

February 6th, 2005

Keeping

In

Touch

*whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I
may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one
spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of
the gospel ;*

Philippians 1:27

Hebrews 12:1, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...*



Info Center

Dear Readers,

February 6th, 2005

Greetings in the name of the Lord. We trust this bulletin will find you all well, striving in the faith, running with patience the race that is set before you. We have been running our race, and we have much to put into your hands this issue! For those of you who weren't in Jamaica (and for those of you who were), we have an excellent word by our Czech brother, George Kotrla, regarding the timeline of the last days. We also have a very encouraging word from Brother Femi Adedoyin about our position in the Kingdom of God. Lisa Asbill has written a book review on "Mary Jones and Her Bible", and Melissa Trotter has written what the Lord has been speaking to her regarding the Kingdom of God. We also have updated the Prayer Requests, so be sure to check those out and keep those beloved ones in your prayers. We have so much more in this issue than we've listed here, so just look below at our Table of Contents! We also wanted to mention that we have a new staff member. Wesley Schell has joined our ranks, and we are quite happy to have him! And as always, if you would like to submit anything to us, please send it to:

News Bulletin, PO Box 409, Mahomet, IL 61853

or you may reach us via email at:

KITBulletin@truevine.net

The more submissions we receive, the better! We want to hear from you! God Bless you all.



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The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

By Melissa Trotter

The Lord has been ministering to me lately from the gospels, particularly about the things that Jesus said and what He taught his disciples and the people. One of the things that really draws me is where He tells the parables that start off with, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” I have been studying some of them because I want to know what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. I am going to be part of it! The following is the result of my study and some of which the Lord has revealed to me.

Matthew chapter 13 is an intriguing part of the Bible. It is chock full of stories, parables that are allegories, that as you are led by the Spirit, begin to bring you the understanding of what the Kingdom of God is: they not only have length and breadth, but depth and height. They not only have such depth of meaning, but they demonstrate the truth: that you cannot put God in a box and say you know it all or that what you see is all there is.

Before I begin expounding on the parables, I want to lay a little groundwork concerning the tabernacle in the wilderness. When God gave Moses the plan for the tabernacle, He was laying an intricate pattern for things to come. One of the patterns included in the tabernacle is how it typifies a Christian’s walk into Christ. As I was looking at the parables I saw many parallels between them and the tabernacle, which I refer to later, so here is a brief explanation of the

pattern in the tabernacle. As a person entered the tabernacle, he found himself in a large area called the Outer Court. In front of him was the Brasen Altar, where sacrifices were killed, namely sin offerings. This represents the death of Jesus Christ, thereby giving us remission of sins by the shedding of His Blood. The next piece of furniture is the Brasen Laver, where the priests washed themselves before going into the Holy Place. This represents baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Ghost and baptism into Christ. In the middle of the Outer Court is another structure called the Holy Place, with the Holy of Holies being on the end opposite the door. Entering the Holy Place, there is the Lampstand, representing Christ working in the soul of man, as well as in the corporate Body of Christ. Next is the Table of Shewbread, representing feeding on Christ. The last is the Altar of Incense, representing a complete offering of ourselves, our souls, as a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord. As a person comes into the Holy of Holies, there is the Mercy Seat and the Ark of the Covenant, which in a nutshell represents becoming perfect like Jesus Christ. It is interesting to note that there were seven pieces of furniture, signifying what we call the seven works of grace, and that this chapter 13 of Matthew has seven parables concerning the Kingdom of Heaven.

The chapter begins with the parable of the sower, which seems to show the various ways or conditions of seeing, understanding and entering into the Kingdom. It is followed by seven parables that begin with, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..." These seven show a progression that Jesus designed for the believer that produces fruit, as in the good ground in the parable of the sower that produced, some thirty, some sixty and some an hundredfold. The highest level of attainment (an hundredfold) is available for every person, but it depends on each individual's willingness to respond to the Spirit of God.

The parable of the sower is a very familiar passage in the Bible. The sower dropped seeds by the wayside and the birds ate them. Some seeds fell upon stones and the sun burned them up because they didn't have enough root. Some fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked them. The last fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold (Matthew 13:8). Then Jesus explained the meaning of the parable, starting in verse 18, Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received

seed by the way side. ²⁰ But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; ²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. ²² He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. ²³ But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This very first parable did not start off with “The Kingdom of Heaven is like.” Jesus just went right into the story, showing us that there are certain conditions that have to be met prior to one being able to experience or enter into the Kingdom of Yahweh! It seems to me that this parable demonstrates the necessity of the very first step before entering the Kingdom of God, namely, becoming born again. John 3:3 says, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. When a person sees the Kingdom of Heaven, he enters the tabernacle, and finds himself in the Outer Court. This is stage 1 in the believer’s experience with Christ. The seed, the Word of the Kingdom, was sown in the hearts of men. The seed was sown in hearts outside of the tabernacle, outside of the Outer Court. Now, each seed had life contained within it. It had the potential to grow and bear fruit, but it depended on the condition of the heart upon which it fell.

In the parable of the sower, there are four different situations demonstrating how a person can respond to the Word. The ones by the way side heard, but they did not seek to understand it, they rejected it and the devil, always ready to steal, kill and destroy, took the Word out of their hearts. These did not believe and get saved; they did not see the Kingdom of God. When Luke recorded this parable, he said, Luke 8:12, Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

The next ones, the seed that fell on stony ground, received salvation from Jesus Christ. They began to grow, meaning they had life. They entered the Outer Court and partook of Jesus’ Blood and maybe even the baptisms. But, their root was too shallow and the sun came up, scorched them and they withered away. That sounds

like spiritual death to me, a losing of their salvation. This idea is further substantiated by other scriptures. Luke 8:13, in his description of this parable says, ...and these have no root, which for awhile believe, and in time of temptation fall away. Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. It is interesting to note that the King James uses the same words, "fall away." It looks to me like it is a permanent thing. Another scripture is found in Matthew 7:21-23, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. These individuals didn't become a part of the Kingdom of Heaven because they did not do the will of the Father. Their end was, "Depart from Me. Go away!"

The next thing that Jesus says after this, in verse 24, is ...who-soever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Of course, we know that the wise man's house withstood the rain and wind, but the foolish man's house on the sand fell down, and great was the fall of it. There is that word, "fall" again! Those who hear and do are like a wise man whose foundation is sure and strong, a rock.

Luke 8:18 says, Take heed therefore how ye hear. What an admonition that is! Jesus could have said it to those who heard the Word in this parable, because the way they heard, the condition of their heart determined the end result. Remember, the heart that is like the way side only heard, nothing else. These stony places heard and got saved, but didn't do. They had no root, no foundation. They may have even been baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit, as it said in Hebrews that they were made partakers of the Holy Ghost! These people did not move forward in the Lord, did not progress through the tabernacle. They are like unto those that "saw the kingdom (John 3:3)" but did not enter; they lost salvation to the point of being totally removed from the picture of the tabernacle.

The third position, those who received seed among the thorns, got salvation, probably were baptized in the Holy Spirit, but didn't bear fruit. It does not seem, however, that they lost their life like the previous ones in the position of the stony places. The Word of life was choked by the things of the world, the pleasures and cares of this natural realm, but still alive and green. This heart is like the fence sitter, one who has one foot in the world and another in the Kingdom. God's answer to this is in Revelation 3:16, So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. This church has hope though, because He gives specific instructions in the following verses as to how to overcome this and ends with verse 19, ...be zealous therefore, and repent. The thing I see is that if this heart continues to be choked and deceived by the things of the world, he could find himself in the position of the stony places. And then, they will downgrade to the rocks, where the devil comes and steals the Word away and they die. God has provided us a way of escape from every temptation (I Corinthians 10:13), yet it depends on how we respond to His voice, it depends on whether we DO and OBEY the will of the Father or not. It says in Revelation 19:7, Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. His wife, his bride, made herself ready. The Lamb did not do the getting ready, she did it herself! There must be a working out of our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)! In looking at this, it seemed very easy for them to be deceived and to lose the place that they once had in the Lord. That must be why He says to work it out with fear and trembling. And, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall (I Corinthians 10:12). And Hebrews 2:1, Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Jesus said in Luke 12:51-53, Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:⁵² For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.⁵³ The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And again in Matthew 10:34, Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Jesus brought the Word of the Kingdom and as that Word falls upon the hearts of

men, there is a division taking place, as exemplified in this parable and the following ones. Even among families, there will be division, because it is based upon each individual's response to the Word! And it is spiritual categories that will become very clear at the end of time when Jesus returns and judgment falls.

The last position is the good ground that brought forth fruit. This good ground is the soul that repents for his sins and accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour. This group partook of the baptism in water and in the Holy Ghost. Some of these ones, represented in the sixtyfold and hundredfold, continued to move in obedience and doing the will of the Father by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and their baptism into Christ began! These went past the Outer Court and into the Holy Place. The ones that produced more fruit are the ones that went deeper into Christ, the hundredfold ultimately ending up in the Holy of Holies. These ones that took the opportunity and went through the door into the Holy Place, entered the Kingdom of God. This is explained in John 3:5, Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Once a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he has the opportunity to enter the Kingdom. When he is only born again and in the Outer Court, he can only SEE the Kingdom. This can be compared to conception and birthing. When a person is born again, has a salvation experience, he is conceived and is growing in the Word. But when the birthing comes, he exits one place, the Outer Court, and enters into a greater and higher place, the Holy Place. He enters the Kingdom of God.

When Jesus spoke these parables, He often interchanged the Kingdom of Heaven with the Kingdom of God (Mark 4:30, Luke 13:18,20). The two thoughts are compatible with each other. What will apply to one will apply to the other. Jesus said in Luke 17:21, Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. The Kingdom of God is within me! So, when the Bible says that the Kingdom of God is within us, it is saying that where God dwells, the realm of heaven is present. With this thought in mind we can begin to understand and interpret the wheat and the tares parable.

The wheat and the tares parable starts in verse 24. The man sowed good seed but an enemy came in the night and sowed tares. When the wheat came up and began to produce fruit, the tares appeared. The servants wanted to pull out the tares, but the man said

not to, lest the wheat be rooted up with them. Then when harvest comes, cut them all. Burn the tares, but put the wheat in the barn. Jesus' explanation of this parable to the disciples starts in verse 37, He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;³⁸ The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;³⁹ The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.⁴⁰ As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.⁴¹ The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;⁴² And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

We know that the parable is not talking about a natural thing; Jesus is using the natural things as a typology to express a spiritual reality. Being as He is speaking about the Kingdom of Heaven and we know from the scriptures that heaven is within us, the field must therefore represent the soul of man. In my soul I have a field. But, when Jesus declared unto the disciples the meaning, He said that the field is the world. How does that correlate? Ecclesiastes 3:11, He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. So, He hath set the world in their heart. Inside of me, I have two things, the Kingdom of God and the world. I was born with the world, in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5). When the seed was planted and I was born again, I was given the ability to see the Kingdom of heaven, yet darkness still remains in my heart. This is obvious because although Jesus cleansed me from all unrighteousness, I still sin! This all depicts an Outer Court experience.

So, we see here a man sowing good seed in his field, verse 24. This is the good ground Jesus spoke about in the parable of the sower. The householder expected a good crop of 100% wheat. He expected to receive an hundredfold harvest. The good ground was prepared to receive the seed and it was predestined to produce a bountiful harvest! But, I don't believe he ended up with as much as he expected, seeing all those tares were growing in there with it.

Now, looking back at the previous parable of the sower, the

devil, in one way or the other, stopped much of the seed from growing. Now, in this parable, we find him trying to destroy the fruit. He had sowed tares when we weren't looking. He pricks us, distracts us, tries to divert us and deceive us, trying to destroy the Word as soon as it is planted. It is interesting to note that it says that when the blade sprung up and brought forth fruit, THEN appeared the tares, also. The Word works in our hearts and as we allow it to grow, it reveals the unrighteousness, the tares in our hearts. Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Along with this, the angels came and divided the wheat and tares. The word, "angel" means messenger, one who brings a Word from God. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

The next point about this parable is that the householder said to let the wheat and tares grow together until the harvest, lest they root up the wheat along with the tares. In Jesus' explanation, He says that the harvest is the end of the world and the reapers are the angels. I was very much puzzled about this. I couldn't understand how I could wait until the end of world when the angels reap the harvest to get rid of the tares in my heart. But, God is faithful. He showed me the answer and it is quite simple. First, the Lord is a gentleman. He will not force His way into a person's heart to get the tares out. That would ruin the wheat, also. I must decide that it is the end of the world in my soul. I must decide that it is time to reap the fruit and destroy the tares. I must act like Jesus is coming back at any time. I must be preparing my heart as if it is the end of the natural world, also. I Corinthians 11:31, For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. We have a choice at this point to act as the angels of God in our own hearts and do the judging, the gathering of the wheat and the burning of the tares. The Bible says that even we shall one day judge angels, and so much the more things that pertain to this life (I Corinthians 6:3). I can perform the duty of the angels within my own soul.

As I was studying this, the point that stood out to me was that the man, who is the Lord Jesus, intended to have an hundredfold harvest in the good ground. I am sure, though, that when the tares began to grow, that the harvest was not 100%. The tares probably choked out a lot of wheat before the harvest began. I think he got

only a thirtyfold harvest because of all those tares. This parable is a picture of the outer court church, a church that is only willing to allow a 30% harvest and leave 70% of their soul go to waste, given over to flesh, world and devil, to eventually be burned.

In relation to this, there was a point in the parable when the tares first showed up and the householder could not pull them out because it would root up the wheat, also. This is not looking at an overcomer church. As overcomers, we should not even be letting those weeds grow or sprout. The things must be stopped in our souls before they get big and out of control. When we make the decision that it is the end of the world in our hearts, let it be now and not when it is too late to reap an hundredfold harvest.

After Jesus initially told the parable of the wheat and the tares, He told two related short ones, in verses 31-33, Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: ³² Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. ³³ Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

These two parables bring us to stage 2, where we see that there is great hope for these tare-ridden hearts of ours. There is much we can do to move into a higher place, into a greater harvest of righteousness in our souls.

