



HANDFULS
of
purpose

— VOLUME TWO —

JOY THOMAS

*“Let fall also some of the HANDFULS OF PURPOSE for her,
and leave them, that she may glean them...”*

(Ruth 2:16)

HANDFULS OF PURPOSE - 2
JOY THOMAS
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www.oilnwine.org
joythomas@oilnwine.org

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← VOLUME TWO →

HANDFULS OF PURPOSE





PREFACE



In the preface of the book “Handfulls of Purpose” Volume One, I had shared my inclusive burden for compiling our weekly devotions into a book. In the Second Volume we have gathered the weekly devotions that were sent out by email after the publication of Volume One.

The response we received from the saints to Volume One of “Handfulls of Purpose” was very encouraging. The feedback was unequivocally one of spiritual illumination, guidance and strength.

When I prayerfully considered writing this preface, I was once again prompted by the Holy Spirit to turn to Chapter 2 and verse 2 of the Book of Ruth. *“And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.”* The Scripture reveals the precious quality of Ruth as one who is submissive and spiritually thirsty and hungry. She desires to glean “*ears of corn*” meaning she longs to hear a mature message. It signifies that she has an EAR for the Kingdom message. She wants to hear the word that will bring her to maturity. And Ruth wants to receive it now because she sensed the urgency for such a word in her heart. She has an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying now, in this present time. Though of a quiet demeanor, she is here not timid and she is not an introvert but bold and outgoing when it comes to the Kingdom of God. She is so sure that she will find Grace in the sight of Boaz.

Saints, the mark of a true remnant is to be submissive

and hungry for the Word of God and for the things which the Holy Spirit is speaking and revealing at this present time. You have to deliberately step out to get this CORN (the word that will bring us to maturity); you won't get this CORN in every field! Did not Boaz say, "*.....Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence....*(verse 8) and "*.....and go thou after them....*(verse 9)? And brethren, you have to do it NOW; while it is today and you are able to hear His voice. The devil does not care what you believe, as long as everything is postponed to the future. Ruth is very positive in her speech when she says "*...I shall find grace...*". This grace denotes the willingness of our Heavenly Boaz, the Lord Jesus Christ, to bestow favour on those who are submissive and hungry. Are you submissive and hungry? Do you have an EAR for a mature message and Kingdom life? Are you gleaning the Word in the right field?

Beloved, I assure you that you will find Grace in the sight of our Heavenly Boaz as you read these pages. My prayer is that you may step out in Faith and boldly gather enough CORN for yourself as you glean through these messages.

Joy Thomas

October 2015



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*What seemed difficult and claustrophobic
in the past brings a new joy and freedom in
the Lord if we determine in our hearts to
persist in staying within the boundaries of
the Lord.*

1

THE CURIOUS GIRDLER



“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and
having on the breastplate of righteousness;”
[Ephesians 6:14]

In the Old Testament we see that the high priest used to gird himself with a garment called ‘the curious girdle of the ephod’. It must be so in our lives as well. We need to have the girdle of truth around us so that we do not leave the strait and narrow path God has kept for us. When we are under stress and strain, when we go through trials, we tend to drift into ways of little relevance to our calling in the Lord. The Lord would like to tell us, as His bride, that we need to gird ourselves with the truth of God’s word. Even in the midst of trials, toils, struggles and difficulties, we must not deviate but stick to the path set before us.

The ‘girdle of truth’ is a part of our armor. It is our harness



and discipline. The truth of God's word will bring a restraint. The 'girdle of truth' will discipline us in the coming days. It will help us to stick to the path that the Master has chosen for us. We are indeed living in a very important time in the calendar of God's purposes. Maybe we are those who wandered off from the path that the Lord led us to in the past. It could be that the word of truth has apprehended our lives in a new way. If so, we shall be girded with the truth so that we do not wander from the appointed ways of the Lord. We must not wander into paths which are of little relevance to the 'bride', in these days. The 'girdle of truth' must become our harness lest we wander away into paths that do not please the Master. God's word in our lives will keep us from suddenly bolting off in the direction of some alien path.

In the past when struggles and trials came, we have seen people follow different roads that led them to places of spiritual death. They went off at a tangent into different paths. Sometimes the restraints of the Lord seem too hard to accept. And sometimes we long to be outside the restraints of the Lord. But as we continue to remain in the path set before us we learn that He is taking us the way of blessing and real closeness unto Himself. Then we are able to see that the way that seemed bondage and a hard thing at one time becomes a place of refreshing in the Lord. What seemed difficult and claustrophobic in the past brings a new joy and freedom in the Lord, if we determine in our hearts to persist in staying within the boundaries of the Lord.

Today, in the spiritual world we see a great sickness. The heart of man is often divided and fretful causing one to seek



spiritual fulfilment in places and in areas that God has not taken us to. Man wanders here and there to seek spiritual satisfaction. People go from one place to another and discard the restraints of the Lord. They ignore the nudgings of the Holy Spirit and deliberately choose to go into prohibited areas to derive some satisfaction that is of the flesh. There is a highway that ensnares many believers. A spirit of curiosity causes them to inquire and indulge in activities that do not benefit them or the body of Christ. Let us not be attracted to 'new' things and lose that which the Lord has given us because we have strayed into the ways of the curious. Many are looking for something new to take the place of God's present purposes upon the earth. The word of God says that the Lord is sending a famine upon the earth and many shall wander away into other paths. Why is the Lord sending this famine? The Lord is bringing about a famine in some lives because they do not want to accept what God is providing. It is like the Israelites in the wilderness who could not appreciate the heavenly manna the Lord had provided. They ate the heavenly manna every day and did not even have to bother about growing grain or foodstuffs in the desert. Yet, in their hearts they longed for the old life.

There are many people who would like to 'wander about' in the name of the Lord. They would like to say, "I believe in one thing - the universal Church of Christ and the universal Fatherhood of God". And there are some who are more intelligent and cunning. They say, "The true Bride shall be known only when the Lord comes back to this earth." Some speak of great things that God will do in these days. But they all have one thing in common: they refuse to give themselves



to the harness, which is the workings of God in their lives. Beloved, today the true Bride shall be known by the giving of herself to the harness and restraints of the Lord. Many would like to wander and fulfill the desires of their heart, but the chosen ones need to remember that the restraints of the Holy Spirit must operate in our lives.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB"



*How many of those who say are born again
have completely relinquished their own
ways and have gladly received the Lord's
ways and thoughts?*

2



TRUE REPENTANCE



“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

[Isaiah 55:7]

Repentance Means Change. It involves the following:

1. A change of HEART (the seat of your emotions and feelings)
2. A change of MIND (the place of your thoughts).
3. A change of WILL (the faculty of decision).

Let the wicked forsake his way. Let the unrighteous man surrender his thought. This is the true picture of repentance.



It is a forsaking of one's own ways and thoughts and returning to the Lord. A solid foundation in repentance would mean, " I have forsaken all my former ways and thoughts, and have now taken and embraced God's ways and God's thoughts."

How many of those who say are born again have completely relinquished their own ways and have gladly received the Lord's ways and thoughts? I am burdened to bring in some thoughts for our consideration.

The Bible talks of '*the deceitfulness of riches*' (Matt 13:22) and says that '*the love of money is the root of all evil*' (1 Tim 6:10). The Bible also calls money as the '*unrighteous mammon*' (Lk 16:11). I wonder how many believers accept these thoughts of God regarding money! Aren't believers and Christian leaders more covetous and greedy than their unbelieving neighbors? I've seen believers go to the court pleading the earthly judges to pass verdict against their brother, just to lay their hands on more property and riches! The church buildings are built on money raised through 'unscriptural' means; how then can the leadership in those places tell their members to hate riches! Leaders itch to get more money – they are better off than many of the secular leaders with regard to the amassed wealth!

This just reveals that a foundation on repentance has not been laid in many lives. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous his thoughts. This is no optional matter. Lord Jesus was very categorical with the young rich ruler. The rich ruler had no option other than to forsake his ways and his gains and follow the Lord.



What is God's thought about fame and name? What's His thought on titles? The Scripture says "...for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15) The Lord says they are an abomination. But born again believers scramble for these things! What does that reveal?

What is God's thought about beauty? I would like to say to young brothers and sisters, that they must lay a strong foundation of repentance in their lives, forsaking the worldly notions of beauty for their marriage partners. *"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (Prov 31:30)* The NIV version says, 'beauty is fleeting'! Can you receive this thought of God into your life? The race of Adam has a tremendous longing in the flesh to admire and desire beauty. But that's deceitful! I know of many young lives that have made a shipwreck of their lives by seeking beautiful life-partners. *"A beautiful woman lacking discretion and modesty is like a fine gold ring in a pig's snout."* (Prov 11:22 TLB). The beauty in a woman that does not fear God is like gold ring in a pig's snout! The man who is attracted to beauty is truly bringing home a pig! I hope I am not indecent in quoting what the Scripture says. Young brothers and sisters, I sincerely counsel you to forsake your thoughts and ideas of life and receive God's thought and estimation for your life.

In an evangelical crusade, there were many who raised their hands to receive Lord Jesus into their lives after a message which stressed the need to repent before turning to the Lord. However, one young lady hesitantly explained why she had not yet decided to raise her hand to accept the Lord. "I have a doubt," she said, "Can you tell me whether I will be



able to give my heart to Jesus, since I have already given it to a young man?" This young lady realized that repentance meant a total inward and outward change! She understood what it meant to give her heart to the Lord!

In repentance Jesus becomes the new object of our love and loyalty. God's interests become our own interest.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH"



*In taking Jesus and some disciples to the
Mount of transfiguration, the Father
illustrated His divine purpose for man in a
candid way*

3

MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION



Matthew 17

- 1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother,
and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
- 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the
sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
- 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking
with him.
- 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us
to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for
thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
- 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them:
and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved
Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Beloved, when Jesus went to the Mount of Transfiguration, something tremendous took place! He was suddenly glorified! Jesus' body was transformed into a body of glory on that Mount! He had



victoriously fought His way through all the tests and trials. He overcame all the efforts of the enemy to compromise Him and to get Him involved and distract Him and lead Him astray. He fought the powers and principalities all the way to the pinnacle of the Mount. There He had proved Himself worthy of being glorified. The Apostle Peter in his epistles later on says, it was on the Mount that God gave Him the glory. *“ For he received from God the Father honor and glory when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” (2 Peter 1:17)*

In the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus, God presented the world the representative Man. God wanted to show the world, through the disciples, **that man would be transfigured to glory just as the representative Man had been glorified.** He wanted to show mankind what was the ultimate intention of God for man. God wanted to demonstrate what He intends for you and me. He wanted to reveal the calling that rested upon each and every believer. In telling the disciples to listen to Jesus, God made His intentions for all of us in this humanity unequivocally clear. This was the great purpose of the Father. In taking Jesus and some disciples to the Mount of transfiguration, the Father illustrated His divine purpose for man in a candid way. Christ had a glorifiable humanity — the glorified humanity of Christ is the perfect standard of Heaven. It is unto this that God is working for every believer in Christ Jesus. Every believer in Christ Jesus is destined to be glorified. In other words, there, upon the Mount, God demonstrated how believers, the new humanity, would be transformed into His glorious body — the ultimate standard of Heaven.



The man Jesus was glorified before the very eyes of the disciples. He is now seated in heaven, on the right hand of the Father. His humanity was glorified. In other words, on the Mount of Transfiguration we see a picture of a man capable of glory being glorified! God is working in our lives, to bring us into that glory, which is the unchangeable, eternal standard of glory. The Spirit of glory will bring us to a spiritual place where we shall put on the glory, in a manner similar to Jesus, our Lord! Praise His Name!

A Man and a representative kind of humanity were glorified on the Mount of Transfiguration. Beloved, our eyes must be opened to see that **when Christ was raised from the dead, He was raised up as the Son of Man, as a glorified Man.** He was raised from the dead as a Man who had attained glory. The One who ascended unto the Father in heaven, is the **glorified Man, Christ Jesus.** This is what we need to understand by the help of the Spirit. **The last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, the second man, is the glorified Man.** *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:47).* He has entered the heavens, behind the veil. **He is our eternal Forerunner.** He had reached the goal. He battled His way through all the tests and trials; He overcame every temptation that came His way; He fought to reach that realm and became the glorified Man. When He rose from the dead, the Father gave Him all the glory, eternally and permanently. Hallelujah!

The apostle takes hold of that very word, and says: 'We all... are transfigured into the same image'. I am glad he uses that little word with its so comprehensive meaning - 'we all...'.



He is not talking only about himself and his fellow-workers, brothers in the work; he is talking about the Corinthians and all believers. 'We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transfigured into the same image'. He takes hold of that same word, and brings it over to all saints; making of that which had been perfected and completed in the Lord Jesus a continuous process in the life of believers.

FROM THE BOOK : "ENTERING BEHIND THE VEIL"



If we only fear God, and do not also love Him, we will be like slaves who stand in the terror and dread of their masters. God does not want man to be His slave.

4

REVERENTIAL FEAR



“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, BUT TO FEAR THE LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, AND TO LOVE HIM, and to SERVE THE LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”
[Deuteronomy 10:12-13]

What did the law require of God’s people in days past? Only to fear the Lord, love Him, walk in His ways and serve Him! It is the same even today! To fear the Lord, our God, and to love Him, and to walk in His ways, and to serve the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our being, is the consistent, inflexible and unyielding desire of God for each one of us. *“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.”* (Joshua 24:14).

If we only fear God, and do not also love Him, we will be



like slaves who stand in the terror and dread of their masters. God does not want man to be His slave. We know this because He made man in His own image and likeness. He loves man and He wants man to know the love of God. At the same time, God wants man to fear Him in a reverential, godly way. A characteristic of this hour of apostasy is that people want to only speak of the love of God- we do not hear them talk about the fear of God. Beloved, a false balance is an abomination before the Lord. The love and reverential fear of God cannot be separated. If we cease to revere and respect God, we shall lose all awe and admiration for Him.

Do you know where man first lost the fear of God? It happened in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve lost their reverence for God's commands. As a result, they lost their way and they temporarily lost the fear of God.

Have you ever had the fear of the Lord in your heart? Have you ever been afraid of breaking His commands? If not, you are missing out on something you critically need to experience. Without this fear, you will tend to go through life thinking it's no big deal to disobey God. You will be far more concerned about disobeying a police officer than disobeying your Creator.

The Bible gives us many examples of people who lacked the fear of the Lord. We are told in Proverbs 1:29 about those who "hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord." What an incredible connection. Ultimate knowledge is linked here to the fear of the Lord. Do you realize what this means? Anyone without this godly fear is someone who tends to hate



spiritual knowledge, at least when it involves true spiritual knowledge.

Most believers are satisfied with being blessed by God - and that too mostly in the material realm alone. That is why Christian book stores are flooded with books on how one can be healed of one's sicknesses and become wealthy by tithing, etc. The emphasis is on physical and material well-being - health and prosperity. This is the clearest symptom of a self-centred life. And yet, we read in God's word, that Jesus died in order that we should no longer live for ourselves but only for Him (2 Cor. 5:15); or in other words, not to please ourselves but only Him. Or to put it in yet another way, Jesus died in order to deliver us from a self-centred life, and to bring us into a God-centred life.

To fear God does not mean that we become fearful of Him; the right fear of God will bring a desire to obey Him spontaneously. The incorrect kind of fear of God will bring us to obey God in a certain way, it will lead us to a certain kind of obedience, but not to the obedience of faith where love for God is the driving motive. Serving God with a heart that fears Him but does not also love Him, will result in dead works, without a life-fellowship with the Father, the Son and with one another. Abraham did not obey the Lord because he feared that some terrible evil would befall him unless he obeyed God. He obeyed the Lord because of an inherent and integral love for God. The obedience of faith leads us to love the Lord unconditionally. Abraham loved the Lord, not because he feared the judgments of the Lord or the punishments that the Lord could mete out to Him, but because a love for the Lord



was working in him. We are saved by faith and by obedience. When faith works in us we are able to obey the Lord promptly. Where there is an obedience of faith, the love of the Lord is at work. May this become a strong inward foundation.

