

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

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GOD'S PREDESTINED PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

J O Y T H O M A S

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

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These messages, in parts, were first shared in the House of God at New Delhi in March, 1996. Later, the Lord added several thoughts to these messages. These were spoken in the Summer Camp Meetings in Delhi in May, 1996. We experienced a tremendous move of the Spirit of God, both in the local Church and also in the Camp Meetings. The Lord further burdened us to bring them out in printed form so that they can be shared with the remnant of God, in the earth today.

The objective of these messages is not to present Church history. There are many books which give the history of the Church relating to people, places, dates and minute details. The contents of this book, on the other hand, shall open up God's plan and purposes for the Church, from an overall spiritual perspective. Brief historical data has been given only to portray the ordination, deterioration, restoration and ultimate destination of the Church.

The Church means more to Christ than all the wealth of the universe, more than all creation in heaven and all nations of humanity upon the earth. All that it cost God to produce every earthly and heavenly thing was the energising of His creative power and the speaking forth of His creative Word. But, what did it cost Him to birth the Church? It cost Him His very life and His own blood. It meant humiliation, suffering, and death upon a cruel cross for the Son of God. He purchased the Church with His own precious blood

and then sent His own Holy Spirit to birth His Church into existence. What a price? What a longing ?

The Lord stirred my heart and helped me by His Holy Spirit to bring to view the Church from its birth to its ministry, in the ages to come. God continues to move the Church forward unto the day of perfection and full maturity in Christ Jesus. My burden is that these pages should make members of the Body of Christ knowledgeable about God's will and His eternal purposes, on our time.

I, therefore, present these messages in all humility and honesty and sincerely pray that these messages may richly bless every one who reads them. My prayer is that it may reach the hungry, and that the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of the Son of God, may rest upon the readers, to give them full knowledge of our inheritance in Christ.

JOY THOMAS

Sep '97

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THE CHURCH IN ETERNITY

**The Church is the Called-
Out Body Of Redeemed
Mankind Turns Out To Be
The Central Object and
Goal Of All Eternity!**



God desires us to know His divine objectives these days and also to lay hold of them. If we could only understand and grasp these divine objectives, we would have no difficulty in pressing on to the fullness of God's objectives – the objectives that He had set forth even before the foundation of the world. Once we have laid hold of His objectives, our lives will undergo radical changes. Our whole life, the life we live daily, and the life of Christ that we have not yet been able to appropriate, will flow forth from our understanding of God's objectives. The lack of a real revelation and a proper understanding of spiritual objectives, on the other hand, will lead to frustrations. Dissatisfaction will set in if we do not truly understand the goal of God's work in our lives. Therefore we need to pray to God that we may be found in a place of hearing and understanding God's divine purposes.

God's Word shows us that the history of God's people has been one of movements and counter-movements; it has been one of actions and re-actions; it has been a history of inclines and declines; and it has also been a history of advances and reverses. In the light of that there are two important things to note though they may look contradictory. Firstly, all the way through the ages, God has constantly done a new thing. Secondly, what has always been God's

new thing from man's stand point has not been new from His own. In other word, what looks new to man is not always new from God's point of view; it is only new from man's stand-point. This is a very important principle that we must hold on to. It is difficult for the carnal mind to accept this, because 'the carnal mind is enmity against God' (*Romans 8:7*). Let me reiterate this. God always begins from a state of completeness. In other words, whatever He begins to do in the earth is not new, but has already been fully worked out by God in His divine being. He doesn't do things in halves or in a series of jerky starts and finishes. Many people wonder whether the chicken or the egg came first. Scientists may continue to discuss and debate this matter, but we need to realise that, God begins from a position of perfect completeness: it is the chicken that came first. Before He begins a work in the earth, He finalises it and completes it within Himself. There is a consummation in the Lord of Creation before He starts anything. Things are already fully, finally and perfectly completed within Him before they are ever brought to man.

The book of *Hebrews* shows us that when God spoke to Moses about the tabernacle in the wilderness, He warned him repeatedly to make everything according to that which is in the heavenlies. "*...See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee on the mount.*" (*Hebrews 8:5*). May the Spirit help us to see that before Moses began to make the tabernacle in the earth, it was already in existence in God! God had fully consummated the tabernacle in His divine being before giving its pattern to Moses. We need the grace of God to understand spiritual things, for "*...hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world.*" Let us ask God for grace in these days to consider the things, which

seem foolish to man, but are precious to the Lord. May God help us to submit to God's principles rather than to the reasoning and intellect of man.

Let us probe this principle further. God has everything in Himself, fully and finally, before He creates anything. All His subsequent workings in the earth are but a working backwards to fullness, although to men they appear to be new things of God. What God revealed to Moses on the mount concerning the building of the tabernacle, was something that had already existed. But when the tabernacle was constructed according to His pattern, it appeared to



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be something wonderfully neoteric that God had given to Moses. May we understand this by the Spirit of God. Whatever we see has, in a sense, already existed in God. So God begins with fullness. The Scriptures tell us that we know only in part (1 *Corinthians* 13: 9). God begins from perfect completeness and what you and I see is something that is a backward reflection of that which already exists in Him in all its fullness. We need to accept and understand this principle and lay it as a strong foundation in our lives. If we lay hold of this truth, we will be able to understand and grasp many other things in the Word of God.



Through the ages, God has continued to do what appears to man to be something new; but in reality it unfolds from His fullness.

Let us now look at the truth of the 'Church' with this new understanding, depending upon the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds. God willing, this insight will help us to see the destiny of the Church in His plans and purposes. There is an enlightening that God wants us to have so that we may be a part of what He intends to do in a people in the earth, today.

The Lord told the children of Israel that they all needed to go into the land of promise, but we know that all did not enter in. This is the grim reality even of our times. These are times when God's people need to be serious and steadfast. Whenever God sheds some light on His Church, the enemy invariably brings doubts and misapprehension that lead to struggles and battles within. I have experienced the many ways in which Satan has tried to prevent me from meditating upon His word, but I thank God that despite all that the enemy tried to do, the Lord has always been faithful. So let us carefully go through all that God has given us. Let us really take hold of these things and seek the face of God for a better understanding of the eternal Church.

The Holy Spirit has shown us that when God begins a work in the earth, it stands as a complete work in Him. In the light of what the Lord has placed before us, we can well understand that the Church was actually born in eternity. In the earth it was born on the day of Pentecost, but its origin was in eternity.

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” (Ephesians 1: 4, 5)

*“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: that in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him...”.
(Ephesians 1: 9, 10)*

The above Scripture tells us that the Church was planned and ordained before the foundation of the world. The concept of the Church is as eternal as Christ Jesus Himself! (*Selah*). This Church was prefigured throughout the Old Testament writings. In other words, it was concealed in the Old Testament and then was birthed in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul mentions this in *Ephesians* chapter three and verse five.

We need an enlightening of our inner man by the Holy Spirit to see that in the heart of God, the Church was already conceived and glorified from the very beginning of creation. (Read chapters 3 and 4 of the book of *Ephesians*).

The Scriptures show us that, in order to fulfil the eternal desires of the Father to restore mankind, Jesus Christ Himself came upon this earth. He suffered and died and rose again and sent the

Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost so that the Church could be birthed. It is of great significance that in and through His sacrifice upon the cross at Calvary, the Church was brought forth into this world, though it had existed in the Father's heart from the beginning of time. Coming back to the same principle, God begins with His completeness and fullness. We know that the Lord, our beloved Jesus, died upon the cross; but the Scriptures say that the Lamb of God was slain before the foundations of the world (*Revelations* 13:8). We need to accept this in all its simplicity. Though there were many witnesses to His crucifixion upon the earth, there was a sense in which His death had taken place in the heart of the Father before the foundations of the world, i.e., in eternity.

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of the Father confirmed and authorised the birthing of the Church. The Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, brought forth the Church upon the earth, fifty days after the resurrection of the Lord, on the day of Pentecost. This the Lord Jesus did because He loved the Church and gave Himself for her (*Ephesians* 5:26 to 29). The Church was and is most precious to Jesus, more precious than anything else in all the universe. When God wanted to create the universe He spoke a word and it came into being. God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Glory to God, His spoken word brought forth that which was not in existence. But when God desired a Bride for His Son He did not say, "Let there be a Bride." In order to bring forth the Bride, God sent His Son, who took the form and likeness of man; He suffered and was rejected. He took upon Himself, every kind of suffering in the flesh and finally He was nailed to a

Roman cross. God sent His Son to suffer and die so that a Bride for His Son might be birthed upon the earth. He could create ten similar universes but the Church for which He laid down His life is only one. That is why the Church is the most precious thing for the Lord. Glory to God!

Brethren, the time for playing one's childhood game 'Church-church' is over. The time has now come to take a serious interest in what God's intentions are for us. The Holy Spirit is progressively at work. He is waiting to take delight in Christ's Church; He is longing to do a quick work in her so that she may arrive at her destination.

The Church remains His most precious possession, for He has got only ONE BRIDE and He gave His life for her! God could create the whole universe by His word but to birth the Church He had to send His Son to die in the earth! To bring her forth Christ had to lay down His own life. To bring forth a Bride for His Son in the form of a people who have an intimate relationship with Him, the Godhead was prepared to send even His Son as a sacrifice. Let this bring in each one of us a fresh realisation of God's intense love for His Church.



God could create
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His Son to die
upon the earth!

The time has come when the Beloved, will not allow His Bride, the



Church , to harbour carnal desires. Let us realise afresh that it costed Him His very life to birth the Church. Let us be careful not to frustrate His divine purposes in our lives.

If it has costed Him His very life to bring forth the Church, and if she is far more precious than the whole universe and even all creation, then, the Church cannot be His second choice. (*Selah*). Many teachers and preachers have a fancy idea that the natural Israel is God's first love. They teach that God instituted the Church because Israel, for whom He sent His Son, rejected Him. The Church is projected as a secondary thought. And the deceptive teaching is that the Lord will once again get back to His first love, which is Israel, towards the end of the age. This is a gross error! The Church is not an after-thought of God; the Church is eternal. In the book, "*Destined for the Throne*" by Paul Billheimer, forwarded by Billy Graham, the following emphatic statement is made:

"The human race was created in the image and likeness of God for one purpose: to provide an eternal companion for the Son. After the fall and promise of redemption through the coming Messiah, the Messianic race (Israel) was born and nurtured in order to bring the Messiah. And the Messiah came for one intent and only one, to give birth to His Church, thus to obtain His Bride. The Church then is the called-out body of redeemed mankind and turns out to be a central object, the goal, not only of mundane history but of all that God has been doing in all realms, from all eternity." (p.22)

Do you realise that there is a Church in heaven and there is also a Church upon the earth? God's eternal Church is *one* body of believers but having two realms or parts, one in heaven and the other in the earth. Do not make the mistake of thinking that there are two Churches; there is only one eternal Church but it has two parts. There is only one body of believers; some are in heaven and some are on earth, but the Church is not separated by distance or time, life or death, their universal and endless union is based on their relationship with the eternal Head of the Church- the Lord Jesus Christ. It is composed of those who are alive in the earth and also those who are dead in Christ. The saints who died with this vision of the glorious Church and were given to its outworking in their lives, constitute that part of the Church in heaven. Likewise, the saints who are alive now and given to God's workings comprise the Church in the earth. Though part of the Church is made of mortal humans, they are not earth-bound, but they have been lifted up in the spirit and made to sit in Heavenly places with Christ. We need to settle this in our hearts very clearly. There is a part of the body of Christ that is here, which is the mortal Church; the other part of the body of Christ, in heaven, which is the 'immortal' Church. But they both have the same head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We further need to see that the Lord has only one continuous Church. Christ has only one Church. He loved her and gave Himself for her. The Church birthed in Pentecost and portrayed in the book of *Acts* is the same Church today. It is operating under the same headship, governed by the same principles. Beloved, the Church at

the time of Pentecost and the twenty-first century Church are not two different churches but one and the same Church. The Lord has only one Bride; He has only one Church; His Church was birthed in the earth on the day of Pentecost in the first century, and it continues to live even now. In the book of *Acts* we can see the manner in which the Church was submitted to the Head, even the Lord Jesus Christ. There was no Jewish Church nor a Gentile Church but one Church consisting of Jews and Gentiles. All race and distinctions were dissolved they became a part of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ through their repentance. They became citizens of a new race of people that may be loosely termed as a 'Church race', fellow citizens of the 'Church Nation'. The Apostle Paul says, "Now therefore ye are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (*Ephesians* 2:19). They became citizens of a new nation called the 'Church nation'. The Lord Jesus said that the kingdom of God shall be taken from one nation and they shall be given to another nation which brings forth fruits. (*Matthew* 21:43). We need to know that when the Church was birthed, a people were gathered by the Holy Spirit and they became a new nation called the 'Church nation'. Just as those, who are born in India, are known as Indians, even so those who are born in the Church nation have the universal identity of Christians. The New Testament gives us a vivid account of how they were united under the headship of the Lord Jesus. Oh, it was a remarkable work of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was not just the fiftieth day after His resurrection. It marked the beginning of a historic work of God in the earth. It is as significant as the birth, the death and the resurrection of the Lord. The same Church continues to this day and it will progress on till the

end of this age. She has the same headship, is to be governed by the same principles and endowed with the same power and privileges. Glory to God!

It is seen from history that the Church reached its apex of power and performance in its first century then the tragedy that unfolded towards the end of the first century is well-known to those who are familiar with the history of the Church. It began to weaken and decline. The Apostle Paul had warned the leaders of the various churches of the coming decay and deterioration. He had also told them of the measures that needed to be taken to avoid such a degeneration, in his letters to the churches. But, the sad truth is that the churches could not stem the rot that set in. About thirty years later, in the last decade of the first century, when the Apostle John was in bondage at the island of Patmos, he was given a revelation of the sad state of the churches in various places! The Church at Ephesus, which had been one of the most progressive Church had 'left her first love' by then. (*Revelation 2:4*). In a matter of about thirty years, she began to register a downward move. The Church that was birthed on the day of Pentecost, that began to eat the Word of God and drink the Spirit of God, that began to exercise the supernatural gifts of God, that began to learn to rest in the power of God's promises, that showed every sign of dynamic growth, suddenly began to decline and to plunge down. False teachers had come in after Paul and began to feed the Church a diet other than the one that the Lord had designed for her. She stopped drinking of the Spirit; she stopped exercising the gifts anymore and she was not allowed to rest in the promises and the person of the Lord. We see that the

Church began to face many hindrances. Because of this they could not withstand persecutions against the Church and finally decay and deterioration set in. Oh, how tragic! History reveals that the deterioration of the Church which had begun in the first century, continued till the fourth century. Finally, the Church entered a period of gross spiritual darkness from about 500 AD onwards which lasted about a thousand years.

Can you imagine how God must have been grieved at the condition of the Church which was called to be the Bride of His Son! No doubt God had compassion on His people. God never desires us to remain in a feeble, frail, infirm, weak and decrepit condition. Let us know that He would never consent to leave His 'precious' Bride in such a condition. God has predestinated her to come into a place of glory and power that she might be the glory of Christ! Therefore, the Scriptures tell us, in several places, that the Lord Jesus Christ will surely return for a glorious Bride, for whom He laid down His own life. Beloved, the Scriptures emphatically declare that the Church will be restored to a place of glory and beauty. But how will such a restoration of the Church take place?

"Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."

(Acts 3:19-21 NAS)

These verses tell us that the heavens will not allow the Lord Jesus Christ to return to the earth until the Church would first fulfil the prophecies and promises that were declared from time to time concerning her calling by the holy prophets in the past. Until the Church would first come into her place of maturity and holiness that has been prophesied, the heavens would not release the Lord. Can we believe the Word of God? Christ shall not come in His glorified or resurrected body until the Church first comes to that place of full development and maturity. He cannot be released to come back to the earth physically but He can start giving Himself to the Church as the Way, the Truth and the Life. He can come back as the rain to activate the seed of the spiritual church which has been lying dormant within the soil of the structural church. The Lord can send from His presence 'times of refreshing' to His Church for the time of 'the period of restoration of all things' has come. Jesus will keep restoring His truth, His Way and His Life to His Church until He is fully formed within her.

Until that time comes, the Lord will appear to His Church in a different manner. As I just mentioned He will come to her as 'the Way' showing her how she might hasten His return. From time to time He shall come to her as 'the Truth' till she be saturated with the full purpose of the Father. Let us bless the Lord because He comes to His Church as 'the Life' that she may become mature and attain the fullness of His life. The heavens will retain Jesus till the Church comes into His fullness.

Being seated on the throne at the right hand of the Father,

which is the place of His intercession, Jesus shall also come to His Church as the rain in these days. In the book of *Zechariah* we read that He will come over His people as 'bright clouds'. In other words, as Peter in the book of *Acts* says, these are known as 'times of refreshing'. *Hallelujah!* God wants us to realise that He is determined to restore all things, spoken of by the prophets, in the earth. All the heavenly hosts are waiting for this restoration to be completed so that the Bride may be found in a place of readiness and fullness.

By all accounts, the Bible tells us that there is a strong opposition to the bringing forth of the Bride into all her fullness. Satan stands against this work of preparing the Bride, which the Holy Spirit wants to do at this time. Let us not forget that Satan was a beautiful archangel at one time. The Bible indicates there are chief angels like archangel, Gabriel and Michael who have responsibilities greater than other angels. Lucifer was at one time an archangel. But he and one third of the angels rebelled against the rule of Jehovah God and were cast out of God's holy domain. After his fall, he was cast down to the earth and all his light was removed from him and the earth. Lucifer became a dark evil spirit and the earth became a frozen mass along with gigantic historic creatures. The purpose of God's six successive days of creation was to restore the earth to an inhabitable place for man's dwelling!