In the Outer Court of the tabernacle is the Brasen Altar where we become born again, stage 1. The next piece of furniture is the Brasen Laver, which represents baptism in water, the Holy Ghost and into the body of Christ. When we are baptized in the Holy Ghost, we may then enter into the Holy Place, stage 2. Here is where Christ and man begin to work together, the oil and wick working together to produce light, which is much fruit. This then paves the way for man to feed on Christ at the Table of Shewbread. Brother duCille draws a picture of the Holy Ghost in our spirit overshadowing our soul. As we allow more and more Holy Spirit to take over our souls, the less room there is for wickedness, the tares. We now have the potential, with the Holy Spirit, to bring forth an hundredfold – to become perfect. You cannot get that way without the Holy Spirit. In the parable of the mustard tree, the Seed was sown in the field of man's heart, on

ground that was prepared. It started off very small, but it will grow and grow and grow as we feed more and more on Christ, on the Word of God. The tree grew so big that it overshadowed all the little plants that grew around it. Not much grows under a tree in the shade. In the instance with the leaven, it was the same thing. It grew until the whole was leavened. It definitely grew past the 30% mark and if it is not hindered, it will permeate the whole thing. The Holy Place people are comparable to ones who produce sixtyfold. They are not to perfection yet, but that is the potential that they have.

After Jesus' explanation of the wheat and tares story, he tells these next two which also go together and start in verse 44, Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: ⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. These show the next step which is stage 3. The next concept is ultimately what will drive us into the Holy of Holies. It is basically giving up and selling ALL that you have. This is what happens when we offer ourselves on the Golden Altar of Incense. A person's heart will have no more tares; they will be unable to grow at all because their mind, emotions, will and desires will be totally given up to God. They will desire nothing of this world. They are working, working, working to sell EVERYTHING in order to get the treasure, to get the pearl, which is perfection. This is also represented by bringing forth an hundredfold harvest and coming into the Holy of Holies.

The Lord has been speaking to me lately about this selling all in order to attain perfection. It is a condition of the heart and so whatever people see on the outside doesn't matter in the least bit. What matters is my heart. I can desire something very, very much but that will not get it for me. The man saw the pearl and wanted it but he had to expend much effort in order to get it. It is work to sell all you have. I explained it to my children by a simple illustration. They want to go outside very much. The sun is shining, it is nice out there. Maybe the snow has just fallen and they want to go and play in it really bad. They must take action if they are going to go out there. They have to walk to the closet and get out their boots and coats. They have to put them on and zip them up. They have to walk to the door and open it. Then they have to step through the door to get to

the outdoors. So it is with us. We must take action in rooting out these tares and putting in the Word. We must stop the things that allow the tares to grow. If it is a great pearl or a treasure we are desiring, we have no time to fool around with letting weeds grow. They have got to be stopped, pronto! Thoughts that come in must be put under foot immediately. It comes down to basic overcoming. Maybe even more importantly is cultivating our relationship with the Lord. Feed on the Word. Is more Word or more world going into my mind during the day? You know, cultivation of the seedlings also destroys weeds that are beginning to sprout. I want God to say at the end, "I know you. You have done well. I want you in the secret chamber with Me. You are My bride."

This is the next parable and it stands alone, verse 47, Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: ⁴⁸ Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. ⁴⁹ So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. This is interesting because it seems as if Jesus is going back to the exact same concept as the wheat and the tares parable, the dividing of the wicked and the just. But seeing that we are at the point of perfection, Jesus Christ fully inhabiting us as human beings, I see it a little different. It says that the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net that was cast into the sea. If the kingdom of heaven is fully come in my soul and also in the entire body of Christ, then us as a whole can act as a net, that is cast into the sea of humanity. We will be fishers of men, spreading the gospel into the whole world, unto the uttermost parts of the earth, because it said it gathered of EVERY kind. This is something the elect will do, bring the gospel of the kingdom to every person on the face of the earth. Then, doesn't the Bible say that the saints shall judge the world (I Corinthians 6:2)?

The last, but not least, that Jesus told in this chapter is in verse 52, Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. This last statement Jesus made about every scribe or scholar sums up the method we should use to accomplish all that Jesus spoke about in regard to overcoming and rooting out the tares. First of all, we are being instructed unto the kingdom of heaven. We are the

householder, taking care of our hearts, and as we grow further along, coming into the Holy of Holies, we will be instructing others. But it is all built on new and old things coming from his treasure. The kingdom of heaven is the treasure that I sold all that I had to get. The kingdom is built on the foundation of old things, things we have known a long time but are very important. The kingdom is growing in new things, things that God is continually teaching us. He never stops leading us further along in the kingdom of God. Another interesting point about this last parable is that it is the eighth one in this chapter. Eight is the number of new beginnings. Hebrews 6:1 says, Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, This verse is our objective: going on unto perfection. Because the old things, which are the principles of the doctrine of Christ have been laid, we can go on to perfection. This perfection is the fruit, the new things that are demonstrated to all humanity in this time, after perfection. These new beginnings can be explained as Isaiah 64:4 says, For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. This that I have written is but a feeble attempt to show the greatness and the perfectness and the omnipotence of the most holy God! We have no earthly perception, our minds cannot even fathom what He hath prepared for them that have waited for Him!

To summarize the whole thing, the kingdom of heaven is like our heart. In our heart is a field which is the world, an unredeemed soul. BUT the seed was sown, we heard and understood and the Blood of Jesus washed us, the Holy Spirit filled us and as we submitted, we began to bear fruit. But the tares of Satan began to show up and we MUST make the decision that it is harvest time in our hearts. It is time to burn the tares, time to let no more grow. We must feed on the Word, come to know Jesus, let the Holy Spirit overshadow our souls so that we will be permeated, just as the leaven leavened the whole lump. Then we can move into the Holy of Holies when we sell ALL that we have to attain the great treasure. Oh, the joy of being in the chamber with our Bridegroom! Then, what sweet unity we will have as the Body of Christ to go forth shining as the sun and bringing the gospel of the kingdom to ALL the parts of the earth, sharing the treasure we carry in it's fullness, things both new and old.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Brother Femi Adedoyin

January 23, 2005

Mahomet, Illinois

This morning we were singing about the King. My wife started that song this morning at home, and then we got here and Sister Davis was singing the same thing, so I suggested that we open up the service with that song. Then Brother Burt suggested “Majesty, Worship His Majesty.” Then Sister Lisa brought the children’s word about Job. The moving of the Spirit this morning began to provoke me as I thought about Job. As I have studied in the book of Job, I have come to the conclusion that Job thought God was democratic. He thought God was somebody you could negotiate with. But God had to tell him, “Wait a minute, Job. I’m not a Democrat. I’m not a Republican. I’m a King, and I have made all these things that you see around you in the earth. I am sovereign, the supreme ruler here. This is not a democracy.” I would like to say that I understand democracy. As far as I am concerned, it is the best system that man has come up with. There are a lot of things that this country is doing because of its democratic government that would not otherwise be done. I will even go one step further to say that this country is doing things because of its democratic government that would have never been done anywhere else in the world. If you want some examples, look at the civil rights movement, the taking care of the widows, the orphans, the unemployment and such programs as these. The democratic system really works well and it’s one of the things that, by the grace of God, we who live in this country can thank this merciful and compassionate God for. But God is not democratic and Job learned that quickly. I believe that God is teaching us the same thing, that He is not democratic. He is a King. That is what is actually in my heart and what I want to share with you this morning. Actually, I hesitate to share with you this morning, except that I thought I should continue to build on what Sister Lisa was sharing. Also, the songs that came this morning, it was as if God was telling me that I must

share. I really thought that I was going to come over here and tell Brother Peter to come on up here and preach. That was the intention of my mind, but with the way that the Holy Ghost was moving this morning, I think I should just add to what has been shared and sung. Hallelujah.

I told you about my Muslim brother-in-law that has become a Christian. He is a born-again brother-in-law. Then there is another Muslim that God has brought to my life. He's a biochemist and he's a good brother and since he's been working with me the last month I've been telling him about the Kingdom of God. I always pick him up and drop him off, so that means that he has to listen to praise music. I turn it up sometimes, and he says, "Femi, please turn it down. I got the message." He doesn't have a car. He has to ride with me and I don't play radio. I play praise music. I talk to him about patience and the Kingdom of God. Just recently he tried to find some other job to supplement his income. He went to ManPower and they sent him some papers to fill out about his work history. He's a good worker, so I was truthful about him giving he recommendation on how he is a very good worker. Well, he went to apply for this job and he was hired, but he lost his glasses. The next time I picked him up, I asked him, "Where are your glasses?". He said he lost them. The following day, he lost his handbag. I said, "I see you without your handbag. Where is your handbag?" He said, "I lost it." I said, "Man, you're losing everything!" He said, "You know, I must confess to you." He said, "You told me about patience and about Jesus. Femi, I think something is wrong with me." I said, "Well, I thought so, too! If you are a Muslim, something is wrong!" He said, "You know, every time I go to look for another job, I lose something. I lost my glasses when I went to look for another job. I lost my wallet. Do you think God is telling me to be patient?" I said, "Well, you know, you got that right! That's what I told you before – to be patient. But you need to be careful with the things that God gives you. You can't be losing everything." I see how God is moving in this man's life. He's a guy that would not say anything. Now he's opening up and he's beginning to see that it's not about religion.

There are so many religions in the world – Christian religion, Muslim, Buddhist, and so forth, but God shows us throughout the Bible that it's not religion that we lost in the Garden. It was not religion that we lost. We lost a kingdom. Adam didn't lose religion. He lost his position, which was the Kingdom, and man has been trying to get that position back ever since by going through all kinds of religion. It is not fulfilling. To me, it's not fulfilling the thirst that I have. I am tired of

being religious! Seriously, I am a very religious person but God is teaching me, “Femi, it’s not about religion! Religion will not fulfill the thirst.” Going to church all the time, running here and there without really having a relationship with God, without really dealing with the issues that God is bringing to your life is not going to cut it.

I looked through the Bible to find out what the message of the Bible is. The message of the Bible, from the beginning to the end is, first of all, about a King! “In the beginning, God...” It’s about a King, and it’s about a Kingdom, and about His royal offspring. That is the message throughout the Bible. God is teaching me it’s not about religion. It’s about the King. It’s about the Kingdom, and it’s about His royal offspring, you and I. I don’t think you or I really understand these things and about being religious. Being religious is not going to fulfill my purpose on this earth. It’s not going to fulfill the purpose for which God is creating me.

When I was younger, I asked many questions. “Who is God? Where is God? Where did He come from? Who made Him? Who gave Him a bath? How was it that God could just BE there?” What I began to find out is that “God” is a word. It’s not His name. It’s a word that we give One that is all knowing, One that is all powerful, One that has all, One that is in control of everything. God is a name that man gave Him. It’s the word that man uses to describe such an entity. “God” is His character. He’s all powerful, all knowing, and that settled it for me, that there is a being that knows all, that created all. Hallelujah. It’s not a name, but a definition of His character. Hallelujah.

The book of Genesis gives us the evidence of the first kingdom. It says “that in the beginning, God created heaven and earth” (Genesis 1:1). That means that there is a King whose domain is a place is called Heaven and Earth (Isaiah 66:1). I want to confess today that this King, this Jehoshua is making life much better; this faith of Yeshuwa Mashiyach is making life much clearer to me, and the point that He is making much clearer to me is that it is not about going to heaven, but it is about having dominion over this place (Genesis 1:26), this earth, that God has given to man. It’s not about being raptured to heaven because that is not your house. Your house is here. That’s why God created me from the dust and it is in this place that we call earth that God wants us to rule. What I was taught and had believed for over forty years of my life has to be radically changed, for it is not about going to heaven but it is about heaven coming to you. I’m telling you, I feel I could go through this roof! That revelation makes me feel like now I am in business!

Hallelujah! Blessed be God! It makes it more, not only spiritual, but more intellectual, if I can use the word. It makes it more clear to me, brings more understanding to me about what Yeshuwa is all about. It's not about going away, but it is about coming back. When we hear the word "restore," or "redeem," it means to bring you back to something that was yours in the beginning, but somehow in the process of time was lost or destroyed. In this particular incidence it means going back to where and what God had created us for. Oh, Jesus. That understanding creates for me in my spirit something really powerful. Now I know why I believe what I believe and I want to know it more! "It's not about religion, Femi," God is telling me. "No. It's about you knowing your purpose here. It's about you ruling here, doing My bidding here." Then I understand why Brother Burt can be running around on that farm like a mad man. I begin to understand and I begin to see it, yes, I can see it now. I begin to understand why people will dedicate themselves to a purpose no matter what the conditions may be, whether it is cooking in the sun or whatever. It is because God wants us to have this kingdom.

I was at Dos Reales last week and when the waiter came to wait upon us, I said to him, "Have you ever heard about the word of the Kingdom?" He said, "No." That's what I'm talking about. There are bunches of people around you never knowing anything about the word of the Kingdom. He said he goes to church and he said he goes to Mass and says, "Our Father," and all of that, but he doesn't know anything about the word of the Kingdom. So I said, "Well, we're going to have to talk to you. This is why we came to the restaurant today." So, I shared with him about the Kingdom, and you could see that I was getting his attention, because God created us a certain way. There is something that Yahweh has put inside us that make us want to rule. Something inside us wants to rule. It's not about ruling one another. It's about ruling in our soul where God has put our passions, our desires, ruling the things that God has given us to take care of. It's about dominion! People want to hear that.

Now, if you receive Jesus Christ and are born again... You know, being born again is fine, but you are born again to SEE the Kingdom of God! (John 3:3). To see means that you have arrived at a position where access to the Kingdom and all that it entails is something that is within your grasp (John 3:5). The phrase, "born again" was spoken only to Nicodemus (John 3:3). The only other place in the Bible that you will find that phrase is in 1 Peter 1:23. What you see is Jesus teaching that "the Kingdom has come upon you. The Kingdom is here.

