where we experience baptism of the Holy Spirit, gifts and other experiences of the Holy Place. At that particular time, when we had taken a step into the Holy Place, we would not have known about the Scriptures that emphasize the need for a new experience. But as we begin to grow from thirty-one, we begin to learn and understand that realm progressively. The same thing applies to the saints who move on beyond the veil. You have to start from sixty-one and then move on in that 100-fold realm. You shall not be perfected at the first step of entering behind the veil; but you shall certainly be perfected on reaching the end of the 100-fold realm. Even though this experience is a progressive growth from sixty-one onwards,

there has to be a specific, definite experience of taking a positive step forward, just as we did at the times of our salvation and of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest took the Golden Altar of Incense behind the veil along with Him into the Most Holy Place. For 364 days it stayed in the Holy Place, but on the Day of Atonement, which was held on the 10th day of the 7th month, the High Priest, wearing special garments, took the Golden Altar of Incense behind the veil. Number ten signifies trial and number seven signifies divine perfection in the Scriptures. There shall be great times of testing and trials with a view to perfecting the saints and rewarding them as overcomers. As we go from the Holy Place and enter the Most Holy Place, we are not going to leave behind the praises, intercession, thanksgiving, and raising of hands unto the Lord in worship, because we are going to come before the Ark of the Covenant,

which is the symbol of the presence of God.

## **“SOME MUST ENTER THEREIN”**

The way to enter in has been made and the call is open to all who would BELIEVE. Beloved, no one is ever going to force you to enter behind the veil. But, there is something that can stop you from entering therein. And that is ‘the sin of unbelief’. It can stop you, as we so clearly see in the lives of the Israelites: *“seeing therefore it remaineth that SOME MUST ENTER THEREIN and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of UNBELIEF”* (Heb. 4:6). The Book of Hebrews gives us a clear picture of this new and better covenant obtained through the Lord Jesus Christ. Chapter 10, verses 19 onward, clearly tell us how we can enter behind the veil into the Most Holy Place.

(1) **Enter by faith:** By faith we received forgiveness of sin; by

faith we received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in Heb. 11: 6, *“without faith it is impossible to please Him.”*

**(2) By the Blood of Jesus Christ:** The blood of Jesus has made us worthy. We are under the blood of Jesus. It is the same blood that washes our sins that also takes us behind the veil. The Life is in the Blood.

**(3) By a new and living way:** This is the way Jesus Himself went by self-denial, obedience, sacrifice and perpetual death. This is the new and living way for us. Therefore a rending of the flesh is essential here. According to the old way, after pulling the curtain aside, Aaron entered into the Most Holy Place. But for New Testament saints, it is ‘a new and living way’ by rending the flesh on the cross of Calvary. How we praise God for this new and living way! Now dearly beloved, your veil has to be rent by suffering, self-denial, and putting to death your own will.

**(4) Step into our High Priest:** We have to take a step of faith into Christ our High Priest after the order of Melchizedec through the rent veil.

**(5) Let us Draw Near:** The time is ripe for His people to enter in. Therefore do not waste time talking about it, questioning, doubting, fearing and reasoning. Pre-conceived ideas and theological reasoning will not help you. Until you take hold by faith like a child, you are going to remain in the Outer Court or Holy Place. We have to come in child-like faith, as we did for our salvation and baptism. Many of us do not know the principles of electricity or electronics, and yet we use them. Therefore, let us draw near and enjoy this experience in this realm.

**(6) Our Hearts Sprinkled from an Evil Conscience:** The blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin and has given us a clean standing before God. We must not have anything that would prick our conscience.

(7) **Washing of the Water of the Word:** The Word shall cleanse our lives and make it so clean before God, so that we do not stand condemned before Him, but remain clean. We will obey all His commandments and walk purely by His Word.

(8) **By the Confession of our faith** (Heb. 10:23 *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised);*): The Greek word for 'Profession' is 'Homologia' and the same is used at several places in the Bible to mean confession. So the Lord wants us to confess with our mouth about this step we take behind the veil.

## **THE EVIDENCE OF A LIFE BEHIND THE VEIL**

The more you confess the more you shall see the evidence of living in this realm. The proof of your life behind the veil will

be seen in the following ways.

(a) **A greater understanding about Jesus:** You would know Jesus as a wife knows her husband. You will come into a greater intimacy and knowledge of the Lord.

(b) **A greater anointing** and authority, such as the world has not seen.

(c) **A greater peace**, such as you would have never known before.

(d) **A walk of holiness**, with a check on your thought life and the words you speak.

(e) **A greater degree of praise, worship and intercession.** The flesh would no longer distract you from these holy activities.

(f) **A ministering to your body:** You can minister to the members of your physical body, such as your lung, heart or any part of the body. The Lord is not

against your body in this realm. The body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body. **The secret is the Lord is for the Body (the church) and the Body (the church) is for the Lord!!** It is here that even the last enemy, death shall be overcome by His church, the Body of Christ. **In the Outer Court our spirits are saved; in the Holy Place our souls are saved; and in the Most Holy Place our bodies shall be saved.** *“Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God’s power through (your) faith (till you fully inherit that final) salvation that is ready to be revealed (for you) in the last time”* (1 Pet. 1:5 Amplified). We are again reminded of the Apostle Paul, *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that called you, who also will do it.”* (1 Thess. 5:23, 24). The Moffatt’s translation of the Bible says, *“May the God of peace consecrate you through and through! Spirit, soul, and body,*

*may you be kept without break and blame till the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ! He who calls you is faithful, he will do this”.*

**(g) An attack from the enemy:**

Even as Jesus was tempted by Satan, so also will Satan try to hit us in the body in some way or the other. But we can put on the whole armour of God. **In the Outer Court, the world is your enemy and in the Holy Place the self is your enemy. But in the Most Holy Place, Satan himself is your direct enemy.** When Jesus was tempted, Jesus did not reason with Satan or insist that He was right, but said, “It is written”. You have to overcome Satan by “the word of your mouth” (Rev. 12:11). Please do not be discouraged if you face severe trials as soon as you step into this realm.