There is another kind of fear of God that does not amount to a reverential fear of God. It involves the dread, fright, and terror of God. This is not a reverential fear, but a fear wherein one dreads the Lord and His wrath, judgment and punishment. Such a fear arises because of guilt and fear of punishment. It results in dead works that cannot please the Lord. This fear of God cannot bring us to have true fellowship with the Father. We cannot have true life-fellowship with the Father without love as the fundamental and basic inward desire. The fear of God that the Word talks about in several verses includes an integral element of love for God. In other words, we should have a reverence (fear) in our love for Him. Wherever there is a true love of God there is also a true fear of God. Such an inward disposition will preserve our lives in this hour of apostasy and fill us with real peace, joy and hope in true liberty. It will keep us in a place of intimate fellowship with the Lord and with the saints.

FROM THE BOOK : "CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH"



Scripture does not speak of getting away from suffering. Our escape lies in remaining in the will of God, in going through suffering, enduring it, and not in trying to get away from it.

5

A WAY TO ESCAPE



There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
[1 Corinthians 10:13]

Many believers have misinterpreted this precious verse and say, “God is faithful and He will make a way of escape for us. He will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear: He will bring about our escape from any suffering.” Let us not pay heed to such advice. This Scripture has often puzzled many believers. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit for a true understanding of this Scripture.

Quoting this again we read, “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able (to endure it)”. What do you make of that ? What is the true way of escape that God has made for you and me? “But will with the



temptation make also a way of escape, that you may endure it". This means that the way of escape is by way of enduring it. This Scripture does not speak of getting away from suffering. Our escape lies in remaining in the will of God, in going through suffering, enduring it, and not in trying to get away from it. We are called not to go under the temptation or of escaping it, but to rise above it and triumph over it. In other words, we see that there is deliverance while there is no deliverance.

Apostle Paul had a thorn in the flesh and three times he asked the Lord to remove it, but the Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My power is made perfect in weakness." What was Paul's reaction to this? Paul's reaction was, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me..... for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Cor 12:8,10). Apostle Paul was not delivered from that "messenger of Satan". Many a time people quote these verses but miss its reality in their lives. May we come to the point and say "the devil's aim is to use it against my undoing and for the ruination of God's purpose, but the Lord has definitely and deliberately permitted that in His wisdom towards His end purpose". As you know, Paul was not delivered from that stake in the flesh, that messenger of satan, that constantly buffeted him; and yet he was delivered! This is God's wisdom!

Today many believers refuse to accept sufferings and afflictions. They argue with the Lord; they feel that they can glorify the Lord in some other way. They say they will work for the Lord all the more and bring Him greater glory through their hard work and labor. But the apostle Paul never argued



with God. He said, “Most gladly, therefore, I would rather glory in my weakness: for when I am weak then I am strong.” How precious that is!

We need to understand the meaning of deliverance. Sometimes we come across situations in our lives that are akin to that experienced by Paul. The enemy worked untiringly to hamper and hinder the apostle so that he might not be effective in his ministry. Satan came against the testimony of the Lord time and time again. But the apostle was very sensitive to the Spirit. He was able to be at rest in the middle of his suffering in the flesh. He was able to experience deliverance without being delivered. Saints, there is a deliverance that we need to experience in the inner man. Many times we experience deliverance, but it is only in the outward situations we face. However, God wants us to experience deliverance in the inner recesses of our being. Often God wants to deliver our inner man from the situation that is troubling us. God wants to equip us with strength in our inward man. Let us not be drowned under the difficulties we face; let us not go under, but go over and above them. The apostle Paul said, “I would rather glory in my weakness”.

Recalling a servant of God in the Old Testament, we are reminded that Caleb went to Joshua and said, “Give me this mount.” He did not ask Joshua to give him his portion in the wonderful plains of Jordan, where there was plenty of water for his cattle, and where he could become rich in a short time. He said, “Give me that mountain.” In other words, Caleb said, ‘Do not remove this mountain, do not get it out of the way; give it to me, give me a chance to master it, to bring it under,



to gain ascendancy!’ He asked for that which challenged him. He asked for that which was difficult to overcome. He said that he wanted to conquer the mountain and overcome every difficulty that came in his way.

How often we say, “Lord I suffered for You, I paid the cost, I went all the way for the Gospel; so give me an easy time now.” We need to be strengthened in our inner man as regards this calling. Don’t indulge in self-pity; look for the tears of other people. Avoid the sympathy of the ones who love you and the temptation of ease at the end of a hard day of work. Be strong in the Lord. We are called to suffer for the word and the testimony of the Lord. This calls for the strengthening of our inner man.

Caleb was a man given to ascendancy. He was a true overcomer. He was willing to work hard, though he was 85 years old. He asked Joshua for the mountain so that he could subdue it. Let us be like him and say, “Lord, I do not ask for an easy path. I am willing to suffer for the sake of the word and the testimony of Jesus. I know that You will save me from evil, but not from hard work, adverse situations and sufferings.” This is no easy, glib talk. This word is going to cost all of us. It is not an easy path; we are called to walk in a narrow, difficult way.

FROM THE BOOK : “THE UNVEILING”



Satan has maintained his position... And the thing in which he has really succeeded is in convincing Christians that God doesn't mean what He says!

6



DEVIL'S SLEEPING PILL



"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it"
[Colossians 2:15]

Jesus took away all the power of the devil and delivered it unto the Church but the 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 as the scripture says. 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 behavior, 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). The 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 blindfolded 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.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH"



*The sacrifices of yesterday are no excuse for
compromising today.*

7



‘PROVIDED SOME BETTER THINGS’



“The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.”

[Jeremiah 1:1,2]

Jeremiah’s father, Hilkiah, was a priest in the land of Benjamin. Jeremiah could have easily inherited the tradition of an illustrious ancestry. His early life could have been moulded by the distinctive religious influences that he belonged to. He could have inherited the priestly tradition of his family and become a priest, serving the Lord in the temple. He could easily have inherited the ancestral calling because he was the son of a priest, like the prophet Ezekiel, in which case his life would have been moulded by the distinctive religious system of his time. The influences of his community would have groomed him, shaped him and molded him in no uncertain ways. There would have been no sorrows, no sufferings and no reproaches or rejections! But God had



'provided some better things' for this young man than to spend his days in serving at the altars of a proscribed and degenerate priesthood! His heart was open to what God had for him.

This young man's life was destined for something far greater and higher in the Lord. The young son of Hilkiah had been appointed to the tremendous destiny of being a prophet of the Lord in one of the most testing hours in the history of God's chosen people. He had a remarkable destiny in the land of Israel at a crucial time in their history. Israel was going through a most trying and testing time. It was a crucial hour in the life and history of God's people. And at such a juncture, God called Jeremiah to be a testimony and a voice for Him! There is a tremendous call and destiny resting upon each one of us. I know for sure that I would have been serving at the altars of a proscribed and degenerate priesthood or spiritual system today, but for the mercies of God, who having provided me some better things, did not let me waste my life in that religious system. I am able to see several sincere people vexing their lives, having been caught up in that religious system, serving the altars of a degraded religious system for many years. Saints, you would have been serving at the altars of a degenerated spiritual system today; you would have been caught up in the system of which you were a part of at one time; you could have continued with a religious system, but God in His mercy, having provided some better things for you, did not allow you to spend the rest of your life serving at altars which are degenerating. Not only that, God is causing you to see that which is upon His heart.



Beloved, by the mercy of God, we are called to be separated unto the Lord. This is the most testing and trying hour in the history of God's people. If we want to have the best of both the worlds, the earthly and the heavenly, we shall be exposed very soon. A compromiser can never walk this lonely path. The cost we have paid in the past is no guarantee that we will not become compromisers or withdraw under pressure. The cost, the pain, the sorrow, the losses we have incurred will not help us to stand as un-compromisers in this hour. Many men of God who had made great sacrifices in the past are now living in compromise. The sacrifices they made in the past could not guarantee them a safe and secure life; the good feelings they had after they had made sacrifices unto the Lord could not help them stand before God without guilt and blame. Consider the lives of Saul, Jonathan and many others who had obeyed the Lord at one time but later they compromised and fell away from their commitments. Their enemies pinned their bodies on the walls of Beth-shan (1 Sam 31:12)! They fought against God's enemies at one time, but they died in disgrace and the Lord was not with them. Saul and Jonathan fought against the Philistines, who were God's enemies, but later they were not found in the purposes of God. Many times we think that because we are on God's side fighting His enemies, we will not compromise or withdraw from this calling and purpose later. This attitude is totally wrong. History has repeatedly shown this to us. The obedience, the sacrifices, the good deeds, and the devoted works we may have had in the past are no guarantee for today. The sacrifices of yesterday are no excuse for compromising today.



Therefore today when we hear His voice, let us not shut our ears and close our eyes. We are living in the most trying and testing time in history. We thank God that in His mercy He has opened our eyes to see this call in Christ. But let us remember that we cannot be compromisers and take a middle path. This call is precious and also unpopular; we have to know this from day one itself. Every time the enemy puts pressure on us, he seeks to compel us to compromise. Christians have bowed down to such pressure and compromised with the world innumerable times. Hence, let us all take heed!

Saints, we have to be serious with this call. Those who take the middle path, the neutral and the safe zone, will find it very difficult to adjust their lives to the demands of this call in Christ Jesus. We have to be open to change in our personal lives. Young people especially need to be careful not to pressurize their parents into doing things which would spell compromise. The house of God cannot be a place of mixture. We need to know what we have been called into.

FROM THE BOOK: "A PROPHETIC VOICE"



*The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
is much more powerful than the law of sin
and death.*

8

IN THE CLIMAX OF THE AGES



He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.
[Revelation 22:11]

The Scripture here talks of unrighteous people and things becoming more unrighteous and unruly as the days go by. They will go from bad to worse. Similarly, the righteous, will go from righteousness to more righteousness and from holiness to even greater holiness. Thus the gulf between the righteous and the unrighteous will increase during the end-times. There will be a progressive moral deterioration in the generation of the natural Adam; simultaneously, there will be a progressive spiritual growth in the generation of the Last Adam, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the days to come, there shall be a greater manifestation



of not only sin and death, but also of goodness and mercy. There is a progression taking place in both the generations simultaneously. There is going to be a manifestation in full measure of both the wicked and the righteous in the days ahead. The whole creation is waiting expectantly to observe the coming forth of the righteous in all their glory: for the scriptures say, *'for (even the whole) creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known, (waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship)'* [Romans 8:19]. The Scripture tells us that there are two kinds of basic laws operating in the lives of people: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death. *'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.'* [Romans 8:2] The law of sin and death has been operating from the time of the First Adam. It has been increasingly manifested among the generations of Adam. Similarly ever since the Lord Jesus Christ laid down His life upon the cross of Calvary and rose again from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell in the lives of all those who believe in Him, there has been a manifestation of His life in a generation of the Last Adam. The clear teaching of the Scriptures is that there is going to be a manifestation of the fullness of Christ by the working of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus in a people, which is also known as 'the manifestation of the sons of God'. It will come to a climax in the sons of God upon this earth. This is what the whole creation is waiting to see.

We need to settle one fact firmly in our hearts in these days: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is much more powerful than the law of sin and death. Although the law of



sin and death has been operating upon this earth for much longer time, resulting in an increase of immorality, ungodliness, unhappiness, and every form of filth and degradation, yet we need to have faith that there is going to be an increase of godliness and holiness in the lives of a people in whom the law of the Spirit of life in Christ is working. *“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

We are the generation ‘upon whom the ends of the world have come’ [1 Corinthian 10:11]. In these very times, the word of God says that the a climax of the ages will be revealed. The law of sin and death will come to a climax in the days ahead. The discerning eye can already see the signs of the times. This generation shall not pass till all the things spoken by the prophets come to pass. The days of the climax are here, and upon us have come the days of fulfillment of the ages. The Lord is preparing a people who shall be governed by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ that will surely overcome the generation of the First Adam. Though the law of sin and death is maturing rapidly all around us, yet the Lord has a word of comfort and assurance for His people, for He says that He will gather in the ripe fruit of iniquity unto His judgments, ‘for the harvest of the earth is ripe’. God is waiting for the grapes of iniquity to fully ripen or become ‘overripe’ before He thrusts in His sickle to reap the earth. He is waiting to make ready a remnant of the Lord so that ‘he will finish the



work, and cut it short in righteousness' [Romans 9:28]. The Lord will do a work on the earth, completing it and cutting it short. In these days, there will be progression in the generation of the natural Adam as well as in the generation of the spiritual Adam. The Lord Jesus Christ reminds us in the parable of the tares (Mathew 13: 24-30) that the tares and the wheat will grow together until the harvest. "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Amen and Amen

FROM THE BOOK: THE NEW GENERATION ARISE



*What seemed difficult and claustrophobic
in the past brings a new joy and freedom in
the Lord if we determine in our hearts to
persist in staying within the boundaries of
the Lord.*

9

“BEHOLD HE SHALL COME”



“This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”
[Acts 1:11]

There is something very important that we ought to know about His Second Coming. When the Lord Jesus Christ came upon this earth for the first time, He came in flesh and blood, which means He came in a body. He came and dwelt among men. He told the disciples that He would not leave them comfortless like orphans, but that He would send them the Spirit. He said that the Father and the Son would come and dwell among the people. In the first coming, we see His coming in the seed form. He first came in the flesh at Bethlehem, and then He came in the Spirit at Pentecost. When He comes again, He will come in two stages, just as He did when He came the first time. At His Second Coming, He shall come first by His Spirit unto His people (see



Malachi. 3:1), and then He shall appear in His body in fulfilment of Acts 1:11, which says, “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” He that hath ears, let him hear what the Spirit of truth is saying.

There is going to be a manifestation of His life and glory in the church and in the saints who are the temple of God, as prophesied by Malachi, the prophet. The whole creation is waiting to see the manifestation of the life of the Son of God amongst His people. Paul says that he was travailing in pain until Christ was formed in the believers at Galatia.

We need to know that the Scriptures do not declare that He is coming **for** His saints. The Scripture says that He is coming **with** His saints. The Bible also says that He is coming in the saints. But nowhere do we find a mention of His coming for the saints. In 2 Thessalonians chapter 1, verse 10 we read, “When He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day...”. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 the Word says, “He is coming with His saints”. The Lord shall suddenly appear in His temple and He shall be glorified in His saints. You, beloved ones, are the temple of God. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of the Holy Spirit.” So let us clearly apprehend this truth. He shall come in the saints first by the Spirit, in all His fullness, and then He shall come with His saints in His flesh, in like manner and in the same way as He was taken up. He shall manifest Himself in the same body.

Do you remember that there were about 500 people who witnessed His going away. But only 120 waited for the promise;



380 went away. Even so, today there are many who are not able to believe the Word of God concerning His Second Coming. Some people say it's very hard to believe this truth. If you are finding it hard, you won't see it; and if you do not see it, you won't be part of it. Even as the truth of His first coming was fulfilled in letter and spirit at that time, so also shall it be all fulfilled at His coming back in these last days. The Lord is surely going to come back. He is coming back in glory. He is coming in His church, in His temple, and in His saints in these last days. Then He will come back in the same manner in which He left us. Beloved, let us trust God's Word.