The Kingdom is near. The Kingdom...” throughout the scriptures! I said, “This must be studied.” Jesus is talking about the Kingdom! Only one time do we hear, “We must be born again.” But He said, “Ye must be born of the water and the Spirit before you can enter the kingdom of God.” So Jesus is like the door (John 10:7). I think, “I can go through this door or I can go to this door and just hold onto it.” I will not know what is on the other side the door, because I have to go through the door to know what is on the other side. Then I see, “Oh, there’s a library! There are good books here to read!” And that’s what Jesus is: the door to go in. But you must open the door and go in, and then you can begin to understand the Kingdom that God has prepared for us to inherit.

I’m telling you, this word of the Kingdom is lifting me up into a higher realm. It’s making me feel like, “Yes, this is REAL.” This is really real. This is not about just singing and praying and feeling good and going home and doing the same thing all over again. It’s really something that makes you ponder hard on your purpose for being here at all times; in your home, in your job, wherever you may be. So, I asked this man that I was talking to at Dos Reales, “Do you know about the Kingdom of God?” This knowledge of the Kingdom changes your perspective. When they tell you to sweep the floor, you sweep it with all your might. You’ll be feeling good to sweep it because you are fulfilling your purpose on earth.” That is what it’s all about. In your job place, your boss doesn’t have to look over your work when you know what the Kingdom is all about, because you know this is your purpose here. You’re doing it as unto the Lord. You’re doing it because this is why God created you to be here, to take over this earth. And the boss is happy. Hallelujah. Blessed be God. Hallelujah.

Why did the God of heaven have to create you and me? He’s all sufficient. He’s all knowing. He’s got everything under control. Why? Why did He need you and me? I believe John tells us. In 1 John 4:8-16, he says that God is love. Love means He gives and shares, and because God is love, He must give and share. And God said, “Let Me create man in My image so I can SHARE these things with them! Share this joy, share this property with them!” You know, I’d like to be part of those people that will participate in the Kingdom of God, that will share things with God. God said, “I’m sharing these things with you. I’m sharing this kingship with you.” Do you want to be king or not? There was a man that came here to tell me about a kingship in Africa, and I told him, “I have been made king already! I’ve been made king already, and I’m talking about the heavenly one. This little piece of real estate in

Nigeria is no kingdom, this little property. But this Kingdom that Yahweh has is a whole LOT of property! Everything belongs to Him!” And God said, “I can share some of this. I want to share some of this with you.” You know, I want to get serious with this. There are so many benefits in this business of God. Hallelujah! God said, “I created you for a purpose. There is a definite purpose for which I created you. I’m a King and I’m looking for sons. I’m looking for kings/sons to have dominion over all these things. Kings/sons that will have dominion over all of this that Jehovah has created...” It’s a good word to look into, this word of dominion.

There is a concept that I am beginning to understand and that is the concept of colonization. The Roman Empire, when they conquered the Israelites, the Israelites wanted freedom, but God was trying to teach them something. When the Romans came and conquered their territory, they sent a governor down there and made everybody conform to the Roman way. Then God said, “NOW it’s time for Me to send Jesus (Matthew 21:37). NOW they can get it.” They wanted to be set free from the Romans but God was saying, “Listen. You see what the Romans are doing to you? That’s what I want to do to you. I want my Son to come and you can watch Him. I want you to be conformed to Him. He is a King. I want you to be conformed to His image.”

In Nigeria we had the British. The British did a lot for Nigeria, Brother Charles. In Lagos, years ago, we had public washrooms, public latrines, all over Lagos. It was a very clean city. They really did a lot for us. They made the place really clean. There were big businesses that they brought to us. They made Lagos look like London! This is what God is saying! “I want to make earth look like heaven!” That’s why Jesus came. “I want you to look like heaven, and if you guys can work with Me, we can do this! We’ll make it look like heaven.” That is what the British did to us. They made it look British. They made us dress right. In school we had to wear uniforms. We looked clean and neat. We had to speak English. They gave us a language. God gave me a language, didn’t He give you a language? We speak in tongues! Why do you think God gave us tongues? So we can become a little heaven on earth! God wants us to speak a heavenly language! You see, God’s trying to colonize us, if you will. “I’m going to colonize you guys. Now you will begin to walk like Me and think like Me.” This is the plan of God. This is why God tolerated colonization for so long, so we might learn something! Colonization is a process whereby a government determines to extend its kingdom to additional territory with the

purpose of imparting to that territory its will and desires. That's what God does. He says, "I'm going through your territory and I'm going to implant within your territory my son Jesus, so that you can be conformed to be like Him, to be conformed to His image, to be like Jesus Christ." This is very interesting. This is what God is doing. It's not about religion. It's not about getting my way. It's about being colonized by God. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

That is God's purpose for creation. He's a king and there has got to be a kingdom in order to have a king. Hallelujah. God said, "Man, I'm going to make you kings." The Bible says that we are kings and priests. How many of us feel like a king today? Some of us don't and that's why we're having problems. We don't feel like a king. We don't think like a king. We think like servants, like subjects to the devil, and he slaps us around like he wants because we don't say, "Hey, devil, you know who I am? I am a king! I don't need your little pennies. I just talk to the Father and he said that I have everything; I have commonwealth! I can always get something from Him, that's why it's called 'commonwealth'! I don't need you, Satan, to give me anything!" The devil says, "This one, I have to leave him alone. He knows who he is." I have to ask myself, "Femi, do you know who you are? Do you REALLY know who you are?" This is why the Bible is full of, "Know ye not...?," "Know ye this...?," "Know ye that...?." Paul said, "You must have this knowledge of who you are in order to overcome!" We are not subjects. We are not servants. We are kings and there is no separation between kings and the state, neither in this realm of man nor in the Kingdom of God. Kings and priests, no separation! It is man that makes the separation, but in the Bible there is no separation. It says that we are kings and priests. They work together in the Kingdom of God. Hallelujah.

The word dominion is used both in the Old and New Testaments. To have dominion, in the Hebrew, is the word radah (Strong's #7287), and in the Greek, basileus (Strong's #939), which mean, "to rule, to be a king, to be a master." When God said, "Have dominion over," He was saying that to you and me. "Have dominion over this, over that," not over man, not over one another. It means to rule, to be a king, to be established as a master, a governor, to reign over a designated territory. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. We must be able to rule over our desires, our passions, the greed and power. God wants us to have dominion over all these things.

What Adam did in the garden was not only disobedience; it was also an act of treason. That's the worst crime that you can commit to a nation, an act of treason. If a nation sends you somewhere as an ambassador and you go to that country and become a citizen of that country, if the first nation finds you, you are dead. If America sends you to Afghanistan as an ambassador and when you get there and say, "No, forget about America, I'm going to be a citizen of Afghanistan," the Americans are going to kill you. It is the death penalty. That's what Adam did. It was treason! God said, "I put you here to have dominion and now you have become a citizen of the devil. You guys are dead!" That's why they died. They died spiritually at first, and then eventually, naturally. What they lost in the Garden was the Kingdom and not religion.

But God then promised us a kingdom in Genesis. Genesis 3:15, ***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*** God is saying, "There is a promise. You have lost the Kingdom, but I'm going to reestablish something. I'm going to bring that Kingdom back. Somebody is going to come and restore this Kingdom." That is why the Lord came. That is the first purpose for which God created heaven and earth. You know that? To establish kings on this earth, to rule what He has created. The other part of the purpose was for God to establish a commonwealth citizenship and not a religious society; a commonwealth citizenry. That is why he said, in Philippians 3:20-21, ***For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.***

There's another scripture that's very clear about our citizenship (Ephesians 2:19). Our citizenship is in heaven. It's not for the devil. God is establishing these commonwealth citizens. You know, if somebody asks me, I'm being careful these days, but they ask me, "Where are you from?" I say, "Brother, I'm from heaven." They ask me what my citizenship is, and what I say to them is, "Don't let my accent deceive you. I'm from heaven." That is the difference between me and philosophers, the Muslim, or Buddhist, or whatever they call themselves. God made it clear that our citizenship is in heaven. We are representing God here in this earth. Hallelujah.

The third purpose, I believe, is to build a relationship with God. That's why, when the disciples said, "Teach us how to pray," the Lord

said, “Our FATHER, Who art in HEAVEN...” And then he gave us the story of the prodigal son who had squandered his father’s money, and then went back home and his father restored him. This is the kind of relationship that God is building with us. Hallelujah.

One thing I’m learning to understand is the Kingdom of Heaven. I have been looking through the scriptures to find out what God is saying about the Kingdom. Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom. “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:3).” “Blessed are the maimed...” It would seem to me that Yeshuwa has emphasized the Kingdom more than anything else, and that is why I am challenging you today, when you go home, to go through your Bible and look for this Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus talked about and see what God might minister to us through you.

It is all about understanding the Kingdom. First of all, we have to understand that God is not a democrat. He’s not democratic. He’s the King and He is Lord, and that means He’s sovereign. That’s what Sister Lisa was sharing with the children this morning when she was talking about Job. He’s not about asking God, debating with God or setting out some little counsel like they do in the law offices. The people of the world, they get some people together and they try to come up with a plan to do this like this or do that like that. They want to see if they can turn the things of God around. It’s not going to work. God is sovereign. You’re not going to advise Him. We have to understand that. I have to understand it, that God is a King. He’s not a president. He’s not one that you will vote into office. You don’t vote Him out either, as much as we like voting. I’m not going to say anything against it, but don’t carry it into God’s Kingdom, because you’re not going to vote for God, vote Him out or vote Him in. He’s a King and He’s going to be there forever. The Bible says His Kingdom is everlasting. It’s not four years or ten years. It’s ours. It’s there forever and I think that we have to get that clear, especially those of us living in this part of the world. You know, we are very democratic. We like our rights. “This is my right.” “That’s my right.” We are going to have to change that if we desire to be part of His Kingdom. That is why He’s saying, “Repent! Repent!” It’s not just to turn around. Even before you turn around, you have to think about turning around. That’s the renewing of your mind. God is saying, “Your thinking is wrong.” First of all, you’ve got to deal with that.

The second thing that we need to know is that we have to understand the territorial bounds. To understand the Kingdom, there are ter-

ritorial boundaries, there is a domain. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1). You know, in every kingdom, this thing applies. In every kingdom, there is a king, there is a definitive territory.

Thirdly, there is a constitution in a kingdom, a royal covenant. There is a covenant, and there are stipulations to that covenant. This covenant is not like you and I making a covenant with one another. We are speaking about a KING! They have ALL, everything! You and I barely have anything. So, what God is saying is, “Listen. If you follow Me, I’ll cover you. I give you all, but these are the stipulations. You have to follow this.” So, if you follow it, you’ll be covered. If you’re don’t, you’re out (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). That was given that clear to me, that, “Femi, My law, you’ve got to keep all of it if you want all these benefits and sonship and all of that. You’ve got to keep My laws. I’m the King and there is a constitution here and that is a royal covenant.”

The fourth thing is the citizenry. In Matthew 6:33, ***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*** “Seek ye first.” Seek that Kingdom, understand that Kingdom first. “Be a citizen of the Kingdom first, then, son, you are covered.” I want to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God. I’m tired of being a Nigerian. I want to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God. There are so many benefits! This is real! There are so many benefits to being a citizen of the Kingdom first, and then all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelujah. He said, “Don’t worry about what you will eat or wear. Don’t worry about that! That’s not your business! Your business is to be in the Kingdom and watch what I do! I’ve got all those things. All those, they belong to Me. Just be in the Kingdom first, and then everything will be added unto you.” Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

There is also a code of ethics in the Kingdom. There’s an acceptable lifestyle regarding the attitude that you must have in the Kingdom, the kind of attire that you must be putting on. You cannot be dressing any kind of way now. You’ve got to figure out how to dress in this Kingdom. Just like the British when they came to us. They showed us how to dress. “This is how you dress properly.” I mean, if I sit down with a Briton, you would not know the difference at this time. At the time I am talking about. The way I’m dressed and the way he’s dressed, you would not know until I opened my mouth. You would think I was born in London. This is what God is creating, that you begin to look like a heavenly man. Hallelujah. The code of ethics, acceptable lifestyles and conduct.

In the Kingdom there is an army. There is security. In Psalm 78:49-50, ***He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.*** There are angels that God has ordained to fight our battles, to be our army, to be our soldiers. There is an army in this Kingdom, and then there is a commonwealth. I like the commonwealth, the economy.

There is this commonwealth in the Kingdom. In Luke 12, it talks about not worrying about what you eat or about what you drink, because there is commonwealth. We don't have to worry about that. It's just your business to be in the Kingdom. Luke 12:22-23, ***And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.*** ²³***The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.*** Verse 31, ***But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*** So, don't worry about this. You just come into the Kingdom first. That is your business. That is my business. Hallelujah. Blessed be God.

There is something else that I noticed in the Kingdom. For the Kingdom to function effectively, there are some components that have to be working together. First of all, there is the problem of health in the Kingdom. There is a provision given to bring healing to the people of the Kingdom (Exodus 15:26). There are people that are given the power to heal in the Kingdom. You find it in the Kingdom of God. There is also an education problem. The training of the ministry of the Spirit, there is that problem going on in the Kingdom of God. There is a taxation system in the Kingdom of God. The giving of tithes and offerings, it is the taxation system, and if it is functioning, it makes the Kingdom of God more effective. There is a central communications system. What we are talking about are the operation of the gifts of the Spirit. You know, the prophetic gift is part of the central communication system, and it's working. Look at every kingdom in the natural and you will see these things going on. Why? Because they are going on in the same way in the Kingdom of God, and better. Hallelujah. There is also the diplomatic corps, the ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I want to emphasize that, the diplomatic corps, the ambassadors of Christ. And then there is a system of administration, and there is an economy system, this giving and sharing and things like that.