Though Satan was an angel with a lot of light and power, we know that the moment he was thrown down upon the earth, he lost that very light. And, the earth became a mass of darkness because of Satan and his cohorts. The Bible says, in Genesis 1:2 that

the earth was without form and void (because Satan, the embodiment of evil, dwelt upon the earth!). Then, the opening chapter of Genesis shows us that God began a fresh work of creation. God began to restore or recreate the earth in six successive days so that it may become habitable, once again. In a sense, this was God's second work of creation. In God's wisdom, Satan and the powers of evil were allowed to stay in the earth so that they may be fully and finally dealt with by His Son, in God's time. These evil powers are arrayed against all that God wants to do in the earth. And that is why we read, even in the writings of Paul, that Satan will blind the eyes of the people that they may not see God's eternal purposes (2 *Corinthians* 4:4).

Jesus took away all the power of devil and delivered it unto the Church but devil refuses to acknowledge that he is defeated or to relinquish his domain of this world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God stripped Satan of all his powers, for it is written, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (*Colossians* 2:15). This is an established truth in the Word of God that He has really wrested all the powers of Satan and He has given all the powers to the Church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church," (*Ephesians* 1:22). Remember that Satan was once the prince of this world. But he is no more the prince of this world. We must realise that the Church has been invested with all dominion and power, beloved people of God.

Satan refuses to acknowledge this; he definitely does not want people to know that he has already been defeated and that his

power has been given to the Church. Satan whispers and tries to convince every believer that in reality all the power is still in his hands and that these verses are nothing but a mental consolation. He has maintained his position and restrained the Church by keeping her blind to her rightful place and position. Satan continually convinces God's people that God's Word does not really mean what it says! He says that the Church cannot do all that Christ Jesus says and that we do not really have what God's Word declares that we have. He is still that same subtle, cunning, serpent who deceived Eve in the garden of Eden. His primary purpose is to keep us out and away from the divine purposes of God. Do you know, beloved, that the time is soon coming when the Church will actually exercise her dominion and power. Christ has done it but the Church is also going to do it, upon the earth. Satan has maintained his position, over all these centuries, by keeping the Church in the dark. And the thing in which he has really succeeded is in convincing Christians that God doesn't mean what He says! Not only that, Satan, the father of lies, convinces many believers that what he whispers to them is the actual truth. And, the pity of it is that, many believers are unable to see that there is a truth beyond what he purports as the truth. Beloved, let us be sure in our hearts of this one thing, that what the Lord has spoken concerning the Church, is the real truth. God is the truth. Satan will bring many disguised and counterfeit 'truths' to you. He will whisper and say, *"You lied to your boss that day; you got angry with your child the other day, do you think that with all these you can ever be part of the glorious Church, without spot and wrinkle?"*. In a sense, Satan confronts us with many realities and truths concerning our conduct and

behaviour and says, "You cannot be part of the Bride." But what the Holy Spirit says to us is the truth and nothing but the truth. So let us not believe the whisperings of the enemy. The Lord Jesus says that despite all this, His Church shall be glorious, that she shall be mature. That is the truth. But, alas, the people believe the lie of Satan and say that it is not possible to be glorious! As long as Satan can find professing preachers and false teachers who take Satan's side and work for him, the Church will remain blind. The Apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy, says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3, 4). They would even teach the doctrine of devils to God's people (1 Timothy 4:1). Devil knows that the Church has 'power over all the power of the enemy' and that 'all things are possible' if the Church would only believe. Hence, he stands in the way of every little bit of light that comes to them. Satan knows very clearly that the Church has the dominion and power and that, one day, she will rule this earth and he will lose his place. The devil knows that all things are possible with the Church if she would only learn to believe. It is unfortunate that the majority of believers do not know this. Truly, the enemy has somehow managed to keep us blind-folded all these years. Do you know that Satan fears the Church just as much as he fears Christ? Satan realises, more than most believers, that the Church has got more power than he has. That is why Satan seeks for teachers and preachers in Christendom who can feed the Church with 'sleeping pills' that the believers may fall into a deep spiritual sleep.

Beloved people of God, let us realise that despite all the opposition of Satan against the Church, God will do His work of restoration; God is really going to bring another time of refreshing to this earth. The whole Heaven, along with Jesus Christ, is waiting and looking forward to the day of the marriage of the Lamb of God. *Hallelujah!!* O beloved, there is a tremendous excitement concerning this marriage in Heaven. All the angelic hosts in Heaven are looking forward to the day when the Son shall be joined to the Bride, the Church, in holy matrimony.

"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Peter 1:11, 12)

The angels do not know the day and the hour of the glorious event but they do know that it is scheduled to happen in the near future. They have a strong desire to see that day. All they have is a general knowledge that something great is going to take place. This they know because they see an excitement in the countenance of Jesus Christ Himself. The eternal Lamb is excited, beloved. Glory be to God! Something is happening in the heaven, some conversation and Michael and Gabriel are doing several things under the leadership of Jesus, directing things in heaven and on earth. There is an unusual

amount of divine presence emanating from out of heaven. There is an extra glory emanating from Jesus and prompting all heaven to be fixed with unusual ecstasy. The reason is that 'the time' for the 'restoration' of His beloved Church has come, restoration of this is activating His whole being with such an anticipation that it is causing His beauty and brightness to fill the heavens. The archangels enquire of Him, "what can we and all the heavenly host do to hasten that day when You can be joined to Your Church - the Bride?" The angels are also excited about that preordained event for they know that it will be the most festive celebration ever to be conducted in the eternal universe.

There is something wrong with a Church or with any one who fail to be excited about the forthcoming marriage of the Lamb. This lack of excitement will surely show that there is some kind of division in the heart of such a person. If the Church is not single-minded towards the Lamb, she will surely not be thrilled with the prospect of a marriage of the Lamb. But we see that there is a tremendous longing in the heart of the Lord Jesus to be eternally united with His glorious Bride, even the Church. The angels do not know the time and the hour; they are not part of the Bride, but they are friends of the Bride. They are helpers of the Bride.

"But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them, who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:13 and 14)

May God open the eyes of our understanding. The angelic

hosts are longing to see the Bride as one ready and prepared to meet the heavenly Bridegroom. They know that there has never been anything in all of heaven to compare with this occasion, they are looking forward to that day - they are doing all in their power to urge the saints to fulfil all Scriptures and reach maturity and restore all things so that Jesus could be released from heaven. Do you know that the angelic hosts have never sinned? There is no feeling of jealousy or competition within the heavenly host over the fact that the 'blood bought' humanity has been chosen of God to be the Bride of the Lamb. There is no resentment that God has chosen the Church to sit down with Jesus in His Father's throne and to rule and reign with Him.

The angelic hosts and the ministering spirits are available to the heirs of salvation to hasten them, to prepare them, so that they, the Church, may come into their full maturity. They are working diligently so that Jesus may be released from the heavenlies at the appointed time. They are one with the Lord Jesus in this matter. The angels do not harbour any resentment because the Church, which is not fully clean compared to the holy angels, have been chosen by God to be the Lamb's Wife. They do not question the Lord and ask, "why is this woman (the earthly Church) chosen to sit upon the throne with the Lord Jesus instead of us". Their greatest joy is to exalt Jesus and His purpose. Their pleasure is to please Jesus and to joyfully work with Him in fulfilling His purpose.

Do you know that the angels have taken part in many major events in the universe already? They celebrated the birth of Jesus; we

see a great declaration and rejoicing at that time. The death of Jesus on the cross was a great revelation and demonstration they ever had beheld concerning the character and nature of the love of God. Then, again when Jesus Christ rose again from the dead, there was another great celebration in the heavenlies, when all the angelic hosts took part. But I want to tell you that there was never a greater celebration than when the Holy Spirit was sent upon this earth, when one hundred and twenty believers received Him, and when the Church was birthed. At that time the rejoicing in the heavens knew no bounds. Yet, all these events pale when compared to what is going to take place at the marriage of Jesus Christ and His Bride. The heavenlies have never witnessed the kind of thing that is going to take place. *Hallelujah!* Yes, that day the mystery of all ages will be made known. The ring of authority and unity will be placed upon the hand of the Bride, the crown of life will be placed upon her head designating her right to reign eternally with the Lord and her Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. And she shall reign with Christ for ever more. This is what the angelic hosts are longing to see. That is why we read,

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.” (Revelations 19:7)

O, beloved people of God, there is a restoration that is yet to happen in the earth. The angelic hosts are going to help in that work of restoration. Until all things that the prophets have prophesied are fulfilled, the heavens will retain Jesus. But praise God, the Lord shall come to His people to refresh them. He comes to her as the rain, as the way, the truth and as life to bring her to the fullness of life. Let

me tell you that Jesus is excited about this coming event. The angelic hosts are also ecstatic about the coming event. But the Church, here in this earth, seems to be downcast! The greatest tragedy is that joy, anticipation and excitement are totally missing in the Church! Is it because the enemy of her husband is at work? O, may God help us to understand this and identify with this joy in the heavenlies. The Church is very precious to Him. He has only one Bride. He loves her; she is precious to Him. Let us also love the call of God in our lives. Let this not be just a doctrine but let it be a light unto our paths. Let us lay hold of His word and let it work in us. The greatest longing and desire of the Lord Jesus Christ is to receive His Bride, the Church, in her full perfection, beauty and maturity. Amen!



2



RESTORATION OF TRUTH

**The Lesson From the Past
Restorative Moves of God!**



To move further in God, we need to look into the history of the Church in order to see how God in timepast moved and raised up men to perpetuate His purposes in the earth, in the past. History declares the working of God in the earth. It helps us to understand the manner in which God moved in the past. When the Apostle Paul taught the early Church, he took the things that God had done in the midst of the Israelites of the Old Testament (the Church in the wilderness), and explained their significance to the believers so that they may learn the ways of the God of their fathers. Had the Apostle Paul been alive today, he would certainly have taught the present day churches all that they need to learn from the history of the Church, from her very inception. Therefore, in our progressive study of the destiny of the Church let us now turn to the history of the Church.

Every time God wants to do something in the earth, He searches for a man. He looks for a human being to be His instrument and do what He desires to be done, at a particular time. *"...The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."* (2 Chronicles 16:9). The Scripture says that the eyes of the Lord search for a man. Again we read, *"And I sought for a man*

among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” (Ezekiel 22:30). The Lord searches for a man whose heart longs for the fulfilment of God’s purposes in the earth. I believe, the Lord Jesus Christ is searching for a people in the earth these days, for completing the work of the restoration of His glorious Church.

We need to carefully observe the behaviour of the Holy Spirit in the past moves of the restoration of truth in the Church so that we may know how He will move in the Church today. One thing that we see, is that whenever God desired to restore the Church, the eyes of the Lord began to search the earth for a suitable vessel. At the close of the so called ‘dark-age’ of the Church, as the eyes of the Lord ran to and fro over all the earth, His eyes fell upon a young man called Martin Luther. It was the year 1505 AD. Jesus sent His ministering spirits to prepare this man for His work of restoration. There are several ways by which God prepares an instrument for Himself; He uses unique methods to bring forth His chosen instruments. He brings about a dissatisfaction and frustration in their spirits. The Holy Spirit strongly restrains such individuals from doing their own things and going their own ways. At times, God stirs an intense longing in such individuals for things which may lie well beyond their reach. The Lord may even bring forth convictions that would envelop the individual in a state of desperation and hopelessness. As the chosen vessel cries out to God and seeks Him, as one broken and desperate, God reveals His purposes and enlightens the individual. History reveals that God prepares the lives of His

instruments in strange ways. God subjected Martin Luther to a real breaking process until the day God revealed the truth to him. Before Martin Luther could declare the truth of justification by faith and repentance from dead works, God took him through a period of preparation. When God zeroes in on an individual to fulfil His purposes, things begin to happen in a different way in that individual's life. When God decided to use young David, the shepherd boy, for His divine purposes, his life took a different turn. He had to leave the meadows where he roamed as a shepherd boy; he had to face the giant Goliath in battle; he had to experience the jealous wrath of king Saul who thrice threw a spear to kill him; and he had to flee to the wilderness to face many trials. God meticulously prepares a vessel before using it to bring forth the fruit.

Martin Luther was a student of law. He and a close friend of his, were travelling together when there was a sudden flash of lightning and thunder. His friend died but young Martin Luther narrowly escaped death. After this incident Martin Luther began to seek God, in all earnest. He knew that God had miraculously spared his life. He was motivated by a deep desire to know God; he left his career in law and entered a monastery to become a monk, this being the highest form of holy life he knew. Events such as this have



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occurred in many lives. God often does something dramatic or supernatural so that the chosen one may come to a place of seeking and searching God's purpose for his life. After this incident, Martin Luther prayed for the privilege of owning a Bible. In the monastery, his prayer was answered and he devoted himself to a diligent study of the Bible. He was consecrated as a priest after two years. In 1508 he was called to teach at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. While he was studying and preparing, the Lord spoke to him, from chapter one of the book of *Romans*. Martin Luther writes,

"I greatly long to understand God's epistle to the Romans, specially the righteousness of God. God is righteous and He is righteous in punishing the unrighteous. Night and day I pondered until I grasped the truth of the righteousness of God whereby he shows grace and mercy and justifies us by faith. Thereupon, I found myself to be reborn and to come through an open door into paradise. The whole Scripture took on a new meaning, whereby the righteousness of God hath filled me with hate, but now it became unto me expressly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway to heaven."

In 1510, Martin Luther was sent to Rome, the 'holy' city. On this, his first visit, he sincerely hoped to find peace for his troubled soul. He visited the famous 'Scala Santa' and eagerly ascended, on bended knees, the 28 steps leading up to the building, in the hope of securing the indulgence attached to this ascetic performance. He writes, "But at every step the word of the Scripture sounded as a significant protest in my ear: 'The just shall live by faith'". He

became totally convinced that the works of penance were of no benefit. After his return to Germany, he wrote, "Oh, my sin, sin, sin!" Yet in the midst of his distress, light was breaking.

When God began to enlighten Martin Luther, he began to see the Roman Catholic Church in the light of God's Word. The light of *Romans 1:17* seemed to break upon him as he prepared to teach the Psalms. It is said that in this momentous revelation which Luther experienced during the winter of 1512-1513, the birth of the Lutheran Reformation took place. It took four more years for Luther to mature and to gather courage to take his stand on the light he had received. Gradually there arose a kind of agitation within the spirit of Martin Luther. He began to abhor the corrupt practice of indulgences in the Roman Catholic Church. In his born-again spirit, Luther rebelled against the traditional doctrines of that Church. When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to behold God's ways and methods, there will arise within us a spirit against all that is contrary to God. This is a reality, beloved. The agitation within Martin Luther's spirit began to increase each passing day. Eventually he wrote ninety five declarations or objections concerning the doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. One day the Spirit within him provoked him and he took the Ninety-five Theses and nailed it on the door of the castle Church at Wittenberg. It was October 31, 1517.

The hammering upon the Church door sparked a flame that spread over the whole of Europe. People did not realise that God had chosen this man to end the dark age of the Church; they did not realise that God had been waiting for a man of his kind to declare the

beginning of the restoration of His truth to the Church. We read in the book of *Daniel* 2:34, 35, "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." These verses apply prophetically to Christ, but it could well be said of Martin Luther that then, men did not know that the God of Heaven had decreed that this man was the chosen instrument of the Lord, to loose that rock (the Church) that was hewn out of that mountain (Christ) to set it rolling. As it began to gain speed and size, it progressed like a small ball rolling down a mountain side. And let it be prophetically said that, when it reaches its objectives in these last days, it would become an instrument to bring judgement to nations and to bring the giant image crumbling down to the ground, putting all things fully under the feet of Jesus and His Church! Glory to God!

There were several men of God before Martin Luther, who sought the truth and who stood for the truth, but they were invariably extinguished by the powerful Roman Catholic structure. John Wycliffe was one of them. He boldly declared that Pope was not the head of the Church; he urged the Pope to obey Christ, the true head of the Church. He stood against the doctrine of transubstantiation (Roman Catholics teach that the wine and the bread that they receive in communion are converted to the actual blood and body of the

Lord) despite every pressure from the Roman Catholic Church. He put forth twelve theses exposing the Roman Catholic Church's doctrines that were unscriptural and misleading. The whole religious system came against him. Wycliffe was forbidden to speak any more at Oxford; but his response was, "I believe that in the end the truth will conquer."

There was another man called John Huss. He was encouraged by the bold stand that Wycliffe had taken; he boldly declared that the Church was the Body of Christ; he proclaimed that Christ was the head of the Body. He also emphasised the truth about justification. Though he was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church, yet he continued to preach against the abuses of that system. He was then declared a heretic and a false teacher. He was warned by the monarch and also by the Pope to mend his ways. When he refused, he was condemned and was not even given an opportunity to defend himself or to share his understandings. Finally, Huss was arrested, cruelly tortured, imprisoned, and in 1415 AD, burned at the stake. He spoke a word of prophecy while he was still tied to the stake. The prophecy was as follows:

"You are now roasting the goose. But in a hundred years there will arise a swan whom you shall not roast nor scorch. Him will men hear sing. And God will allow him to live."

