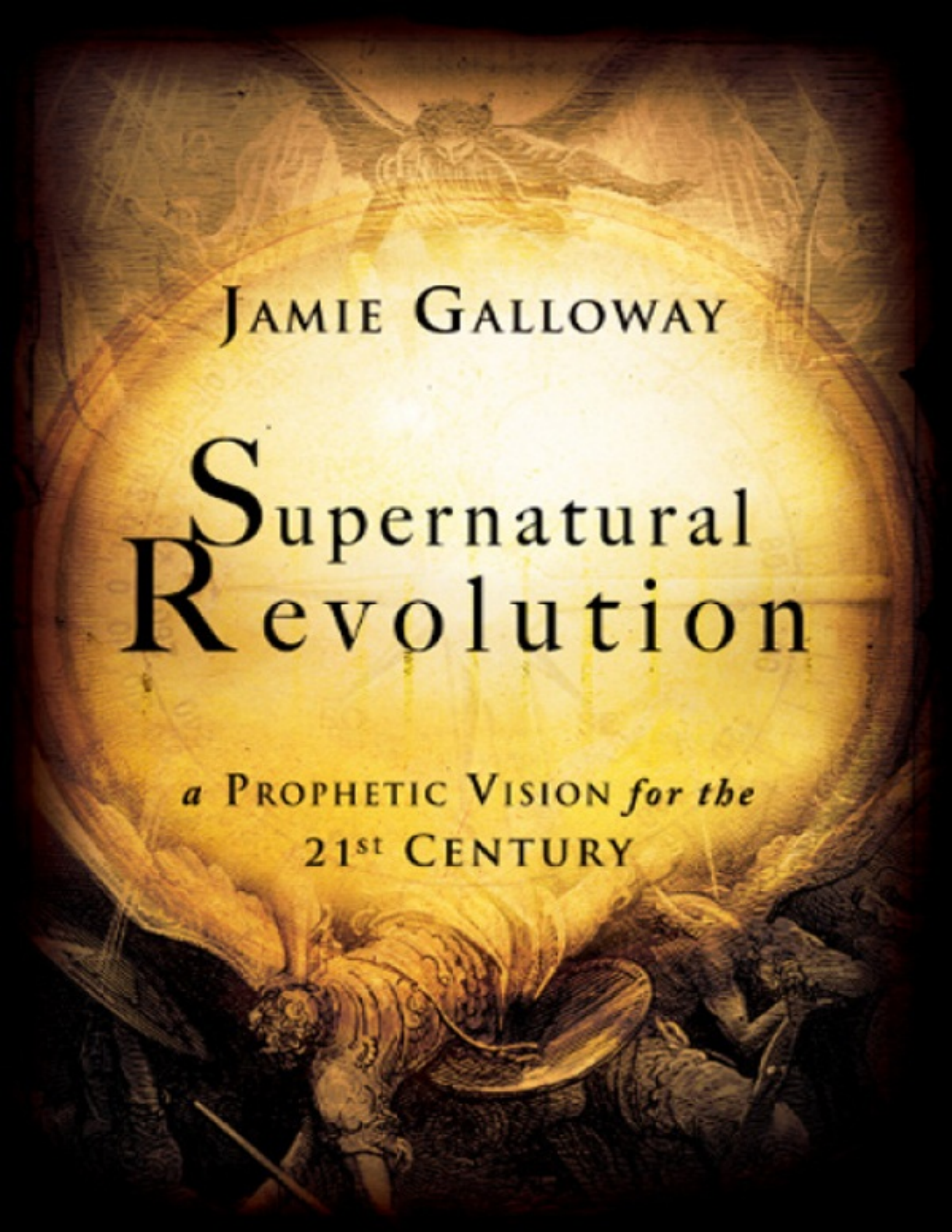
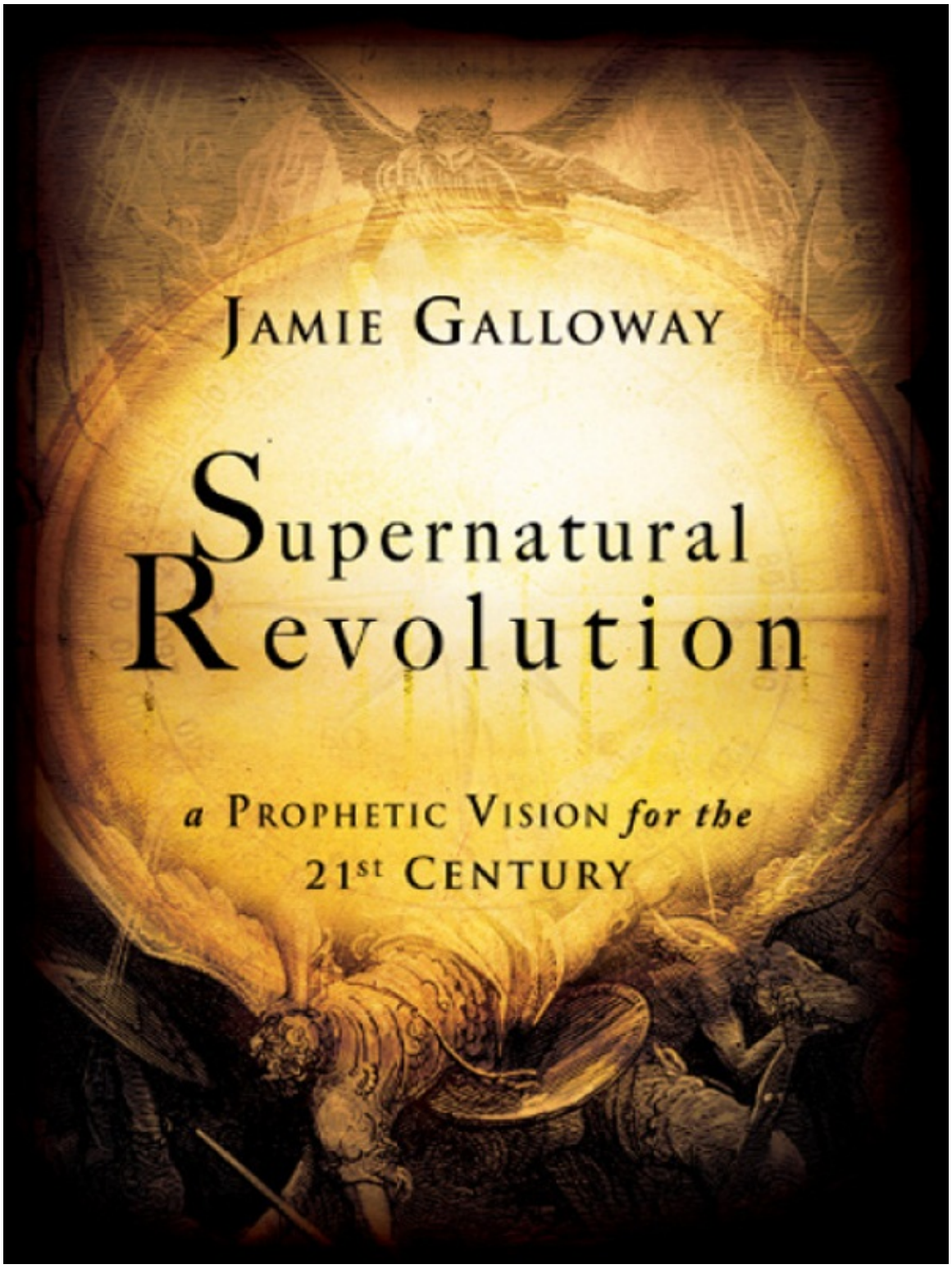