You know, the ambassador of Christ. II Corinthians 5:20, ***Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...*** I like that. But my understanding of it has gotten a little better. Before, this was something that made

me feel a little pompous, that I'm an ambassador. *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.* We are ambassadors for Christ.

What is an ambassador? An ambassador is a political appointee whose job is to represent and speak for his or her own government before the rulers of other countries. This is what God called you, "appointee," and your job is to represent and SPEAK for God, not to compromise with the other people. It's not to compromise with your own opinion, but to represent God. God's Kingdom is your government. That is all that we are supposed to represent wherever we are. Hallelujah.

So, let us look at the characteristics of an ambassador. First of all, he's appointed by the King. He's not voted into that position. He's appointed by the King (1 Corinthians 12:18). You cannot vote him out of it. God appointed him to be Jesus' voice, "Speak for Me," and nobody, whether he likes it or not, can vote him out. God appointed him (Ephesians 4:11). He's not democratic.

This position of ambassador represents the state or kingdom. That is why we've got to be careful when a prophet or a man of God speaks. He's not speaking his opinion. He's speaking what God says to him for him to speak. He's representing that Kingdom. Sometimes he does not want to do that, but that's where God put him and he must function accordingly, otherwise it will be treason. And the severe penalty for treason is death. Hallelujah.

An ambassador is committed only to the state's interest, not to my interest, not to your interest. What if an ambassador went overseas and all that he talked about was his own interest? (Matthew 7:21). The government that sent him is going to get him out of there, so you and I must learn from that. We must represent the interest of God. You know, our job is that we only represent what God will benefit from, not our own interest. I even have to lose my life on it. But my job is to represent God's interest (Matthew 26:39). Hallelujah. It's very tough.

An ambassador is totally covered by the state. Consider this fact: I've been here for quite some time, but does that make me not a citizen of Nigeria? No, I'm still a citizen of Nigeria. "You've been gone for so long, you've been on earth for quite a long time and you begin to think that you are no longer a citizen of the Kingdom of God." That does not make you less than a citizen of God, of the Kingdom of God. An ambassador is committed and is totally covered by the state.

Whatever he needs, the state will supply. So, God said you and I are ambassadors of Christ. We do not have to worry about anything. God said, "I'm going to cover everything. You just represent My interest and watch Me, for I will cover you."

You know, this is for me. This is for me. God said, "I will cover you completely. Don't worry about whatever. Just represent My interest." Hallelujah. And God is saying, "Never become a citizen of the kingdom where I assign you to. Never become a citizen of the kingdom I assign you to. Don't go there and say, 'Well, they are giving me so much money, so I am just going to compromise a little.'" It doesn't work in the kingdom of this earth, and it will not work in the Kingdom of God. Never become a citizen of the kingdoms of this earth, of the government God assigns you to. Hallelujah. You can only be recalled by the President. No one can recall you. Only God can recall you.

An ambassador has access to the nation's wealth for assignment. The ambassador has access to the wealth. You know, if an ambassador says, "I need an embassy here," the States will go and build an embassy there. Same thing for God. God says, "I need a church... Ambassador for Christ, I need a building here for the work of God." God says He's going to be there. You're an ambassador. You have access to the wealth. It is a commonwealth. I like commonwealth. You know, that means the wealth of the government belongs to everybody, if you are in the kingdom. It's common. Hallelujah! Hallelujah.

An ambassador must never speak of his personal position on any issue. I cannot speak on my personal position. I have to learn this. You cannot speak of your own personal position or opinion on an issue. No. An ambassador of Christ cannot do that! Your goal as an ambassador is to influence the territory that God assigns you to for His Kingdom. Even in my job place, my job is to influence everybody into the Kingdom. Sometimes I've got a lot of guys around me. We talk about the Kingdom of God at TGI Friday's, and the manager says, "Femi, they are supposed to be working." I say, "Well, let them work. When they finish, we'll continue." Your job is to influence that territory for the Kingdom of God. That's a challenge.

You know, there are so many scriptures to support this. We've looked at so few of them. A scripture that supports this is John 5:17, ***But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*** "My job is to work because my Father is working. I'm not doing anything on My own. I'm an ambassador. I'm only doing what He told Me to do! What He is doing is what I am doing, because I'm an ambassa-

dor! I cannot do anything different!” This is the mindset that God wants you and me to have. Look at another scripture, verse 19 of the same chapter, ***Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*** This is an ambassador. Say, “What I am doing is what the Father is doing. I’m not doing anything on my own. I’m only doing what He commanded me to do. I am working for the Kingdom here. This is not a religion!” Hallelujah. Look at verse 30, ***I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will...*** “I’m doing nothing of my own opinion,” ***but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*** There are so many scriptures in John. Let me share one more with you. John 12:49, ***For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*** This is a man working for the Kingdom. There is a constitution. Say, “I’m just following the constitution here! The constitution of the Kingdom, I cannot say anything of my own. I just say what He told me. If you have a problem with that, take it up with the King.”

So, I began to ask God how to incorporate this Kingdom thinking. I’ve got to develop my thinking. God says, “First of all, repent. Repent that you have been religious. You have been nothing but a religious nut. You’ve just been religious. Now, you have to repent of that! Before you can repent, this thing takes mind thinking. You have to agree with Me that your thinking has not been right! You have been thinking wrongly all your life! You’ve been running to church and been fasting for your own gain! You’ve been religious! Now repent!” Hallelujah. Matthew 4:17, ***From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent...*** The first Word of the Lord. ***Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** You know, this is more than, “You’ve got to be born again.” He said, “Repent. Your thinking has really been wrong.” That’s what the Lord is saying. “Repent. You have wrong thinking. Now you’ve got to turn around. Change your mind.” Paul said to renew your mind, offer your body as a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1-2, ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,*** the renewing of your mind. God is not democratic. You are not in a democratic system here. You are dealing with a King. You’ve got to get that straight. Get that

mindset of “my rights” and “I am voting for Him to be there” out. Hal-lelujah.

Secondly, to develop the Kingdom thinking you have to preach the gospel of the Kingdom. You know, I hear so much. I turn the TV on, “Pray. You’ve got to be born again. Pray this prayer of salvation with me and then you’ll become a Christian. ‘I profess Jesus is my Lord...’” People don’t really get it with that. They don’t get it! They think it’s some kind of game, or ritual, that you just say the word and now you are a Christian. The name “Christian” was given to us by pagans in the first place. Although the Christians have done much, and I’m not underestimating that, but God has never called me a Christian. He called me a saint. He called me a minister. He called me an ambassador. That’s what God called me, and most people are sitting there thinking something that is different than Kingdom thinking. I have some friends from the Congo. I said, “You’ve got to come to church with me.” “Oh, we go to an African church.” I said, “What is that supposed to mean, ‘African church’? Whatever that church is it is not what I am looking for, you don’t get it! It’s just being religious!” And they got a bad one, a really bad religion. These people don’t even have any remorse over wrongdoing! They lie, and they lie, and they enjoy lying! And then they go to church. I said, “Somebody has not been preaching the Word of the Kingdom. Somebody’s been preaching some really watered-down gospel. It’s not the Word of the Kingdom.” The Word of the Kingdom, it will transform you. It will transform you! I can sense this, I can feel it! There is power. Man is hungry for power. The only way they’re going to get it is to preach the Word of the Kingdom, the power to have dominion! Having dominion over all things is POWER! Man wants to hear that, that God has restored this to us through the Blood of Jesus Christ. People want to hear that. We need to study to see what this is all about, that we may be effective in our ministry to those that God brings to our lives. Preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

If you look at the story of Nicodemus, he came to Jesus at night. Let’s look at it. John 3:1-7, ***There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night...*** a ruler of the Jews. God does not want to be a ruler of the Jews. We are to have dominion over this and over that, not people! But I know God put that in there intentionally. The Bible says that he was a ruler of the Jews. ***The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus an-***

swered... That is enough for some of us to really get puffed in our head, but Jesus knew Nicodemus. He knew what Nicodemus needed. He was not just laying down a doctrine. I don't believe He's laying down a doctrine. He was dealing with what Nicodemus needed. The church has made many doctrines out of this and they're making a lot of money doing it. ***Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see...*** The word "see" is "understand." He cannot understand the Kingdom of God, and that's what the Lord is telling Nicodemus. That's what He's telling us. To understand the Kingdom of God, you must be born again, but more than that, you have to open the door. Jesus said, "I am the door." You have to go through that door in order to see what is inside of that door. Hallelujah.

Thirdly, to develop the Kingdom thinking, we must study. We must study vigorously. We must study prayerfully. We must really look through all this Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus talked about. Try the scripture. Everybody in the Bible understood about the Kingdom, from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Kings understood about the Kingdom! David didn't call himself a Christian. He understood about the Kingdom. He was a king, but he knew there was a King that is King of Kings! He understood that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof! He understood a Kingdom principle. Daniel, he understood the Kingdom! You know, that is why he would not submit to the earthly kingdom because he understood that he was in the Kingdom that is more powerful. You know, everybody in the Bible, they understood this Kingdom concept, except us. Except us. Maybe, except me. Everybody else in the scripture understood that concept of the Kingdom. When Jesus came, He came to talk about the Kingdom being restored! It's more than just going to church and playing church and running and playing drums or singing and all that. It's about knowing your purpose here! It's about knowing that God has created you here to have dominion!

Fourthly, we must begin to think like a king. Time's up for thinking like servants and subjects of the rulers of this world. Begin to think like a king. I look at those little children kings. They will become king of England. When their mother died, they were trained to behave a certain way. Their walk, they were trained the way to walk, the way to talk. They are TRAINED to talk like that! The way they sit, they were trained to do that! God said He has sent somebody to us, a counselor, the Holy Spirit, to train us to become kings, to think like kings, to walk

like kings! To act like kings, to take AUTHORITY over all! I want to be part of that Kingdom. I am tired of being religious. I am completely tired of being religious. I want to know God. I want to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Psalm 115:16, *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.* The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but this earth hath He given to the children of men. This earth, this earth, God has given it to us, so let's begin to act like somebody that has some very valuable property. It's a great responsibility. You know, that's what I tell myself when I'm tempted by something. "Femi, remember who you are. You are a king. Don't let them see you sweat. Move like a king! Think like a king!" God bless you.

Barak Asbill: I just want to take a minute and grab a thought here that Brother Femi put out on the table, because it was very much what I've been meditating on during the week. He was talking about John chapter 3 where it says, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God; except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Go back to the tabernacle and begin to look at the tabernacle. Leaving the Brasen Laver and entering into the tabernacle itself, I think is that position that is defined as "except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jesus said, "I am the door." Moses said that the door was the entrance into the tabernacle. So, the experience of the Outer Court is not necessarily entering into the Kingdom of God. Though we be born again, though we've been regenerated, there's yet another decision to be made in order to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Now, the interesting thing is, I looked up the word "except" in the Strong's, and began to chase it down to its root words and I came to the word, "negate" or "negation." So "except" means, being used in that portion of scripture, "to negate, or negation" which means "to make negative." Or "negate" means "to deny a principle truth." Well, I don't remember it word for word from the dictionary, but the essence of it was "to deny a principle truth." So, there's a negative outcome on the basis of not accepting... Now, we fully understand what that outcome is when we do not accept being born again. We understand that and it's very much in the forefront of our minds, but I think we overlook, or we have overlooked, or we haven't really investigated that the same outcome applies to being born of the water and the Spirit. To reject that

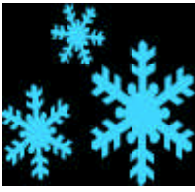
position or that place, to not go through that step, there is a negative outcome. Though we be born again, though we have the Blood and perhaps the position in the Kingdom of God, an entrance to a place in the realm of heaven, there is still a negative outcome, because God never intended mankind to just be born again. Rather, he must be born again, then be born of the water, and then born of the Spirit.

So, I was thinking about it as Femi was speaking. I was thinking about when a man leaves the Brasen Laver and proceeds into the Holy Place, he has to go through five pillars that were set up in the entrance of the door of the tabernacle. There is a ministry that God has put in the midst of the earth, in the midst of humanity... Now, the interesting thing is, that those pillars are set in circuits of brass. It's one of the last places you see brass as you progress into the tabernacle. You find it also in the covering that is over the tabernacle. But there is a foundation of brass in which the ministry has been set. Now, when I say ministry, I'm not necessarily singling out certain individuals, but there is a position to which some people have been appointed and as they move to and fro through the earth, their foundation being of brass, there is the judgment of God being worked into the fabric of their lives, bringing forth a standard of righteousness. Now, that judgment not only applies to those that are moving within the ranks of ministry, but also to all those that pass through the columns that mark out the entrance into the Holy Place. There's a ministration of the Word that is delivered to you and me, that if we would allow the Word to course through the fabric of our lives, we would become something of the nature of the Word, and the Word would bring us into the experience of the Holy Place.

Now, there's something about humanity that I began to understand here again while Brother Femi was elaborating. We have the saying, "No pain, no gain." I think it's a true saying. Out in the natural when we labor and we press through some difficult time or situation, the reward of it is all the more sweet. So, we've seen and tasted of the good things inside the Holy Place, yet sometimes, due to human nature, we don't want to suffer in order to receive that glory. So, rather than go through the process of baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Ghost, baptism into Christ, we want all the glory that's in the Holy Place to be brought out to us. But it's not so. There must be baptism. "Except a man be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

This all came out of Wednesday night, what I'm talking about.

“He that overcometh...” When Brother duCille began to elaborate on the word “overcometh...” I went home and I started looking it up and I started chasing it down. You know how you look at scripture and another scripture comes into your mind, so you go over here, and pretty soon you’ve got this trail, as the Word is being spelled out to you. As your understanding is being opened up, that requirement is being laid out upon you, and you begin to see something in the scripture that is a viable, attainable substance that you know is not living inside of you, yet it is something that you want! So, the emphasis, I think, in the Spirit, at least for me personally, is something “except,” that there’s an action required. There’s an action required that I be baptized in the Spirit. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.