In Bohemian, the word '*hus*' means goose. The word 'goose' in the prophecy was a pun for John Huss, himself. This was a tremendous prophecy because it talked of Martin Luther who was to

arrive on the scene a hundred years later. Though the devil and the religious system came up against Martin Luther, the voice of restoration, as they did in the past, they could not 'roast the swan'. We see that Martin Luther would be the man who would open the door for the spiritual Church to come forth from the structured Church. Martin Luther was the chosen man of God to deliver the Church from the bondage of religious Egypt, which lasted for nearly fifteen hundred years, after the coming of Christ, just like Moses was sent out by God to deliver His people from Egypt, fifteen hundred years before the coming of Christ. This is the way God began His great work of restoration so that He could bring forth His virgin Bride again. This work of restoration by the hand of God was followed by a hundred years of religious wars, history says. It is a reality that when the truth is brought forth it leads to persecution of God's people. Beloved, we need to realise, that the restoration of truth inevitably bring about divisions, wars, misunderstandings, persecutions, confusions and many other problems. When the Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh, with the revelation of grace and truth, the same thing happened. There were riots and revolts; the truth brought about hatred and division! This is a reality. Can truth cause problems? Yes, it always does. Every revelation and restoration of truth brought forth a revolution and also confusion, riots and persecution. Beloved, new wine cannot be contained in old wineskins. The heavens were thrilled when the truth was brought forth, but on the earth there were wars and persecutions and riots and confusion. With the advent of the Lutheran Reformation, the spiritual Church took her first tender steps toward the eternal purposes of God for His Church, with the end to raise the Bride unto her perfect beauty.

God's restoration of the truth of justification by faith, produced three large Protestant groups, the Lutheran, the Reformed, and the Anglican. But the next move of God was brought forth through two smaller groups called the 'Puritans' and the 'Anabaptists'. The Puritans were a people who desired to purify the Church of England. They desired to have a simpler form of worship, by removing the church's inheritance of Catholic forms, ceremonies and rituals. The Puritanism remained as a movement within the



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established Church and not separating itself from the main body. They did not become a separate Christian denomination though some Puritans went a step further and became independents. The other group, was the Anabaptists, which meant 'rebaptizers'. Both the groups were very strong in their conviction that it was not enough to be baptised as infants but all needed to be baptised after the born-again experience. They preached that mental acceptance of the faith was not enough; there needed to be a confession of faith which had to bring forth a transformation of one's daily life. They began to teach these truths with great vigour and zeal. They also desired that the Church be separated from the state. As a result of these convictions and

declarations, they were persecuted by both the Protestants and the Catholics alike, as the former threatened to upset the latter's religious and pious systems. The Catholics burned the Anabaptists while the Protestants tied their hands behind their backs and threw them in the river. Here again we see the pattern that when the truth is brought forth, exposing false religious precepts, it leads to hatred, conflict, and several other problems. This has been the history of the restoration of the Church. Most of the men who were instrumental in bringing forth the truth went through terrible times in their lives.

Two hundred years after the Anabaptist movement, there emerged on the scene, the 'holiness' or sanctification movement beginning with John Wesley. At that time, Christians in England were undergoing spiritual lethargy and there was a great urgency for a real, vigorous, spiritual revival in the Church. John Wesley and his brother Charles, having experienced a spiritual awakening at Oxford, called together a small group of friends for spiritual worship. They came to be known as the 'Holy Club' to begin with; but later they came to be called 'Methodists' because they were very methodical in the procedure of their meetings and in their manner of living. Wesley was very diligent in keeping his outward life consistent with his inner spiritual desires.

Wesley received an assurance from the Lord that God had saved him by faith from the law of sin and death on May 24, 1738. Thereafter he vigorously preached the need for salvation and for leading a progressively sanctified life. In his itinerant preaching, he travelled mainly on horseback, covering about 250,000 miles, and

preaching about 40,000 sermons. The number of works he wrote, translated or edited exceeds two hundred. Yet, he was also turned away from many meetings. In the early days when they needed a place to meet, the majority turned them down. He taught that which God revealed to him regarding holiness, sanctification and progressive perfection. While John Wesley preached, his brother Charles Wesley put everything into music; the truths that John Wesley preached, Charles Wesley sang. Hundreds of hymns were written, and in those days the Church moved forward, step by step, towards her ultimate destination.

When God revealed the truth to Martin Luther, we see the way he stood for the truth despite every form of persecution. It was not an easy task to establish a firm foundation for the Reformation. Once he was cut off from the Roman Catholic Church, he had to form a new Church, with a new form of worship and an avenue for fellowship. He retained certain ceremonies of the Catholic worship that he did not consider contrary to Scriptures. Preaching of the Word became the central factor. But after some years, the Lutheran churches became life less because they did not practice what they preached. Other churches started by the reformers and Baptists also gradually became less and less effective. Doctrine without the real experiential life of Christ was the cause of their downward trend. They taught the word and the truth but did not appreciate the reality of it in their lives. People can hear doctrine and be satisfied with doctrine. If we do not bring doctrine into a living experience we stand in danger, beloved people of God. That is what happened to the early Church and to the churches that were raised by great

reformers like Martin Luther. Somehow man does not choose to be subjected to the foolishness of God; even though the Word says that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man! (1 *Corinthians* 1:25). People can declare this with their mouth and accept it as a doctrine; but they find it difficult to subject themselves to the foolishness of God. The natural man tries to know God by the power of his intellect. Men would like to know God by their reasonings, through theological discourses, and therefore in these movements of God, the proud people, the sophisticated people, the conservative religious leaders, and the intelligentsia look at the movements of God and laugh at it! Beloved, this is a warning for us today. We must make sure that the things we hear do not remain as doctrine in our lives. Martin Luther was used of God; there was a flame of fire at that time. But what happened to those churches he raised? They neutralised the truth after a time, by not living up to it. They retained the truth as doctrines and teachings; they made the truth into hymns and prayers. They came into a place of a 'form of godliness' and began to 'deny the power' of the Word though they had fought so hard to separate themselves from the dead works of religion! Such was the condition of the Lutheran Church when the flame went out. The same thing happened to the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches later on. At one time they fought hard and stood for the truth, but later on the flame died down. In the second and third generations, they began to be trained in denominational colleges where they were taught the doctrines without experiencing the real love for God.

Another thing we see is that when some people, who were open to receiving further truth from the Holy Spirit and were led of

the Lord to march forward in a different way, they were persecuted by the earlier established Churches. This was because the spiritual condition of the former established Churches had begun to cool down. They were not able to tolerate the induction of fresh truth. They rigidly held on to the truth that God had revealed to them and refused to accept that God had moved on because they had stopped hearing His voice. As a result, the Lutherans persecuted the Anabaptists; the Anabaptists persecuted the Puritans; and there were even some fanatical, over-zealous Puritans that persecuted the Wesleyan churches! When the holiness movement came through the hand of God, the Lutherans, the Baptists, the Anglicans, the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians and several other earlier churches were already in a condition of deterioration. They began to have a mere mental faith, without a change of heart and change of life. That is why they rose



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up against the holiness movement and bitterly opposed them. Thus the persecuted in one generation eventually became the persecutors of a subsequent generation!

Much after the 'holiness' movement, there came a man called A.B. Simpson in the USA. He organised a movement called Christian Missionary Alliance. He was a man of great zeal for God. His untiring zeal and enthusiasm for God caused him to neglect his own health through overwork.

At one stage the doctors predicted he would live no more than just a few months. At that time he wholeheartedly sought the Lord on his bed, wholeheartedly and the Lord revealed to him several truths concerning divine health. The song we often sing, *"Once it was a blessing, now it is the Lord."*, was written by him. The Lord gave him a revelation about 1 Peter 2:24 wherein the Scripture says, *"...by His stripes we were healed"*. He realised that it was not only for his spirit but also for his physical body that Jesus Christ died. God restored his health and confirmed the revelation by a supernatural healing in his physical body. God extended Simpson's ministry by thirty years. There are many men like them whom God has used for bringing forth one truth after another, in His move of restoring His Church.

Let me ask you a question: in your opinion, will there will be persecutions when God makes His next move? The next move shall surely bring conflict, persecution, hatred and even riots. What will happen to God's people? Will they be the first to run for shelter? I know one of brother in Rajasthan who often used to say that he was willing to die for Jesus. But once when he went out to the streets to spread the Gospel, some people began to throw stones. When the first stone narrowly missed him, he was the first man to run for his life. Likewise there are many who are strong for the Lord when there are no storms, but how many will be courageous when God ushers in the next move which will certainly be followed by severe persecutions?

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and for

the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice saying How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." (Revelations 6:9 to 11)

Clearly there will yet be another move of God in the earth. There will be many who will be instruments of God, who will respond to the truth God would want to declare... but they will be persecuted as well. We should be prepared for such a contingency. History shows us that every vessel of God had to suffer and go through terrible times of persecution.

Beloved, remember that though many men of God have died, God has given you the opportunity to be alive in this generation; He has kept you with a divine purpose in mind. A divine incident in the life of Martin Luther put him on the path of searching for God. Finally, he surrendered his life to God and as a result of his response, God brought forth a mighty move of restoration that brought the Church out of the spiritual darkness of the middle ages. Likewise surrender your life to God. Heaven is looking down towards this generation, searching for some who will rise up to fulfil the will of God concerning the Church. Do not take this Word of God merely as a doctrine and teaching but seek the Lord that His will may be carried out through transformed lives.

Many have joined the great cloud of witnesses who brought

were instrumental in the restoration of truth. They have finished their race and fulfilled the will of God in their generation. They are now waiting for us, to bring forth a restoration of all the truth in our generation, so that the Church will come to her fullness and completion in these last days. Heaven depends on each generation to fulfil God's work of restoration. In this way, eventually the Church will come into her fullness. The cloud of witnesses are now watching this 'last-day' generation, a people who are now living in the earth; they are waiting for us to be burdened to bring the Church to her final place in God. When the Heavens would see a generation, longing and desiring to fulfil God's will in their time, the Heavens will truly be joyous and excited. I am fully convinced that the last-day Church will restore the last truth that shall trigger the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we listen to the Spirit of God. Nothing thrills Him more than that the members of the Body of Christ should fulfil the present truth in this generation.

Will you accept this challenge?



3



THE CHURCH MOVES ON

**The Restoration of the
Pentecostal Experience
and the Latter Rain Revival!**



Apostle Paul took the example of the children of Israel to instruct the early Church. He told them of the behaviour of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times, so that they could learn of God's ways in the New Testament times. We also need to know how God moved in the Church at sundry times in the past twenty centuries, so that we may learn His ways and begin to await the next move of the Spirit. It is also very profitable to look into the lives of men of God who were greatly used of the Lord. The way God moves in the lives of His instruments provides us guidance in times of doubt and uncertainty. All of us can take example from the lives of men and women who have died for the glory of God and His kingdom.

We began a study of the history and growth of the Church in the previous chapter. We have seen that in the fullness of time, the Lord Jesus Christ came as a man; He died upon the cross and arose again. When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He sent the Holy Ghost, as He had promised. On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus ascended unto the Father, the Church of Christ was born. The first century Church, in all her virgin spirit, was an expression of the simple, anointed life of Christ. Like a new born babe, she exhibited a purity, a holiness and an eagerness that was unique, in every way.

The Church that God had intended in eternity, sprang up and began to grow, nurtured and taught by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Bride of Christ, chosen from the beginning of creation, grew and arrayed herself in the beautiful garments of righteousness, peace and joy.

History reveals that by the end of the first century, about seventy years after her birth, the Church began to decline spiritually. And by the fourth century, the clouds of spiritual darkness had fully descended upon the Church. Though the Church had become very powerful and wielded tremendous power over kings and princes all over Europe, there was a decline in the essential quality of the life of Christ in His Church. History shows that the 'Dark Ages' ended a millennium later, when the hand of the Lord brought forth a restoration of truth during the time of Martin Luther. This was followed by further restorations through several movements such as the Anabaptists, the Puritans and the holiness movements in the time of John Wesley. God continued to restore the Church, with truth upon truth, from the seventeenth century right through to the twentieth century. Even today, the burden of the Holy Spirit is to help the Church of Christ, to move towards the eventual goal of her destiny.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there were many groups that desired a change from the ritual and hypocrisy of traditional Churches. However, the people that had at one time stood for the Lord, began to be influenced by politics and worldly values. The Church was on the verge of substituting social work for saving grace. This was the condition of the Church at the beginning of the

twentieth century, when the next major work of God for His Church took place, in what is known as the Pentecostal restoration movement.

There were some hungry people in a place called Topeka, in Kansas, USA. Their pastor was a certain Charles Fox Parham. He was a Methodist pastor. The Methodist Church has its roots in the 'holiness' movement of John Wesley. Charles Parham had a small Bible school at that time. One day, before leaving the town to attend some meetings elsewhere, he called the students together, and told them, "I think it would be profitable for all of you to find out the real meaning of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Check up by independently studying the Word of God. Note down which Scriptures support this experience. Find out what is the Biblical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit" When Pastor Parham returned to the Bible school, he asked the students what the outcome of the study was. They all agreed with one voice that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was necessary for every believer. They said that the Bible clearly showed that speaking in unknown tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Then this small group of students, along with Charles Parham, gathered in their chapel for the watchnight service on 31st Dec 1900. They united their hearts and sought the Lord. In the service a student named Agnes N. Ozman requested Pastor Charles Parham to lay hands on her head and pray so that she might experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, along with the evidence of speaking in tongues. As Charles Parham laid hands upon her she was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak loudly in tongues. It is said that she began to speak in Chinese and could not speak English for three days! Every time she began to even

write in English, the alphabets appeared to be Chinese characters! She was completely soaked in the Holy Spirit as a result of her experience! Later, other students also requested Pastor Parham to pray and lay hands on them so that they might also experience the Holy Spirit. The surprising thing was that though Charles Parham himself had not been baptised in the Holy Spirit, yet when he laid hands upon others, they received the power of the Holy Spirit. Glory to God!

It was a time of the refreshing of God. Such times of refreshing from the Lord are distinguished by the powerful anointing of His presence. The Holy Spirit, at such times, behaves in somewhat unusual ways. These are things that are difficult for the human mind to comprehend. John the Baptist, in a similar move of God, was used to baptise the Lord Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan, though we have no evidence of him being baptised himself. O, Praise God that the behaviour of the Holy Spirit does not conform to the ways and limited understanding of man. Though Charles Parham was not yet anointed, though he did not yet speak in tongues, yet, when he laid hands upon others and prayed, there was a tremendous move of the Spirit of God, even as a mighty wind. One by one, all Parham's students were baptised in the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. And the pastor, Charles Parham himself was also baptised in the Holy Spirit later on.

About six years later, in 1906, one of the students of Charles Parham, moved to a place called Asuza Street in Los Angeles. The student who had been a Baptist minister was now a Southern Negro

Holiness preacher. He had been greatly influenced by the need for holiness in his daily life. He was given to the working of the Holy Spirit in his own life. One day, as he preached about the experience of the Holy Ghost, a mighty move of God began to take place in the city. People who were present reported that it was like a fire that began to spread rapidly throughout the city bringing wide spread spiritual cleansing. The move carried on for almost three years in the same place! People from all over the world came to Asuza Street and were saved. The consuming flame of God that also cleanses, ignites, preserves and destroys, was very much in evidence at every place. There seemed to be no end to meetings; the people carried on endlessly, fed by the Spirit of God.

A man of God named Frank Burtleman, in a book called *'Another flame rolls in'* has written of the mighty evidence of the spontaneous working of the Holy Spirit in the Asuza Street Revival. Here is an excerpt from this book:

"The spirit of singing among God's people was like a harp spontaneously flowing in the midst of His people. In fact it was the very breath of God, played on human strings or human vocal chords. The notes were wonderful in sweetness, volume and duration. They were humanly impossible. It was indeed singing in the Spirit. We had no pope or hierarchy. We were brethren. We had no human programme. The Lord Himself was leading. There was no priest class. These things have come in later with the apostatizing of the movement. We did not have a platform. All were on a level."

This is what the Holy Spirit did at the time of the Pentecostal revival. In contrast, look at the condition of the Pentecostal Church today! In some places, their pastors refuse to attend spiritual meetings on frivolous grounds, such as the absence of a stage or platform from where they could address the people. I have seen pastors getting angry with people because they were not given a place of prominence upon the stage! At the Asuza Street revival, under the anointing of the Spirit, there was a spontaneous outburst of praise and worship by the people as they sang psalms and hymns, in the Spirit. But what do we see in many churches today? Instead of moving in the Spirit and singing in the Spirit, the Full-Gospel Churches continue to have large choirs to lead the people in the singing worship songs unto the Lord. In this way they depend upon trained people to lead them in songs of praise, rather than to rely upon the Spirit of God to lead and guide them. Some churches have choirs, set forms of prayer, and set ways of worshiping the living God, thus robbing the Holy Spirit of the freedom He needs in their midst.

When the Holy Ghost began to move in Asuza Street during the Pentecostal revival, there was an openness in the people to hear the Spirit of God. The Holy Ghost had every freedom to convict people of their sins and bring them to a place of repentance and turning unto God in their lives. People cried out in agony of their souls; they wept over their sinful condition and desired to be changed as soon as possible. Pastors were not bothered whether there was a special platform for them to address the people or not. Such unimportant, external things that please the ego of man were dispensed with under the mighty power of God. Furthermore, the

author writes,

“Ministers were servants according to the true meaning of the word. We did not honor man after their advantage in terms of education. But rather we honoured them for their God-given gifts. He sets the members in the body. The services ran on almost continuously. Seeking souls would be found under the power at almost any time of the night or day. It went on all night and day. People were seen humbling themselves, seeking God at any time of the day. The place was never closed or empty. People came there to meet with God. He was there. Hence a continuous meeting went on.”