One man wrote, “Before you finish reading this book, Jesus may come”. That man is a famous preacher. People believed whatever he said. Another man who called himself an end-time apostle held a great meeting, and he said that Christ would come during the meeting. It was held about five years ago. He said that he had a revelation that Christ would come when they were gathered together. Many people have made up such stories which are not based upon the Word. But we should not be as children tossed about with every wind. People talk about 666 and think it is a number that somebody will forcefully write upon their head or hand. It is not so. The light of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ is coming upon His people. In passing I would like to mention that in Bible numerology the number 6 depicts the number of man. Thus 666 talks of the number of man in a greater measure, which is the rule of the flesh. When we look into the book of Daniel (Daniel 4: 1-25) we see that when the music began to play, three Hebrew children were told to bow down to the image of man. Did they bow down? No, they were people with a



different spirit. Today, in the Christian realm, men have made many images that consist of their pet doctrines. We are told to bow down to the teachings of well-known preachers, to bow to their personal and individual ministries which highlight their personal achievements and their personal ideas. They are asking Christians to bow to their man made music and images of men. The music is already 'on' and many are already bowing down to the images of men! But God is calling us to be a people with a different spirit. God is restoring a proper focus to His church in this day.

FROM THE BOOK: "KNOWING GODS TIME"



The two witnesses shall perpetually pour oil into the candlesticks!! They are a corporate people having power and anointing from on high.

10



THE TWO WITNESSES



And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

[Revelation 11:3,4]

The two witnesses here represent the corporate people of God, who like John the Baptist and Ezekiel have eaten the scroll (word of God) in their lives. The number two stands for 'more than one'. Number two signifies that there can be agreement and testimony. God's revelation is two-fold (the old and the new covenants), God's testimony of the truth to man. 'Two' is often connected with faithful testimony. Caleb and Joshua were two faithful witnesses of God's truth (Numbers 13:30-31). Two out of six lakh Israelites possessed their inheritance. May this encourage us to stand firm in these days of backsliding and apostasy, with ears closed to the words of man but attentive to the words of God. "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).



The word of God tells us that there were two olive trees and two candlesticks standing before God. Figuratively they represent God's purposes upon the earth. Traditionalists would like us to believe that these two witnesses are Moses and Elijah, and that they will come again and do a ministry. But this has no scriptural support. The two witnesses, as the word of God says, are two olive trees (or trees giving oil). And a reference to Zechariah 4:11-14 shows exactly what these are. The Lord speaks to Zechariah in a vision and tells him, "These are the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth" (Zechariah 4:14). The ministry of these two witnesses is characterized by power. They get their power from the Spirit of God. These two olive trees continually provide oil to the two candlesticks (symbol of the Church) so that a perpetual light shines forth. The vision prophetically shows that the Church will draw strength and power from the 'two olive trees' (the two witnesses) that stand before God. Oh praise God for His word. The two witnesses, without a doubt, represent the godly minority of overcomers. Their ministry is to provide power to the entire Church.

Notice that these witnesses were clothed in sackcloth. Not with their eternal robes of priesthood and kingship. No, these were not angelic beings, they were mortals, humans. And they were not in their glorified bodies, but in their bodies of humiliation, their flesh bodies. These were not resurrected saints, nor Enoch and Elijah come down from heaven to meet their appointment with death. Those men now have their heavenly bodies, their new glorified bodies, and cannot die. In fact, the Bible says in Hebrews 11:5 that it was appointed unto Enoch that he should not see death. It is appointed unto



men once to die, but God can, and does, overrule His own appointments some times. Jesus says that those in heaven cannot die, for they are even as the angels in this respect. So these two witnesses are not Enoch and Elijah, for these witnesses are flesh and blood people who are brought down to death even as their Lord, and they loved not their lives unto the death (Revelation 12:11). They are those who overcome. They are clothed in sackcloth.

So, while it seems impossible to cleanse the Church of all the abominations that are occurring within, yet the Almighty has put a measuring rod in the hand of a people who are His faithful witnesses!! He shall provide them God-given Holy Spirit power to do that which appears impossible. The two witnesses shall perpetually pour oil into the candlesticks!! They are a corporate people having power and anointing from on high.

The other thing we need to see by the Spirit is that the purposes of God are continually on the move. There is a forward thrust to God's plans and although we can hardly see beyond our noses, yet we may know by faith that God is steadily and surely coming to the consummation of His plans. Unlike men, in Him there is no "one step forward and three steps backward". God's purposes never lose their dynamic forward movement. Often to us it seems that the church has fallen away from its true calling; but God, the Sovereign Creator, views events in totally different ways. To all and sundry it must have appeared a defeat of God when His Son was nailed to the cross. But He is able to perform that which is upon His mind. Defeat was turned into victory. Hallelujah!



When the Temple of Solomon was destroyed, it appeared as if the purposes of God had been frustrated. The temple, the dwelling place of God amidst His people, had been totally destroyed, and the people had been exiled to Babylonia hundreds of miles away. The Ark of the Covenant containing the most precious testimony of His work among the chosen ones had been looted and plundered, leaving no trace of its whereabouts. To all intents and purposes it seemed that what God had been doing in the last three thousand years had all come to nought. But in the midst of seeming calamity, God wants to return to His temple.

Let us not view this in a retrograde way. God had moved forward; He was not going to go back to that which was defunct. The eternal wheels of God's purposes move forward unceasingly.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE NEW JERUSALEM"



*The number of the beast which is 666 talk of
beastly attitudes and actions that people
possess according to the desires of man's heart.*

11



THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST



"Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. 'Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped,' so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God "

[II Thessalonians 2:34]

The spirit of Antichrist manifests itself in many forms and ways. These are the very last moments of the end-time. The man of sin (verse 3 above) is also referred to as the man of lawlessness (see the NIV). One of the ways in which the spirit of Antichrist works among the people is through lawlessness and rebellion. Lawlessness is one of the signs of the last days. We read in the Scriptures, "...and because iniquity (lawlessness) shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:14). As the Word says, we see a great explosion of lawlessness both in the natural world and in the spiritual world. This is the work of the spirit of Antichrist and thus the sign of the nature of the beast and the mark of the beast.



Some people claim that they do not have anything to do with the mark of the beast - but they are already stamped with the mark of the beast! One may wonder how we can say this! The Scripture says, "Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4 NAS). We read again in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name done many wonderful works. And then will I profess to them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)".

The Greek word used in Matthew 24:12, 1 John 3:4 and Matthew 7:23 is 'ANOMIA', which means lawlessness. The Amplified Bible says, "Depart from me, you who act wickedly disregarding My commands." The Lord did not say that they did not heal in His name, or that they prophesied wrong things, or that they did miracles by some other name or power. No! But He said, "You who live lawlessly, you disregard My commandments, you do your own thing in My name; depart from Me." There are so many today in Christendom, who prophesy, heal the sick and even perform miracles, but they do it for their own gain and are lawless and disobedient to His word. But the day is coming and is at hand that the Lord will say those very words to such ones. In other words, INIQUITY is DOING ONE'S OWN THING. We read in the Scriptures, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25). This is so true today. May we shudder at His Word and may a genuine fear arise within us.

We must examine ourselves to see how much we are



falling short of the disciplines and ways of the Lord. THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST IS A SPIRIT OF INDISCIPLINE. We must be careful that we do not pursue godliness outwardly and be indisciplined inwardly. On the one hand, we may be striving after holiness; but on the other, we may have a strong inward tendency for indiscipline and lawlessness. That is why we have to continually examine our mentalities. The children of disobedience and iniquity have a strong streak of lawlessness; but the children of God should have no such contradiction in their nature.

We must cry out to God to remove every claim of lawlessness that the spirit of Antichrist may have sown in us. So it is not a question of where and when we see the number 666! We need to understand that the number 666 is not about a tattoo or an electronic chip or a mark engraved upon our wrists, foreheads or bodies. Although there is a lot of Christian literature being circulated today that teaches us that we shall have to wear a badge or a wrist-band or injected with an electronic chip in order to buy things from certain shops controlled and owned by the Antichrist. We can easily recognize such teachings to be false. The number of man which is 6 (in Biblical numerology, the number 6 stands for man) and THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST WHICH IS 666 TALK OF BEASTLY ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS THAT PEOPLE POSSESS ACCORDING TO THE DESIRES OF MAN'S HEART. Those who try and draw conclusions and interpretations from the number 666 are unaware that the spirit of Antichrist is already governing them BECAUSE THEIR MIND, THEIR ACTIONS AND THEIR WORDS ARE IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS WORLD AND ITS PRINCIPLES.



THE ANTICHRIST IS ALSO CALLED THE MAN OF SIN. What is our attitude towards sin in our life? Many of us do not take sin seriously. Many churches do not even preach against sin these days. They only preach about poverty, how to educate the poor, how to give equal rights to the downtrodden and the deprived; they only talk about blessings and mercies of God. There is little preaching about sin, covetousness and the love of money, in these churches. The spirit of Antichrist in fact governs such places. They do not help the people to overcome sin and live victoriously.

THE ANTICHRIST IS CALLED THE MAN OF PERDITION, or sin or lawlessness. And the spirit of Antichrist is the spirit of lawlessness and indiscipline and sin, which are so widespread these days. We must examine our own lives to see whether we are serious about sin. Are we justifying our actions? Are we hiding the real inner attitude we have?

When we see sin in our lives, we take it so lightly. If we are overlooking the sin within us as something minor and we are casual about our own sin, then we are harboring the spirit of Antichrist. If we are making excuses and not willing to confront our iniquities face to face, then we are being influenced by the spirit of Antichrist within us. If we do not deal with our sin in a radical manner, we are already receiving the mark of the beast upon our lives!

Take heed!

FROM THE BOOK : "THE UNVEILING"



Many of the Scriptures which people have put off to the Millennium will be fulfilled in the end-time Church..

12



‘GLORIFICATION OF 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 are an expectation and a 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 splendor 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 *1 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.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH"



All of God's interests for now and eternity are based upon the fellowship between God and His children. And that is why there is such a prolonged battle over this matter.

13

FELLOWSHIP AND FULFILMENT



Traditionally we look at our spiritual foundations in terms of water-baptism and baptism in the Spirit. We do not see this fellowship in Christ as the very foundation upon which everything else stands. Our foundation in fellowship is so different! This foundation of our pristine fellowship with the Father and with the Son, and with one another, is something which we have been brought into by new birth so that our growth to maturity may be realized. It is on this foundation that everything else in the body of Christ is going to stand. Saints of God, as we have seen from the book of Genesis, everything for man depended upon the relationship that God had with man and man had with God. What happened through man's disobedience and



severance was tragic; yet here we see that in and through Christ Jesus, we were brought back to experience that pristine relationship. It is this fellowship in Christ that is the basis or the foundation of all spiritual things. Amen!

All of God's hopes are bound with that fellowship! All God's intentions and plans are bound up with fellowship. All of God's purposes are bound up with our fellowship with Him and His Son. All of God's interests for now and eternity are based upon this fellowship between God and His children. And that is why there is such a prolonged battle around this fellowship between His children and Himself. It is so because God has vested in this very fellowship everything that He hopes for. It is God's great investment, saints!

In the Old Testament, we find that the prophets were in a state of divine distress because God had 'lost His family'. The concern that governed their prophetic utterances was that God was robbed of something! God was greatly grieved because of His loss of that one thing on which God placed so much importance. The Lord sorrowed about the loss of His relationship with man, on which all His purposes and plans depended. God felt robbed when the pristine fellowship with man was stolen by the enemy. That primal relationship was broken and came to a place of utter devastation. Saints, looking around us we could even go so far as to say that God's purpose is still in a state of desolation because of the loss of fellowship with His people. **Until that original relationship is recovered, restored and re-established, how will God bring about the desires of His heart?**



God has brought us into close fellowship with the Father and with the Son, but it does not end there. All God's investments and endowments rest upon the fellowship between Him and His people. He has invested all His purposes, expectations and interests there! God has invested every spiritual thing in fellowship. May we walk in the light to see this!

We normally ask the Lord to bring us into His full purpose; we pray that He may fulfill all that He has for His people in these days. How will the Lord answer our prayers? Remember, He has invested His purpose, His plans, His interests and His desires in fellowship. If we want God to answer our prayers, we will have to depend more on our fellowship with Him and His Son. Fellowship is the foundation of God's destined things. He has centered every higher thing upon one aspect — fellowship.

All that we are ever going to come into, dear saints, of those great purposes and desires of God for His people, is based upon our fellowship with God and the continual maintenance of that fellowship with God. **If we come out of fellowship with God, everything concerning His purpose will come to a standstill.** We could pray as much as we want to and we could meditate 24x7, but we would not be able to come into His full purpose without fellowship. If we want to enter the great plans He has for the remnant of His people, it has to be on the foundation of a life-building-fellowship that the world has not seen. The fulfillment of His purpose will have to be on the basis of that pristine fellowship. **If anything cuts across our fellowship with God, well, all is gone! It is as though**



everything is lost! And we will know for certain that there will be no moving on, no increase, no hope, and no reality until we get back and that fellowship and relationship is put right! May God help us! May God open our eyes! Oh, how much is bound up with this relationship and fellowship!

FROM THE BOOK : "THE MYSTERY OF FELLOWSHIP"



What is the testimony of the Lord? It is the present living Person of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit..

14



THE PRESENT TESTIMONY OF THE LORD



“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”
[Revelation 1:18]

Christianity, the world over, has been proclaiming that Jesus is alive, that He is the risen Lord. Jesus is alive undoubtedly, but the Church has not been able to affirm this by a realistic testimony. The Church needs to demonstrate that Jesus is alive and that He is here, living in the midst of His people, by the power of His resurrection. The Church has failed in this crucial area of its testimony. We have to see that the Church has not failed doctrinally, for she has always proclaimed that the foundation of the Church is based upon the resurrection of the Lord. There is no doubt about that. The reality is, however, that she has not re-



presented that resurrection life, because it remained a mere doctrine and an objective truth. When the Lord's true testimony is raised up in the Church, and when His people demonstrate that Jesus is alive, things are going to be different.. It is a matter of the manifestation of His life. When the living person of Christ is demonstrated in the midst of His people, when people live in the power of His resurrection, then the world will surely acknowledge the power and presence of God. There is no doubt that Jesus is living in His people, but when the Holy Spirit demonstrates His life within His people, then we shall see the Church coming into greater maturity. Beloved, the Church has been holding on to a historical Christ for hundreds of years. She has failed to live that life in the power of His resurrection. She has failed to provide the world with the spectacle of true life, in the reality of 'the One who is dead but liveth ever more'!

What is the testimony of the Lord Jesus? It is the living presence of Jesus Christ! The livingness of Jesus in the midst of His people! In certain countries, though there is an absence of freedom to preach the gospel, still we see that Jesus is alive and very much present, for God cannot be limited by man. Men may try to curb Christian evangelism, but this will not limit the power of God. Even though the preaching of the gospel is prohibited, yet we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is raised up in their midst. In such countries where it is forbidden to speak and declare the gospel openly, people hunt down Christian believers, and yet, Jesus is



manifested as the one who is alive in their midst. They search for Christian believers so that they may eliminate them only because Jesus is alive in their midst. That is the testimony of Jesus. His testimony is not in just a bold declaration. His testimony is a living witness of a greater measure of His life, which is visible and demonstrated in His people. The testimony of the Lord Jesus is presented to us symbolically right at the beginning of the book of Revelation - "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18)

We have come to the Church of the everlasting, ever-living One, which is the pillar and ground of truth. We have not come to the Church of the dead. What is the testimony of the Lord? It is the present living Person of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the living, victorious Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is where it begins – the living Person of Jesus Christ. It is not the historic Jesus of Palestine who lived centuries ago. No. He is the right-up-to-date, here-and-now living Jesus, manifested, demonstrated and proved to be alive in the power of the Holy Ghost! Jesus said, " I am he that liveth and was dead and behold, I am alive for evermore"! He will never die again. He has the keys of hell and of death. He once tasted death for all. He has the keys of hell and will never die again. He has every authority over the power of death. He has triumphed over death. It is all in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often misrepresented today, but we see that great power is given to the Holy Spirit. The living



power of Christ can be demonstrated in our midst by the power of the Holy Spirit. Beloved brothers and sisters, we must seek the Lord for this one thing. The purpose for which the Church exists today is to openly display the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ!



