

God s Purpose A Mature Church

joy thomas

www.oilnwine.org

God's Purpose A Mature Church

JOY THOMAS

© GSF

First Edition - 1999

Second Edition - 2009

Published by

Good Samaritan Fellowship

H2 / 22, Mahavir Enclave

New Delhi - 110 045

India

Tel : 011-2503-4946 / 2503-2928

www.oilnwine.org

joythomas@oilnwine.org

Printed at

New Life Printers Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi

011 - 27651897

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 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 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 eulogized 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 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 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!

Other Books By Joy Thomas

A Peculiar People
My Father's House Is Being Built.
Ye Jonathan's Choose This Day
The Mark Of The Lord And The Mark Of The Beast
The Three Appearances Of Christ
Church - The Israel Of God
I Am The Alpha And The Omega
This Is None Other Than The House Of God
The New Generation Arise!
The Pursuit Of A Heavenly Path
The Destiny Of The Church
The Fellowship Of The Son
"Ye Are Come Unto Mount Zion" (Vol I, II)
I Knew A Man In Christ (Vol I, II)
The Recovery Of God's Original Thought.
God's Manifest Presence.
Pursuing God's Presence
Discovering God's Presence
The Glory Of God
Contending For The Faith
A Sure Foundation
A Prophetic Voice For the End Times
The New Jerusalem

Booklets

The Apostasy of the Age
God's Last Witness of This Age
The True Remnant
Christianity - A Visible Tragedy...
Beyond Pentecost
The Failing Church and God's Remedy

*for a complete listing of the booklist check the
website at www.oilnwine.org*