Let me ask as to how many of you are stirred within after reading this? In comparison, we seem to be in poor spiritual state today. Nowadays, even those who are sincere and hungry for the things of God, cannot give themselves to hearing the word of God for more than two hours, because they have several other important things to do! They become tired; they feel bored; they fidget and fret and move about in a restless way. They bring their children and busy themselves with the needs of the children, rather than sit still in the presence of God, disciplining their children to do the same! When I read accounts of the Pentecostal Revival, I was overwhelmed by the deep hunger and need that the people had. There was a kind of unrefined, spontaneous desire that gripped everyone who came to attend the revival meetings at that time. When people saw the way God met them, they desired nothing more than to personally meet with Christ, the risen Lord. They had a deep desire to experience a

sweeping change within. How is it that believers have become so lukewarm, today? Oh, it hurts one to see the cold, inert condition of the majority of Pentecostal churches which had, at one time, experienced the purging, purifying fire of the Holy Spirit.

In the book of *Acts* we can see the response of the disciples and followers in the early Church. The Scripture says that when they got together, they ministered to the Lord and fasted: "And as they ministered to the Lord and fasted" (*Acts* 13:2). It is one thing to fast and minister to the Lord; it is another thing to minister and fast unto the Lord. As they came together, they worshipped the Lord in Spirit and in truth and totally forgot themselves; they laid aside every natural concern and desire; they devoted themselves to the Lord with total abandonment. When the time came for lunch and a little rest, no one went home and none felt hungry. All they wanted to do was to sit in the presence of the Lord! Tea time came, and they continued to minister to the Lord. Dinner time came, and still they continued to minister to the Lord. This is what the Scriptures reveal, concerning the condition of the early Church. As they continued to minister to the Lord, they also continued to fast, forgetting the natural desires for meals; in their hunger for the revelation of God's Word, they accorded the least priority to their personal needs. Glory to God! Beloved, it is quite another thing to fast and then to minister to the Lord. This involves making a prior plan to fast. It is a matter of according the proper priorities. The believers in the early Church ministered to the Lord first and consequently they fasted

When the Holy Ghost began to move in Asuza Street, one

could hear ordinary, hard-hearted people crying out in the agony of their sin; one could see people smitten by the Holy Ghost, crying out for the mercy of God. The plans and priorities of man were set aside. The heart arose and stood before the Lord in abject poverty and dependence. May the Lord help us to receive this word. It is one thing to say, "*Lord, your Church will be glorious*", and another thing to experience His glory day by day. God is not looking for people who will accept the Word mentally only. He wants us to receive the Word by a revelation of the Spirit so that we can make the Word a living reality in our lives.

Are you ready for the reality of another move of God in your life? Many are not willing for such a work of the Spirit in their lives. They may want to be a part of the move of God, but they are not prepared to pay the price of knowing Him. Only those who were truly hungry for the Lord, came rushing to Asuza Street, as soon as they heard that a revival had begun there. They did not count the cost and weigh the pros and cons of going to the meetings; they did not delay in running to meet with the Lord. In all the revival meetings at Asuza Street, only those who were hungry and thirsty for the cleansing work of the Spirit in their lives, were drawn by the power of the Holy Spirit. Beloved, we must have a hunger for more of the Lord at all times. We need to guard against every spirit of self-satisfaction and complacency.

"God brought men and women and broke them and brought them together again. It was a tremendous overhauling process. Pride and self assertion or self-esteem could not survive there. The religious ego preached

its own funeral service quickly....No subjects or sermons were announced ahead of time.”

Nowadays, in some churches, a small hand-out or leaflet is placed on every seat in the pews, that gives a brief account of the message, in advance. There is little room for the Spirit of God to speak to the preacher to change the text of the message to meet the need of someone in the congregation. In a sense, the Spirit is limited by the hand of man. The hand of man is seen at every step in the churches today. The message is given, the time is given, the prayer is given – everything is pre-planned, with little or no scope for the move of the Spirit of God. Man desires to bring his own order into every assembling, into every worship, into every prayer and into every spiritual exercise, leaving no place for the Spirit of God to take over and minister. This is the sad but true state of the churches today.

“There were no special speakers for such an hour. All were spontaneous speakers. All were anointed of the Spirit. All wanted to hear God (and not man). The rich and educated were the same as the poor. It had to start in poor surroundings to keep out the self will and human element. All came down in humility together at His feet. We were delivered from ecclesiastical systems. We wanted God. When we first reached the meetings we avoided as much as possible human contact and greeting. We wanted to meet God first. We got our heads under some bench in prayer. And met men only in the Spirit, knowing them no more after the flesh.”

Look at the way the Spirit of God was working among the children of God at the Asuza Street revival! Let us learn of the Spirit of God. People came with a burden to meet with God. They found a bench somewhere in the open or in the hall, and began to meet with God instead of men. Glory be to His name! There was no time for gossip and socialising; there was no time for murmuring and complaining; there was no time for feeding upon the desires of the flesh. Everyone sat at His feet, with meekness and humility.

“In honor we preferred one another. When God spoke we all obeyed. It seemed a fearful thing to hinder or grieve the Spirit. He was in His holy temple. It was the norm to keep silent.”

Let us learn something from this. The anointing of God shall teach His people. Let there be a fear in us not to hinder the work of the Spirit, in our midst. Let us be sensitive to His presence. The understanding of this word must bring forth a burden in us. If not, we need to question that understanding. Remember this always; the revelation of His Word will bring forth a burden within us. After hearing a moving sermon or message, we ought to see whether it brings forth a burden in our spirit. If the Word has become flesh and life within, then there will also be a burden for doing His will in our lives. Many say that they are really privileged people because they are privileged to serve God, privileged to worship, and privileged to hear and follow Jesus. But the reality is that they accept that they are privileged but they lack responsibility to obey God. Every privilege brings along a responsibility. Privilege brings along responsibility and an understanding or revelation brings forth a burden. Let us

remember this whenever we feel that we are specially favoured.

Though there was a tremendous move of God in the early part of the last century, we need to realise that we cannot wind back the clock. God is not calling us to retrace our steps. It is not for us to must cry out to God to experience what happened nearly a hundred years ago. No, but what God is bidding us to do is to be willing to allow the Spirit of God to lead us and go the way He would take us in the purposes of God in the present time. We cannot be a part of what God did in the past, in the United States of America and many other places; but we can surely have the same dedication and commitment that the people had at that time that is what we need today. We have to be a people who shall be a part of what God is going to do in the future, in our generation.

While we cannot return to the historic past, what we can certainly do is to return to the commitments we may have made to God in the past. We must be prepared to re-dedicate ourselves and return to the commitments we may have made earlier. If the Spirit urges us, we should also be prepared to make the kind of commitments made by those who experienced a Pentecostal revival in their innermost beings. Remember that the Feast of Pentecost was only a time of gathering of the first-fruits. But we have now come to the time of the harvest and the Feast of the Tabernacles. Something great and wonderful lies ahead and therefore, we must, if necessary, return to the commitments made by others in the former times, so that we are fully prepared to step ahead and receive the new wine that God wants to pour forth at this time. Just as the Church had

lost almost all that she had received in the first century, within two to three centuries, so also the Pentecostal churches seem to have lost all that they received at the time of the revival. The burden of the Spirit at that time, nearly a hundred years ago, seems to have faded away into oblivion. The Spirit would like to bring us to a new ground of dedication and commitment. May we submit to the burden of the Spirit.

“And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass’s head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove’s dung for five pieces of silver.” (2 Kings 6:25.)

This verse highlights the condition of Israel in a time of famine. Even an ass’s head, which nobody would like to eat, was sold for an exorbitant sum. We know that once the bird has flown out of the cage, all that is left is its dung. The condition of the churches today is no better than the situation that prevailed in Israel then. Unfortunately, many people do not see the Church in such a pathetic and dilapidated condition. But, if we are amongst those who are committed to the vision of the glorious Church and to the move of the Spirit, we will know for sure that the dove has flown away, and all that is left is its remains. After the lordship of the Holy Spirit has moved out of the churches today, all that is left is the remains. Many are feeding on the remains rather than on the real work of the Holy Spirit. May God burden our hearts to see the true state of the Church in this age. Let our prayer be to experience the flapping of the Dove’s wings as it surges forward and upward towards the final destination.

Beloved people of God, our gatherings will have to be different in the coming days. We need to really discern the burden of the Spirit. The Lord has commissioned the Holy Spirit to bring the Church into her fullness. God must bring us to a ground where we will not be satisfied until the Spirit is pleased. When we gather together to worship the Lord we still see the flesh, with all its weaknesses, manifesting itself. We therefore need to 'press on' to God's best that is what is needful. Then we will experience a change. We need to take victory over the desires of the flesh. We need to be on the side of the Holy Spirit in order to see God working in a new way in our midst. The Lord would like to bring us to a new ground of dedication and commitment in the Lord. Therefore, let us not grieve the Spirit any more. But let us stand with the Spirit; let His battle be our battle.

History shows that after some time, the Pentecostal movement began to die down. The next generation had no idea of the former glory and experience of the Spirit. One of the ironies of Church history is that the persecuted invariably become the persecutors. When the Lord Jesus came, the Jews persecuted Him. The Jews also persecuted the Christians. The devout Catholics persecuted the Lutherans. Again and again, the history of the Church has proven that the persecuted became the persecutors. The Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Episcopal persecuted the Anabaptists and the 'holiness' group of people. And the 'holiness' people, in their time, also persecuted the Pentecostals. This is what Church history maintains: those who were persecuted at one time became the persecutors of those who followed after.

Though the Pentecostal fire began to die down after some time and got organised in the hands of man in a few years, there were several people, in different places, who began to experience a hunger and a thirst for the move of the Spirit in a new way. They began to hunger and thirst for more of the presence of God. They were stirred in an unusual way when they read chapter six through chapter ten of the book of Hosea, and the book of Joel. They began to see God's promise to move in their midst in a mighty way. This resulted in what is known as the latter rain movement in the earth.

One of the writers, describing this movement in 1948, writes,

"It was as in the beginning. God came forth in answer to prayer and fasting of His children. God poured out the gifts of the Holy Spirit and revealed the fact that now, at this time, He would bring His Body together and make of His Church a glorious Church, without spot and wrinkle. It was a day long treasured up in the counsels of God. On Feb 12 and Feb 13, 1948 the revival started and on the 14th a breakthrough came."

An eye witness account renders,

"Three buildings in the airport area at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, comprising of Sharon orphanage and schools witnessed a beginning in the fall of 1947. About 70 students gathered to study the Word of God and to fast and pray."

It is noticeable that in the Pentecostal and the latter rain movements of the Holy Spirit, there was no mention of men of stature

and prominence. One notices the absence of specific names. This is because the emphasis was on God and a company of people rather than on any individual person, as it had been in the centuries past. Another thing that the Spirit has brought to my mind, is that both these movements began with students; there was a nucleus of students who first hungered and thirsted for the move of the Spirit; there were no great names associated with the beginning of these movement; no great men of God came up front. Instead, humble ministries together with hungry students were the first to experience the stirrings of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has many wonderful ways of doing things. When I began to meditate about these things the Holy Spirit began to deposit some convictions in my inner man. In the classes at our Bible Institute we found such a tremendous working of the Spirit. I asked the Lord why there was such a difference between the ministrations of the Spirit on our regular Sunday worship meetings, and the classes we have during the week days. I am sure that we have begun to experience a move of the Spirit in a small measure. We began to experience the Spirit urging young brothers to share with great conviction and zest. My prayer was, *“Lord, let your Spirit take us on; let nothing grieve You.”* There is something in the coming together of humble and hungry ones to study the Word.

The author says that it took a few months for them to come to a stage of breakthrough. Suddenly God began to move in their midst. The eyewitness continues to recount,

“After about three months the revival suddenly broke out in our classroom, where the student body was gathered for devotional exercises. One young man told me that

when he was five years old, God gave him a vision of the classroom. Everything in the vision was identical. He saw God moving in a way he could not understand...I shall never forget the morning in which God began to move in our midst in a strange manner. Some students were under the power of God on the floor. The anointing deepened until the awe of God was upon everyone. The Lord spoke to one of the brethren, "Go and lay hands upon one of the brothers and pray for him." While he was in doubt, one of the sisters, who was under the power of God, went to that brother saying the same words and naming the identical students he was to pray for. Then he went in obedience and a revelation was given concerning the students life and future ministry. After this a long prophesy was given with minute details concerning the great thing that God was about to do."

This is the prophesy. Let it stir your spirit.

"These are the last days, My people. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. And I shall move in the midst of My own. The gifts of the Spirit shall be restored to My Church. If thou obey Me I shall immediately restore them. I shall indicate from time to time those who are ready to receive My gifts of the Spirit. They shall be received by prophesy and the laying on of hands of the presbytery. But O My people, I will have you to reverend before Me as never before. Take the shoes off thy feet for the ground on which thou standest is holy. If thou does not revere the

Lord in His house, the Lord will require it at thy hands. Do not speak lightly of the things I am about to do. For the Lord shall not hold thee guiltless. Do not gossip about these things. Do not write letters to thy nearest friends of the new way in which the Lord moveth for they will not understand. If thou dost disobey the Lord in these things take heed, lest thy days be numbered in sorrow and thou goest early to the grave. Thou hast obeyed Me and I shall restore My gifts to you. I shall indicate from time to time those who are ready to receive the gifts of My Spirit. They shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

Beloved, restoration is not a plaything. There was a strong word of prophesy; there was awe and reverence in the presence of the Lord. They all gathered together with single-minded purpose, desiring to seek the mind of the Lord.

"Immediately following this prophesy, a sister, who was under the power of God, gave by revelation the names of five students who were ready to receive."

At the beginning of the twentieth century, at the time of the Pentecostal movement, it was only the baptism of the Spirit and the tongues that were much in evidence; other gifts of the Spirit were not in much operation yet. But in the movement of 1948, the gifts of the Spirit were also brought into operation.

It is to be noted that when the people gathered together in those exciting days, for, what turned out to be continuous meetings,

it was not only men but also women who joined them with all eagerness and hunger. They had children to care for, some had jobs to consider, but they sought the Lord in all earnestness. Nothing else seemed to matter than the move and power of the Spirit.

"...but after a few days of searching in the Word, to see if we were on Scriptural grounds, unity prevailed amongst us and the Lord came forth in greater power and glory day by day. Day after day the glory of God came upon



“Though men are moved to look for the spectacular, God continues to move silently, below all the noise, in the hearts of His people.”

us. Great repentance, humbling, fasting and prayer prevailed. Though men are moved to look for the spectacular, God continues to move silently, below all the noise, in the hearts of His people. The place that God chose to start this restoration of the truth is only significant in as much as it is the most unlikely of places. No man would have chosen either the town or the school or the students or the ministers through whom God restored His blessings. But all that is most consistent with God's ways, He chooses what man rejects..."



God invariably chooses a

place that man would never choose! God chooses that which man rejects. We know that Bethlehem was the least esteemed of places; the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. Nazareth was the most contemptible of places in the eyes of men. The Roman cross was an instrument of torture. One Roman politician mentioned that the Roman cross was so cruel that it should never be mentioned in decent conversation. Yet it was upon a Roman cross that God displayed His infinite wisdom, even the crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is the way the Latter Rain Revival began in North Battleford in 1948. In that movement of restoration, God began to restore many other precious things. One of the important things that God restored at this time was the precious truth of the laying on of hands. Other things that were restored to the Church at this time were -

- Power over the demonic or evil spirits,
- The five fold ministries,
- The Body of Christ,
- Singing praise songs and spiritual songs,
- Praising and dancing before the Lord.

The Church is now moving forward and towards the destination that God has for His Church. The Stone in the book

of *Daniel* is rolling towards its destination and it will finally smash that image. The Stone is a picture of Christ and His Church.

The revival and restoration in the times of Martin Luther ended with the Church becoming a denomination. Taking an analogy from the books of *Exodus* and *Numbers*, the Church went through the Red Sea in Martin Luther's time. The Anabaptist revival that followed, also ended in becoming a denomination. Then the children of Israel came to a place called Marah, which stands for a place of divine healing. The revival in the times of AB Simpson was analogous to the healing water of Marah. Then the Israelites moved forward and came to Mount Sinai, which is a picture of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This corresponds to the revival in the beginning of the twentieth century, called the Pentecostal Revival. It was at Mt Sinai that God called Moses to come up to the mount where God gave him a revelation of the tabernacle of God. Among the things that were given at Mt Sinai were, the constitution of the twelve tribes, their dwelling, their places around the tabernacle, and their responsibilities or duties. This is nothing but a picture of the New Covenant Latter Rain revival of the nineteen forties, when the revelation of the body of Christ, the five-fold ministries etc. were revealed.

Beloved, the Church is moving on. But she has not entered into her fullness yet; she has not yet entered the land of Canaan. The trumpet is sounding again. The Church has not entered into her place in God. She must come to the river Jordan and enter the land. They are not only to cross Jordan and inherit the land, but they are to

reign in the land. This is our destiny in the Lord. May God help us. Beloved, let our spirits be stirred up by these accounts of the history of the Church. Let our inner man be stirred up to bring us into another restorative move of God that will take us on to new heights in God. *Hallelujah!*





MOVING BEYOND PENTECOST

Passover?...
Pentecost?...
Tabernacles?