**(h) A greater Love and Joy and Perfecting of Relationships:**

You may experience the exposure of some weak areas before the perfection of relationships. The enmity that is in the flesh will be

dealt with, by the power of the cross (Eph. 2:15-16). It is the Lord that perfects.

In Acts 3:2 (*And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;*), we read of a lame man who sat at the temple entrance for 40 years. If he knew anything about what was happening inside the temple it would only be a second-hand knowledge. **Like this lame man, the church has been waiting before the veil of the Most Holy Place for several years. Now is the time for the**

**church of Jesus Christ to enter in, leaping and praising, to know for herself what the Lord has wrought for her.**

So enter in, saints, at the Word of God, straight into this Most Holy Place experience. Let us not despise our 'birthright' or disregard the exhortation to 'press in'. Do not fall away from the purpose of your salvation. Your Lord has 'gone on' and 'gone in' and *'the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus'* (Heb 6:20)<sup>12</sup>.

Beloved, it is time to know Jesus as your Forerunner behind the veil. Enter in!!



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# THE HOME CONVERSATION

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**Few things are more important in a home, than its conversation—yet there are few things to which less deliberate thought is given.** We take great pains to have our house well-furnished. We select our carpets and pictures with the utmost care. We send our children to school that they may become intelligent. We strive to bring into our homes, the best conditions of happiness. **But how often is the speech of the household left untrained and undisciplined?**

The good we might do in our homes with our tongues, if we would use them to the limit of their capacity of cheer and helpfulness, it is simply impossible to state. That in most homes the best possible results from the gift of speech are not attained, is very evident. Why should so much power for blessing be wasted? Especially why should we ever pervert these gifts, and use our tongues to do evil, to give pain, to scatter seeds of bitterness? It is a sad thing when a child is born dumb; but it were better far to be born dumb, and never to have the gift

of speech—than, having that gift, to employ it in speaking only sharp, unloving, or angry words.

While in all places and at all times our words should be well chosen, and should be full of the pure and gentle spirit of Christ—there are many reasons why the home conversation, pre-eminently, should be loving. Home is the place for warmth and tenderness: it should be made the brightest and sweetest spot on earth, to those who dwell within its walls. We should all carry there our very best moods, tempers, and dispositions. **Especially by our speech should we seek to contribute to the enrichment of the home life, helping to make it elevating and refining, and in every way ennobling in its influence.**

Home should inspire every tongue to speak its most loving words—yet there is in many families, a great dearth of kind speech. In some cases, there is no conversation at all worthy of the name; there are no

affectionate greetings in the morning, or hearty good-nights at parting when the evening closes; the meals are eaten in silence; there are no bright fireside chats over the events and incidents of the day. **A stranger might mistake the home for a deaf-and-dumb institution, or for a hotel where strangers were together only for a passing night.** In other cases—it would be even better if silence did reign—for there are words of miserable strife and shameful quarreling heard from day to day!

Husband and wife, who vowed at the marriage-altar to cherish each other until death, keep up an incessant petty strife of words!

Parents, who are commanded in the Holy Word not to provoke their children to wrath, lest they be discouraged, but to bring them up in the nurture of the Lord, scarcely ever speak to them gently and in tenderness. They seem to

imagine that they are not governing their children, unless they are perpetually scolding them. They fly into a rage against them at the smallest irritation. They issue their commands to them in words and tones which would better suit the despot of a petty savage tribe, than the head of a Christian household. It is not strange, that, under such "nurture," the children, instead of dwelling together in unity, with loving speech—only wrangle and quarrel, speaking only bitter words in their interactions with one another.

That there are many homes of just this type, it is idle to deny. That prayer is offered morning and evening in some of these families, only makes the truth the sadder; for it is mockery for the members of a household to rise together from their knees after morning devotion, only to begin another day of strife and bitterness!

Nothing in the home life needs to be more carefully

watched and more diligently cultivated, than the conversation; it should be imbued with the spirit of love. No bitter word should ever be spoken!

**The talk of husband and wife, in their companionship together, should always be tender.** Anger in word, or even in tone—should never be allowed! Chiding and fault-finding should never be permitted to mar the sacredness of their speech! The warmth and tenderness of their hearts, should flow out in every word that they utter to each other. As parents, too, in their interaction with their children, they should never speak—but in words of Christ-like gentleness. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that children's lives can grow up into beauty— an atmosphere of strife!

Harsh, angry words are to their sensitive souls—what frosts are to the delicate flowers! To bring them up in the nurture of the Lord, is to bring them up

as Christ himself would do; and surely that would be with infinite tenderness. It is impossible to estimate the blessed influence of loving speech, day after day and month after month—it is like the falling of warm spring rain and sunshine on the garden. Beauty and sweetness of character will issue from such a home.

But home conversation needs more than love, to give it its best influence: it ought to be enriched by thought. The Savior's warning against idle words should be remembered. Every wise-hearted parent will seek to train his household to converse on subjects which will yield instruction, or tend toward spiritual and moral refinement.

- J.R. Miller