Be Ye Faithful

by Sister Pavlina Davis



Moreover it is required in stewards,
that a man be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

As the time of the end of ages approaches, the Lord seems to be speaking to us more and more about being faithful in what He has delivered unto us. Not that this concept would not be true and important before, however it seems to be sounding more and more these days. Meditating upon the faithfulness of God and what He requires of us in the aspect of faithfulness, I went into the Word to see what the Word has to say about it.

The New Testament itself has the word faithful mentioned 50 times and many of the times it talks about God being faithful to us. For example:

1 Corinthians 1:9, God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:24, Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

11 Thessalonians 3:3, But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Hebrews 10:23, Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

11 Timothy 2:13, If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Revelation 19:11, And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

It is obvious that no matter what God does He cannot be anything but faithful in His doings, as faithfulness is a part of His nature; it is even His name. And if we believe what He says, then we will also count Him faithful even as Sarah did.

Hebrews 11:11, Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

If, therefore, faithfulness is the very nature of God and He has made us in His image and is creating us after His likeness, then in order for us to be like Him we have to bear the same quality of character in our souls.

I am very encouraged to see that there are a number of people in the Bible that were counted faithful in their service to God. God was faithful to us to make mention of them so that we would know it is not only His commandment to us, but also an attainable place that many of our brethren have already reached. For example: Abraham (Galatians 3:9), Moses (Hebrews 3:2,5), Paul (I Corinthians 7:25), Timotheus (I Corinthians 4:17), Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21), Epaphras (Colossians 1:7), Onesimus (Colossians 4:9), as well as the whole 11th chapter of Hebrews, with thousands and thousands of those whose names were not written down. And what about those who went before us after the Bible was written?

Paul speaks about obtaining the mercy of the Lord in order to be faithful (I Corinthians 7:25). It tells me that faithfulness, as well as any of our endeavors in Christ, is only by His mercy and grace. However, do you think God is withholding His mercy from us so that we may not be faithful in these last days? Not at all! Actually, the opposite is true! If Paul received the mercy, the more we, who live at the end of all ages. God would not let us go through much increased troubles when more powerful spirits of darkness are released on the earth without increasing His mercy and grace into our lives.

Let us have a look at what the word faithful really means. The Strong's concordance defines it as follows:

4103. pistov pistos, pis-tos' - from 3982; objectively, trustworthy; subjectively, trustful:—believe(-ing, -r), faithful(-ly), sure, true.

As we can see, the Greek word pistos comes from the word peitho, which means the following:

3982. peiyw peitho, pi'-tho - a primary verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy, to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively, to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty):—agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) confidant, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

Looking at all these words, a few of them really stand out to me: trustworthy, trustful and to rely (by inward certainty). Doesn't it say in Proverbs 31:11 about a virtuous woman that "...the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her..."? Cannot he rely on her knowing that she is trustful in all things? The New Testament in I Timothy 3:11 says, Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things, so that their husbands could safely trust in them. However, we mustn't forget that a woman in the Bible always represents the Church and therefore, we can see from these scriptures what is required of the

Church – to be faithful so that the heart of our heavenly husband could safely trust in us.

I have been thinking a lot about how much the Lord can trust us with regard to His business; how much He can rely on us that when He tells us to do something, the task gets done. I began to see different situations and circumstances flashing before my eyes of God speaking to an individual to do a certain thing but they would not move upon the Word. And so God was patiently waiting and speaking again and waiting and speaking again, until finally, He called somebody else. The saddest part in it all was that the individual didn't even know how much they lost in the economy of God. For truly, our future is built upon how we respond to Him in our present time. Also, one thing we have to realize is that with all God tells us to do, He also gives us a time frame. We don't have to know what the time frame is, but God builds it within the task itself.

Going through different verses, I began to see a pattern in which God seems to be teaching us faithfulness. As the children are being taught to walk step by step, so are we, and it even applies to the area of faithfulness. God first starts with the natural things. He causes us to show faithfulness in our jobs and says that unless we are faithful in the unrighteous mammon, nobody is going to trust us the true riches (see Luke 16:11); or unless we are faithful in that which is another man's, nobody is going to give us that which is our own (see Luke 16:12). In addition to our jobs, He sometimes asks us to sweep the floors in the church building and waits to see how well we will do. Therefore, if we think we can "skip" some of our natural responsibilities, thinking that they are not important in the kingdom of God, we are terribly mistaken. God looks at our diligence, approach, and attitude in all we do in obedience to Him.

Also, God never starts with big things but trains us with small ones. Luke 16:10, He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (See also Matthew 25:21 and Luke 19:17). I once used to have a boss at work who would never hire a young individual that didn't perform well at school no matter how well he presented himself. This man believed that if you were not able to do well at what your primary responsibility at the time was, thinking that school was not that important, then you would be sloppy even at work. It is not until we prove our faithfulness in the little things, even though it might seem insignificant to us, that we are given much.

On the other hand, I see some people being very faithful in the natural issues of life and able to be entrusted with much, however, when

it gets to spiritual things, they hardly ever take the responsibility God has put upon them. Let us not be deceived; the Bible says, ...first the natural, then the spiritual... (see I Corinthians 15:46). So, as the Lord is giving us natural things to be faithful in, the same way He is giving us the spiritual ones. We have a responsibility to spend our time with Him individually as well as as a household. We also have a responsibility to come to the meetings with our offering to Him and be available to allow the Holy Spirit to move through us as He chooses. However, this is only a beginning. God is looking for people who He can entrust the fullness of His business to. In II Timothy 2:2, Paul speaks to Timothy, And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Do you suppose God is limited only to teaching "jobs" in the Church? Not at all! He has so much more He wants to have done and is looking and looking and giving a little task to this one and a little task to that one, hoping that they would obey His commandment so that He could entrust them with a little bit more until they come to the fullness of what He has created them for.

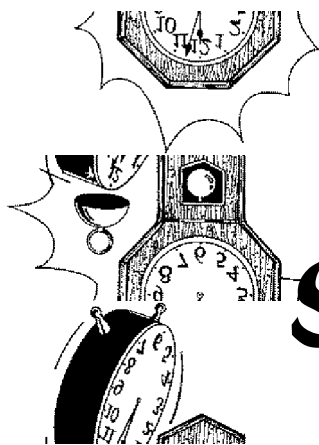
Have you ever wondered how it is possible that God brings a word of prophecy to somebody and says how pleased He is with the individual's service to Him and that individual does a hundred times less than someone else with whom the Lord is not pleased? God gives each of us our own measure and is expecting us to bring forth a hundred percent return on what He has invested in us. This is His economy, this is His principle. Do you want to be entrusted with much? Be faithful in the little you have already been given. Do you think you will have to work more when you get more? Sure you will! But with every little task you are found faithful in, the nature of God is created in you, and more of His Kingdom is formed within you – righteousness, peace and joy, of which you are the first partaker.

I remember a few years ago, God spoke to me to translate into Czech a little book called "Mr. Pegelow at the Gates of Hell." For one reason or the other, it took me several years. For those of you who have never done any translating or editing work, I just want to assure you that a book like that should not take more than 3-4 weeks including all proof-reading done by other people. And you can even do a full-time job at the same time and translate only during evenings! If we add to our time frame negotiations with the printing house, their own schedule, etc., it all should not take more than 3 months. Our endeavors on Mr. Pegelow took at least 2 or even 3 years. In the midst of our "hard" work, one

night God gave me a dream: A dear sister came to me and asked, "How come you don't have Mr. Pegelow in Czech yet? Don't you know the message has a power to save souls?" I started working on it with new zeal. However... A year later I got really excited about "finally" holding the printed book in my hands. But God came to me and scolded me for taking so long. Try to put your excuses before the Lord! I had all of them ready: I didn't have time because He told me to do other things at the same time; the people who worked on it with me took too long and I couldn't make them speed up; we didn't have any money to have it printed for the "longest" time; the devil was doing everything possible (as well as impossible) to stop us, etc., etc. After I presented my excuses to Him, He said only one thing, "I have given it to you as your responsibility!" With that one sentence, the whole understanding came to me. When God gives us a task to do, He gives us ALL we need in order to accomplish it. And when it seems as if we are missing something, we have to remember He has given us our knees so that we would bow down before Him and make the impossible possible. It is our responsibility. The devil will always come to stop the works of the Lord. And he will use everything he can – people, lack of finances, lack of time, and anything else you can think of. However, the Lord has given us tasks to do and He is expecting us to be faithful no matter what the cost.

As I am writing these lines, I see my own lack in the area of faithfulness. You see, there are things God is requiring of all of us and there are those which are very specific to each fellowship as well as to each one of us. He is asking us all to seek His face and be faithful in it. But He has not told me to go to the prison and minister as He told my husband. We all have the Holy Spirit to show us what our individual portion is in the work of His Kingdom.

Brethren, let us be faithful in what we have been given. Let us not despise the one and only talent we have received but let us multiply it. And if you feel like you were given many talents, don't let the enemy tell you that using only one or two of them means you are doing a wonderful job. God is going to require from us all that He has invested in us. I would hate to stand before Him one day and see all the things He entrusted me with but had to pass them on to someone else so that they would get done. And also, to see the place I could attain to but didn't because of my slothfulness. Therefore, let us be encouraged in well doing, knowing that God is not unrighteous to forget our work and labor of love (see Hebrews 6:10), but will keep them until that day.



The Time is Significant

~An Overview of the Last 3½ Years~

Brother George Kotrla June 17, 2004 Jamaica

Note from KIT Staff:

This word includes a chart called “Overview of Last Days Events” which is on the middle page of the bulletin. In this word, you will find numbers which correspond with the points on the chart.

I was asked to give a summary of the appointed time of the 3½ years which are just ahead of us. Let us go through the Bible and understand where we are in time. I hope that we can get a better understanding of the times. Let me first pray that I would be able to do that and that you would be able to understand. Hallelujah.

Lord God, You are the Lord of the scriptures. So, we come to You this afternoon and ask that You would open our minds, that we would be able to understand You, that we would be able to understand the scriptures which You put together, which You gave us to read. I ask You that You would lead us by the Spirit of truth, that all that is spoken here would be a benefit for us, for our growth and for our development in You. Hallelujah. So we ask You, Lord God, to enlighten us, to open our minds, our eyes, and our ears, so that we might be linked to You, that we would be able to hear You and understand what You are saying. Hallelujah. We ask You for the Spirit of truth to be in our midst, and also for concentration, that we would be able to concentrate on Your Word, and that we would eat those words that You gave us as food for our souls. Thank You for everyone here. I ask You for myself, that

I would be able to speak what You want to say. I ask You for me to be eliminated and You to be increased in our midst. Hallelujah. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen.

In the first session, I gave a chronological sequence of events starting with the beginning of the 3½ years, what is going to happen between now and then, and what is after the 3½ years. We will come to that, but let me start today with a little progression to give you a slightly wider picture.

God set up seven years out of 6000 years of man on the earth for a special purpose. He has chosen seven years in which He wants to fully manifest Himself to the world through flesh and blood (non-resurrected) people. When I say “manifest Himself,” it means He wants to show Himself with all His character. It means that He will show Himself within men like us; He will reveal in them the character of God, the sinless and righteous nature. These people will be showing God in that they will not be sinning. There will be no sin in them. There will be no death in them. There will be no judgment in them. The things that are in the carnal realm won’t be in those people. The world will see God in men, in normal bodies, flesh and bones.

There is a prevalent teaching in the church, even in the church background I come from, which says that sin and death in a Christian can be overcome by the passing on of the person, by dying and going to heaven. This is what I was taught in the church from my childhood, that sin is overcome by the way that we live, then we die and go to heaven and that is it. They say that sin is overcome by the death of the believer, and death will then be overcome by a one-time event, the resurrection of the dead. But it is not so. If we take this concept that sin and death can be overcome by dying and getting to heaven, it will lead a person to live a life not overcoming the sin, because he’s taught that sin can be overcome by his death. That is not so.

So, how is it in reality? How is it with sin? How is it with death? The truth is that the resurrection of the body is fully connected with the overcoming of sin. You cannot get a resurrected body unless sin was first overcome in the body.

If we open to I Corinthians 15, we can see that the resurrection of the dead has something to do first with elimination of sin in our lives. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have to be fighting with sin, we would only be waiting for the resurrection! But that’s not what the Bible says. I Corinthians 15:55 says, ***O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*** Verse 56, ***The sting of death is sin.*** You can inter-

change and put the word “victory” there instead of the word “sting,” and it will say, “The victory of death is sin.” Unless there is overcoming of sin, there cannot be overcoming of death. We cannot overcome death unless we first eliminate sin, because sin is the activator of death. This is what this Gospel of the Kingdom is saying to us, and even this seminar is leading us to eliminate sin from our lives. If we have sin in our soul, we cannot have the body resurrected, we cannot have victory over death, because death’s victory is in the place where sin is. So, we are dealing with the issue of sin within ourselves. God is showing us the ways to eliminate sin from our lives. When we have victory over sin, we have victory over death, also. Hallelujah. Death will be swallowed up in victory, as it says in verse 54. In this famous passage which speaks about the resurrection of the dead, you see the principle behind the resurrection that there cannot be victory over death unless the sting of the death, which is sin, is dealt with. Praise be to God. This is a path for the life of God to get through our spirit, where the Spirit of God dwells, first to our soul, and then to our body and the body will be resurrected.

Before, I never understood it this way. I always thought of the resurrection as something that will happen no matter where we are. But Brother duCille drew here the picture of the spirit, soul and body. He was showing the progression of God’s life from the spirit of man to the soul, and then when sin is eliminated, He will get to the body, and the body will be resurrected. Praise be to God.

Let us look at Romans 8:11, because there God deals with the question of sin and the resurrection of our bodies. Romans 8:11, ***But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*** First of all, it is necessary that the Spirit dwells in us, in our soul, because it will be this Spirit that will then resurrect the body. He will quicken the mortal body. If there is no indwelling of the Spirit of God in our soul, there is nothing to quicken our mortal bodies. We need to see the progression of God through the spirit of man to the soul. When the Spirit of God dwells in our souls, then there is quickening for our bodies. We cannot skip one of these steps. So, first we have to deal with the sting of death, which is sin, and then we will have victory over death. Amen?