The Lord restored several truths to the Church during the twentieth century, such as the truth concerning the Body of Christ, the five- fold ministries, the gifts of the Spirit, praise and worship etc. We thank the Lord for the Spirit of God, who is opening our eyes and stirring our hearts to see how God has been restoring these truths in the Church. But there is no time for complacency. Let us recall that the Israelites had reached the very borders of Canaan, the Promise-Land. Yet they did not enter Canaan; they stopped short of Canaan and remained in the wilderness for forty long years! They were to cross Jordan and move on but they failed to do so. Today, God's people in this generation, stand at the very entrance to the spiritual land of Canaan. It seems that all is set for the Church to advance forward, cross the borders and enter into the Promise-Land. Therefore God's people need to hear the trumpet call again and, having heard it, to move on in His purposes. There is a great need for all of us to really know and understand what God has purposed for His Church, in His Son. We wish to share God's move of restoration from another angle, which will help to broaden our horizon and establish the truth in our hearts.

The feasts of Israel in the Old Testament are symbolic and prophetic of New Testament spiritual experiences. The three major

feasts of Israel were the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles. Firstly, these feasts are prophetic. Secondly, they talk of progressive spiritual experiences in an individual and in the Church, involving the continual appropriation of the life of Christ into our beings. Being prophetic these feasts have corresponding times of fulfilment that took place firstly, in Jesus Christ, secondly, in the Church, and thirdly, in the believer's experience. So far, there has been only a partial fulfilment of the feasts in the Church historically, and in the believer experientially. There remains much to be appropriated by the Church and by the majority of believers. May the Holy Spirit help each one of us as we pursue this study further.

The Feast of Passover was to be held in the first month of the year. It was established in connection with the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. They experienced the reality of the Feast of Passover in their individual lives when they were saved by the blood of the lamb that was applied to the door posts of their houses. Israel as a nation experienced the Passover when they were finally delivered from bondage in Egypt. For Israel it was A NEW BEGINNING (*Exodus 12:2*); it was a time of birthing, when, as a nation, they were thrust forth from the Egyptian womb of bondage and captivity. The blood of the lamb was the means of their salvation. The Gospel says, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." (*John 1:29*).

In the New Testament, believers in the early Church experienced the Feast of Passover when they believed in the sacrifice

of the Lord Jesus Christ. Individuals experienced deliverance when they confessed Christ. The book of *Acts* gives an account of many Passovers in the lives of individuals. The four Gospels in the New Testament tell us of the Lamb of God who was slain so that people might be delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan. We know that whoever applies the precious blood of the Lamb by faith will be delivered and will experience Passover in his personal life. Thus we see that the feast of Passover was prophetic of an experience in the life of the believer in the age of grace. Historically, the Church fulfils the Passover by proclaiming and participating in the Gospel of Salvation, which is the Gospel of Grace. When any church proclaims Christ and His righteousness, and when the blood of the Lamb is applied on the lives of believers, the Church is said to fulfil the Passover. When justification by faith is preached and when grace apart from works is offered to the believer, the Passover is fulfilled. Every genuine evangelistic effort that brings souls into God's kingdom on the basis of Christ's atoning work, represents a fulfilment of the Old Testament's Feast of Passover. So, for a believer receiving Christ as the Lamb of God, is but the beginning of one's experience in God. It is a foundational experience for a believer. New birth is the beginning of the New Covenant relationship. A believer must not stop at the experience of the Passover in his life, but move on to other feasts. There is much more to follow. May we be amongst those who do not settle down after making a good beginning in our lives. May we rather use this experience to launch out with a view to experience other feasts in our lives and use them as launching points to appropriate the fullness of God's purposes.

If the Passover feast holds something essential for us in the age of grace, then it follows that the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles are also indicative of some important spiritual experiences. The second major feast is the **Feast of Weeks or Pentecost**. This occurred at a separate point of time after the Passover and was different and distinct from the preceding feast. After crossing the Red Sea and being led by the Pillar of fire the Israelites were brought to the foot of Mt. Sinai on the first day of the third month. At Sinai the Lord spoke to Moses to tell Israel to sanctify themselves on the third day. Then Moses went up again to the mount on that day, and it was on this day, the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. Here, at Mt Sinai, the Lord spoke of the Law, the Aaronic priesthood, the sacrificial system, and provided the design for the construction of the Tabernacle of the Lord.. Here the nation was established as “the Church in the wilderness” (*Acts 7:38*). The Jews looked upon the Feast of Pentecost as a commemoration of the law. A detailed description of the Feast of weeks or Pentecost is found in Leviticus chapter 23, verses 15 to 21. Verses 15 and 16 reveal that the Israelites were to carefully count the days from the day that they brought the sheaf of the wave offering till the completion of seven Sabbaths i.e. 49 (7 x 7) days. The day after the seventh Sabbath was the fiftieth day. The Greek word for Pentecost simply means ‘fiftieth’. As the Israelites left Egypt on the 15th day of the first month, which is called Abib or Nisan, the fiftieth day fell in the month of Sivan, as shown below:

First month Nisan	15 days
Second month, Zif	30 days
Third month, Sivan	4 days
Total	49 days (or 7 weeks)

The Gospel of Matthew says that the Lord Jesus came to fulfil all the intricate details of the Law (*Matthew* 5: 17-18; 11:13) The book of *Acts* shows that this period of 50 days from the Passover to the Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled absolutely. After Christ's resurrection on the third day, His disciples saw Him and spoke to Him. The Lord spoke to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God for forty days. At the end of the forty days, He ascended to the Father. The disciples tarried in Jerusalem in the upper room for ten days and "when the day of Pentecost was fully come" the Holy Spirit was poured out on the believing and waiting disciples. Thus we have:

Post-resurrection ministry of Jesus	40 days
Tarrying of the disciples	10 days
	50 days

Just as Israel experienced the promulgation of the Law at Mt. Sinai, fifty days after the Passover, so the disciples experienced the advent of the Holy Spirit to write His laws upon the tablets of human hearts, fifty days after the spiritual and eternal Passover.

Again, as the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the waving of the sheaf offering, so the Holy Spirit was poured out on the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Christ Jesus. This was truly a remarkable fulfilment of the Feast of the Fiftieth Day in the third month! The disciples who had been apprehended three and half years earlier, who were cleansed and instructed at the Master's feet, were now partakers of another experience. The God of Israel was commemorating the Feast of Weeks in a fashion never before seen or imagined. Exactly fifty days from the day of Jesus' resurrection these 'unlearned and ignorant' persons heard a sound from heaven as of a mighty, rushing wind and became immersed in an outpouring of power (*Acts* 2: 1-4). The same Creator who had breathed the breath of life into His first Adam, was now breathing life and power into another man. This was a corporate man which was to become the Church, the very Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. This small band of empowered witnesses spoke with great boldness, wrought signs and wonders, and gave potent testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On that very day of Pentecost, many of the Jews who heard Peter's powerful message were pricked in their heart and asked "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And the answer was, "Repent and be baptized (in water) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The book of *Acts* gives us a clear picture of this experience at different places.

It is necessary to mention that the Feast of Weeks was often referred to as a Feast of the Firstfruits. *Exodus* 34:22 uses the phrase, 'firstfruits of wheat harvest'. This indicates that a greater

harvest would follow! Likewise, in the New Testament fulfilment of the Feast of Weeks, the impartation of the Holy Spirit is referred to as the 'earnest' of our inheritance. (*Ephesians* 1:14). The term 'earnest' means a pledge of more to come, or a deposit against a full portion to be given later. Contrary to the belief of many, baptism in the Holy Spirit DOES NOT signify the fullness of the life of God, made available to the believer. Nor does it represent the climax of experience available to the Church. It is a means, rather than an end.

We have now seen that the Old Testament Feast of Pentecost, like the Passover, was prophetic in nature. It has its corresponding New Testament fulfilment, both in the Church historically and in the believer experientially. The Feast of Passover and the Feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament were not synonymous, and neither are the corresponding experiences in the New Testament order synonymous. Salvation is a beginning in the life of Christ. At that stage, the harvest of the life of Christ has yet to be experienced. The Pentecostal experience represents a further incoming of Christ's life in the person of the Holy Spirit. Those who have only experienced a Passover in their life are exhorted to believe God for a genuine Pentecost in their life. May we not, at this juncture, call our revelation complete. May we not submit to any subtle denominational or doctrinal yoke imposed upon us by men of limited knowledge or understanding. Let us rather acknowledge that our revelation and experience are incomplete, and let us pray that the 'spirit of wisdom and revelation' may rest upon us deeper in Him, who is the truth.

We proceed with a deep conviction, that if the first two

major Old Testament feasts were prophetic of New Testament experiences, the third one is also so. We come now to the third and final and most glorious Feast of the Lord, namely the **Feast of Tabernacles**. It is a Feast about which the people of God seem to know or understand very little. We proceed with fear and trembling, for we feel we have only a small measure of insight and revelation. Yet, we offer what we have from the hands of the Master that it may feed, challenge and inspire. Much more will follow as we hold these truths before Him and allow Him to speak further in our lives. May the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth.

There are some important and very enlightening truths that we shall see in the succeeding paragraphs. The Apostle Paul says that many of the things that happened to Israel were as types and examples to the New Testament Church. (*I Corinthians* 10: 6,11). The natural Israel, the Israel of old, experienced the Feast of Passover in Egypt and appreciated a mighty deliverance from it. At Mt. Sinai, the nation experienced the Feast of Pentecost in the third month. God's intention was then to bring Israel into the land of Canaan, where they would enter into the third and final Feast and partake of the fruit of the land. In Egypt they knew Passover; at Mt. Sinai they knew Pentecost. But only in Canaan land could they know and enjoy Tabernacles. The great tragedy is seen when the nation came to Kadesh-Barnea. 'Kadesh' means 'holy' or 'holiness', and 'Barnea' means 'an inconsistent or fickle son'. It was at Kadesh Barnea that they rejected the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In rejecting the land of Canaan they also rejected the greatest Feast, the Feast of Tabernacles (*Numbers* 13 & 14). For forty years God allowed

them to wander in the wilderness until that entire generation perished. Only Joshua and Caleb lived to enter into the land of Canaan with the new generation. Their national sin was one of unbelief. (*Hebrews* 3 and 4). Evidently the new generation, after crossing the Jordan, kept the Feasts of the Lord: they experienced Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Please carefully read *Joshua* 5:10 to 12 with *Leviticus* 23:9 to 14; *Nehemiah* 8:1 to 18 and *Ezra* 6:19 to 22; 3:1 to 6. Carefully.



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Alfred Edersheim



Joshua and Caleb, as overcomers, also enjoyed the Feasts of the Lord in Canaan land, at the end of the forty years of wanderings in the wilderness. They had another spirit and wholly followed the Lord.

Beloved, the Old Testament scene may be superimposed upon the history of the New Testament Church in a remarkable correspondence. The historical accounts of the New Testament show the fulfilment of the first two Feasts. The four Gospels show Christ as the historical fulfilment of the Feast of Passover. The book of *Acts* shows markedly the historical fulfilment of the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost, in the Church. But where, in the history of the Church, can one find the fulfilment of the third and final feast, the Feast of Tabernacles? This is one remaining Feast of Prophecy, the

Feast that has remained unfulfilled in the Church. Concerning this Feast, Alfred Edersheim, in his excellent book *'The Temple: Its Ministry and Services'*; notes at page 287, "... the fact remains that the Feast of tabernacles is the one and only type in the Old Testament which has not yet been fulfilled."

The New Testament Church follows the pattern of the Old Testament Church. The Bible says, 'first the natural, then the spiritual'; so also, first the shadow, then the substance. As natural Israel wandered for forty years after Passover and Pentecost, and failed to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in Canaan through unbelief, so spiritual Israel, the Church, has followed suit. The Church has been wandering, so to speak, through its history in absolute unbelief of God's promises. Generation after generation has passed away, dying in the wilderness, never experiencing the third Feast of the Lord. However, there must be and there will be a new generation that will arise to enter into the Covenant promises of God and experience all the three Feasts of the Lord. It is not that this third Feast has not been dealt with in the New Testament. The burden of the writer of the book of *Hebrews* has been that they march on to the third Feast. The book of *Revelation* also speaks much about the third Feast. However, the Lord has kept this Feast for the end-time generation that will fully believe Him and enter into His promises. The nation of Israel wandered for forty years; the Church has been wandering for approximately forty jubilees (i.e, $40 \times 50 = 2000$ years). Praise God, the wilderness wanderings are coming to an end. A new generation is arising, they are experiencing Christ as their Passover. They are keeping the Feast of Pentecost in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

They will not stop there but they will move on and experience the Feast of Tabernacles and the truths symbolised therein Hallelujah! No one who has this understanding will ever call himself a Pentecostal believer!. Let us illustrate this truth;

Natural Israel (Historical fulfilment)

PASSOVER 1 ST MONTH	PENTECOST 3 RD MONTH	WILDERNESS WANDERINGS 40 YEARS	TABERNACLES 7 TH MONTH
EGYPT	SINAI	WILDERNESS	CANAAN

PASSOVER 1 ST MONTH	PENTECOST 3 RD MONTH	WILDERNESS WANDERINGS 40 YEARS	TABERNACLES 7 TH MONTH
GOSPELS	ACTS	CHURCH HISTORY	HEBREWS/ REVELATIONS

In 1 Kings chapter 12, we have an interesting account of the division of the united kingdom of Israel into two kingdoms, namely the Kingdom of the House of Judah and the kingdom of the House of Israel. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, took the throne over the House of Judah, consisting of two tribes, plus the priestly tribe of Levi. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat and servant of Solomon, took the

throne over the House of Israel, consisting of the remaining ten tribes. The Lord permitted this division to take place so that His sovereign purpose would be worked out in the nation (1 Kings 12:1 to 24). We read further from 1 Kings 12:

“And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.” (verse 32).

“So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.” (Verse 33).

Here we see how Jeroboam set up a substitute Feast of Tabernacles, postponing its occurrence to another month. We need to consider a few things from the above verses. Jeroboam, fearing that the kingdom would return to Rehoboam, decided to set up a counterfeit religion. He had two golden calves made, setting them up as gods, just as Aaron had done earlier. One golden calf was set up in Bethel and the other in Dan (1 Kings 12:29). This became a sin unto the people (1 Kings 12:30), and the people began to worship these golden calves just as they did under Aaron (*Exodus* 32). He also set up a house of high places and established his own priesthood who were not of the tribe of Levi. Then to add to his sin, he “ordained a feast in the eighth month, like unto the feast that was in Judah”.

He built an altar and sacrificed to these false gods, on the fifteenth day of the eighth month. The Scripture states that this was "the month which he had devised of his own heart". For his sins, God sent a prophet to bring judgement upon him. However, Jeroboam did not repent but went further into sin.

The lesson that can be learned from this historical account is this: just as Jeroboam had set up a counterfeit feast in place of the actual Feast of Tabernacles, a month after, so also are there many modern-day Jeroboams, following him and doing the very same thing today. The true Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept in Jerusalem in the place where the Lord recorded His Name. It was also to be kept in the seventh month. Evidently Jeroboam reasoned in his heart that the people of Judah would probably accept the postponement and substitution rather than bothering themselves to go to Jerusalem. In this way he believed he would be able to keep the kingdom of Israel from re-uniting with the kingdom of Judah. Jeroboam was a man habituated to have his desires met. He never wanted to do things according to the Word of God. Beloved, there are many Jeroboams today who have set their hearts upon their own desires and doctrines and refuse to go in God's ways. They keep postponing the Feast. Jeroboam had a fear that people might leave him. Some leaders say that they believe this Feast shall be fulfilled, but not in this dispensation. If we tell them and teach that the Feast must be held in the seventh month, they consider us to be false teachers and false prophets! The tragedy is that today many Christian leaders think that this Feast is meant for some other dispensation. They would rather that this Feast be held, not by the Church, but by others,

such as natural Israel. Some would even consent to have a substitute Feast! But by doing this the Church would be denied and robbed the privilege of entering into this glorious Feast of Tabernacles, as intended by God. Notwithstanding what many Christian leaders would do, God will have a people in this day and age who will indeed enter into all the three Feasts of the Lord. God will not allow modern-day Jeroboams and a counterfeit priesthood that exists in today's idolatrous system to prevail.

There is a great burden in my spirit and a desire in my heart, that the people of God, the hungry remnant of God, may even hear the voice of the Lord as they read these pages. We have seen that these feasts are prophetic in nature. Two of the three feasts have already been fulfilled in the Church, as per the prophetic word of the Lord. That means there has been a historical fulfilment of Passover as well as a historical fulfilment of Pentecost. There has also been an experiential fulfilment of both Passover and Pentecost in His Church. Both the feasts have been fulfilled, historically and experientially, in His Church in the past. But so far, there has not been a historical or experiential fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles in the Church.

The early Church, in the first century, came to the very borders of the promised land, in a spiritual sense. But instead of going on with God as, the Church began to go downwards, concerning which we see the burden in the book of *Hebrews*. In previous chapters, and also in the preceding paragraphs, we have seen that after the fourth century, the Church entered into the dark age, spiritually.