When the jubilee trumpet begins to blow on the Day of Atonement in the 120th Jubilee, mankind will start returning to their family, from their fallen state in sin, back to that perfect state of fellowship with God.

15

THE JUBILEE YEAR



And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his family”
[Leviticus 25:8-10]

As soon as a slave hears the Jubilee Trumpet in Israel, he is free to go home to his family, and what rightfully belongs to him is really his now. You can imagine his joy as he throws down the tools of slavery, bids his master goodbye, and heads for his home and family. IT WAS NOTHING HE HAD DONE; HE NEVER DID GET HIS DEBT PAID OFF; HE HAD NOT EARNED HIS FREEDOM. IT WAS JUST



THE SOVEREIGN LAW OF GOD THAT SET HIM FREE. All he had to do was believe it and head for home. Yes, he goes back to his father's farm and tells the strangers in his land to move out. He starts living in his own house again and eating the fruit of his own land. No more working as an hireling, he is now working for himself, as his own inheritance.

When Israel conquered the land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, he divided the land among all the families in Israel. This was their inheritance in the land, and no one (other than God Himself) could lawfully deprive them of their inheritance. However, if drought struck the land, or some other type of disaster, the families might lose their land. They would sell the land to someone else until the year of Jubilee. At the Jubilee, the land would revert back to him, and any remaining debts were to be cancelled.

From the fall of Adam to Abraham was 2000 years, 40 time 50 years. Forty Jubilee periods passed over humanity. But that 'forty' was not the end. God re-established His promise with Abraham. Another 40 Jubilees passed and the Lord Jesus came into this world. Even that 'eighty' was not the end. With the first appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, God paid the debt for humanity and purchased their redemption. But in the letter to Ephesians, the apostle Paul says that the *REDEMPTION OF THAT PURCHASED POSSESSION IS STILL AHEAD OF US.* (Ephesians 1:14).

In the letter of Apostle Peter, we read, *"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God*



through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1 :4-5).

Beloved, we have already completed 39 Jubilees since the coming of the Lord Jesus and we are close to the 40th Jubilee (2000 years) or the 120th Jubilee (6000 years). 120 in the Bible numerology speaks about the end of all flesh. One can never forget the Glory that filled the Temple of Solomon when 120 priests blew the trumpet. Similarly, at the birth of the early church in the Book of Acts when 120 disciples (priests) gathered together, the Glory filled the ‘Temple’. ‘Two’ is the number of witness or testimonies in the Bible numerology, while number three is the number of divine completeness. The glory shall fall a third time. This shall be when the 120th Jubilee will be fulfilled in these last days, and the High Priest after the order of Melchizedec, our Lord Jesus, shall appear to His people at the ‘Tabernacle’ on the Day of Atonement. The last and permanent Temple ‘not made with hands’ will be filled with all the glory of God this third time.

The Scripture says that the trumpet shall sound and there shall be a proclamation of “LIBERTY... and... SHALL RETURN EVERY MAN UNTO HIS POSSESSION and UNTO HIS FAMILY” While this Levitical ordinance was naturally fulfilled for the children of Israel, this signifies a great spiritual fulfillment today for each one of us. This proclaims a hope to humanity that God has set a day when bondage would cease and everything that God has given to mankind in the beginning would be restored. God has promised a deliverance and victory over Sin and Satan. “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under YOUR FEET SHORTLY” (Romans 16:20). God’s people shall



return to their possessions and every man to his family.

When the jubilee trumpet begins to blow on the Day of Atonement in the 120th Jubilee, mankind will start returning to their family, from their fallen state in sin, back to that perfect state of fellowship with God. Surely each one will return to his family, his place in the Lord. It is time to move in! The day is upon us, the Day of Atonement. Be ready, oh dear people of God. The movements of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, are being heard. The night is far spent, a new Day is breaking, the darkness is fleeing, and hell's gates are now shaking: for He shall appear shortly. His Glory is rising. Rejoice, rejoice everyone, for the sound that you hear is the voice of our High Priest. All His enemies will go down in the fray, and every pain and sorrow He shall wipe away. Those who believe in His Glory will share that final salvation at His appearance. *Hallelujah!!*

FROM THE BOOK: THE THREE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST



To be in the Lord is to be in the light. That is the calling of the remnant in these darkest of times.

16



LONGING FOR THE LIGHT



“All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.”
[John 3:20 NLT]

In Chapter 4 of the Gospel of John, we see the life of the woman at the well as an example of one whose evil life was totally exposed by the Lord. All the darkness in her life was shown to her by the Lord; but unlike many religious people of her time, there was a true desire in her to somehow come out of that kind of life. She had a heart that longed for light though she was in darkness! If she had hated the light, she could have chosen to discontinue her conversation with the Lord. She could have left Jesus’ presence on one pretext or another. She could have excused herself, withdrawn from the Light and lost her one opportunity to be restored forever! But when she came in touch with the Light and all her evil works were exposed, she saw in Jesus the



answer to her own predicament and came back. She confessed that He was the Christ. She persevered despite the reproof she received in the light, and then her eyes were opened.

Consider this: she was free to walk away. Many of us in her situation would have left, saying, “Sorry sir, I have some work and I must go, but I will come back,” and then not bother to return. We are quick to manage our escape routes; we cannot stay in the light too long because we do not want our deeds to be reproofed and made known. It would have been easy for this woman-at-the-well to have made a choice to stay away, to get rid of this Christ and walk away from that place! But she saw the Light, all her evil deeds were exposed, and she was able to turn a new leaf in her life. The reason is that she desired in her heart to come out of her evil and unrighteous life-style. She realized that she had met a Man who could free her and deliver her wholly. She knew in her heart that the Light was the answer to the darkness in her life. The light she received not only removed her darkness but opened her eyes to behold who was speaking to her- even Christ the Messiah! The eyes of many religious people were blind and could not see the One who stood before them, but this hapless woman could see and confess that He was Christ! What a work of God when one is open to light!

We all must have a heart that longs to come into the light! Only then can God change our lives! To be in the Lord is to be in the light. That is the calling of the remnant in these darkest of times. In the darkness all around, God’s light is coming upon His people. His light is coming upon His remnant! This is not just a concept or doctrine, but this is the reality. The Lord, who



is the Light from whom many have turned away because their deeds were evil, is drawing His remnant to His very presence. People have even left this calling and gone away because they did not want their deeds to be exposed. But that woman-at-the-well testified of that Man who had met her. She went to the city to tell the people to meet Him. And the people saw the Light and desired Him to stay with them in that city. What a tremendous and wonderful work takes place when we walk in the light!

Many people do not want to come to the Light because they do not want to be delivered from their evil deeds, activities and works. They do not want their lives to be exposed; they do not want to change. They shrink back from exposure of the reality. We know this was what happened in most of our own lives as well at one time! We did not want anyone to know of our evil heart; we hesitated to change and to confess our evil deeds. We know how prone we are to withdraw or shrink from the light!

Beloved, our safety lies in coming into the Light. Do not draw back from the Light. Though the enemy will do all that is possible to stir our flesh and our natural man, we must resist him. Let us not draw back or shrink from the Light under any circumstances. May God help us to receive this practical word in our lives!

FROM THE BOOK : "THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB"



17

To be in the Lord is to be in the light. That is the calling of the remnant in these darkest of times.

RESTLESSNESS



And the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever; and THEY HAVE NO REST DAY OR NIGHT... who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
[Revelation 14:9-11]

In this scripture portion we see restlessness in those who receive the mark of the beast. They have no rest in their lives.

Around us there are people who are restless and tormented. People are given to liquor and narcotics. They are like animals in a cage, pacing up and down. Today, these restless people may be called by the glorified name of tourists; but in actuality, they are like tigers that pace the length of their cages. In their restlessness, they travel from one place to another and are continually in search of something new to engage their interests. Their souls have no rest.



There is a similar restlessness amongst Christians today. They are working all the time. "It is the Lord's work," they say. Beloved, even Martha was working for the Lord! In Christian circles there are so many such 'Marthas'! They are busy indeed, but what are they busy with? The busy missionary would reply, "For God's glory, brother; to lift up God's name; to serve Him." BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT MARTHA WAS BITTER IN HER HEART WHEN SHE SAW MARY SITTING AT THE FEET OF THE LORD. The 'Marthas' would say, "Look Lord, she has not got a burden for the perishing souls!! Millions are perishing and look at Mary. She says that she is enjoying the Word of God." Martha was bitter, and so are many who work themselves to the bone! Beloved, the world is restless, and so also are many Christians. But in the midst of the existing chaos and commotion in this world, God is causing a people to rest in Him. Look at the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus; He walked and lived in such rest doing the will of the Father, although He came down to save mankind. He was unlike the preachers of today who are so busy with their activities and love not to rest in the Lord. WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE IN THE LORD JESUS, AS ONE WHO HAD THE BURDEN, COMPASSION AND LOVE, AND YET HE WAS NOT RESTLESS BUT WAS RESTING IN HIS FATHER'S WILL.

There are a people who are entering into their rest in God. They labor to enter into that rest. Thank God for those who are able to live in the rest of God. When everything around them is agitated and disturbed, there is a rest for God's people. THIS REST IS NOT THE REST OF THE TIRED MAN WHO HITS THE BED AND FALLS ASLEEP AT ONCE LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES. BUT IT IS A REST IN GOD, A REST THAT IS DEEP WITHIN THE SOUL AND THE INNERMOST BEING. In the Christian



realm at large, people hop from conventions to conventions, crusades to crusades and meetings to meetings. They meet the same crowd at all the meetings! If one were to ask them if they were satisfied or whether they had experienced any victory, they would reply in the negative. Beloved, they are restless. There are some people who run from one church to another. They hear the same doctrines but they are not satisfied. They too are restless. But there are a few who are labouring to enter into His rest. Are you restless? What is the mark that you bear?

THE OTHER PLACE WHERE WE CAN SO EASILY GET THE MARK OF THE BEAST IS AT THE PLACE OF OUR WORK. We have to be very careful of the technology and devices of man. God will have a people who shall be upright and who live in His rest. Look at the example of Daniel. After visiting the provinces, he told the king that there was a lot of corruption and bribery in the provinces. The ministers in the court hated Daniel and his reforms, without reason. But we know that the king bowed down to the God of Daniel. He proclaimed a law, a decree that all men, everywhere, should worship the God of Daniel. It was in his workplace that Daniel exalted God and lived in God's rest. He had the mark of God at his workplace.

What kind of mark do we have? God wants us to continually receive His mark. Then and only then can He engrave upon us His own nature. What nature are we manifesting? What mark are we bearing? What kind of character and nature do we reflect in our workplace? What kind of manifestation do we have at home?



"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, And over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." (Revelations 15:2).

What a company we see here; those who have victory over the beast, over his image, over his mark and over his name. Note that the word 'over' occurs four times. This suggests that there is a company of overcomers who shall not be influenced by the beast. Overcomers will not be influenced by the spirit of the antichrist, the mark of the beast, the image of the beast or the name of the beast. We should really pray to God to make us a people who would overcome the beast in all its manifestations and thus remain in God's rest.

FROM THE BOOK: "THE MARK OF THE LORD AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST"



18 *Men will change their opinions and their evaluations will change, but the God in whom you put your trust will never change. .*

DOES GOD APPROVE?



"Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery. Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men."

[Daniel 2:47-48]

Daniel was not lifted up by the king's praise nor by the promotion he received far above everyone else in his batch. Daniel persistently and continually kept his eyes upon the Lord, the God of his fathers. He was not carried away by the appreciation of men, but kept his eyes upon the living God. Daniel always looked for God's judgments to see how he should behave himself, for he realized that he was just a slave boy brought into the Babylonian set-up. In a sense, Daniel was trained in the 'Babylonian Administrative Service'! But he purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the meat and drink of the king. He wanted to live a righteous life in right relationship



with God. Many think that it would be difficult to live today as Daniel lived because things have changed. It is true that things have changed, but the God of Daniel has not changed. The necessity today is for us to believe in the God of Daniel. The opinions of others did not matter to Daniel; he sought the opinion of his God. Many good things were said about Daniel by the king, but Daniel set his eyes upon Heavenly opinion.

A time came when the king proclaimed a new ordinance in his kingdom. He ordained that all men must worship his image of gold. The same King Nebuchadnezzar who confessed that the God of Daniel was the only true God (i.e. worthy of worship) was ready to throw Daniel and his friends into a fiery furnace after they refused to bow down and worship his golden image. This is the quality of man's judgment, and of his evaluations and opinions. It changes overnight! Beloved, we cannot trust the assessments and appraisals of men. There are people who spoke so well of me and even did many good things to me at one time. However, it was only a matter of time when their opinions were challenged by situations. When their wills were crossed and their ways were questioned in situations that arose concerning the love of the Lord, they turned hostile and spoke of things diametrically opposite to what they had spoken earlier. If I had lived my life to conform to their opinion and will, I would have lost the approval of my Lord in many areas of my life. I thank the Lord for helping me to fasten myself to the revealed will of the Lord despite many challenges that have surfaced in all these years.

Men will appreciate you one day and throw you out the next day. Men will change their opinions and their evaluations



will change, but the God in whom you put your trust will never change. So it is very important, wherever you may be and whatever may be your responsibility, to remain true to the One who has called you and placed you in His kingdom.

As spiritual people we ought to be concerned with only one thing: what the Lord has to say about our life. Today many believers are living their spiritual lives before other people! That sort of life will never reach beyond the temporal, it will never re-appear in eternity. It is futile to live before men. The most important challenge today is to live before the Lord. The church in Sardis had a name. It was alive but the people were dead! The Lord's opinion of them was just opposite to that of the saints in the church at Sardis. Most people evaluate a preacher according to the display of spiritual gifts and an ability to articulate the word of God. The opinion of the majority of believers could be hundred percent wrong! In the same way, a church could be alive unto the Lord and to His testimony, but in the opinion of the majority of Christendom, that church could be considered no better than dead! It is so true that many people evaluate a church by its warm welcome, the size of its congregation, and its prowess at singing and playing musical instruments. The greater the noise and display of emotions, the more the appeal of the sermon to intellectuals and the larger the collection of offerings to missions, the better is that church in the opinion of man. But the Lord is not impressed by any of these things. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches!

Saints, God's judgments are made on a totally different scale. Our judgments must not be a matter of impressing



others so that they have a high opinion of our lives; nor must they be related to the opinion of others, especially the influentially placed. We must keep our lives open to the evaluations of God. The question is, “Am I willing to be evaluated by the Lord, here and now?” Is it His approval that I seek? Are we honest enough to face and accept what He has to say about ourselves? Are we honest enough to accept and receive what He shows us?

If we are open and desirous of knowing what the Holy Spirit would show us, then we would be saved from a lot of sorrow and unhappiness. I would like to encourage all of us to be open to the ministrations of the Holy Spirit. Many a time we are disturbed about the opinion others have about us. True disciples are not to be troubled about such things, but they are to be troubled about the Lord’s opinion of their ways and behavior. They need to ask themselves, “What are my Lord’s evaluations about me, my priorities, my opinions and my plans?”