Let us now come back to the seven-year period that God set up, in which He will have people who have overcome sin and death. He will show and manifest Himself through people’s normal bodies, people like we are, and these people will have overcome sin and death in their

lives by the Spirit of God. I'm glad that we are teaching here how to be overcomers. Do you know where the seven-year period is mentioned in the Bible? In Daniel chapter 9 and the last verse, first sentence. Daniel 9:27, ***He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.*** (See Overview #12) What does it mean? God shall confirm the covenant with many for seven years. If somebody is not sure why one week is seven years, he can find it in Leviticus 25:8, and just put it down for further study, that one week is seven years. That's one way of calculating time. Here we find that there is one special week, seven years, and in these seven years, God will confirm the covenant with many. It doesn't say He will conclude the covenant with many, because the covenant is here for a long time, but He will confirm the covenant. The Hebrew word for "confirm" means to strengthen it, be great, be mighty, prevail. God will make the covenant strong, mighty, bringing it to fullness in many people for seven years. Now, what's going to be happening? Daniel 9:24 has the full picture of what has to happen before and during the seven years. There it says that ***seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city.*** He's saying that He has given a certain time period which is 70 weeks. What has to take place in this time period? ***Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins.*** In other words, to make an end of sinning. It means that there is a special time in the time of humanity in which there will be an end of sinning. God promised that He will do it with His people, He will lead them to a place where they will not be sinning. Amen. Is it something that we are looking for? We are looking for a time where there will be an end of sinning in our lives.

Then he continues, verse 24, ***to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*** Okay. Verse 25, ***Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*** This is a seventy week period of time, of which 69 weeks took place starting from the commandment to restore Jerusalem and closing at the coming of the Messiah. That made a total of 69 weeks. That means that there is one week left and that is the week of the covenant confirmed which we read about in verse 27. So, there is only one week in place now. Seven years. And in these seven years, man on the earth will be walk-

ing, talking and showing God in fullness. (See Overview #12) There will be no sin in their lives, no death in their lives, no dark places. There will only be light in their lives.

It continues in the 27th verse, ***He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:*** (for seven years) ***and in the midst of the week*** (in the middle of the week) ***he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.*** What is it talking about? In the middle of the seven-year period there will be a pause, and he's saying that it will be the end of sacrifices. Who is the end of sacrifices? (Congregation: Jesus) From God's perspective, the end of sacrifices could only be caused by the perfect sacrifice. They say that it could be anti-christ who will put an end to sacrifices, but no, this is not how God ends sacrifices. He brings the higher, perfect sacrifice, and by this He stops oblations and sacrifices.

So, now we understand the last week, the seven years. In the middle is Jesus' death on the cross as the perfect Lamb of God. It means that the first half of the seven years of God manifested in man is already past. It took place with Jesus. The first half of the seven years already took place when Jesus started the ministry, and He ministered exactly 3½ years. When He finished His ministry, He gave up His life on the cross. He gave up Himself as the Lamb of God and it was the last sacrifice. Since that time, no sacrifice in Jewish temples or synagogues is valid, because these sacrifices were replaced by the last and perfect sacrifice, which was Jesus Christ. He made reconciliation for sins. So, we see that the first part of the seven-year period was already finished in the life of Jesus.

I want to say to us that Jesus didn't have a resurrected body. He was a normal man. He had feelings, He had pain, He had to eat, He had to do things like we have to do, yet He was fully manifesting God in all of that. There was no sin in Him. There was no death in Him. There was no evil thing in Him. It means that He was manifesting the nature of God on the earth.

Okay, so that is the first half of the seven-year period. Where is the remaining half? At the end. If you look at Revelation, there is no seven-year period, there is only 3½ years. There are several places in Revelation where it speaks about the 3½ year period as a special time on the earth. And let me tell you, this is happening before the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of God. This is still on the earth that we know now. It is before the last trumpet shall sound and Jesus openly comes back.

The question now is, are there any other places in the New Testament which speak of this special event in the end of times before Jesus comes back? We know that in the book of Revelation we find several places relating to the 3½ year period, but I mean in other books, what about the other apostles? Did they know about this special time, the 3½ years of God shown in human flesh? Let us see what other apostles believed about the end of time and this special moment in history that God calls a week of covenant for seven years.

Romans 8:18-19, ***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*** In Paul's time, the church was growing, they were seeing miracles which we don't see very often. Yet, Paul was saying that there was something missing, and that there will be something in the future which the creation is waiting for, and it is the manifestation of the sons of God. (See Overview #8) You could think that that time was the height of the church. In the first church they had great things which were going on. Every day God added to the church many, many people. Great miracles were happening through the hands of the apostles, and yet Paul said that there was something more, that the whole world was waiting for something which they did not have in Paul's time. So, Paul believed there was something more, something yet to be revealed.

We read from Paul; now let's read what Brother Peter believed. I Peter 1:5, ***Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*** Wow. Here it says that salvation was not yet fully revealed, but it will be revealed in the last times. (See Overview #9) It may puzzle us a little bit. What it means is that the way of salvation was revealed, the way of salvation was given already, but the fullness of that salvation was not yet revealed. Peter is saying here that there is salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. So, even Peter believed in something special in the end of time, the same thing which Daniel spoke about.

Let us now read Revelation 12:10, ***And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation.*** There is a special moment in the future when there will be a voice from heaven saying, "Now is come salvation." Peter was saying that there is something which, in his time, was not yet revealed. But here in Revelation in the end of times, there is a loud voice from heaven, and it announces, "Now is come salvation." ***Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of***

our God, and the power of his Christ: Why? for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Brethren, when is this happening? When is this “Now is come salvation”? When is it sounding? It sounds when the sons of God have overcome the devil, hallelujah, and the devil has been cast out of their souls. They overcome the accuser. This is something that is going to happen at the beginning of the 3½ years. (See Overview #11) There is a time in our lives when the devil will be cast out from our souls. This will happen before the 3½ year period starts to take place. This is why we are talking so much about the Spirit of God Who needs to be let loose in our souls so that sin is eliminated. We need the sting of death to be eliminated so that the accuser of the brethren, the devil, might be cast out from heaven, which is our soul, so that the Spirit might be ruling, so that there will be this “Now is come salvation,” so that the salvation might be manifested in the last time, as Peter spoke about.

So, we see in the Bible that even Paul and Peter knew about this special time in the church’s future when salvation will be revealed, and the sons of God will be manifested.

Let’s now go to the 3½ years in the book of Revelation. We read in Revelation 12 about the time of the birth of the man child. Let us read and see if we can identify who this man child is. Revelation 12:1-6, ***And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: ² And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. ³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. ⁵ And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. ⁶ And the woman (who gave birth unto this man child) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.***

Here we see that there is a birth of the man child, and then the 3½ year period follows. After the woman church gave birth to the man child, she fled into the wilderness to be there for 42 months, which is 3½ years. (See Overview #3) That indicates that the man child birth is the

beginning of the 3½ years, because it says that after he was born, the woman fled into the wilderness to be hidden there for 3½ years.

Now, in the 5th verse there is something spoken to identify the man child. Do we all know who the man child is? You will hear all different ideas of what the man child is. Somebody says it's about the birth of Jesus, which cannot be true because the book of Revelation speaks about things which are to come, and it was written about a hundred years after Jesus was born. You will hear other ideas, maybe that this is about the birth of the state of Israel. But who is the man child? Well, the definition is given right there. If you look in the 5th verse, she brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. A promise is given to this man child that he will rule all nations with a rod of iron. Do you know to whom this promise was given?

Let us find who received this promise of ruling all nations with a rod of iron. Revelation 2:26-27, ***And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*** Amen. What do we see here? Who then is this man child? It's an overcoming church, he who will overcome. Amen? Praise the Lord. The Bible explains itself. This promise of the rod of iron is given to the church, but not all the church, only to those in the church who will overcome. You see, the church in Revelation 2 is splitting into two: those who will overcome, and those who will not. Those who will, they will be the man child. Praise God.

There's another thing that we can identify about this man child, and that is that he was caught up to God's throne. The throne. The throne is the place of reigning and ruler ship. Who is the receiver of the promise of the throne? Revelation 3:21, ***To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*** Amen. So you see, the promise of the throne has been given again to the overcoming church. We can be sure now that the man child is the church which will overcome. The one has received the promise of the throne, and the promise of the rod of iron. Praise the Lord. I hope there's no doubt about that.

I also would like to say a thing about the name "man child:" it's not the best translation. There's no word "child" used in Greek. If Brother Martin would look in the Greek, he would find out that there is no "child." But there is "son" in Greek. There are two words, one is "man," the second one is "son." The correct name of man child would

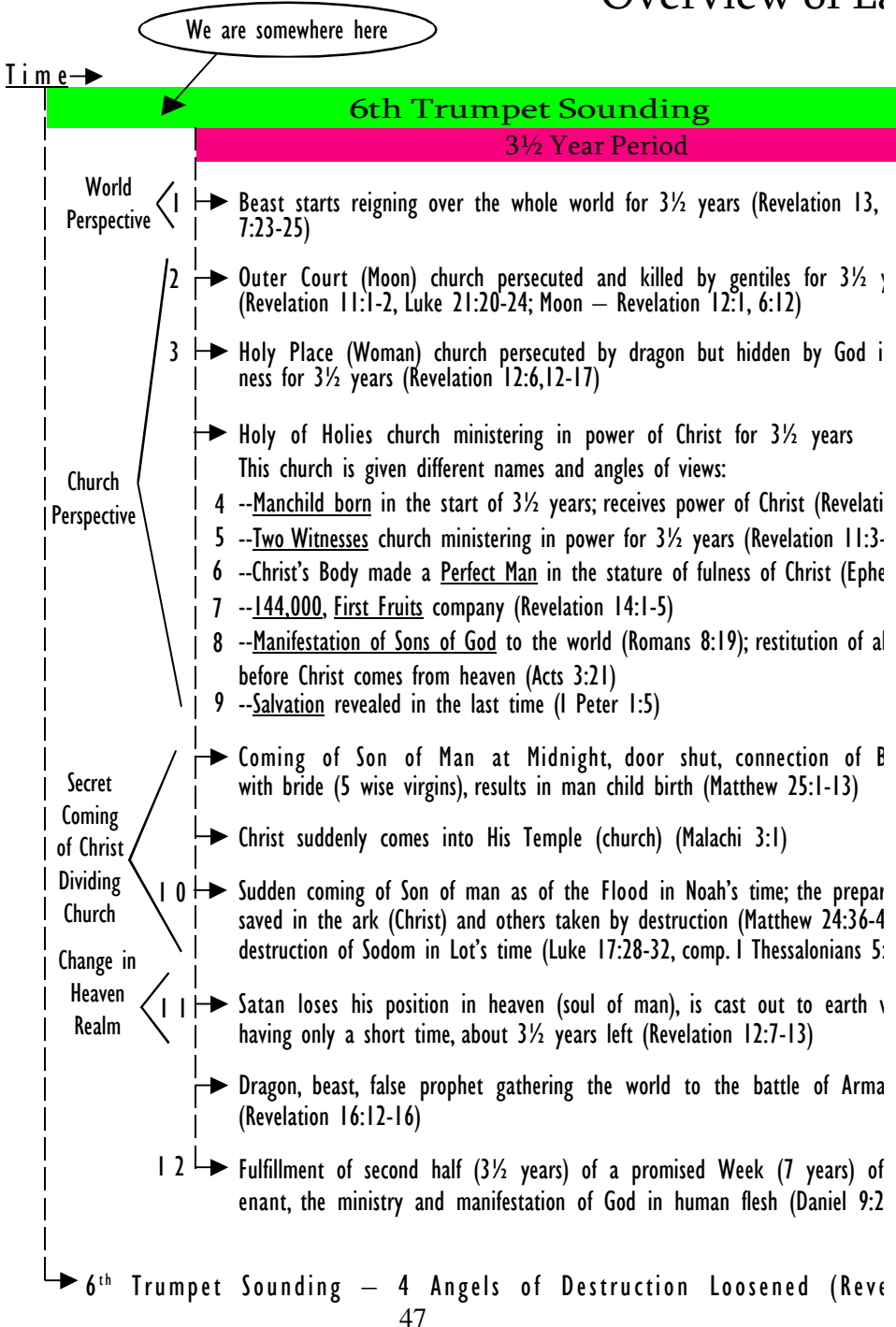
then be “man son.” We are used to man child, but please remember there is no word “child” in Greek. In verse 5, the woman brought forth a man son. Even the name can help us identify what this church is about. Man son. What scripture is coming to you when you hear about the church which is a man? Not a woman, but a man. Ephesians 4:13, ***Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man...*** Unto a perfect man! So there is a spot in the history of the church when the church will become a perfect man. ...***unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*** This scripture is to be fulfilled and it is to be fulfilled at the birth of the man child. Fulfillment of this scripture is when the man child is formed and comes to existence. (See Overview #6) This is the event which will take place at the beginning of the 3½ years, and then this man child church will be going through the world as Jesus was, and will minister in a way we have never seen before. Hallelujah. A perfect man.

You know, some churches say that this scripture which we just read from (Ephesians 4:13) will be fulfilled in heaven. After all of us die, then we will become a perfect man. But it cannot be so, because it says that God gave ministries in this earth to bring the Body to this fulfillment. If this was fulfilled by the death of a Christian, God wouldn't have to give any ministries, He would only have to keep us alive and then bring us to death. But this is not what He said. He said that this will come true in people who are still alive and are in the need of God's ministry. Amen. Praise be to God. I hope we have no doubt who the man child church is. We've just seen in the Bible, which gives the explanation to all things, that this is the overcoming church.