During that time, the Church lost possession of the two Feasts which she had experienced earlier. Therefore, if the Church is to go on to the fulfilment of Tabernacles, she must first be restored to the experience of Passover and Pentecost. Praise God, our God is a God of restoration; He will surely bring His Church to a place of possessing all the Glory of the Lord.

We had mentioned earlier that, the Church lost the truth and experience concerning the Feasts by the end of the first century and finally she entered the dark ages of her spiritual life. But God's promise for His Church remained, "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16: 18) His Word says "That he might present unto himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

In the restorative move of God, the Body of Christ, which is the Church, experienced a restoration of the Feast of Passover during the time of Martin Luther, when she was delivered out of the bondage of traditional Catholicism. Similarly, the Church historically experienced a restoration of the Feast of Pentecost in the early years of the last century. God's desire, and the burden of the Holy Spirit now is that the Church may now move on to her destination in Christ, by entering into the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Let me ask you a question: does the Church need to have the Feast of the Tabernacles restored to her? The answer is no, for this Feast has never been fulfilled in the Church, in the first place. It

THE JOURNEY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES

<p>THE HOLY SPIRIT EXHORTS THE CHURCH TO EXPERIENCE THE FULFILMENT OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>PENTECOST RESTORED (EXPERIENCED IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE CENTURY)</p>	<p>20TH CENTURY</p>
<p>PASSOVER RESTORED (DELIVERED FROM SIN AND BONDAGE DURING MARTIN LUTHER'S TIME)</p>	<p>16TH CENTURY</p>
<p>ENTERS THE DARK AGE (LANGUSHIED IN BONDAGE AND BARRENESS FOR 1000 YEARS)</p>	<p>3RD CENTURY</p>
<p>THE DECLINE OF THE CHURCH</p>	<p>1ST CENTURY</p>
<p>EXHORTED TO MOVE ON TO EXPERIENCE TABERNACLES</p>	
<p>EXPERIENCED PASSOVER AND PENTECOST</p>	
<p>BIRTHED IN THE NEW COVENANT</p>	<p>THE BEGINNING</p>
<p>THE CHURCH IN ETERNITY</p>	

is not possible to restore that which has never been experienced or fulfilled. The Church has lost the experiences of the Feasts of Passover and Pentecost when she declined and entered the dark age. Hence, these Feasts had to be restored back to the Church, so that she might move on towards the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles. As the Feast of Tabernacles has never been fulfilled in the Church experientially till today, where is the question of restoring it to her?. So what we need to day is not a restoration of the Feast of Tabernacle, but a fulfilment of this last and final Feast.

During the days Martin Luther and his companions were persecuted, they could always refer back to the Scriptures and show how the Passover was experienced by the first century Church. He could tell his detractors that the book of *Acts* was proof enough that the Church had experienced the Passover spiritually, but lost it afterwards.. Thus he could emphatically say that God was restoring the truth that had been lost earlier. Yet, they were persecuted and some burnt to death. Similarly, when the Feast of Pentecost was restored at the turn of this century, the men of God could show others, from the Scriptures, how this Feast had been experienced



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by the early Church. They could clearly explain, that God was restoring the Feast of Pentecost, which the Church had lost in the early centuries. They could say that that move of God was not something new but that it was a work of restoration or recovery, of that which the Church had possessed at one time, but lost subsequently. That which the Church had once lost was being restored by God, in His mercy. Still their lives were not spared!

Now, beloved brethren, we are declaring that there is a Feast of Tabernacles that is yet to be fulfilled in the Church and that she will move on till it experiences this Feast in the earth. If people were to ask what this Feast will be like, we have nothing to show from Church history, since it had not been fulfilled in the Church earlier. But just as there are many prophetic expressions in the Old Testament concerning the Feasts of Passover and Pentecost, so also are there many prophetic words about the Feast of Tabernacles. However, we cannot provide any proof from the New Testament to show that the Feast of Tabernacles has to be fulfilled by the Church. Today when one is baptised in the Holy Spirit and speaks in tongues, we can explain and tell people from the Bible that believers in the early Church had experienced the same thing. Even then there are people who do not believe in this experience and even declare that it is not of God. So what shall we do, brethren? Shall we give it up in unbelief? Certainly not! How many of us would like to experience this truth now? How many long to move on to the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles? You need to decide these things in your heart; it is going to be a costly decision.

Everyone who moved on with God in the past moves of God in the earth had to pay a heavy price. There is an uncertainty here. Earlier restorations were comparatively less risky, compared to the fulfilment we are looking forward to, because they could show something as proof from the Scriptures. This is why there are many Jeroboams today, who harbour unbelief in their hearts, and say that this Feast will be fulfilled in the eighth month or when we get to Heaven and thus postpone the same. I feel in my spirit that there is a remnant of God that are reaching out to Him in faith for the fulfilment of this prophetic Feast. It is as the Lord spoke to Joshua and the saints "for you have not passed this way heretofore." The Church has never been this way before. Yes, it is very true. But the instruction to Joshua was, ". . .when ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go. . . " (*Joshua* 3: 3-4). We need to keep our eyes upon the Ark, the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise God that this Feast has been fulfilled in His life. The fulfilment of this Feast was prophetic concerning Him, first of all, and then as



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concerning the Church and individual believers too.

A generation is really keeping their eyes glued upon the Ark, the Lord Jesus, and they are maintaining the distance of two thousand cubits (years)! There are true ministries being raised by God today, who are bearing the Ark and proclaiming this truth of moving on beyond Jordan. It is time to get ready, beloved brethren. The Scripture says, "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." (*Joshua 3:5*). This is what the heavenly Joshua is saying to His remnant in the earth today!

Beloved, let him who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. We cannot but declare this truth with all boldness and humility. God's Word is 'sanctify'. The general condition of the Church camp has been one of lightness, casualness, merriment, lukewarmness, and in some extreme cases, spiritual 'rioting and drunkenness'. Standards of righteousness are being eroded by modern theology. Many Church systems are falling prey to an ecumenical spirit, that not only promotes a counterfeit, man-made unity, but demands the acceptance of much false doctrine and spiritual error. The spirit of compromise and carnality, which the world is fostering, is bringing deception to many. An increasing number of Charismatic and Pentecostal ministries are becoming corrupted by a 'show business' format, a spirit of entertainment and the Babylonish defilement of 'greatness'. These realms are characterised by a

'man-centred' point of view, a deceptive, fleshly drive towards 'kingdom' building, the use of mass psychology, and quite often, a shameful exploitation of believers in the realm of finances. In other circles, believers are being taught to meet God in a highly emotional (laughing and rolling on the ground, etc.), undisciplined, soul dimension, often leading to varying forms and degrees of sensuality. 'Uncircumcised strangers' are being brought into the sanctuary of the Lord, to pollute it and to cause the glory of the Lord to lift from among His people. Today's strangers are a subtle mixture of flesh and world, which could easily be mistaken for 'spirit'.

Church history shows how God's people have stopped at either the first Feast or the second Feast. God's people have built their denominations around the various truths of these two Feasts. The sad history of the Church shows that those who experienced Passover truths opposed those who experienced Pentecost truths. And history, repeating itself, shows that those who have experienced Pentecost truths, oppose those who seek to follow on to know God in Tabernacle truths!

Dear brethren, moving beyond Pentecost will require paying a high price, combined with a deep and genuine wave of repentance and cleansing to sweep over God's people, preparing their hearts to meet the Lord in a new way. Every revival has begun with repentance and every ascension to a higher place in God has required a deep heart-searching and heart-cleansing,

being brought low before Him. But how many are willing? Will you move on or stop at Passover?....Pentecost?....Tabernacles?





A MATURE CHURCH

**God's Predestinated Plan
to Perfect the Church!**



God desires and demands a going on and a growing up. The following Scriptures are very emphatic on this divine desire of the Lord.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come." (John 16: 13)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19 to 21)

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" (Ephesians 4:12)

"Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the

doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement, And this will we do , if God permit.” (Hebrews 6:1 to 3)

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord , are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (II Corinthians 3:18)

*“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”
(Hebrews 2:10)*

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14)

“That he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:27)

It is very evident that Christians who make up the body of Christ, the Church, should be growing, increasing and abounding continually. They are to grow from “strength to strength”, “faith to faith”, “glory to glory”, “to follow on to know the Lord”. God’s desire is that His people must continue adding and growing in His grace and knowledge until they are “changed into His same image” and have “grown up into Christ in all things”, “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”. The Lord has desired her to be perfect in purity and maturity that Christ may present her unto Himself a “glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or any

such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish"

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:1-3)

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

Apostle Paul further says that Christ Jesus suffered and died that He might bring "many sons unto glory." (Hebrews 2: 10). The glory referred to here is Christ's image, likeness and manifested glory and power. The Holy Spirit of God has been commissioned to take His people from "glory to glory" until the Church reaches Christ's perfect image, fullness and maturity. This is God's pre-destinated plan. We humans cannot change it. As we read in the book of *Ephesians* and have seen in our first meditation, He has purposed it in eternity and He is working it now after the counsel of His own will.

When an individual soul is 'born again' he or she starts out as a babe in the Church. God's pre-destinated plan is for each individual believer to grow until he or she becomes a fully matured son of God. The spirit in us, or our own spirit, is as pure and clean

as it can ever be when it is cleansed by the blood of Jesus. In other words, we are perfect as new born babes in God's sight. We no longer have a record of a sinful past. Instead, there is a glorious future in Christ, before us. We have an imputed righteousness, which is imputed as soon as we receive Christ into our lives. However, beloved, it requires a process of time for redeemed man to appropriate all the attributes of the divine nature of which we have been made partakers. God's people must be transformed in their thinking, attitudes, character, emotions and will; they must be transformed in all areas of the soul, which includes the mind, emotions and will. Apostle Paul says "who delivered us from so great a death and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us" (II *Corinthians* 1: 10). In other words, the spirit of man has been redeemed, the soul is being redeemed, and the body shall be redeemed. It is a progressive salvation. This is the full salvation, the "so great salvation" which we should not neglect.

When Jesus returns to this earth, He will have a Bride who will be thinking His thoughts, manifesting His majesty, exercising His power and glorifying His name. The Church will be an embodiment of His person; she shall be a replica of His reality and a corporate manifestation of His ministry.

Having shared these precious truths, I would like to take you further into some deeper thoughts. There are many who speak in unbelief and say that the Church cannot come into the realm and dimension of perfect life in the earth. People often say, "*We cannot be perfect*"; they ask, "*How can the Church be perfected?*"; they

say, "It is not possible." May the Lord help you to have a humble heart which is open to His Word.

The Bible commands God's people to be perfect throughout their lives. The Scripture shows that, "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." (*Genesis 17: 1*) Again in *Deuteronomy 18: 13* the Lord says, "Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God." The Lord Jesus instructs, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (*Matthew 5: 48*). The Apostle James exhorts, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (*James 1: 4*). Now, how can this be possible? It implies a life that is pleasing and acceptable to God during each stage of its progressive growth. There are two kinds or two types of perfection - a progressive perfection and an ultimate perfection.

Let me illustrate progressive perfection by taking the example of a normal healthy baby. A one month old baby, is not able to walk or talk, has no



If the normal growth process stops, for some reason, before it reaches maturity, it will never attain full manhood until the hindrance to its growth is corrected.



teeth and spends most of the day lying in bed, drinking milk from a bottle. The baby is perfect for its age; at that stage of its life, it can do no better. We can say so because that is all it is supposed to be and expected to do at that stage of its growth. If it tries to be more than it is capable of being, it would frustrate its spirit, confuse its mind and disrupt its emotional peace and joy. If that baby has no bodily disease and eats, drinks, rests and exercises sufficiently, it will grow to be as big, and strong and capable as any other adult. If the normal growth process stops, for some reason, before it reaches maturity, it will never attain full manhood. Until the hindrance to its growth is corrected. In other words, it will not be able to be progressively perfect. This example could well be applied to us individually and collectively.

Like a new-born babe, the Church was birthed on the day of Pentecost. She began to eat the Word, drink of the Spirit, and exercise in the supernatural, and rest in the confidence of God's power to supply all her needs, according to Christ's riches in glory. The Church continued to grow until her teachers began to feed her poisonous and false doctrines, and took away her diet of the Word and Spirit. They stopped the Church from exercising herself in the supernatural manifestation of God. They allowed her no rest or peace in the promises of God, but encouraged her to try and become good through her own self efforts. They kept her busy in doing external things that purportedly would be acceptable to God. Thus the growth of the Church was hindered for centuries. She retained just enough truth to be able to breath and stay alive all those decades! Around the year 1500 AD, God began initiate times of restoration

and growth in the Church. Since then, the process has been continuing century after century. He is determined to continue the work of restoration by adding to the Church the truth and grace that are so necessary for her to come to maturity and be ultimately perfected as a Bride, ready for proper presentation to the precious Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. All the heavenly hosts in God's vast domain were created to work with Jesus, so that God's eternal purposes may be completed. All of the hosts of Heaven are involved in bringing the Church to her place of ultimate perfection.

It is necessary for us to note here that Satan, and all his evil spirits, have arrayed themselves against God's eternal plan for Jesus and His Church. Lucifer, who is called the devil, is recognised as the god of this present world system by Apostle Paul (*II Corinthians 4: 4*). There are good reasons for that. The Bible indicates that Lucifer was at one time an archangel; but he and one-third of the angels rebelled against the rule of Jehovah God and were cast out of God's holy domain. After his fall, he was cast down upon the earth. All light was removed from him and from the Earth. Lucifer became a dark evil spirit hovering upon the earth and the earth became the dwelling place of gigantic, historic creatures that roamed the rugged, waste lands. The purpose of God's six successive days of creation was to restore the earth and make it a habitable place, fit for man to dwell. God wanted man to rule over all things upon the earth in obedience to His Word. We know of all that happened in the Garden of Eden. One can see several things, in types and shadows, in the Scriptures. In cursing the devil, God, according to all that He had purposed in eternity through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, took

away all the power of the devil and delivered it to the Church. Yet, even today, the devil refuses to acknowledge that he has been defeated; he refuses to relinquish his rulership over the world, and hand it over to the Church. He has maintained his position over the centuries, and restrained the Church, by blindfolding so that she does not attain her rightful position. Satan has been able to continually convince the Church that God does not really mean what He says in His Word. The devil has been able to prevail upon the Church not to believe what Jesus says she can do. He has been able to convince her that she does not possess what God's Word declares she has, through Christ.

Beloved, as long as Satan can find professing preachers and teachers who will work with him, he will keep the Church bound and fettered by the imposition of man-made doctrines, creeds, and dogmas of devils. Do you know that the devil knows that the Church has *"power over all the power of the enemy"*? He knows that *"all things are possible if the Church would believe."* Yes, he knows it very well. Satan fears the Church as he feared the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows that the Church is a giant more powerful than all the devils in Hell put together. That is why he keeps the Church doped and lulled to sleep through the teachings of the perverted and carnal preachers in Christendom all these years; thus the Church remains a sleeping giant! But the Lord has spoken that He will restore her from her backsliding and bring her into her full maturity and purity.

The Lord Jesus Christ and all the heavenly hosts are

committed to bringing the Church to her place in the purposes of God. The angels participated and rejoiced at the birth of Jesus on planet Earth. The death of Jesus upon the cross was the greatest revelation and demonstration ever that the heavenly host had hitherto beheld, concerning God's nature and character of love. There was great rejoicing in Heaven when Jesus arose from the grave, victorious over death, Satan and the hordes in Hell. There was also a great celebration in Heaven, when the Church was birthed. The eternal Heavens, nonetheless, have never witnessed anything like the celebration that is going to take place at the marriage of Jesus and His Bride. It will be a time when the mysteries of the ages will be made known. There will be special displays of God's creative wonders in the vast expanse of His universe. There will be shouting, dancing, singing, praising and rejoicing with joy sublime and beyond compare, as every tear is wiped away from the eyes of the Bride. The ring of unity and authority will be placed on her finger and the crown of life, upon her head, designating her right to eternally reign jointly with her Lord and Bridegroom, Jesus Christ the Lord! The angels do not know the day or hour of this glorious event, but they do know that it is scheduled to happen in the near future. They are not a part of the Bride, but they are her friends and helpers who are ministering spirits that will bring her unto this day of marriage. The Scripture says, "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (*Hebrews 1:13-14*). They know there has never been anything in all history to compare with the coming marriage of the Lamb. All of the heavenly host are excitedly looking forward to that day. They are

doing all in their power to urge the saints on to fulfil all Scripture, attain maturity, and restore all things, so that Jesus can be released from Heaven to receive His Bride unto Himself. Beloved, it is good to know that there is no jealousy or competition among the heavenly host over the fact that fallen humanity has been chosen of God to be the Bride of the Lamb through His own shed blood. There is no resentment in the heavens that God has chosen the Church to sit with Jesus upon His Father's throne to rule and reign with Him. They wilfully and joyfully work with Him in the fulfilling of His purposes.

Saints of God, God had His ultimate purposes in mind when the Church was birthed into this world. Everything He has done and is doing in the Church is in accordance with a divine foreordained design. As we have considered in our previous meditations, truth is being restored in the right order that Jesus had pre-ordained. And each step of restoration is designed to bring the Church to her last-day ministry. There can be no rapture of the Church before the restoration, for the Scripture says, "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive (retain) until the times of restitution (restoration) of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3: 20 to 21). If the only thing Jesus has left for the Church to receive was a sovereign rapture, with no preparation and participation by the saints in these end-times, then He could have raptured the Church any time during the last 2000 years. The fact is that He has not raptured the Church so far, despite the cries and shouts of the people according to their own desires and after their favourite doctrines. He has not translated the

Church because there is a special work that He wants to accomplish in and through the last generation or the end-time Church.