FROM THE BOOK : “THE UNVEILING”



19

The Scripture says very clearly, that the church should function like a human body; and just as a human body has different members with different functions, so also the church, which is the Body of Christ

PLURALITY IN LEADERSHIP



For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.
[Ephesians 4:16]

Today, many churches, though existing in the New Testament times, are functioning according to Old Testament patterns and systems. Under the Old Testament, only those could be priests who were born of the tribe of Levi. The descendants of Aaron who had physical defects, blindness, lameness, and blemishes specified in the law were disqualified from priesthood (Lev.21:16-24). In the New Testament order, priesthood is significantly different. Every believer who has had a genuine born-again experience is considered a priest unto God (1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6; Rev



5:10). In the former order, the qualification for a priest was physical and human; but in the New Order, the requirements for priesthood are spiritual and divine.

In much the same way, institutional Christianity, the Old Order of today, gives importance to physical and human aspects such as personality, talents, learning, and education. These are considered to be the apt criterion for ministry in the church. A charming personality, a theological degree, and eloquence are looked upon as the ministerial necessities, rather than New Order emphasis of new life characteristics, such as submission and obedience to the Lord. It is not difficult to see why there is so much of stagnation today in the organizational church world.

The Scripture says very clearly, that the church should function like a human body; and just as a human body has different members with different functions, so also the church, which is the Body of Christ, needs an organic set-up. How sad that in many places, what we have today is not the Body of Christ functioning in unity and harmony, but an anatomy lab where human parts (members of the body) without true life are kept on display as non-functional entities! This is the reason why the Old Order wants only one man (the pastor) to do everything from beginning to end! There is no functioning of the body as such. Unfortunately, there is no priesthood even in many so-called Pentecostal churches which are Spirit filled. They accommodate some rich or famous men as their favorites also to function alongside the minister once in a while. Thus what we find in many places is that sincere believers attend church meetings as spectators—they come



and go unaffected by the word that was ministered to them. They do not like to give any place or opportunity to the Holy Spirit, that perchance He may manifest Himself “as He wills” (1 Cor 12:7-12).

Many churches of our times have no true plurality in leadership. In New Testament times, however, God’s pattern for His church is clearly set forth in the Book of Acts, where the only kind of church government is that of plurality in leadership. We see this plurality functioning in the churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, and Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19, Acts 20:17, 1 Tim 5:17) as well as in the Cilicia churches at Pergamum, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Attalia (Acts 14:23) in the Cretan churches (Titus 1:4-5), and the Judean churches (Acts 11 :29-30).

It is significant to note that we never find the word “elder” (singular) used in relation to a local church in the sense of being the Elder over the church. Yet we find sufficient evidence to show that an elder was considered senior among the elders. So the pattern in the local church is a plurality of ministry, though plurality is not equality. This can be seen in the prominence given to Peter by the Spirit from the beginning of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 1: 15, 2:14, 38; 3:4-25, 4:8-12; 5:1-11). Some ministries function in lesser scope of authority than others. There are elders who teach in the local church and act as pillars, and there are some who assume greater responsibilities because of their spiritual abilities and calling. So plurality is not equality, and you can never force spiritual equality because ministries vary in degree of maturity, calling etc. The New Testament and early church history confirm the



fact that all the churches had plurality of leadership; and yet those who were senior among them coordinated the work of God and exercised spiritual authority. Those among the elders who had less experience in spiritual matters were told to submit themselves to the elder (1 Pet 5:5). Though there may be some elders with great variety of maturity and calling and function, they are all elders and all are overseers over His people as well as feeders of the flock. Even today, a true Body of Christ would have plurality in leadership. These are appointed by God, and not by or of man.

None of the twelve apostles came from a Bible college, nor did the Lord look for them in any religious institution of His day. The local church is the training centre for one and all. For long the practice in the denominational, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches has been to get leaders from amongst Bible college graduates. These graduates function like baby-sitters who relieve the parents (churches) so that the ministers can indulge in their own pleasures. The Word says, "The same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim 2:2). The Lord will bring forth that which He purposed. He who has ears to hear, let him hear

FROM THE BOOK: "COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE"



20 *Whether the Lord Jesus Christ comes again in our life time or not, our determined purpose should always be as Paul says "For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"*

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS



"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

[Matthew 12:38-40]

The Pharisees and Scribes asked Jesus to give them a sign. But the Lord said that they were part of an evil and adulterous generation and hence no sign would be given to them except the sign of the prophet Jonas. The sign that He spoke of here speaks of the cross and the resurrection.

The Second Coming of the Lord is an absolute certainty.



Beloved, we don't need any signs of His coming again. We have the reality of His cross and His resurrection working in our inward being and we are called to live in the reality of the cross and all that He has accomplished in His cross for His people. We are to contend for the faith, for the reality of all that Christ is, and for the reality of all that Christ has accomplished on the cross. We have been called and separated for this purpose.

Whether the Lord Jesus Christ returns again in our life time or not, our determined purpose should always be, as Paul says: "(For my determined purpose is) that I may know Him (that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly), and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope] 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]. Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) {and} make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me {and} made me His own. I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured {and} made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is 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." (Phil 3:10-14 Amplified).



This was the cry of the apostle Paul — ‘that I may know Him’ — and this must be our determined purpose also. The apostle Paul had experienced the reality of the cross and the resurrection working upon him, that he might apprehend that for which he was apprehended.

In this hour of great apostasy, when many are departing from the faith and when the love of many is waxing cold, God is looking towards His remnant to whom He says, “You who have been called out and separated, you who have been called out and kept for the Lord Jesus Christ, contend for the faith and the reality of the Father in the Son.” O that we may experience the reality of His cross and the power of His resurrection deep within us. Our determined purpose and longing each day should be to know the Lord. The reality of the cross and the reality of His resurrection working in us are essential for us to know Him in-depths. This should be our determined purpose each day.

When the Son of man comes back, will He find the persistence of the faith upon the earth? Will He find a people persisting in the reality of all that Christ is and all that Christ has accomplished in the cross? The question is whether we will be found in that realm or not. Will He find persistence in ‘the faith’? He asked the disciples a question, a question that will be asked of every disciple in every age and generation, a question that should stir them up and shake off every shade of passivity, a question that should stir up and set ablaze the spirit of every true disciple and overcomer in the Lord! “However, when the Son of Man comes will He find (persistence in) the faith on the earth? “(Amplified Bible).



The context of this Scripture makes it clear that an intense spiritual warfare is taking place. In fact, from now onwards, each time ‘the faith’ is mentioned in the Word, we are going to find that a great battle is raging, a battle that will always involve God bringing about His purposes in Christ Jesus and the satanic attempt to stop it.

Brethren, if you know that God has called you to be a part of the reality of all that Christ is and all that He has accomplished, you are involved in a spiritual battle. There is a spiritual warfare that accompanies the faith. May God open our eyes and set us in this direction. May this be a foundation deep within us – to contend for the faith. Will He find the persistence of the faith in us as a people in these last days?

At the time of this great departure and great apostasy, God wants us to be separated and to earnestly contend for the faith — the faith which is the greater reality of Christ and all that He has accomplished. We are in this spiritual battle. This is the counsel of God for a serious people. Let our cry to God be to open our eyes and ears that we may understand His word to us, so that we may be persistently found in the reality of this realm. If Christ were to return at this moment, will He find a people walking in the persistent reality of all that He is and all that He has accomplished?

What a calling! If we have been kept by Christ, then there is a spiritual battle that we must be involved in. Let our determined purpose be ‘that I may know Him!’

FROM THE BOOK : “CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH”



21 *Knowledge without obedience is akin to undigested food. Let us accept this serious counsel wholeheartedly.*

SPIRITUAL DIGESTIVE SYSTEM



*Blessed is he that READETH, and they that HEAR the words of this prophecy, and KEEP those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
[Revelation 1:3]*

Though we eat food every day, we know little of how food is actually converted to flesh and blood. We do not have a proper and detailed understanding of how the food is digested. Nonetheless it is very important to have a healthy digestive system which works well and meets the need of our physical bodies. This is true for our spiritual life also. There are so many things we do not understand concerning our spiritual growth. Though we do not have many details, we must realize that it is just as essential to have a good spiritual digestive system as it is to have a sound natural digestive system.



What is a spiritual digestive system? It is our life of obedience to the Lord. Our attitude and heart to obey the Lord is our spiritual digestive system. We may not know all the ways in which spiritual things work out in our lives, such as how we were born-again; but as long as we have a healthy digestive system, a heart of obedience, everything else is taken care of. Saints, if we have a heart of obedience unto the Lord, to walk in His ways and follow after Him, everything will be well with us. The most important thing in our lives, spiritually, is our obedience to God. If we have a heart that is fully obedient to the Lord, then we can say that we have a healthy digestive system. First the natural, and then the spiritual!

Knowledge without obedience is akin to undigested food. Let us accept this serious counsel wholeheartedly. If you do not have a heart to obey the Word which God has ministered to you, then undigested food lies inactive in your inner spiritual recesses. If you fail to obey the Word you have been convicted of when you heard it or fail to change thereupon, then you are like one who has failed to digest his food. As a result there will be a heap of undigested food in your system. When that happens, naturally speaking, a person is sure to get sick. Indigested food can result in grievous danger, even threatening one's life. It can be the cause for loss of energy, ill health and finally death. It will be a great pity if, instead of bringing life, the food we consume brings death in its place!

We are considering the effect of God's Word in our lives. We rejoice over this spiritual life; but if His Word is not obeyed, it will become undigested food in our system and make us



spiritually sick. Many do not realize this. Today many believers are unhealthy; they are spiritually sick. They have hardly any stamina and spiritual endurance. They are always sickly in a spiritual sense because they have failed to obey the Lord and His Word.

Many believers go to well known preachers for deliverance, they go to hear spiritual messages, but they remain spiritually sick. They spend time in spiritual activities and in prayer, but all things cannot be dealt with merely by prayer. The need is to have a life of obedience. Knowledge combined with obedience will bring life. Knowledge and understanding plus obedience ministers life. It is so necessary that in these last days we maintain an inward healthy spiritual system. You are responsible for this and no one else can do it for you. Often when we want to grow and move on spiritually, we are not able to do so because we lack spiritual stamina. Do you realize that the real problem in your spiritual life is that of having an unhealthy spiritual system? When we are not able to overcome the enemy, the flesh and the world, it is because we are not healthy spiritually. God's people often lack spiritual stamina and spiritual strength. This is the challenge before us. A life of obedience to what God has revealed to us is crucial. If we maintain a good digestive system unto the Lord, we shall not have to worry about many things. We shall be kept by His power; He will protect us. A life of obedience is the only way to maintain our spiritual lives.

A life of obedience, a heart to submit, a heart that is open for reproof (2 Tim 3:16), a heart that is open for correction, a heart that is ready to yield to the Lord, speak of a healthy



digestive system. We are all called to obey God. Instead of that, if you go to any man for deliverance, you can be certain that your true spiritual need will not be met. Only God can deliver us from the spiritual sickness that stems from our disobedience. If we fail to obey Him, our lives will be adversely affected.

What are you caught up with?

What are you doing?

These are very important questions concerning your spiritual life. God's people will have to be open to the Spirit of God and be responsible. It is not a matter of having some mental knowledge of things and doing some activities in His name. It is time to be concerned about your spiritual health, your maturity, your walk with the Lord, so that the man of God may be made complete. Every bit of undigested food in your spiritual system will work adversely and cause inward decay. Do you know that the Word you have disobeyed in your life can work negatively and have negative results? Yes, it will make you sick and weaken you spiritually. Saints, let us therefore turn to the Lord and ask the Lord to heal us.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE HIDDEN WEAPON OF OVERCOMERS"



22 *The greatest need in the church today is for His people to maintain a life of obedience unto the Lord.*



OBEDIENCE - THE SECRET WEAPON



“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

[I Samuel 15:22-23]

Saul began his reign with enthusiasm. He had a splendid assistant in his son Jonathan. Jonathan was brave and popular with the people. The Philistines made an effort to crush the Israelites. They gathered in vast number against them. The men of Israel were afraid, and followed Saul tremblingly. Samuel had appointed a time to come to Saul at Gilgal to offer sacrifices before the battle should begin. But Saul became impatient of Samuel’s delay and offered the sacrifices himself. Just as he had ended his offering Samuel came. Saul went out to greet him; but Samuel said to him: “What have you done?” Saul explained his action;



but Samuel said, “You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God.” He said further to him that if he had obeyed, his kingdom would have been established forever. “But now your kingdom shall not continue: the Lord has sought a man after his own heart, and the Lord has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept that which the Lord commanded you.”

Samuel continued to be prophet and guide to Saul, and brought him a Divine message, commanding him to smite the Amalekites. Very definite instructions were given to the king: “Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.” The battle was fought, and Saul’s victory was complete. But Agag, the king, was spared, also the best of the sheep and oxen, and all that was good. What were vile and worthless, were utterly destroyed—but what were choice and valuable, were spared.

After the battle was over, came Samuel with sharp reproof. Saul met the old man graciously. He was greatly pleased with himself and with what he had done. He regarded his victory over the Amalekites as a splendid achievement. He had already set up a monument to himself, perhaps a stone, to commemorate his victory. He heard that Samuel was coming to see him, and went to meet him with patronizing words and manner: “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”



He had indeed performed the Lord's bidding in a way, in his own partial and imperfect way, doing just as much of what God commanded, as he had felt inclined to do, then leaving out such parts of the commandment as he felt disinclined to perform.

There are a good many people in every age who obey God in the same way. They render a general obedience—but pay no heed to the exact requirements of the Divine law. They tell the truth as a whole—but are not concerned about slight deviations from it. They are honest in a large, general way—but do not think that their little dishonesties count against them. Saul thought he had come near enough to what God had told him, to claim to have been obedient and to merit strong commendation for his fidelity. What God thought, however, of Saul's way of obeying—we learn a little further on, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king." (I Samuel 15:22-23)

The greatest need in the church today is for His people to maintain a life of obedience unto the Lord. That is what the Lord is looking for. It is a hidden weapon that will help God's remnant church to overcome the enemy in every realm.

When the Lord told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice unto the Lord, in Genesis chapter 22, no one heard what God had said to him. Abraham could have easily overlooked God's word to him; none would have known about



it save the Lord. Abraham's obedience to the Lord's word was altogether a hidden matter; it was something between the Lord and himself. Our obedience to the Lord is essentially a hidden matter and no one really knows whether we have obeyed the specific word of the Lord to us or not.

FROM THE BOOK : "THE MARK OF THE LORD AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST"



23 *Church history shows how God's people have stopped at either the first Feast of Passover or the second Feast of Pentecost.*



FROM THE BOOK : “
BEYOND PENTECOST



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 characterized by a 'man-centered' 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'.

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, 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 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 today is not a restoration of the Feast of Tabernacle, but a fulfilment of this last and final Feast.



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!

FROM THE BOOK : "THE UNVEILING"



24 *There can be nothing that is second hand in our spiritual life. This is basic to our spiritual life; life must be a first-hand experience!*

A FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE



Nicodemus was a man who thought he knew everything, but when he came into the Lord's presence (John 3:1-3), then the areas of his darkness and blindness were made known to him. Beloved, only when we come to the Lord and draw near to Him will we be able to discover the extent of the darkness within our lives. We have to live by this principle. We have to always see our lives in relation to the light in the face of Jesus Christ. If we see our lives in relation to the light in another person's life, we may think our lives are better or higher than theirs. That is not the way to judge our lives. The true darkness in our lives will only be revealed and made known to us in the presence of the Lord. This is not only true when we begin our spiritual



lives, but this is also continually applicable as we grow up spiritually. Therefore, it is vital that we are always unreservedly open for spiritual light to enter our lives. Unfortunately, we often have a false feeling that we are in the light just because we have acquired some knowledge by reading books and hearing messages! But remember that the Lord is primarily interested in life, and not the knowledge of things!