God has given to the man child church different names. For example, two witnesses (Revelation 11:3). (See Overview #5) Two witnesses are the same thing, looked at from a different angle. A hundred and forty-four thousand or first fruits company is the same thing (Revelation 14:1-5). (See Overview #7) It is the same overcoming church that will receive the throne of God, which will receive the rod of iron, the same church which is coming to the perfect man, the perfect humanity on the earth. This is the church we are talking about. Praise God. Amen.

Now I would like to do another thing to help us to understand a little bit more about these 3½ years. It is very interesting that the first 3½ years, where Jesus was doing His job as Messiah, is very similar to the second 3½ years. Have you noticed that? Let us look at the beginning of the 3½ years in Jesus' time. Do you know how Jesus' ministry

Overview of L:



Last Days' Events

Shortly before 7th trumpet

7th Trumpet Sounding

- Daniel
years
in wilder-
ness
on 12:1-5)
(6)
Revelations 4:13)

13

 - Kingdoms of world become Kingdom of God and of His Christ at 7th trumpet sound (Revelation 11:14-15)
 - Open Coming of Christ in clouds, every eye shall see Him (Revelation 1:7, comp. Matthew 24:30, Daniel 7:13-14)
 - Mystery of God fulfilled in days of 7th trump (Revelation 10:5-7, Daniel 12:5-7)
 - Mystery: Resurrection of the dead in the Lord and body change of the living Christians (I Corinthians 15:50-56); resurrection of those who are Christ's at His coming (I Corinthians 15:23)
- 11 things
Bridegroom

 - Jesus coming down from heaven at the Last Trumpet, resurrection of the dead in Jesus and caught up of living Christians into the air (getting into heavenly state of existence) (I Thessalonians 4:15-17)
 - Gathering of the elect by Christ's angels at the great sound of trumpet at Christ's coming down in clouds (Matthew 24:31)
- And Many More
- Death and Resurrection of Two Witnesses church at the end of 3½ years and at the end of the 6th trumpet (Revelation 11:7-12)

14

 - This is resurrection of Christ First Fruits, the first resurrection group (I Corinthians 15:22-23)
- Resurrected Two Witnesses being looked at in heaven by their enemies (Revelation 11:12); sign of Son of man in heaven (Matthew 24:30)

15

Revelation 9:13)

started? Can somebody recall? What was actually the beginning of His 3½ year ministry? Before He got the power to start His ministry, He was in the wilderness. He was there for forty days fighting the devil. Do you know that it says that after He overcame the devil, He returned with the power of the Spirit? Turn to Luke 4:13-14. This is the beginning of Jesus' 3½ years, and you'll be surprised that the same thing is going to happen in the remaining 3½ years which are before us. Luke 4:13-14, ***And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season. ¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.*** Amen. The beginning of His ministry was that He overcame the devil. Amen? He overcame the devil. Then He got the power to start the ministry. These are two key words that I see here: victory and power. Now, if you look to our 3½ years, you see the same thing. First, we overcome the devil and cast him out. (See Overview #11) Then we receive the power of God to start the ministry. Is it right?

We continue to read about the man child from another angle now. Revelation 12:7-10, ***And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ...*** You see the same scheme. (See Overview #11,12) First of all, there's overcoming of the devil in our souls (even as Jesus overcame the devil in the desert) and after they overcame him by the Blood and by the word of their testimony, and the devil was cast out to the earth, there is salvation, God's ruler ship and the POWER to come. So, it means there is power coming to the man child so that he can minister even as Jesus after He overcame the devil in the desert.

Look at Revelation 11:3. It says, ***I will give... What? ...power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy... For how long? ...a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*** 3½ years. In the beginning of the second 3½ years, there is the empowering taking place. (See Overview #5) And so, brethren, I would like to say that this is something which we are looking for now. We are to overcome the devil. This is why we are here, to get the power to overcome the devil because there is no man child without the overcoming of the devil. This is

one of the signs that the man child is being born, that the devil is being overcome, and he'll be cast out to the earth with great wrath because he has only a little time on the earth. It is very interesting to see how Jesus' 3½ year ministry started, and how this 3½ year ministry will start.

What is going to happen during the 3½ years? It will be the same as Jesus' 3½ years was, but it will be multiplied. Jesus was one person, now there'll be many people walking through the earth and bringing healing, bringing restoration, bringing salvation, and manifesting God in human flesh. People will see it, they will see God in a way they could never see before. Praise the Lord. This is what we want for the world. The world can be saved if they see God in people.

Now, what about the end of the ministry? There again I see similarities between Jesus' end of the 3½ years, and the man child's end, even though there are some differences. What happens at the end? Let us read about Jesus' end of His ministry. John 10:17-18, ***Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*** Amen. This is at the end of Jesus' ministry. He did great things that we do not have in our Bibles because if we would have them all in our Bible we couldn't hold it. It would be a book that we couldn't take with us to the church or read at home. God put there only some things so that we would know a foretaste of that which Jesus did. But what He did was marvelous. What He did in the 3½ years was marvelous, and they wanted to catch Him many times, but they could not. Do you know that they wanted to catch Him and kill Him during His ministry? They couldn't do it. Do you know that the same thing will happen to the two witnesses, to the man child church? If they try to kill the two witnesses, they themselves will be killed. We can read this in Revelation chapter 11 and verse 5. ***If any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. ⁶ These have power to shut heaven,*** etc, etc. Brethren, Jesus was untouchable. They couldn't touch Him. The two witnesses will be untouchable the same way. Even though the beast will be controlling the world, they will not be able to touch this overcoming church. Praise the Lord. There will be great power in this church. It doesn't have to always mean in the natural, but also spiritually what we just read in the 5th verse. It won't be possible to touch this church during this ministry.

But then, at the end of the ministry, Jesus said, “I will give My life to the hands of My enemies willingly. The whole 3½ years they couldn’t touch Me. And they couldn’t touch Me even now if I do not want.” But Jesus said, “I will give it up willingly because I do it for the sheep.” Maybe from the perspective of the people in the world it was a defeat that He was caught, but it was not. It was the way and the path to victory. Brethren, this will be exactly the same in the second 3½ years. We can read about it in Revelation 11:7, ***And when they*** (the two witnesses church) ***shall have finished their testimony***, (after 3½ years) ***the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*** Well, this is the same scenario as when Jesus was killed. We read in John that the Jews could not kill Jesus. He let them kill Him. The same way, brethren, the two witnesses will give up their lives, and will let their enemies take them, catch them, and murder them because they know something. They know that the way to life is through death. (See Overview #14) Brethren, we said it in the beginning: if we eliminate sin from our souls, death (murder) will have no power over us and we will know it. This is why the two witnesses will give up their lives, because they know that for 3½ years they did not give sin a chance, and so they know that they have life in them. They are willing to give up their lives freely, gladly, because they know the sting of death is overcome.

So, they are killed but they are dead only for 3½ days. After 3½ days, the Spirit of life of God, the same Spirit who reigned in their souls, will resurrect them. Hallelujah! The difference between Jesus’ resurrection and the two witness’s resurrection is this: after Jesus was resurrected, He didn’t show Himself to the world. Do you remember? It is explicitly said in the Bible that Jesus, after His resurrection, showed Himself only to the disciples, to the apostles. But the two witnesses church will do differently. (See Overview #15) We read in the Bible that they will show themselves even to their enemies, and their enemies will be looking at them, and they will see them living, and many will repent and give glory to God (Revelation 11:12-13). They will thus see the sign of the Son of man in heaven, the two witnesses resurrected, and will worship God. Some will not. Praise the Lord!

Before I end, I would like to look at the 3½ years from another perspective. During the 3½ year period, there will also be negative things going on, and that is the beast. The beast is a totalitarian spirit that will have control of the whole world. You can see the likeness of this spirit in what happened with Barak’s family – the spirit spying on houses, children etc. This is the spirit of the beast. The beast will be

reigning over the whole world by controlling every single person. You know, the country we come from is part of the European Union and so we know part of it already. The European Union is trying to have control of every person in the area. This is something that is of the beast nature, to have full control of everything, to have power to go into your house anytime they want. This is the spirit that is already working, even here in the United States, and in other places of the world. We know this spirit very well from the Communist times. The beast will be reigning by having full control. People will not be able to buy and sell things without it.

I want to say one more interesting thing. We said that the man child or the two witnesses will receive power at the beginning of the 3½ years to start the ministry. Do you know that the beast will get power, also, at the beginning of the 3½ years? Let's read it. Revelation 13:1, just part of it. ***And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea...*** Now, let us skip to the end of the 2nd verse. ***And the dragon gave him (the beast) his power, and his seat, and great authority.*** Isn't it peculiar? The man child, when he's born at the beginning of the 3½ years, receives power from Christ and the throne of God to which he's caught up. He's in the place of rulership. But look at the beast. The beast gets the same from the dragon. The dragon gives the beast his power, his seat, and great authority. (See Overview #1) So that's very peculiar. There is the dragon supporting the beast, giving it the power, throne and authority, and there is God supporting the man child, giving him His throne, His authority on the earth, His power of Christ. Hallelujah. They will be there standing and working at the same time. But the dragon and the beast cannot overcome the man child. Hallelujah. The beast, though it will have full control of the whole world, cannot take the man child, hallelujah, and those whom the man child will protect, which is the woman church in the wilderness. Praise the Lord.

We see one more thing. The whole world will worship the dragon that gave power unto the beast. Now, in the 5th verse we read, ***And there was given unto him (the beast) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*** Here we see this is the same 3½ years. In other words, this 3½ years is a culmination of all things, both good and evil. The sons of God have been growing, and they will culminate to full power for these 3½ years. The same thing, the mystery of iniquity is working, and it will be fully revealed for these 3½ years (Daniel 7:23-25). (See

Overview #1) In these 3½ years, there will be a culmination of all things good and evil. It will be a clash of these two and we will see the man child overcoming. (See Overview # 4,5,6,7,8,9) Hallelujah. We will see that the beast will be very much against the church, speaking blasphemies against God, and speaking blasphemies against His name and His tabernacle. Hallelujah.

There is two more things to be said about the beast. It comes from the sea. We know what the “sea” means. It’s the nations. But what is the practical implication of this? How can there be a beast, an organization, a system, coming from many nations? When Hitler - do you believe Hitler was a beast? Yes, he represented a beast. But he was not a beast coming from the sea. He was a beast coming from only one nation. He first subdued his own nation, and then he started to overcome other nations by war, to get them united under his control. But this beast in Revelation is coming from the sea. It means it first intermingled with the nations, connected with them. After the nations were connected, the beast got up to power, and subdued them all from inside. Hallelujah. Hitler was not so clever in this aspect. The European Union is cleverer, because they first unified the continent, they unified the nations which could not be unified, by currency, by laws. The Czech Republic, which we are from, became a member of the European Union one or two months ago, and it meant many changes in legislation and everything in order to harmonize our legislation and other things with the European Union. This is something that the beast is doing. This is a devilish thing to do, to tie all the nations together on an economic legislation basis, and then, when the anti-christ gets there, all nations are subdued without a war. Without a war, the beast will get to full power. Hitler thought he could make it by war. He couldn’t. But now the beast is cleverer. It’s first unifying the nations and then overtaking them. And this is exactly what we see.

The Czech Republic now has some laws that say we can be Christians as we want. But if in the future the European Union prepares a law which says that Christians who believe in the Bible are criminals, for example, then this law will be stronger than Czech law. So, the nation can have any laws it wants, but the European Union laws are more powerful, even today. They can overcome our law system. I am just giving an example how the unification process is of the devil, how it prepares the way for the antichrist, for the man of iniquity. He will be able, without a war, without shooting a gun, to have all people under himself by the legislation that is already there. Amen.

It says here that there is a mark of the beast. The mark of the beast: 666. What is this mark of the beast? Brethren, first of all, it is the inward nature of the devil in the human body. The mark of the beast is the inward laws or nature of the devil in the person. You can see some people who are like the beast. The mark of the beast is that the people receive the nature, and the behavior of the evil one. Those who have this mark are worshipping the dragon by what they are. I'm not saying that we have to have a chip and that's the mark. Even though that could come, too, I don't know. But I believe, first of all, it speaks about a spiritual thing that is in the mind of the people, and in the hand, which means in the way of their actions, how they behave and how they work. They are showing the nature of the darkness. That's the mark. And, you know, the mark of the beast has been here for a long time without any chips. No chip needed. The beast mark has been here for a long time. But it is coming to a point of its full revelation, and it will be fully revealed in the time ahead of us. Praise the Lord.

We are talking about the beast ruling 3½ years. Then we have another situation in the Revelation that is given a 3½ year period to it. It is the Outer Court church. In Revelation 11:2 it says that the Outer Court church will be persecuted and killed by the Gentiles for exactly 3½ years. (See Overview #2) Brother duCille put here a picture of the tabernacle. I don't know if you noticed, but there is one similarity between the world and the Outer Court, even though the Outer Court is a place of salvation. But careful! God never intended for a person to stay in the Outer Court. It was never meant to be a destination for somebody. So there's one similarity between the world and the Outer Court, and that is that it doesn't have covering. The Outer Court and the world do not have a roof. It doesn't have any roof. The Lord is saying to every person on this earth, "You have to hide. You have to hide." The hiding is not in the world, neither is it in the Outer Court. The hiding is in the Holy Place. It is only in Christ that you can find this place of safety. So, this is why the Outer Court church people will be killed, not that God would want to kill them, but He warned them. He is saying to all the Outer Court church now, even here, "Come into Me. Come into Me." He's saying to every church, "Come to hide in Christ." If the person doesn't hide, God cannot defend him because there is no roof. God didn't intend to put a roof on the Outer Court.