May I declare to God's people that the Church of God is not in suspended animation, awaiting the restoration of the natural Israel or the fullness of wickedness in the world. The Jews will undoubtedly be restored back to the economy of God, through the blood of the Lamb, as will everyone else. The world's cup of iniquity will undoubtedly become full but that is not what has prolonged the duration of the Church Age. There is a work of preparation and restoration that must be accomplished in the Church before Christ



There can be no
rapture of the
Church until the
restoration of all
things in the
Church.

Jesus can fulfil His ultimate purpose for and through the Church. He must come to His Church in full restoration before He comes for His Church in translation. Every restorational work of the Holy Spirit has been aimed at progressively preparing the Church for this day and hour. The next restoration can only be brought forth through the living generation of the mortal Church (saints alive) in the earth.

Every restorational truth of the Holy Spirit brings greater redemption to the whole man. Every additional truth has enabled the Church to appropriate more of the full redemptive work of



Christ. The Holy Spirit of God, who has been commissioned by the Lord, has been leading the Church into all truth, step by step. The fullness of truth will indubitably bring fullness of life. When the Church reaches her full maturity in the life of Christ, she will come into all that Christ presently is. "...as He is, so are we in this world." (1 *John* 4:17).

The truth runs parallel and correspondent with the ultimate objective, which is to redeem the whole man: spirit, soul and body. Apostle Paul says, "... ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...." (*Ephesians* 1:13, 14). What is the 'purchased possession'? Why is it waiting to be redeemed? What is the guarantee that it will be redeemed? The *physical body* of the saints is the '*purchased possession*' which is still awaiting redemption. The Church has yet to receive it's full inheritance. Our spiritual birth and the baptism of the Holy Spirit we receive, are only the 'earnest' or guarantee of our inheritance.

In our previous meditations we have seen that every truth that has been restored to the Church has brought new meaning to the Scriptures. Each period of restoration took a group of Scriptures, that religious men had placed in the mythical, allegorical, spiritual and futuristic category, and made them a workable reality in the life of man. Jesus inspired the writing of the Scriptures, not to give man a set of idealistic philosophies and platitudes to be eulogised by great religious leaders, but to give mankind truths, living principles and promises which will work in meeting every need of humanity.

Every Scripture which has been put off for the future will be fulfilled in the literal! Each movement or restoration did just that in past revivals. During the Dark Ages most of the Scriptural blessings we now enjoy, were kept from the Christians by religious leaders who spiritualised them into some ethereal realm or postponed them to some future age.

All the doctrines concealed in the Feasts of Israel relate to the Church; they will be fulfilled **in, by, and through** her, the Church. An act of faith and obedience helped the Church to receive the benefit of truth in the Feasts of Passover and Pentecost. For example, Jesus Christ died on the cross to provide salvation for all humanity. But one does not receive it by being part of the human race. Eternal life is the sovereign gift of God. An individual cannot give himself eternal life. Neither can God give it, unless that person believes in Jesus Christ and receives Him into his life. In like manner there are strong Scriptural indications that the Church will be brought to translating faith in preparation for the immortalisation and glorification of the Church in fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Paul E. Billheimer writes in his book *“Don’t Waste Your Sorrows”*,

“This means that all hindrance to the believer’s deliverance clear up to total glorification is on the human side. One man, Enoch, proved, verified and confirmed this principle by appropriating faith for glorification. (*Genesis 5: 24; Hebrews 11: 5*) Enoch’s experience proves that there is a legal basis for full deliverance in this life from every result

of the Fall for every child of God.” (p. 103)

The Scripture tells us that Enoch had a testimony that he pleased God and walked with Him. The New Testament informs that Enoch had a revelation of Christ coming with His saints (*Jude* 14, 15). He evidently understood that the saints would be translated. He received a word from the Lord. Enoch laid hold of that Word and applied it to himself. *Hebrews* 11: 5 states that “By **faith** Enoch was **translated** that he should not see **death**.” Enoch is a type of the last generation of the corporate Body of Christ who shall come to its full glory and be translated and not see death.

Theologians and preachers have applied many Scriptures to man’s spirit and soul, for so many years. We do not have time and space to make a mention of all the verses and explain them. But just as experiences such as, being born again, healing for the body, speaking in other tongues and many other truths, have been brought out of the ethereal realm and made into living realities in the lives of the saints, so also shall these Scriptures on life, death and immortality be applied to the whole man, including his body. The hour is coming closer. The Holy Spirit is causing a cry to arise within the hearts of the saints for their full sonship, full rights, full redemption and all their inheritance.

The Apostle Paul says in *Romans* 8:23:

“...but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” (NIV)

“We wait for that redemption of our bodies which will

mean that at last we have realized our full sonship in Him." (J. B. Phillips)

"We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as His children including the new bodies He has promised us – bodies that will never be sick again and will never die." (Living Bible)

We read in the book of *Hebrews*, "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time not to bear sin, but to *bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him*" (*Hebrews* 9: 27, 29 NIV). The word 'salvation' is an all inclusive salvation of the spirit, soul and body. (The author has written a book titled, *The Three Appearances of Jesus Christ*, which is a study based on this verse). These appearances are only unto those who are *waiting for Him* and not for every one. As we read in this Scripture, 'it is appointed unto man once to die,' but the prophetic word declares that there will a generation that praises the Lord. They shall dwell in Mt. Zion and they shall break the appointment with



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death, "to loose those that are appointed to death". (*Psalms* 102: 20).

Beloved, we are the present generation of the Church. If you have caught the vision and your heart has felt the thrill, to the call of the Master, and your heart has said, "*I will get ready for the conflict of the ages.*", surely, the fury of the enemy will be upon us. This is the cry the Holy Spirit would like to place within the heart of every hungry soul in this generation. I have never been a part of any move of the Holy Spirit to restore a truth and I am sure most of you haven't either. But I would say, "*get ready and get excited in your spirit!*" There is another restoration truth coming to the Church which will bring us into full maturity. But be assured that it will be the same among Christendom today, as it was when Israel was challenged to go in and possess their promised possessions. Twelve spies went into the land of Canaan; they all saw the same bountifulness and fruitfulness in the land, of which God had told them aforetime. But ten of them were overwhelmed with the giants and walled cities and fortified areas. Among them Joshua and Caleb also saw the impossibilities in the natural, but only they believed God's promise and said, "...we are well able to overcome it." The ten unbelieving spies said, "We be not able..." (*Numbers* 13: 30, 31)

I could prophetically say that there are two camps in Christendom today – the camp of the "Ables" and the camp of

the “Not Ables”. The present challenge of the Holy Spirit to the Church will sound just as unreasonable, irrational, impossible and ridiculous to the majority of present day ministers, as it did to the ten natural, humanistic-minded spies. If this Old Testament type is to hold true at the present in percentages, it



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means that for every two ministers who are preaching this precious truth, there will be ten against it! We read in the book of Numbers, that all the children of Israel believed the majority, the ten spies who said, “We are not able!” In the Scripture we see that often the majority is on the wrong! God is not looking for a multitude but for a remnant people who are willing to cross their ‘Jordan of death to the self’, and arise in new ‘*resurrection life*’ to go in and possess their promised possessions, in these end times. In which camp are you today - the camp of the “Ables” or “Not Ables”? Will you be a part of that remnant who will cross the ‘Jordan of death to the self’, arise in resurrection life and possess the land? Beloved, hear the cry of the Holy Spirit to this generation, you who are a part

of it! And you, who have never been a part of a restorational truth and move of God, get ready!





THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

**Is the Church drifting or is
she being divinely
directed? Will this decade
of the Church see the
restoration of all things?**



In the previous chapters, we have covered several aspects concerning the birth, the deterioration and the restoration of God's predestined plan to bring the Church to her maturity. This has given us a foundational understanding of the evolution of the Church. Now, something in the manner of the light, Lord would now like to illumine our hearts about the future of His Church. Though we do not have many details, yet if we keep our hearts open to the Holy Spirit of God, we shall surely catch a glimpse of what the Lord has in mind for His Church. There is little doubt that the time has now come for the Church to advance towards her final destination.

It is exciting and fascinating to study the future ministry of the Church. It is interesting to speculate about the chronological order of events that are to take place in the last days and at the consummation of the ages. However, it is much more important to know what it takes to be a part of that end-time ministry of the Church. Jesus only shows us the future and what it holds, in order for us to make proper preparations. This is what we read in the Scriptures, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (*Hebrews 12:2*)

Our Lord gives us glimpses into the eternal ministry of the Church, to not only satisfy our curiosity, but also to excite and encourage us to “....press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (*Philippians* 3:14). It will be worth all the suffering of the flesh, self denial, separation from the world, death to self and conformity to Christ when we receive our ‘overcomer’s reward’. The Scripture says, “If we suffer , we shall also reign with him:” (*II Timothy* 2:12). “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (*Romans* 8:17).

The Lord brings to our knowledge that we have an ‘eternal reign’ with Him, so that we may be able to willingly suffer with Him while in this mortal, human flesh. He always keeps the view of the future before His people. This is His eternal principle. When the Lord called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees, the Holy Spirit records, “And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia before he dwelt in Charran, And said unto him Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.” (*Acts* 7:2-3). When the Lord spoke to Moses, He said “ ... I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of the land unto a good land and a large , unto a land flowing with milk and honey;...” (*Exodus* 3:8). The vision and the thought of this good land and a large land flowing with milk and honey was to excite and encourage the Israelites to go through the sufferings, which would befall them, on their way to the land.

Similarly, the Lord has given us glimpses into the future of the Church in order to excite and encourage each one of us. These visions of the future, and the truths that have been restored to the Church in the past, need to be incorporated into our lives. Every child of God needs to make sure that he or she, personally experiences all the spiritual truths that have already been restored to the Church. Then alone, will we be people, who have been properly prepared, to enter into the next spiritual experience that the Lord has designed for His Church. It is very important to make sure that one has more than a mere intellectual knowledge of the doctrines of Christ, which have already been restored to the Church.

I would like to place some questions before you. May the Lord help you to answer these questions, to yourself, sincerely.

Did God know that the mortal Church would still be alive and active in the 2000s?

Did God make plans and provisions for this generation of the Church? Is the Church drifting or is she being divinely directed? Is this the day that the Lord has made?

Is this generation destined to experientially restore the last truth and thereby bring about the close of the "Period of the great Restoration"?

Will this decade of the Church see the "restoration of all things"?

Will the generation of the Church alive today, be responsible for fulfilling the last Scriptures ordained to be fulfilled, thus releasing Jesus from the Heavens to return for His Bride?

Beloved, God had an ultimate purpose for the Church in mind, when He birthed her into this world. The purpose was foretold so that it may be fulfilled. Everything historic and spiritual in the Church has been done and is being done by Divine design. The truth is being restored in the chronological order that Jesus has pre-ordained. Every step of restoration shall bring the Church closer to its last-day ministry. Any attempt to put an exact date to the next move of God, would be foolish, speculative, immature and presumptuous; none can say the exact date and hour of the next move of God with any surety. Yet, saints of God, there is an expectation and conviction in the hearts of the hungry-in-the-earth, today, that these things will take place soon. We are living in the seasons of His refreshing.

In these days, the Lord would like to bring the Church into, what may be called, the truth of the 'glorification of the Church'. Christ will come and be glorified in His mortal saints in one of the greater workings and moves of God in the earth very shortly. The Church will be brought into a place of glorification. Now, this is what this major move of God will be like: the Scripture says, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (*Romans 8:17*); "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." (*2 Thessalonians 1:10*)

The glorification of the Church will involve many workings within. As we have said before, at this stage, we cannot provide a clear picture or give any explicit details of what exactly is going to

take place. The Holy Spirit of God alone can give us the details as we continue to move on. But the Holy Spirit of God would definitely like to give us some glimpses and insights. One thing is very clear: the next move of God for the Church lies in the realm of glorification. The Church will demonstrate all the attributes of the Kingdom of God to the world before the establishment of the literal Kingdom of God. Many of the Scriptures which people have put off to the Millennium will be fulfilled in the end-time Church. Christ shall be glorified in His mortal saints in the full splendour of His power.

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9)

“But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Numbers 14:21)

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14)

In these verses, the term, ‘glory of the Lord’, implies the expression, the manifestation, the demonstration and the personification of the invisible God. Jesus was the embodiment of Jehovah. The Church is the extension and personification of the Lord Jesus Christ (magnification, glorification and exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ). The Church is His ‘glory’. He shall cause the Church to cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea. In *I Corinthians 11:7* Apostle Paul says, “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the

glory of the man." This Scripture can be inferred as "*forasmuch as He (Jesus) is the image and glory of God; but the woman (Church) is the glory of the man (Jesus).*" May the Lord open your eyes to see this truth.

There are steps to this realm of glorification, and one of the primary steps is the restoration of 'High Praises and Worship unto the Lord.' The Lord wants to take us into a very significant step in the realm of glorification. He wants to take us into a new ground in praise and worship; He wants us to enter a realm of worship, which the Church has never moved into, in the past. As we read in *Psalms* 102:18, this shall be for a generation that shall be created and raised up in this hour. Ours is this generation. It is a generation that shall ascend in the realm of praising the Lord. May God help us to understand this. That is why in the days to come, our gatherings will need to be different. Don't look at your watch and come to worship. We are not here to have some kind of 'good' church service. The time is coming when God will cause us to enter into a realm in worship, from where we shall not be able to withdraw. Do you know what happened in chapter 13 of the book of *Acts*, when the saints gathered together to worship? "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said..." (verse 2). The Scripture does not say, "As they fasted and ministered to the Lord, the Holy Ghost said...". The Scripture conveys a different meaning here. When the believers entered into real worship unto the Lord, perhaps it was time to disperse for lunch, but they forsook it and continued to worship the Lord. When dinner time came, they again overlooked it. In this manner, they continued in worship and thus they fasted. They were caught up

with God and thus they forgot all other things pertaining to this natural life. How different it is today! The same shall be the experience of the Church in these last days as well. God will bring His Church into a new realm of worship, which shall be a new step toward the glorification of the Church.

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all the saints. Praise ye the Lord."

(Psalm 149: 6 to 9)

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We need to realise that this is going to be the portion of the generation that God is going to raise up in these days. We must therefore, keep our lives open and accept that this is a step that the Lord wants us to take towards the glorification of the Church. We can see a prophetic expression in the procedure of the Tabernacle and of the Feasts of Israel. On the Day of Atonement, the Golden Altar of Incense was moved from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place. This is the realm of glory. The glory is the Lord Himself.



The light in the Outer Court of the Tabernacle was the sun and the moon, but in the Holy Place, the Golden Lampstand provided light. In the Most Holy Place, however, there was no light; the light was the Lord Himself. We see that even in the book of *Revelations*; the Lord Himself is the light. The Most Holy Place was a realm of glory. And the first thing that was put inside was the Golden Altar of Incense, which signifies the worship, praise and intercession of the saints. In the book of *Hebrews* (9: 3, 4 NIV), we read, "Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense ..." We thank God for the Pentecostal praise, we thank God for the latter rain revival and the charismatic praise and worship. But I want to tell you that God wants to take us into another realm of praise and worship which is yet unknown to us.

Leviticus chapter 16 tells us what happened on the Day of Atonement: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the Holy Place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat." (16:2)

There are different kinds of clouds in the Bible. This cloud is very important for those pressing-on in the Lord. What kind of cloud is this?

"And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the

incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not.” (Leviticus 16:12, 13)

So we see that on the Day of Atonement, Aaron went into the Most Holy Place, with his hands full of incense. Beloved, in all these years, the Church has never come to the realm of having ‘both hands full of incense’. But at the time of the fulfilment of the Day of Atonement, in which we are now living, the Church must take a step into that realm of the Most Holy Place, with hands full of incense. Normally, we come before the Lord with some incense in our hands and we feel happy, not bothering to know if He is pleased or not. We can thank God for the Pentecostal worship and the Charismatic worship, but the day and time has come when the Church will have **both hands full of incense**. They will come into the Most Holy Place and the Lord shall appear in the cloud of their ‘High Praises and Worship’. Hallelujah! This is altogether a different realm, beloved. There will be a thick cloud. This is not a doctrine; ‘it is the way, it is the truth, it is the life’ for God’s people. This realm is different. Do you want to go this way? It is very different. I want to tell you the Lamb will go before us and the followers of the Lamb will go together, with Him. “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.” (*Revelation 14:3*). A people shall come into this realm of ‘High Praises and Worship’ in these last days. Further more the Scripture says, “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.” (*Revelation 5:10*). God is faithful; He will also perform that which He has

promised. He is not man that He should lie. The unbelief of thousands and thousands of people will not nullify that which He has purposed before the creation of the world. Are we all set to go this way? His remnant will march on whether you go this way or not. As the above verse says, "He hath made us...", God is making or raising a generation who are being "redeemed from the earth" and who will march on to the destiny that God has for them. Saints of God, this is a sure step!