In Chapter 9 of the Gospel of John, we read of the blind man's delightful statement, "Once I was blind, but now I see". We need to have such an experience, not only at the start of our spiritual lives, but throughout our growth, so that our spiritual seeing is progressive. That is very important.

Many a time, we are quick to read and grasp things that do not provide us any spiritual light. It is a reality that God's people in this day and age are more deceived than people of the past because they make-believe that they have come into a greater knowledge of the of of the Lord. Though we are in the 21st century, we are more prone to deception than those who lived in times past. Just because we are more technologically advanced today than saints in the past, we think we are able to come into the light quicker, but the spiritual poverty and depleted life of believers today clearly shows us that most of us are far away from true spiritual light. Beloved, we have to be people who have the REAL light. It is not a matter of being a group of people who come under a doctrine or teaching. Remember, that the remnant talks of a people with a certain quality of life – a people who pursue the life of the Son Himself. We are to be those who



demonstrate and testify of having the incorruptible life of the Son. The Lord gives us light so that we may walk in the light and possess life.

The blind man said, “Once I was blind, but now I see.” He came to a place of seeing and so he said, “Now I see.” There can be nothing that is second hand in our spiritual life. This is basic to our spiritual life; life must be a first-hand experience! In the blind man’s life ,everything he received was second-hand up until he received sight from the Lord! Somebody had to tell him who his uncle or who his neighbor was; he had to hear what others said to know where he was at every moment of his life because he was absolutely blind. Everything was told to him and he acted upon it. But after his eyes were opened his life, was so different. This is true even in our own lives. We need to understand this basic tenet of Christian life. That is why Christianity cannot be taught as a subject, it cannot be received through some class-room teaching. Every disciple of Jesus Christ should know this very important basic principle. **Always remember that Christian life comes by conception and not by teaching!** It is like a woman who conceives a child. There is a life that grows within her by a process of conception.

FROM THE BOOK : “I KNEW A MAN IN CHRIST”



*To be in the Lord is to be in the light. That is
the calling of the remnant in these darkest of
times.*

25



LINKED TO HIS SUFFERINGS



“for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”
[Acts 9:16]

I must emphatically say first of all that the name of Jesus expresses itself in suffering. The above words were spoken concerning Paul at his conversion. Again of the disciples it is written that they rejoiced “that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name” (Acts 5:41). Saints we may know something of suffering for the Name, but it is here that our heart relationship to the Lord is really put to test. There are numerous ways in which we may suffer, but suffer we shall if that Name is upon us. Whether we accept the suffering or shirk it is another matter. Whether we yield under the pressure and compromise that which comes with His Name or not; whether we lower our standard or not; and whether we bear up to the strain or not, will prove how much



the Name means to us, after all. For the sake of the Name, they went forth in testimony. For the sake of the Name, they went forth in suffering. They were called to suffer for the Name! There is a suffering associated with His Name; there is also a suffering for His names's sake.

What a different time we are living in! We are living at a time where every Christian wants to be mightily used of God, whether he is a pastor, a teacher, an evangelist or a preacher or even just a member of His Body. It is common to hear people make ambitious prayers to be used mightily of God to bring light to the nations (to the nations and nothing short of that!), to preach the word to the uttermost part of the world, the farthest corner! People wanting to serve God and be used of Him are prepared to go to the nations and to the corners of the world! They are prepared to go to any lengths to be used of God but they do not realize that to be truly used of God for His purpose involves suffering, pain and anguish. Not merely the sufferings of travel, of climate changes, of sub-standard living standards and such things, but the sufferings because of the Name! They forget the call to suffer for His name's sake and pray for mighty and miraculous abilities for themselves. We need to look into God's word and see the examples of the early apostles who went the way of suffering for His name's sake. Yet they deign to undergo any kind of suffering, trial, distress or agony for His sake. True ministry lies in suffering so that the name of the Lord would be magnified. How explicitly the Lord made clear to Paul, "I will show him how great things he must suffer." Here we see that God chose a vessel, but made it crystal clear that the vessel needed to suffer for His name's sake. The usefulness of a vessel is always linked to suffering!



In the mercies of God, the Lord has taught me that if I am not open for His working through suffering, then God will leave me in the place where I want to be. If you are not open for His workings, He will let you remain in a place where life is elementary and easy-going. You can have your happy times. God will not compel or force you to choose His way: He will leave you in the place of your desires, though it be just a fundamental and basic place. This is an important principle to grasp: God will leave you in a place of ease and in a place where you desire to be, if you do not remain open to His way of suffering and trial. The Lord rarely will do anything corrective and stringent to change you. Saints, let me tell you that this will not be a compliment to your spiritual life! It may just mean that the Lord is not able to do all that He would do if He could! He will not interfere with our choices if we are not open to Him. Without our cooperation, He will not make a way for us to grow and know more of Him. And remember, if God leaves you in the place of your choosing, it is not an admirable commentary or compliment of your spiritual life. If you insist on doing your 'own thing', to have your own way, to stay away from making any commitments to the Lord, then you are surely limiting the Lord from bringing growth and maturity in your life. He will not be able to do all that He wants to do in your life, because you have not allowed Him to do so. May we hear the Lord carefully!

FROM THE BOOK: "THE UNVEILING"



26

Inward changes will be the evidence that we are in his presence.



THE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE



We should not settle for some kind of outward agreement or for some superficial adjustments in our lives. In the past, we may have somehow survived the onslaught of earthiness and might have managed to maintain a spiritual front, but God desires that we touch the depths in Him. We need to be really open to His workings in our lives. Knowing God is not merely a matter of being saved, but of being changed inwardly in a realistic and experiential manner.

We need to experience changes in several areas of our lives. INWARD CHANGES WILL BE THE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE IN HIS PRESENCE. The changes we experience within, will



give us an idea of our nearness to His presence. For instance, His presence will compel us to experience a change in our priorities. We can only say we have been touched by the presence of the Lord if the changes within us point to realistic alterations in our life style, behavior and attitudes. We may say, 'Lord I love you', but fail to give our time and energy to Him. When we hold onto our energies or our time for our own ends, it merely shows that nothing is happening within us in relation to His visitation.

His visitation in our lives will bring an undoing and a demolishing work within. If we have learnt to truly host His presence, then this is what should be happening within each one of us. We will experience definite, enduring changes in our attitudes, mentalities, temperaments and the whole make up of our personalities. Beloved, we will undergo character changes that will be reflected in all our actions and reactions. The entrance of the Lord into the depths of our beings will bring about the ruin of our ordinary, everyday life!

A child may say, "Daddy, I am really concerned about my studies", yet the child may never take up any book for a serious study. What would one say to such a child? One has to get behind the outward form, the superficialities, and the externals and refuse to accept the child's word. To such a child one would say in love, "If you are so concerned about your studies, where are your books, my child?" Similarly, if we say we love the Lord, one would like to know: what are we involved with every day? What do you do in your spare time? What are you occupied with? What engages your attention? What are your priorities?



In the light of our commitment to the Lord, these are more than pertinent questions. The state of the real apprehension of His presence by our inner man is revealed through changes in our desires, deeds and priorities. We need to have a renewed mind and refuse to be swayed or carried away by some petty, outward, superficial, adjustments. Belonging to a good Christian fellowship cannot be the solution to all things. This cannot work any longer. We must give ourselves to His work in our lives. What God is doing for others, He will do for us, if we have the heart to follow on with Him. If you have found Him, never let Him go. That is the precious counsel for all. If He is visiting the cramped room of your life to perform a lasting work in these days, be open to His workings so that He may continue His work. Do not hold on to the old things, hoping that God will deliver you from their bondage.

A brother in the Lord used to be the cause of great concern in one fellowship. His attitude to the things of God, his response to the workings of the Lord and his commitments to the Body were ever so devious, shifty and indefinite. However, one day, he said that he was a broken and a changed person. He felt that his attitudes, judgments, and responses were not Christian in spirit. He said that he had experienced a great deliverance in his life, after which he had acquired a great burden for the Church. We thank God for the changes that this brother had experienced; God came into his life as a Purifier and a Deliverer. It brought contriteness deep within him. It is different when God comes in and does something in the depths of your being. You may pray for changes to your nature and character for many years and even experience a



modicum of change in some areas, but when the Lord moves in, it is different, for He breaks in. This is what the Lord wants to do in our lives. Prayer is necessary and good, but it cannot replace the working of God in and through the Holy Spirit in your inner being. The Lord will never despise a broken and contrite heart. That has always been an acceptable sacrifice unto the Lord.

FROM THE BOOK : "GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE"



27 *The leaders were so busy preparing messages for others that they could not receive a message from the Lord!*



COMPLACENT LEADERS



Better is a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive counsel (friendly reproof and warning)—”
[Ecclesiastes 4:13 Amplified]

Saints, none of the leaders of the five churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation were aware of the true spiritual condition of their churches. They were not only unaware of the true condition of their own lives, they even had no spiritual intelligence concerning the spiritual state of the churches they led. All of them suffered from a sense of complacency and self-satisfaction. They had a high opinion about themselves and their churches. Perhaps others also had high opinion about them. They could not hear what the Lord had to say to them, because they were not open to the Holy Spirit.



Saints, if we walk according to our own ideas, judgments, evaluations and opinions, or even by the appreciations and opinions of other people, then it will be difficult for us to hear the Lord our God. The leaders of the five churches in the Book of Revelation were not open to the ministrations of the Spirit, and were caught up with their ministries, their work, their missions, their plans and programmes. They were so busy preparing messages for others that they could not receive a message from the Lord! What a dangerous place they were in? They were running ‘the show’, ‘the ministry’, and ‘the organization’. They thought that they were reaching out to others with what they had received from the Lord, but they had no time to hear the voice of the Spirit in their lives. They could not hear what the Spirit had to say to the churches. They were not available to the Lord to see their own need! This tragedy can happen to those who are complacent and are so caught up with their work. Hence, they could not be freed from the things of the flesh and the self. Here is a warning for every true disciple of the Lord in these last days.

Most of the leaders of these churches in *Revelation* felt that they held venerated appointments and positions as leaders; they felt that the anointing upon their ministry was a permanent matter, something they could hold on to despite the condition of their personal lives. That is a dangerous place to be in.

I have met men who thought they would never lose their anointing because they had been placed in the church by the Lord! In the first century, we see that the leaders of the church were not elected by the people or chosen by a selection board



or a governing body. The placement of leaders in the early churches was not like what we have in most churches today: the leaders were appointed of God, such as Paul and the other apostles. This was the pattern throughout the early church, right till the beginning of the second century. The leaders were spiritual giants in comparison to the leaders of today. Be that as it may, it is not difficult to see that the thought of losing their anointing would not have crossed their mind. So, even though they were great leaders, pride set in and they became spiritually defunct. In time, they became lukewarm; they compromised with the world; their pride became a stumbling block. Pride brought them to a place of spiritual hardness, where they could not hear the Lord. They could not even scrutinize and measure their lives in the light of the reality of the Word. They felt their lives were readily acceptable, looking at their status, their positions and the honour that others gave them. In a sense, they were blinded and lost their ability to hear the Spirit, as happened to King Saul in the Old Testament.

Remember, King Saul had a good and humble beginning, but finally lost his anointing and the kingdom as well. This is what is happening in many churches. Spiritual understanding is very different from natural understanding. That is why it can happen that we hear the Word, but miss the Voice! Apostle Paul realized how careful he needed to be, for he said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Paul realized that God had no favorites. He also warned Timothy to watch over his own life first, so that he would be able to experience salvation



in every aspect of his life which was not like that of Christ, and only then in turn would he be able to lead others to such a salvation as well.

FROM THE BOOK: THE CALL OF THE REMNANT



28

*The greatest need in the church today is for
His people to maintain a life of obedience
unto the Lord.*

“GODLY MEN ARE HERE NO MORE”



“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.”
[Psalm 12:1-2]

The Amplified Bible says, “Help, Lord! For principled and godly people are here no more; faithfulness and the faithful vanish from among the sons of men. To his neighbour each one speaks words without use or worth or truth; with flattering lips and double heart (deceitfully) they speak.”

We are living at a time where God-fearing men are rarely in view. The godly and faithful are no longer a part of the everyday scene. People speak to one another with a double tongue; they say one thing but mean something else. People are of a double heart and mind. But the apostle Paul says,



“We have the mind of Christ”; this is a mind that is far from being double minded! The quality of the lives of believers today declares the absence of the spirit of the fear of the Lord. We are living in days when godly fear has almost vanished from the face of the earth. The Church is no exception; the lives of God’s people are no different. God is calling us to look upon the Lord again and to behold His face, to love Him and to live reverentially in His presence.

“Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.” (Isaiah 1:13)

“And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.” (Isaiah 1:15)

The Amplified Bible says, “Bring no more offerings of vanity – emptiness, falsity, vainglory and futility; (your hollow offering of) incense is an abomination to Me; the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies I cannot endure, it is iniquity and profanation, even the solemn meeting.”

In verse 15 of the Amplified Bible we read, “And when you split your hands in prayer, imploring help, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood.”

God’s own people come to His house without any real reverence in their hearts. This is the pity of the day! In this



hour of such great apostasy, may the Lord open our eyes to see the Lord Jesus upon whom the Spirit of the fear of the Lord rested in full measure. Only through the fear of the Lord and the love of the Lord shall we be able to live and move on in His purposes.

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;”
(1 Peter 1:17,18)

And the Amplified Bible in verses 17 to 19 say, “And if you call upon Him as (your) Father Who judges each one impartially according to what he does (then) you should conduct yourselves with true reverence throughout the time of your temporary residence (on the earth, whether long or short). You must know (recognize) that you were redeemed (ransomed) from the useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from (your) forefathers, not with corruptible things (such as) silver and gold, But (you were purchased) with the precious blood of Christ, the Messiah, like that of a (sacrificial) lamb without blemish or spot.”

The counsel of Peter is to pass the time of our sojourning here in fear of God, knowing how and by what we have been redeemed. Peter did not want anybody in the church to grieve the Lord with even the slightest sin from which they had been



redeemed by the precious blood of the Son! The Scriptures are very clear that we need to be governed by the grace of the Lord and the spirit of fear in the love of God in our hearts in these days.

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” (1 Peter 2:17)

This was the counsel of Peter during a time when apostasy in the midst of God’s people was growing in alarming proportions.

Preachers today say that God’s river of grace is flowing and that that is good enough to cover everything in one’s life. They say that it does not matter how many times you go to God, for He is more than gracious. In so saying, they do not pay any heed to God’s righteous judgments. Saints of God, you are responsible for your walk before God. If you move out of your calling, you cannot blame anyone for your lapses; you are responsible for your own attitudes. May the Lord help us to be responsible people in this hour of apostasy when the people of God are turning away from the Lord, when the love of many is waxing cold, and when many are departing from the faith.



29

“and the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.”

A VESSEL AND AN INSTRUMENT



To be a part of God’s remnant in these last days is no cakewalk; it is not without pain. To be instruments and vessels that will fulfill God’s needs and purposes in these last days is easier said than done. The life of Abraham, as an instrument that God had used for a particular purpose, is set before us a worthy example. Abraham hoped in God’s promises even though there was no ground for such hope.