Another picture of the Outer Court church is the moon. You can see the moon church in Revelation 12:1 and also in Revelation 6:12. There it speaks of the moon turned into blood. The moon turned into blood is

nothing else but persecution. You read in Revelation 11:1-2 about the Outer Court church. The moon church is the very same place and you read in Revelation 12:1 and then Revelation 6:12 about it. (See Overview #2) Revelation 12:1, ***And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*** Revelation 6:12, ***And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.*** God doesn't want any of His children to be killed by the Gentiles or by anybody else. But if the church, the people, do not listen to God saying to them, "Go and hide in the Holy Place in Christ, in the mountains," He cannot protect them. You can find all different types of pictures in the Bible describing this thing, as saying, "Go to Noah's ark," which is the same picture. (See Overview #10) This is why these people will be killed, but it doesn't mean they will not be saved. Praise the Lord.

The major difference between the Outer Court and the world is that in the Outer Court there is salvation from hell, from damnation. This is the fence that is around. Praise the Lord. So, in the Outer Court church, God wants every person, every Christian to be saved. He's offering them the place of safety, and it is the Holy Place church. We read about the woman church, which is another picture of the Holy Place church. Well, God never intended for a person to stay in the Holy Place church, do you know that? The destination is the Holy of Holies. The Holy Place is a transition only to get to the Holy of Holies. But there are some people who stay in the Holy Place church, and God will give them provision. The Holy Place church will be persecuted. Not by the Gentiles, but by the dragon himself, and his people, of course. But the Lord will give this church the wings of a great eagle. We read in Revelation 12 that it will fly to the wilderness, which is not a very pleasant place. It is a difficult place, but it will be a place of safety from the dragon. We read in Revelation 12:6 that they, the church, will be fed there. There will be some feeding ministry to the woman in the wilderness. Hallelujah. We read in Revelation 12:6 that it will be for 3½ years, the same period.

We actually saw four perspectives here of the 3½ years. First of all, the beast will reign for 3½ years in the world, having full control. (See Overview #1) At the same time, there will be the sons of God, the man child, the two witnesses church going through the earth and manifesting God, showing who God is: His nature, His character, no sin, all righteousness, no death, all life. (See Overview # 4,5,6,7,8,9) They will be

healing people even as Jesus healed many people. Hallelujah. Showing God. There will be many policemen here, beast policemen, but the two witnesses will be passing through their control without any notice, any harm. Praise the Lord. They will be going to any place they want to go. At the same time, there will be a suffering church, a church hidden in the place in the wilderness. They will be persecuted, but God will give to the woman church the eagle's wings to escape and they will be fed by the man child church. (See Overview #3) Hallelujah. At the same time, there will be Christians who will remain uncovered, and they will be killed. They will be killed, but praise the Lord, they will be killed in order to be saved. They will be saved for heaven. (See Overview #2) Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

This is an overview of the 3½ years, and I believe - I am very glad that Brother Morris is waving at me and he's praising the Lord, because he told me a few days ago he didn't understand what it is about. So, I am glad that you might understand at least a bit now. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

If there are any questions, you can ask me or somebody in the ministry here.

Comment: It also says the two witnesses will be clothed in sackcloth (Revelation 11:3). My understanding of sackcloth is that it is not comfortable and very irritating.

Brother Kotrla: Yes, because they will be in the place of brokenness, brokenness for the world and for the Body. This is the picture of sackcloth. They will not be happy people. They will also be persecuted by this beast. You know, they will be persecuted, it won't be easy, but they will have the power of God and protection of God and they will escape it. It will be a state of brokenness. This brokenness has a meaning and this is something the Lord needs for His Body to minister. I will add one thing. This church, the man child, is the Body fully linked to its Head. It will be the Body walking exactly as the Head says. It is something that we haven't fully seen so far. We will see this in the man child. It will be the Head and the Body together, ministering in the world, showing forth God. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

Book Nook

by Lisa Asbill on

Mary Jones and Her Bible



If I told you that I knew of a 10 year old girl, who worked diligently for 6 years to save enough money so that she could walk 50 miles round trip, barefoot both ways, (as to not wear out her only pair of shoes) to buy a Bible that might not be available to her when she arrived, would it peak your interest?

People that are candidates for reading this book are as follows:

- If you are wanting to be encouraged in the Lord,
- if you have the desire to be a better Christian,
- or if you just like to read
- or even if you don't like to read
- (pretty much ~ I think anyone who is able to breathe should read this book)

In a nutshell, Mary Jones and Her Bible tells the story of a poor little Welsh girl who did mighty things, unbeknownst to her, that enabled God's Word to be spread abroad to many in her land. Her story is a very moving and spiritually provoking account of "how one of the least of seeds has grown to be the greatest of trees".

When the story begins Mary is introduced along with her immediate family. As the reader, I found myself quickly loving this little girl with her sweet and caring nature. As you read on about Mary Jones you will learn of her character how she was diligent, kind, thoughtful, tender and loving. Mary loved the BIBLE and going to Bible studies with her mother. She would spend hours each day in thought about the different Bible stories she had heard about.

In the 1800's, Bibles were a rare commodity that few people owned. One of the Jones' neighbors loved Mary and knew how much she loved the Word of God that she told Mary that someday, if she ever learned to read, she was welcome to come to her home to read their family's Bible any time she wanted. This very thought of reading a Bible was so exciting for Mary but it saddened her at the same time. How could Mary ever learn to read if there wasn't a school around for her to attend? But we see our little Mary had even that much more resolve to speak to God about her dilemma and to trust Him to work out all the details. Through out this book Mary always shows an example to us of

being diligent in her household duties as well as being helpful in all things. As she would work with her parents she would pray to God always gently reminding Him about how she wanted to learn more about Him. She loved God so much and wanted Him more than anything.

I found that every free minute I had I felt compelled to read more to find out what was going to happen next in little Mary's life. I wondered, "Would the poor little girl ever learn to read? Would she ever own her own Bible? Would she succeed in her desire to know God more?" This girl's life was simple, difficult, and underprivileged, but none of this affected her desire for the Word of God. Read *Mary Jones and Her Bible* to find out if Mary ever did get her Bible and find out how Mary's testimony affected the people that surrounded her as well as those people that she never knew.

I could go on and on about this book; I just loved it. So, if you want to be challenged in your Christian walk or if you need to be more thankful for what you do have, I would really encourage you to read this book. It is a small book and can be read in a short period of time but the blessing that you will receive in the message that is shared will last a life time.

Kids'



Chronicles

Truth

By Johanna Asbill 1-25-05

These past few days, I have been thinking about being truthful. Being truthful is important because it is one of God's commandments. ***Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor*** (Exodus 20:16).

When we tell a lie, our mouths become the source of all sorts of lies. Once you tell one lie, you'll have to tell another to cover up the first one. Grandpa Asbill preached a very good word (on the 16

of January) and he talked about the nature of the thief - a cheat, a liar, a lazy person, and somebody who is presumptuous. If I lie to people, I'm robbing them of the truth and they won't see a light shining in the darkness, they'll see a dirty lamp all broken and of no use. I sure don't want to be that!

I WANT TO KEEP MY MOUTH CLEAN! AMEN!

The Tabernacle

By Josiah Asbill 1-25-05

I was very blessed to go to the convention meetings in Oklahoma, Nebraska and Florida. I really liked when Brother duCille talked about the tabernacle and the different pieces in it. He talked about the Brasen Laver symbolizing water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Also, the golden Lampstand represents the Holy Ghost moving completely in your life. The Table of Shewbread is wood overlaid with gold which represents our humanity covered with the nature of God. In order for us to enter into the Holy of Holies, we must first allow the nature of God to be fully in our life (like the Table of Shewbread). We must also have the Holy Ghost completely flowing in our life. "How is this done?" my mom is asking me. By asking God to give you the strength to fight in the day of battle and the ability to overcome the enemy. The enemy is the devil and yourself.

Seeking God's Face

By Anna Trotter 2-1-05

On Sunday, I sang and learned the children's word with other kids. We learned about seeking God's face. We are to read the Bible and pray. Sister Stacy had the children take turns reading a piece of green paper. One would say where the next one was. One was on the window sill. One was in Wes's Bible. And at the end there was bananas. We were seeking for bananas. Looking for the treasure was like seeking God's face.

Uncle Brian talked to us at Grandpa and Grandma's house that we might be able to sledding and we might not be able to go. We should still be thankful for all the things we do have and not the things that we don't have.



The Virtuous Woman

*...as women,
striving together for the mark of the
high calling in Christ...*

Fit in the Lord by Shannon Asbill

For as long as I can remember, I have been dissatisfied with my weight, even when I was at a weight and size that most people would have considered pleasant. No matter what size I have been, I have always longed to be smaller. Unfortunately, that dissatisfaction has not translated into a zeal for diet and exercise. Nothing and no one has been able to get me motivated a consistent basis to take care of myself, to get out there and walk (especially not when the temperature is below, say, 40°F), to do one of my exercise videos (I have my pick of several!), or to change my diet (I think I have explored every single eating plan available!). The motivation, in myself, has not been there, and now, after two babies and 4 ½ years of marriage, I really am in need of shedding some excess baggage. My husband loves me nonetheless, but he would be immensely pleased if I would begin to get myself back into shape. I have often thought about the scripture where Paul says that bodily exercise profits little (1 Timothy 4:8) and have to admit that I have used it as my reason for doing nothing in that regard. In my mind, it seemed that it wouldn't be OK to be as "self" focused as I would need to be if I were to spend the time it would take to keep myself in shape. So, I was torn - I didn't like the shape I was in, but I thought it would be too selfish or self-centered to do anything about it. But God is faithful and He always brings things into their proper light.

I've been thinking quite a bit about the woman in Proverbs 31, and I was looking at all the scriptures in that chapter in the Bible on my computer. I like to do that because I can turn on the interlinear and have the Strong's concordance right there on the screen as I am reading. It's very convenient, and I actually study the Word like I always intend to do with the actual books. I've been having a good time as I've browsed through different sections of the Bible. Reading it with the concordance "in hand" has been very enlightening, and I am often surprised at the different things I discover. For a long time I've not been one to search things out in the Word. If it came from a source that I deemed reputable, I just believed it, no questions asked. But God has been gently pressing on me to learn the

Word for myself, so I've been trying to take a little more time and when a thought comes to my mind, to stop off at my computer (which is usually on anyway), pop open the Bible program and look at what God is putting on my heart.

Which leads me to my topic, or rather, how I happened upon what I am trying to write about today. As I said before, I've been thinking a lot about the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 so one day I decided to just sit down and read it with the interlinear. I was intending to just clarify the verse about her husband having no need of spoil, but everything was so interesting that I just had to keep reading and clicking. It was this verse, Proverbs 31:17; She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms, that really caught my attention. I was clicking along on my interlinear and clicked on the Hebrew word for loins, which is Strong's #04975, mothen. What it meant totally surprised me. It said it was from an unused root "meaning to be slender; properly, the waist or small of the back; only in plural the loins:--+ greyhound, loins, side." Slender?! Like a greyhound?! Given all the other qualities she contains, it should have come as no surprise that being slender, keeping herself strong and fit, would be one of them. She hasn't let herself go. The verses are talking about a married woman (I was cautioned before I was married about the tendency for a married lady to let her figure expand a bit once she is happily attached to someone), but the virtuous woman hasn't done that. I was convicted again about how I have allowed that baby fat to stay on long after the babies have come and they have lost their baby fat, that the battle of the bulge is being won by the bulge, and that it has not been so important to me to take as good care of myself now that I've made a catch and he's happy with me regardless of my shape.

This is more of a, "Did you know...?" kind of an article, because when I was studying it, I didn't know, and it surprised me. I mean, of all the attributes that the virtuous woman has, this is the last one I ever expected to find listed in the Bible. I am by no means purporting that we should all go out and get a gym membership and become obsessed with physical fitness. I, for one, don't have the time or the resources that that would take. But we should be aware of the condition of our bodies, whether they are under our control or if they are beginning to overtake us, and we should strive to be in the best place we can be physically with what we have to work with, so that our natural flesh does not hinder us in the spiritual battles we do and will face in the days to come. I think I've finally gotten the motivation I need to do just that.

1 Corinthians 9:24, *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. ²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷But 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 cast-away.*



Prophecy through Henry Gruver Illinois Convention, July 2004

This night I ask of you to consider before Me knowing all that I have spoken to you and shown you. If I were to pour My glory upon you this very moment, saith the Lord your God, what would be multiplied within you? What would come forth, saith the Lord your God? What could I magnify? What would glorify Me? What would honor Me, saith the Lord God? If I multiplied everything within you, the secret desires, the cries of your heart in secret, the cries of your very life and the very conduct of your life everyday! If I multiplied it right now, what would manifest? Consider this, My people, for I am a Holy God. I am the God that dwells in the midst of those that cry Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy! I am not a God that can lie. I was not made after the similitude of Man. I made man in my likeness, man was made after me, or in my likeness. I made them, I formed them, I created them, I breathed into their life, their very nostrils, the breath of life. Man became a living soul from My source of life. And now, in this day and in this hour, the visitation of My Spirit is hovering over you, saith the Lord your God! And you have cried unto Me and said "Show me your glory, I must have your glory!" Do you want My glory, My people? If you want My glory then you must understand that everything that is within you will be multiplied! Will I be pleased with what I would multiply? I added to the early church, saith the Lord God, when I poured My Spirit upon them with cloven tongues of fire. I added to them, saith the Lord God. It was the birth of My church, it was the beginning, it was the infant stage! But oh, My church, you are coming to the point of one mature person. What is maturing within you? What have you to present on the altar before Me? Will you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, will you present them holy and acceptable unto Me which is your reasonable service? If you come tonight, right now, saith the Lord God, and you present your body and lay your body, your whole being on the altar this night, as Abraham laid Isaac on the altar, could I multiply what is there? Could I say to you this night that the seed that is within you will become as the sands of the sea shore innumerable? Could I multiply in you around this globe that I formed with My hands and cast here with My fingers, could I send you forth with what is within you? Could I send it forth to the world to be multiplied in every man, woman, boy and girl? Could I do it this night? Are you ready, My beloved? I ask you this question, saith the Lord your God, for I have redeemed you, and I have engraved you upon the palms of My hands. I have borne you and carried you all the days of your life. What will you bring Me to multiply? saith the Lord, your God.