The next step is a step into His righteousness. God would bring His Church into the realm of His righteousness. As the Scripture reveals the Bride will be arrayed in fine linen which is the righteous deeds of the saints. "She may be seen dressed in linen, gleaming and spotless – for such linen is the righteous living of the saints!" (*Revelation 14:8*, J.B. Phillips version). We thank God for the imputed righteousness which we received by faith, the day we came out of Egypt. We thank God for the right standing we begin to have from that day. We thank God that Jesus has become our righteousness and that now there is an out working of His righteousness in our lives. We thank God that we shall be clothed in a righteousness which is an 'in-wrought' righteousness. When the Church shall come into her place of glorification, there shall not only be an imputed righteousness, but there shall be an in-wrought, worked-upon righteousness, a righteous living, moving, working and changing - a clothing of the Church with the righteousness of God Himself.

When Jesus Christ became our righteousness, then we received an 'imputed righteousness'. The Holy Spirit began to say,

"I have a right upon you." In other words, His righteousness is His right-on-us! And this is what the Holy Spirit does in us; He brings upon us right attitudes, right thinking, right principles, right doctrine, right actions, and right relationships with God and His people. This is another aspect that the Church will move into very specifically in



The people of God will begin to see the work of the Holy Spirit in accumulating right attitude, right thinking, right spirit, right relationships, right actions and right dealings.

these times. The people of God will begin to see the work of the Holy Spirit in accumulating right attitude, right thinking, right spirit, right relationships, right actions and right dealings. This is 'in-wrought righteousness'. Are you prepared to take this step? Are you prepared to let the Spirit do this work in your life. God is bringing us into a higher realm of the outworking of His righteousness, wherein He would bring changes in every sphere of our lives.

The next step that the Lord will lead His Church into, will be in the realm of a true unity. The Holy Spirit will not only give a revelation of God's purposes, as He is already doing, but He will also activate and release His grace in a people who have received this revelation, so that they will be fully united. God is going to cause the hungry who have received this revelation, to give themselves to the



working of the Spirit, to come into a new oneness. This will be the sign of such a people: they will desire for the Body of Christ more than other things in life. The people who are hearing His voice at this hour are being joined together in a new way. The sign of their oneness is that they will love the Body more than anything else in their lives. This unity shall be expressed; it shall be manifest, in more ways than one, beloved. The Lord Jesus Christ is interceding for this very thing to happen among His people. This is what we read in John Chapter 17, which is the prayer of the Lord Jesus and the intercession of the greater David, the son of Jesse. The Scripture also says, "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen and Amen. The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended." (Psalm 72:18 to 20). The prayers and intercession of the greater David shall also come to an end when the Body of Christ shall become one.

This oneness cannot be accomplished by man-made method; unity is the work of divine grace. Unity is not the product of just gathering together. Many times we feel we are one because we gather together in one place. But we gather together with divided hearts. Unity is not the result of any programme or of gathering together regularly. This cannot be accomplished by man-made methods, ecumenical councils and denominational conglomerations. It is the work of the Spirit. God has to really help us in this realm. Will such a unity take place in our midst? Remember it is the outworking of the Spirit and of Divine grace, and not a programme. It must start in the spirit and work out into relationships. This unity will take place

in the Church because Christ is interceding with the Father. The heavenly Father has decreed this; the Lord Jesus Christ is interceding for it; and it will come to pass and no power can stop it at this hour. The Church, the true Body of Christ, will have become one before Jesus returns to the earth. As the Lord calls us to move into this realm, the Holy Spirit is going to do a sure work of purging and cleansing in our lives. God will remove everything that hinders us in this realm. If peradventure we cannot be motivated by the love for God let us at least be motivated by the fear of God. The time has come when God's people will either submit themselves to the 'baptism of fire' and come into a realm of true unity or we will become outcasts of this present move of God. Either of these will happen - it is not we who are building the Church; the Lord is doing so. Those who are unwilling to submit to the 'baptism of fire', wherein all these things will be burnt down, will become outcasts; they will stumble and fade away. Let this be registered firmly within us. Let us not blame others in the Church. We have heard the Lord; we have heard the trumpet. God is causing the hungry to become one. The greatest desire of His people will be for the Body of Christ. God's people will hunger and thirst for that which is good for the Body of Christ. The fire of God will consume and remove every selfish desire within us. This love for the Body must be demonstrated in the lives of God's people. They must show that their love is for the Body and not for any other thing in their lives. It is a life style; it is practical; it is a reality. Our greatest love must be for the Body, and not for our own selfish desires. When we love the Body, and nothing else, God will bring situations to gather us together. We will attend every gathering,

and we will flock together because our desire will be to fulfil His purposes. As the Hebrew writer says, "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming near." (*Hebrews 10:25, Today's English Version*) There are many things that would try to hinder us. The time has come when we must submit to the fire of the Lord. We have experienced the baptism of water and the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I believe that the time is coming when God's people will be brought into the realm of the baptism of fire, which will bring us into total and perfect unity.

The Holy Spirit must be allowed to deliver us from pride which is one of the greatest enemies of the building of the Body of Christ. Pride has many forms! It also comes in the garb of humility, in a very subtle way! May we submit ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit so that we are delivered from every shade of pride. Are we desirous of this? The Holy Spirit must be allowed to do this work. The Holy Spirit will do it, if we allow Him to do so. We must also allow the Spirit to deliver us from self righteousness and narrow mindedness and from every desire of the self. We must allow Him to deliver us from every argumentative attitude. We must allow the Spirit to deliver us from all theological and philosophical attitudes and reasoning. In times past we may have lived in our own ways; we may have gathered together, sung together, prayed together, eaten at one table and may have done many other things together, in the name of the Lord. But at the same time we might have spoken against God's people, we gossiped about them, we may have walked in

pride, and in self-will, and our attitudes may have been contrary to the attitudes of God. But God winked at our ignorance in times past. He looked not at our immaturity. But the time has come when God will not turn aside any more. God has set His face towards Zion and He will not allow such things to continue in the midst of His people. Unless we submit to the purging work of the Holy Spirit which alone can enable us to move in unison, we will not be able to continue to walk in God's purposes, as hitherto. It shall not be as in the days that have gone by. In days ahead, you may see some good people with whom you had enjoyed fellowship at one time, walking away from the body of believers. And it may

pain you to see this happen, but you will stand in a place of helplessness. The time is coming when God will not allow those who are only interested in themselves, and not in His true Church, to continue in the Body. We have lived in our own ways long enough. But the Lord wants the Body to take a step forward. Therefore, He will not allow such things to continue any more. If God's people wilfully do things against the Body, if, having been counselled, they continue to go in their own ways, being unwilling to submit to the Holy Spirit, they stand in great danger. If they are hindered to move on because of the hardening of their heart, I have a fear



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for them. God's heavy hand will surely come upon them. It will not be the hand of man but it will be the hand of God, who is jealous over His own House. I am prompted by the Spirit to say that they may even fall sick if they do not preserve the Body of Christ. This is Scriptural; it is found in the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died." (I *Corinthians* 11:28 to 30. RSV). I want to tell you with real fear within me for those who do not heed the voice of the Spirit, that God is taking a deep interest in preparing and bringing up the Body, the Church. The time is coming when He must appear in glory in His saints. God wants to work upon that self-will and that proud spirit that prevents people from becoming a part of the Bride, in the earth at this hour.

We know that the Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for the formation of the Church. He gave up His life so that He could bring the Church to her place of glory and beauty. Beloved, God the Father sacrificed His Son, to not only birth her, but to bring her to the perfection of her beauty. How much more would God be disposed to sacrifice those who hinder His work of perfection and the fulfilment of His purposes? Let us be sober minded and serious in the presence of God. Anybody who wilfully hinders the work of God, as regards the perfection of the Bride, will surely be set aside by Him.

The history of Israel shows that ten spies did not believe

what God had promised them neither did the majority of Israel believe Him at His Word. But God did not change his plans. Beloved, the choice of deciding to submit and become one with the Body of Christ, lies with us. It is up to us to decide whether we would like to believe, submit, and become one with the Body of Christ. We could choose to submit or we could stiffen our necks and refuse to do so. We need to really bring our lives before God. Do you know that it is not God's desire that so many sinners should die and go into Hell for all eternity? Yet so many are dying and going to hell. It is not God's will that so many Christians should turn away from the faith, but it is happening. It is not God's will that any should draw back, as rendered in the book of *Hebrews*, but many are drawing back. It is not His will that any Church leader or people should walk short of the present truth, but thousands are doing so, today. As we have read, God is bringing us to a new ground; God wants the Church to move forward; God wants to bring His Church to her destiny, which is the glorification of the Bride of the Lord, Jesus Christ. That is why God is causing the Church to hear the trumpet call of God today. Are you hearing the trumpet of God? Are you moving in line with what is being sounded?

These are some of the very specific steps which God wants us to take at this hour. And as we move into these realms, God will bring forth the outworking of the glorification in our lives. Remember, the glory shall not fall into our laps in one of the meetings. There are certain definite things we need to do. We need to walk in the light of that which God is declaring. No doubt, unified fellowship is based on walking in the light as He is in the light so that we have fellowship with the Father and His Son. But, at the same time, we need to

remember that as we walk in all the truth that has been restored so far, the Holy Spirit will begin to show us further light. There will be a supernatural way in which Divine light will come into His Church. The Lord will come unto His people; He will appear unto His saints. We must carefully apply these principles and truths to our lives. And as we do so, and submit to the Holy Spirit, there will be a supernatural flow of Divine light to His people. And the Church will be able to enter into her realm of glorification. The Lord will allow His Church to come into a realm of the Lordship of the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ will cause His Church to demonstrate that Lordship. There will be a demonstration of the life of the Lord through the Church. Let us take these steps very specifically into our lives. As the Church takes these steps, she will come into the realm of glorification in the mortal body. The Lord will appear in His saints in their mortal bodies. The Church will surely demonstrate His lordship over all nations. The Scripture in *Ephesians* 3:10 reveals that the Church is destined and designed to demonstrate the manifold wisdom of God to all the powers and principalities, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. There are still parts of that eternal plan which the Church has not understood nor demonstrated before all creation. I am deeply convicted in my heart that the mortal Church still has to portray Christ in the earth.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14)

In the above verse we read that the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all nations. What is that Gospel of the Kingdom? I believe the Lord is bringing more light on this. We read that only after the Gospel of the Kingdom be preached to all the nations as a testimony, then shall the end come. What is that testimony? The Gospel of the Kingdom (not just salvation but a full demonstration of God's power, splendour and sovereign majesty), shall be preached by a mortal Church in whom the lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be manifested in the spirit, in the soul, and in the body. And when the same is preached to all the nations for a witness (that He is the Lord of all), then shall the end come. Amen. The Lordship of Jesus Christ has still not been manifested. That Jesus Christ is the head of all things has not yet been demonstrated. In a nutshell, there will be a body of believers who will be with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head, and this body of believers will live by the power of resurrection in their mortal bodies in the earth in all fullness. The super-abundant resurrection life shall be divinely imparted to her in order to demonstrate that the Head of the Church is living in His corporate Body as a supernatural resurrected Christ.

Do you have faith to believe this? Whether you believe or not, God will fulfil this. Hallelujah! I tell you the lordship of Jesus has not yet been manifested. That is why God wants to take us through the steps, outlined above, now. That is why God wants us to come to a unity and get to know the Body more than anything else – more than our beloved family, more than our self life. Apostle Paul says that the glory shall be in these earthen vessels and the nations shall see and say that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of the

living God. This shall be demonstrated in 'earthen vessels', the resurrection life shall be seen by the nations and then shall the end come. Don't think of flying away, beloved people of God. The Gospel of the Kingdom is not of flying away but of 'growing away'. Praise God ! Let us put theology aside and listen to the Word of God, carefully. This glory shall be manifested in these 'earthen vessels', and the fullness shall be seen by the nations. The day is coming when you and I will definitely have a life wherein the Glory of God is manifested. But before that, the Gospel of this Kingdom must be preached to the nations, as a witness that Christ is the Lord of this spirit, this soul and this body, in this earthen vessel.

Oh, beloved saints of God, do not be swept into having a substitute or counterfeit in the place of this resurrection life. But let us press on to perfection (*Hebrews 6:1*) until the Holy Spirit brings forth this new restorational movement in our midst.

Let us now turn to chapter three of the book of *Philippians*. We may be acquainted with this verse but in the Most Holy Place, where He Himself is the light, we are going to see things more clearly. In verse ten, Apostle Paul says, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection". What is that resurrection that he is talking about? Let us keep our hearts open. Every believer who has died in Christ will rise again. Should this Apostle, who formed so many churches, who was mightily used of God, pray that he might rise again and be a part of the resurrection? This resurrection that he talked about is something quite different. Allow the Spirit to reveal it to you. The image of theology, which men have raised over the

generations, and to which they have been bowing down, whenever the music was played, will be obliterated for ever. Apostle Paul says:

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 3:11-14)

Apostle Paul lived with a great desire and hope in his heart. Let me quote these verses from the Amplified Bible, "That if possible I may attain to the (spiritual and moral) resurrection (that lifts me) out from among the dead (even while in the body)" ...I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own (yet); but one thing I do – it is



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my one aspiration; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the (supreme and heavenly) prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. So let those (of us) who are spiritually mature ...have this mind and hold these convictions, and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also."

The cry of this great Apostle was this that he may manifest the power of the resurrection, the fullness of the power of the cross in his own life. He says, "I don't think I have reached that, brothers; but I am pressing on in this mortal body so that this resurrection life may come forth in all its abundance." The same Apostle Paul writes to the Roman Christians in his letter, "...even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:23). The J.B Phillips translation says, "While we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that we have realised our full sonship in Him." So the redemption of our body, the power of the resurrection manifested in all its fullness in our body, is the adoption of sons, beloved. The Lord will be glorified in His saints. He will be glorified in the fullness of His resurrection in the mortal saints in the earth.

Beloved saints, God will bring about this restoration move in these last days. Now this is not going to happen in one corner, to vindicate a group of people, who are exclusive and very sincere. It will be birthed somewhere, but it will, immediately and simultaneously, spread to the hungry and thirsty in other places of the earth. God is going to work this out in the whole earth because

there is a remnant that is groaning in the spirit today. Praise His Holy Name! I witness in my spirit that it may start as a small flame in some obscure and insignificant place, as all divine movements always have begun. But it will quickly spread into a roaring flame in the lives of His remnant. It will be shouted from the house-tops and carried to the ends of the earth. It will become the most controversial and revolutionary issue ever to arise in Christendom or in the world. It shall be the cause of the rise and fall of many leaders, peoples and nations.

For over two centuries Church leaders have been saying that the next important event in God's calendar is the second coming of the Lord. They sensed in their spirit that something was about to happen and God was planning a new event for the Church. What they perceived to be the literal coming of the Lord turned out to be a restorational movement of the Holy Spirit to restore another truth to the Church. Somehow, people could not hear the Lord properly. Every time people desired and cried out, "Lord, come soon.", He said, "I will come. I will surely come and I will come soon. Before I come I will come to you as a rain." They don't want to listen but they want Him to come. This is the great mistake that Christendom made. Every time people said He was coming, He came, but He came as a rain. In this hour, the Lord whom you seek is coming to His temple; He is coming with a purpose; He is coming to be glorified in His saints. He is coming as rain; He is coming as the way, the truth and the life in His people. But before His literal coming takes place, there is going to take place, a coming in another, truth-restoring, mighty move of the Holy Spirit. This will be a prelude to His literal

coming. It will involve one of the mightiest manifestations of God's power ever to take place in the Church. We are living in important times in His calendar, beloved. It is not time to sing songs of going up but it is time to sing songs of growing up. Often I think that if only the Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Charismatics could get as excited about 'growing up' in God, as they get excited about 'going up', the Church could have attained her maturity by now.

As God will bring about these things, there is going to be a strong power of the enemy that will rise up. The gates of Hell shall come against the remnant of God powerfully. Now, I do not want to keep you in the dark. His activity will be accelerated as we enter the final years of this age. Heaven and Hell will come, face to face, in the human race, at that time. Take it as a word of prophesy; it will happen. Heaven, in the lives of God's people, and hell, in the lives of those who oppose the truth; will meet with great opposition, enmity, hatred and persecution. It will come about. This is the reality. It will be as in the days that Moses went before the Pharaoh and demonstrated the power of God. Amen. Do you believe it? In the book of *Revelations* 11:3 to 12, we read of two witnesses. They are symbolic of the power and authority that will be demonstrated in the company that shall be raised up for the special day of God's visitation on the earth and restoration of all things as spoken by the prophets.

As the Word of God says, "Eye hath not seen..." but now the spirit is revealing some of it to us. Praise His precious name. Do you rejoice in this? The Holy Spirit, in His mercy, has opened a few things to get us excited. Apostle Paul was a man of excitement. Did

you know that in his excitement he wrote one sentence that carried on through many verses in *Ephesians* chapter one? God has given us something to be excited about; He has spoken enough to get us excited in our inner man. The Holy Spirit has revealed that we, as God's people, with renewed commitment and dedication, will take one step and another step to make sure that we are one of the participants in the next restorational move of God!

Beloved saints, absolutely nothing can stop Jesus from ultimately bringing His Church into her foreordained destiny. God will fulfil His purposes, in and through His Church. Neither death, nor anything in this life, nor demons in Hell, nor the devil himself, and not even the angels in the Heavens, can prevent the fulfilling of God's eternal purposes. The Church is so interwoven into every fibre, life and purpose of Christ's being, that all of Heaven would have to be ripped apart and the eternal Godhead destroyed, in order to separate the Church from Christ.

"Church, you are in the Father's hand, and no man can pluck you out from there." Amen and Amen!





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The Destiny Of The Church

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