In this hour when God is preparing vessels to meet His specific need, the methods by which God will prepare His remnant will not be ordinary ways. **God will take them**



through situations, difficulties and diverse circumstances so that they may be found to be willing saints of God. We are drawing closer to the hour of His appointed time. Spiritual things as seen around us will not meet the needs of God. The Lord must prepare and bring in a people who will come into the Kingdom at such a time as this. As we read in the book of Esther 4:14 (b) (*- - and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*). Beloved, the enemy has set himself to defile and remove the people of God from the earth. O the terrible and subtle ways in which the enemy is spewing poison into the lives of God's people in the earth! The Lord must have a remnant that is brought into the Kingdom in a time such as this. Oh, a people must be brought into the Kingdom; a vessel and an instrument must be brought into the Kingdom in a special and peculiar way in an hour such as this. Vessels that have seen what is upon the heart of God must be birthed into the kingdom in an abnormal way. Vessels like Abraham, who believed in a God who is able to raise the dead and bring things that do not exist into existence, must come forth in this hour. It is not a matter of hearing some deeper things of God's word or some new things from God's word each Sunday. It is a matter of beholding the Lord and seeing what is upon the heart of God. It is a matter of seeing the apostasy that is taking place in the midst of God's people, which is bringing dishonour and shame to the name of the Lord.

The enemy is determined to deceive, seduce and defile God's people in every way possible. This is made clear in the book of Revelations where we read about the enemy being cast out of the heavens.



Rev 12:12-16

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

The picture we get here is of an enraged enemy spewing out evil like flood waters on the earth. This talks about a fuming Satan who will invade the earth in the last days to seduce God's people. Satan will be occupied in spewing forth a flood of evil and filth upon the earth in the last days. But, through it all, God's true bride and remnant will be preserved! Though she will be attacked mercilessly by Satan, yet she will



be safe and secure in a 'prepared place' of God.

Men of God, leaders, and people in responsibility, have to be very careful in this hour. From coast to coast, the terrible sin of immorality is becoming an epidemic in the church. Millions are immersing themselves in river of lawlessness of every kind. People are bent upon feeding their souls and their flesh. As a result, millions of believers have developed pitiable moral standards; they are continuously living without any holy restraints. Beloved, believe me, the sin of immorality in the midst of God's people has reached terrible proportions today. This is true not only in the West but also in our country. Satan's evil flood waters are sweeping over this country like a Tsunami! The enemy is bent upon deceiving the children of God. O may God help us!



30 *The greatest need in the church today is for His people to maintain a life of obedience unto the Lord.*



RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF GOD



The whole Bible is filled with accounts of people that heard the call of God.

- ◆ Some heard and responded, and went on with God.
- ◆ Some heard the call and made a response but turned aside from that call later on. Nevertheless, God did not stop, but moved on.
- ◆ Then again, others heard the call of God, but hesitated to make any decision. They began to reason and weigh



things. They found it was a costly decision, and therefore, they refused to go on. Nevertheless, God went on.

These three categories of people are clearly distinguishable throughout the Bible. The Old Testament history is full of these categories of people. Many people in the past have missed this call and many continue to miss the call, but God has been gradually collecting a people through the ages. He is slowly but steadily gathering and collecting a people.

He is not calling people into some man-made association. At different places people are being called unto the Son. We are being called to align our lives with the eternal purposes of God, in His Son, Christ Jesus. Looking at this generation from the heavens, the prophets of old would say that many people today are in the Valley of Decision. The trumpet is being blown in the Valley calling us to move on to Zion, in these days. The histories of the people are filled with these three categories of people. May every hungry soul take heed? God is working all things out according to His wisdom as He has purposed from the beginning.

In Acts chapter 7, we read about Abraham, who heard the call of God. *“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,”* Acts 7:2

The God of glory appeared unto Abraham. The call of God gripped Abraham from that same moment, in the Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham worshipped idols. Abraham



met the Living God right there. This Eternal God met him. Abraham could distinguish the eternal God from among all other gods whom he worshipped. He distinguished a voice, and that settled the whole matter of relationship with all other god's that he was accustomed to worship. He was drawn to one focus, to the God of glory, not just a god who is in glory but who is the God of Glory. God of glory is one thing and a god who is in glory, is another thing. The God of Glory talks of God who is glorious in His very being and who has glory at the end as His object! God brings those whom He has called ultimately into that very glory. When Abraham heard this call he responded to it without delay.

I do not know how this call was conveyed; maybe it was done in some strange and inexplicable way. I am convinced that Abraham, somehow, came to know that this call was related to God's Son. Some people may say that Abraham lived in the Old Testament and could not have real fellowship with Jesus, who was a New Covenant person. Many people think that the life of Jesus Christ began in Bethlehem, but in reality it is not so. We have seen that Jesus Christ did not begin in Bethlehem! Abraham responded to the very heart call of God. While we are not getting into a study of Abraham's life, we want to show you the place of the Lord Jesus, the eternal Son, in his life.

In the book of Genesis the Lord spoke to Abraham:

"And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." Genesis 22: 2



Abraham took his only son Isaac and laid him at the altar and moved into full obedience to the voice of God. Abraham came into the very heart of God, right into the very heart of Calvary. In obedience he took his only beloved son and laid him on the altar. This act of obedience took him into the very presence of the Father and brought him into fellowship with the One who also is the only begotten of the Father and who was to lay Himself as a sacrifice at Calvary. Hallelujah!

Yes, Abraham moved into the very heart of Calvary. I do not know the details, I cannot explain, but somehow Abraham came into the fellowship of God's Son by responding to the call. And the climax of the fellowship was that all inclusive crisis of offering his only begotten son. The eternal Son, 'without whom nothing was made', put His finger upon the life of Abraham. In John 8:56 we read, "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw, and was glad.*" Have you understood the depth of this verse?"

Abraham longed to see Jesus. He saw Jesus and rejoiced that he could see Him. Abraham saw Him and he was glad about it. And when he took his son Isaac to Mt Moriah to sacrifice him, he met the eternal Saviour. He met the Lord Jesus Christ. Glory to God! What a tremendous experience it must have been. What a tremendous man Abraham was. He responded to the call without a second thought. Jesus Himself testifies that Abraham, saw His day.

Not only did Abraham pay a great price in the beginning; he continuously paid the price to fellowship with Him. He went on fellowshiping and he paid the price in full at the



Mount. And we can see what his name represents in the purposes of God. The name of Abraham stands upon a mountain peak because he responded to this call.



*If you are a bond servant and your ear is
pierced (opened), you will hear beyond your
times.* **31**



TRUTH BRINGS UNDERSTANDING



If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it
be of God, or whether I speak of myself.
[John 7:17]

If any man desires to know the truth then the first thing
he must do is to become totally obedient. The
Scriptures reveal that a life of obedience is precious
to the Lord beyond measure. Those who are willing to do
God's will in full obedience will know what the truth is. They
will know whether the word that is being ministered is from
man or whether it is from God. People cannot receive the
word of God if they debate with the word, or if they argue,
doubt and question it. If they are not open to obeying the
word in their lives they will fail to understand the truth. That
is what Jesus says in this verse. The Amplified version of the



above verse says *“If any man desires to do His will (God’s pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking from Myself {and} of My own accord {and} on My own authority.”*

If any one desires to do God’s will and God’s good pleasure, then the Lord is willing to give the illumination or understanding needed to recognize what is of the Lord and what is of man. How precious this word is! Obedience will help us to know the truth. This is very important. Several people ask me, “Brother, how do I know this word is from the Lord?” This is a very common question. May be this question has also been upon your mind. The key lies in having a heart to obey what the Lord will speak or reveal from His word. Then when the Word of the Lord is read or heard, the Lord will give you the illumination to recognize His voice and know the will of God. I can humbly testify to this truth. Many are not able to accept the truth today because they do not have a heart to obey it. Are you living a life of obedience to His word and His voice or are you holding on to your own opinions, your own carnal thoughts, and your criticism of the ways of the Lord? If so, you will continue to miss the truth of the word. It is only when you are obedient to God’s word that you will know the truth.

David was a bond servant of the Lord in his time. In the Psalms he says, *“Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God:*



yea, thy law is within my heart. (Ps 40:6-8). How did David come to the conclusion that God does not desire sacrifice and burnt offering? Did not the Lord Himself instruct His people to bring different types of sacrifices and offerings through Moses? **The answer is that David's ear was pierced; it was dug; he could hear God's original heart-thought! He was able to hear beyond his times! The Lord desires a heart that obeys Him—and this original thought of God was revealed to David because he was His bond servant by his obedience.**

What a privilege! Saints, you and I have the same privilege today. **If you are a bond servant and your ear is pierced (opened), you will hear beyond your times. You will also hear things which are upon God's heart from eternity. You will never be satisfied with a mere doing of things.**

Beloved saints, I would urge you in the love of Christ to choose to be His bond servant. There is no doubt that a heavy price has to be paid. No one else can pay it for you. This is a challenge that has come to you in His great love. God has many servants but God wants you to be one of His own bond servants.

FROM THE BOOK: "A SURE FOUNDATION"



32 *An overcomer will never be an earth-dweller for his mind will be set on the things that are above.*



WOE TO THE EARTH DWELLERS



“Because you have guarded and kept My word of patient endurance [have held fast the lesson of My patience with the expectant endurance that I give you], I also will keep you [safe] from the hour of trial (testing) which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth.”
[Revelation 3:10 AMP]

The Lord told the church at Philadelphia that the ‘hour of testing’ would come upon those ‘dwell upon the earth’. In other words, those who were going to be tested during the “hour of testing” would be “earth dwellers”. What does that signify? It speaks of those who have made the earth and earthly things their riches. They are those who pursue after wealth and seek the honour of men (vs 10). This great trial will come upon those who have an earthly nature. The overcoming church cannot have an earthly nature or be earth-minded in any manner. The Bible says we are seated in heavenly places; we are to keep our mind on things which are



above and not upon the things of this earth.

Trials and tribulation will come upon the whole world but mainly upon those who are earth-dwellers. What do we mean by this? By this we mean those whose minds are always occupied with earthly and not heavenly things will face the brunt of the horror during the period of the tribulation. Such people will be caught up with riches, money, and prosperity. They will cherish the desire and order of men, in matters of their career, professions, wealth and possessions. A great tribulation will come upon them. God's remnant must be cleansed by the Word from those earthly things such as the honour, the fame, the name, and the properties that mundane men seek after. There are so many things going on this sphere today.

An overcomer is not an earth-dweller for he or she overcomes earth-mindedness and earth-dwelling. We can overcome only when the mind is set upon things above. That is the challenge before us. If we are caught up with earthly things only, then we fail to qualify as God's overcomers. Look at all that is happening in the world today! People are caught up with materialism, covetousness and greed, which strangulate and govern many areas of our lives. Our jobs, our family life-styles, our attitudes and much else have lost their rightness because of the spirit of avarice, greediness and possessiveness. People are jumping from one job to another for better pay and perks; women are striving to work in offices when their homes and children are left to the care of others; some people are working on two jobs so that they can have more money to buy more comforts, more amenities, more



welfare; it is an endless rat-race for an earthly realm of things! There is a rat-race for owning things, for better cars, better possessions, more time for luxuries and fun; O the list is endless. The sad thing is that even believers are moving into this life-style of acquiring earthly things. This is what the apostle Paul says in his letter to Timothy, *“You may as well know this too, Timothy, **that in the last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad. (2 Tim 3:1-2 Living Bible).** How true this is! The apostle Paul saw the condition of our times by the Spirit right in the first century!*

Saints, we should not to be caught up with earthly things and earthly attitudes even though we may find our dear and near relatives and other spirit-filled believers indulging in earthly goings-on. Many believers have become earth-bound in their daily life. Saints, our minds are to be on that which is spiritual and heavenly. The Lord wants His church to hold fast to what is heavenly and eternal, to the word of his patience so that the word would be fulfilled in our lives despite our spiritual poverty. We are not to waste our lives on these temporal earthly things. We are to be people who are spiritually rich on the earth at this time and even more when He returns. That is what we are to hold on to. We have to be very careful how we live in these days. Thank God that He is sending His Word into our lives. **Remember**, an overcomer will never be an earth-dweller for his mind will be set on the things that are above.



Rev 3:11

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

Rev 3:11 AMP

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown.”

What a word to His church! We are to hold fast to what we have, to what God has given to us—those spiritual, heavenly and eternal things. Until He returns we are to hold fast to the word of His patience, His spiritual counsels, and those things that God has deposited in us. This we must do so that no one can rob or deprive us of our crowns. That is the call for the overcomers.

FROM THE BOOK: “CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH”



33 *It is to come to this Most Holy Place that we have been chosen and redeemed. This is the realm of the lordship of Jesus*



THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS



There are three divisions in the Tabernacle and they contain seven pieces of furniture. They suggest deep spiritual truths to the believer. Just at the very entrance to the Tabernacle, there is a gate. This signifies that Christ is THE WAY to God. Then we come across the first item of furniture in the Outer Court, called the Brazen Altar. It was at this altar, that sacrifices were made for forgiveness of sin so that the judgments of God would not come upon the people. To the New Testament saints, this speaks of the atoning blood of Christ on the cross of Calvary that is offered for the whole human race and is a perfect sacrifice acceptable to God. In Heb 9:22b we read, “without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin” and in Heb 10:4, “it is not possible that



the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins". It is here, in the Outer Court, that you know Jesus as your Saviour by repenting and accepting Him. The word 'Jesus' means "the one who saves his people from their sins". In the life of the New Testament believer this can also be called the Feast of Passover.

Then we come to the Brazen Laver of water in the Outer Court. The laver of water has several meanings. It was made from brazen (brass) mirrors of the women of those days. Therefore, it can be likened to a mirror in which we can see our own images. In James 1:23-24, we read that God's word is like a mirror. The Brazen Laver contained water. The Word of God is also reported to be as cleansing water in Eph 5:25-26. A cleansing takes place with the water here and hence the Laver also signifies 'water baptism' where ones sins are washed away. Aaron and his sons had to wash their hands and feet whenever they went into the Tabernacle of the congregation. This was not a matter of opinion, or an option, but a necessity. Many think they can skip the water baptism and go on with God, but that would not conform to the pattern of God. The washing of hands speaks about consecrated service for God and the feet speak about a consecrated walk in the service of God. This is the second experience a believer has in his spiritual growth after salvation. In the Outer Court there was no overhead covering. They received the natural light of the Sun, Moon and Stars; they were exposed to the elements and they had no protection from them. The people who come to the Outer Court only experience natural light: they are able to interpret the Scriptures only according to their natural faculties and we know that many of them are well versed at



it. The fact that they have no covering signifies that such people have no protection or submission. There are several people who are satisfied with such Outer Court experiences; they have no desire for the next step in life. Again, this is contrary to God's pattern for His people.

THE HOLY PLACE

In the Tabernacle, after the Laver a curtain was placed at the entrance to the Holy Place. This signifies Jesus as THE TRUTH. Only Priests (anointed ones), were allowed to enter into the Holy Place and not any other people. This talks about the anointed realm of saints in the New Testament times. There were three pieces of furniture here; the Lamp-stand, the Table of Shew Bread, and the Golden Altar of Incense. The Lamp-stand speaks of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Oil was poured into these lamps, for they were not candles, and needed a regular supply of oil. God's people are not merely to be lights, like candles, but divine lights by a continual supply of the oil of the Holy Spirit. The lamps had to be refilled daily as the oil needed replenishment. Renewing of the Holy Spirit is a necessity for every believer. These Lamps were to be trimmed periodically, without which the lights would fade and produce more smoke than light! Similarly, every believer needs occasional trimming by God to remove the things which could dim His light in us. There were seven lamps in the lamp-stand. The number seven signifies fullness, completion and perfection. Each of the six branches of the candle-stick, had three bowls, three knobs and three flowers. That means that each had nine ornaments in all. Number nine is the number of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptural numerology. We read in Gal



5:22,23 that there are nine fruit of the Spirit and in 1 Cor. 12.1-12 mention is made of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

The next item of furniture in the Holy Place was the Table of Shew-Bread which was placed opposite to the Lamp-stand. On the table there were two rows of bread, six loaves in each row; twelve in all—one for each tribe. In Bible numerology number 12 speaks of divine government. The Bible teaches us that the Word of God is bread for God's children. Therefore, it talks about life, healing, divine health, spiritual nourishment, fellowship and communion. It also signifies the Body-Ministry in the church.

The last item of furniture in the Holy Place was the Golden Altar of Incense. This was placed just before the thick veil at the entrance to the Most Holy Place. Incense always speaks about prayer and intercession of the saints which ascend unto God. This also represents worship, singing unto the Lord, praise and thanksgiving. Among God's people today, more than ever before, worship and praise has come to new heights, though there is still a great need for reaching out to the Lord. In the Holy Place we come to a place of overhead covering and to a place of authority in the ministry of the Spirit. The lights of the Lamp-stand, and not the natural light, show the way; there is a protection of the Body of Christ. It is here that we know Christ (the Anointed One) as the Baptizer. This is also a place of great battle and unrest because the flesh is against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. This dual struggle is practically witnessed by several people who sometimes live in the flesh though they have been baptized in the Spirit. Saints, God does not want to leave us in that stage (Pentecostal



realm), but leads us on into His whole counsel. God intends His People to enter behind the veil and come to the Most Holy Place, into the very presence of God where they will be perfected. The lack of revelation and understanding of God's Word in this regard has kept God's people in a place of unbelief. Hence many consider this experience of the fullness something in the future and not for the present on this earth.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

The veil at the entrance to the Most Holy Place signifies Jesus as THE LIFE. Behind the veil, there was only one item of furniture, which was the Ark of the Covenant. It consisted of an oblong chest made of 'shittim' wood, over-laid with gold within and without. It had a covering of pure gold, called the Mercy Seat, which was beaten and fitted as a covering for the Ark. Two Cherubim, divine symbolical figures, were placed at each end of the Mercy Seat. Their wings stretched upwards and they faced each other above the mercy Seat. They were the symbols of the Holiness of God. The Ark was not just a symbol of His Presence, but His very Presence was there. It was a place of meeting with the living God. "And there I will meet with thee and, will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two Cherubim" (Ex 25:22). The Lord God was literally dwelling there for we read in 1 Sam 4:4, "which dwelleth between the Cherubim". It was at this place that God manifested His Glory, Presence and Power. This was the climax of God's pattern, where one man was alone with God.

The High Priest could enter this place only once in a year.



But that one day was more precious than all the other days in the Outer Court and Holy Place. This is where the Lord is bringing His people to. It is to come to this Most Holy Place that we have been chosen and redeemed. This is the realm of the lordship of Jesus. **The Lord Himself is the light here!** The people who enter into this realm shall know Him as a wife knows her husband. There is a knowledge and intimacy the saints shall come into in this realm. God's people shall be perfected in this realm.

FROM THE BOOK: "ENTERING BEHIND THE VEIL"



34

To worship one's belly means to be ruled by our own way, our own will and our own desire!



THEIR GOD IS THEIR BELLY



"They are doomed and their fate (is) eternal misery (perdition); their god is their stomach (their appetites, their sensuality) and they glory in their shame, siding with earthly things and being of their party."

[Philipians 3:19 Amplified Bible]

It is very clear that for some "God is their belly" and "their god is their stomach". Some people's bellies are their gods. They worship their bellies! The Apostle Paul here talks about false teachers, for the whole chapter deals with this matter. He says that their god is their belly, their appetite and their sensuality. They are serving or worshipping their appetite and their sensuality. They are mainly concerned about the satisfaction of their sensual desires.



Leaving aside false preachers, let us see what God has to say to us today. **To worship one's belly means to be ruled by our own way, our own will and our own desire!** There are **people whose own way is their god. They are only concerned with their sensuality, their desires of their senses. Their own wills, their ways, and their desires, are all that matters to them.** They worship their own selves for to them their own interests are their gods. This can happen to any one of us for we know how strong our own will is; we know how our wants and desires grip us. God wants to break that kind of mentality in us. God wants to do a new work in our bellies, He wants to dig into our innermost being, but He is waiting to see if a price has been paid by us. We must understand the realities that exist in our lives. Let us not say, "I am OK, you are OK, we all are OK." These are the days to say, "Lord, let a progressive work be done in me, for I am not OK." **This is not the work of a day but an ongoing work of the Spirit in cooperation with us.** Many lives begin well, but get stalled after a time. It is like the contractor who has been given the task of building a road. But half way through, he stops the work and the project is stalled. The work is hindered and cannot be completed. This is what happens in the lives of many believers — the ongoing work of God is stalled. The work of God was begun when they received the Lord and they became a part of this calling. They paid a price, and they trusted the Lord, but then the work of the Spirit was stalled and came to a halt. It could be that they grieved the Spirit. It is for each one of us to examine our lives.

A dear brother in the Lord told me that I pay more attention to the lives of younger people! It is not a matter of age but of moving on in God's present workings. That is so



important. When the Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers to take heed lest they fell, he was the first one to take this caution into his personal life. There is a great need for us to be aware of this. The Biblical caution, “Today, if you hear His voice” is not for the people of the past but it is a matter of whether we are hearing His voice today. Are you hearing? Are you obeying and moving on? Are you progressing? There has to be a progressing towards completion. Nothing needs to be done if the work is completed. **I know it is not completed and so the question is what are you doing to hasten its completion?** What is our mentality? Am I be satisfied to say that the Lord has done great things in my life in the past? Do I go to the house of God with a longing that the Lord may show me the salvation of God in a new dimension? Beloved, there is an ongoing, progressive, overlaid work which will definitely come to an end. It will be certainly finished, by His grace.

During the days of the Lord Jesus in the earth, He worked in the carpentry shop of Joseph, His earthly father. I am sure that Jesus never left the work half done. Undoubtedly, He always finished the work He began. He would always complete the making of every item of furniture before moving on. Remember what Jesus said “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work”. See the emphasis, **to finish his work**. This was very true for Him, even in the natural. This is also to be true in your life and mine. If He has started a work in us, He definitely desires to complete it. **But if it remains incomplete don’t blame God because it is not His will to leave it incomplete.**



When God took His people out of Egypt His will for them was to bring them into the promised land. His will did not change throughout the wilderness journey. His will remained the same for His people till the very end. **But His people had another will in them which said, “We cannot go.” Saints that ‘will’ in us to pursue things that are not of God must be denied. Remember, you cannot own two wills at the same time.** You have to deny one and hold to the other. The choice is with each one of us—to either deny the will of God or deny our own will. That is the issue we all face daily. Finally, **when Israel decided to do what was upon their heart, refusing to do God’s will, then God left them to themselves. He refused to intervene or do anything else.** This is an important lesson for all of us.

FROM THE BOOK: “THE NEW JERUSALEM “



35

God can forgive us for the seeds we sow through our deeds, but we have to face the harvest.

SOWING IN THE FLESH



“... that He might present unto Himself a glorious bride without spot and wrinkle or any blemish.”

THE NEW JERUSALEM [Ephesians 5:27]

God can forgive us for the seeds we sow through our deeds, but we have to face the harvest. This is very serious for none are exempted. We may continue to do whatever we want to do and no one will stop us, but there is a loss that is incurred if we sow in the flesh and that is irreversible. When the consequences of our actions and the effects of our decisions are upon us, what can be done? Nothing, for it is too late; all we can do is to seek the infinite grace of God. Little else can be done. So why should we go our own ways and sow in the flesh today?



Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in the earth as it is in heaven”. People pray, “Lord, Thy Kingdom come,” but seldom realize that His kingdom is to come in the earth! They pray alright, but somehow they fail to believe what they confess. God’s plan is to bring His kingdom here, upon the earth. Heaven will come on the earth. Here on the earth we shall see heavenly things. God will remove what is of this earth to put in what is of heaven in His people. He wants to bring the heavens, and the things of the heavens, upon the earth. Why is He doing this digging and paving work? He is doing this to remove that which is of the earth and overlay it with heavenly things. **He is digging and removing that which is of your will and my will so that he can replace it with His will.**

Today, you are free to walk in your will and none can stop you, but the Lord will have a people who will say, “Lord, I am willing to lay aside my will. I am willing to do whatever You say. I do not want to do my will any more.” Please do not fail to notice the difference! **If you want to argue and bargain with God, He will let you do what you want, but you will have to face the consequences.** We will have to face the consequences of whatever we do today, apart from God. We can have our way today, but what will we do at the end? The choices we make today and every day govern and dictate the consequences we will have to face in future. If people do not listen to the Lord and obey Him, there is nothing any one can do to help them.

At one time, I desired that everyone I met should be saved. I was prepared to even use force, if necessary! Such



was my zeal. However, one day my eyes were opened to realize that Jesus Christ never forced His way upon others. After I learned the truth concerning the Body of Christ and the deeper truths of God's purpose for man, I wanted everyone to know and go the way of the truth that had been revealed to me. Now I know that holding such an attitude cannot bring an inward change in others. I can only tell others not to walk in their own wisdom and in their own ways any more, as indeed the Bible says, for what would they do in the end? The consequences of our choices remain upon each one of us. This is what the Lord said in the book of Jeremiah, "What will you do in the end?" What one reaps in the flesh is what was sown in the flesh. That principle is unchangeable. We are God's people and God will forgive us but God's principle is that you reap what you have sown. This is an everlasting principle.

Our cry in these days needs to be, "Lord, I want to be worked upon." We must be in a place where we consider and reconsider, value and revalue our choices, our desires, and our ways. We must ever remain open before the Lord. The cry of His remnant ought to be, "Work in me some more, Lord. Get deeper into me, Lord. Take some more earth out of me, Lord. Get to the bedrock, and to the substratum of my life. Get some heaven inside. My thoughts are perverted, Lord. My judgments are not right about so and so. Lord, many times my mind is not right. Fill it with something of heaven. Lord, if you do not do it, I'm done, for no one else can. Remove some more earthliness from me and overlay it, fill it with the heavenly things."



The Lord is digging the earth to make a place for the heaven. **He is removing some of our earthliness and replacing it with something from heaven.** That is what the Lord wants to do in our lives. He will remove that which is earthly within, and overlay it with something heavenly. That is what the Lord is doing in these days in His remnant. He is digging and taking away the earthly aspects of their nature and replacing it with that which is of heaven. Praise the Lord! Saints, give in to the Lord for such a work.

FROM THE BOOK: "THE NEW JERUSALEM"



36

Our need is to “come up” and behold Him. If we look around, we shall be discouraged and shall be overcome by the things around us.

COME UP



Beloved, God is extending this privilege to some to “come up” in this hour! This is God’s undying principle. May this principle be active in our lives! A people are ascending the heights in Christ Jesus and they are receiving a vision of God. This does not happen automatically by virtue of being a part of the company of saints who teach and believe such truth! No. Each one needs to maintain a spiritual life within; one needs to maintain a taste and fitness for the heights. Let us praise God that there are some who are slowly coming into a vision of God in these days. Moses and seventy-four others saw God while others were still in the plains! They were privileged to see God. This spiritual seeing of God is very essential. When we begin to



see Him with our spiritual eyes, we shall be able to see His purpose as well. And there will be an unfolding of His plan, His will and His purpose. Then you will be able to give yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit and allow the Lord to do that He wants to do. Who will be available for such a work to be done upon their lives? Many times we want to strive and struggle in our strength to live the Christ-life. We try to figure out things in our mind and try to help God. All these things happen because our eyes are not as open as they ought to be. But if we maintain an ascendancy, if we are sensitive to the nudging of the Spirit of God, if our eyes are open to see the Lord and His ways, then we shall cease to strive in that realm any more. We would be quick to give in and let His will be done. If our eyes have been opened, we shall know that it is not a matter of striving, but of experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit of Truth. For He must have His way and do His will. Beloved, God is revealing Himself to a people in this hour, and they are getting a vision of His purposes, and His Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

The thought in Exodus 24 conveys that there was an invitation from God to come up. "And they went up and they saw." It begins with a personal invitation to come away from the present world. The religious world with all its husks and dunghill, customs and traditions, routines, activities and personal interests must be put aside. Our routines and interests may seem to be good and profitable to us and we may be caught up in these good things, but we are to leave these and come up to the mount of God!

In Revelation 4, the Lord told John to come up. When



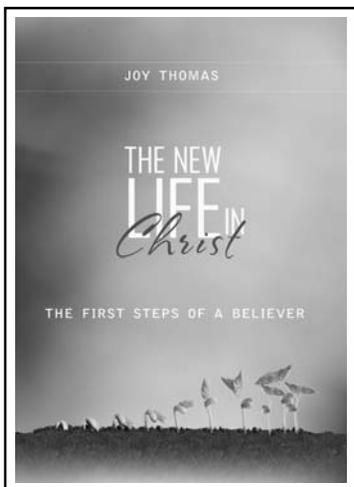
John saw the condition of the churches in his time, he was greatly discouraged. These churches which had a splendid beginning had lost their focus and the purpose of their calling. The Lord judged them and found them wanting! They moved away from God's original, initial and primal purpose. His counsel was to repent or else He would remove them from the 'candlestick....' In the midst of such decline and deterioration, John still heard the Lord. John was invited to "come up" to meet Him. We are living in similar times. The churches have lost the original, primal and initial purpose of God. John experienced an open door of heaven and saw the One who sat upon the throne. This is our need today! Oh, if only we could hear His voice and the invitation to come up! Saints we need to hear Him and we also need to desire to go up to Him in these terrible times of apostasy and decline. Our need is to "come up" and behold Him. If we look around, we shall be discouraged and shall be overcome by the things around us. Saints, we need to experience something real and eternal, something that will bring us in touch with His divine presence. God's people need to turn away from this downward trend and maintain a spiritual ascendancy in our lives.

The invitation to Moses and others to go up to the mount was not only a personal one, but a corporate one. The Scripture says, "And they saw" (Exod 24:10). "They" refers to a remnant of His people - a "many-membered-man". I feel that an individual seeing will bring us to a corporate 'seeing'. How important it is to have a people who would see together what is upon the heart of the Lord!



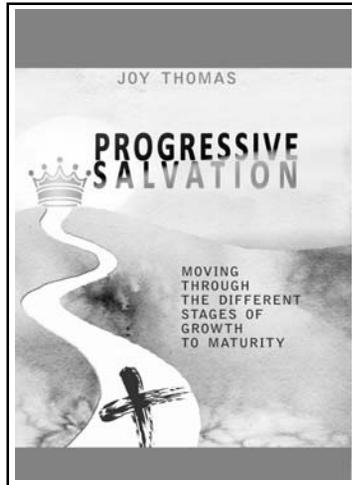
But this is not automatic; it depends on our openness and our separation unto the Lord. God had something to share with Moses. Therefore, the Lord told Moses to “come up”.

FROM THE BOOK: 'THE UNVEILING'



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

*With new birth, you have only made a beginning in your life on the Christian pathway. That means you have to receive much more from God. There are great adventures ahead! God wants to make you like his pattern Son the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to use you to bring other people to the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, **"I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND ... HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY"** John 10:10. Jesus wants you to co-operate with Him in leading you into this abundant life, this overcomers' life. You have just entered through the gate of 'Salvation'. Do not be content with that. Go on and be what God wants you to be !*



PROGRESSIVE SALVATION

The building of one's spiritual foundations is not a matter of a choice or option; it is an inescapable necessity. It's His will; it's His command. The foundation is but the beginning; we all need to progress on towards the raising up of a structure on that foundation. We have to carefully build upon the foundation in a way that justifies the foundation; for this salvation is progressive.