JAMIE GALLOWAY
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a PROPHETIC VISION for the 21st CENTURY


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A Prophetic Vision for the 21st Century

JAMIE GALLOWAY

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this book to my loving wife, Emily Elizabeth. Your sincere love for God inspires me, intrigues me, and invites me upward to a higher calling. You are a constant sign of God’s goodness toward me and His love for our family. I am wonderfully amazed by you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My parents, Chris and Melissa, you have given so much to this family and to me. Thank you. Steve and Naomi, thank you for your encouragement and faith in Emily and me. We are forever grateful to all of you.

Chuck and Theresa Schmitt, thank you for many wonderfully late nights on the streets of St. Louis demonstrating the love and power of Jesus. You showed me what it looked like to love Jesus and to lay down your life for the Gospel.

Randy and DeAnne Clark, you have helped open my eyes and many other people's eyes to so much more. Thank you for your patience with me and investment in me as a son. I cannot thank you enough.

Will Hart, here's to times of revelation and fellowship, and to a life of walking out this Kingdom thing. Cheers!

Ronda Ranalli, special thanks to you and all those who are a part of Destiny Image for all your help in bringing this book to print.

ENDORSEMENTS

Supernatural Revolution is not your typical, garden-variety prophetic book. It is an intriguing journey into the world of the supernatural and is filled with nuggets of spiritual wisdom. From his life experience, Jamie teaches about the incredible value of divine encounters and puts into words key concepts that will challenge you to achieve a deeper level of revelation. In a nonreligious manner, he offers penetrating insight into the cloud of mystique that so often surrounds the prophetic. After reading the manuscript, two words came to mind: *great stuff*.

—Larry Randolph
International Conference Speaker
Author, *User Friendly Prophecy*

The first time I met Jamie Galloway, he captured my heart. His authentic passion for the Lord was totally evident, but he was also extremely insightful, humorous, and well, just plain adorable. As part of the emerging new generation of seers, Jamie is equipping an army of prophetic and power activists and evangelists. *Supernatural Revolution* is full of revelation that will cause you to see things in Scripture you might have never considered in that light before. It will invite you to inquire deeper of the Lord concerning the mysteries of His Kingdom. It will build your faith and encourage your walk.

—Patricia King
XPmedia.com

The next generation leaders of the prophetic movement are now emerging. Jamie Galloway is one of those authentic voices who moves in the supernatural realms of God for this hour. While honoring the past, this next generation package cannot be contained with the same boxes of the earlier moves of the Holy Spirit. This is a media army that is arising. This is a creative company of intimate warriors who lean upon their Beloved. This is a group that dares to go wherever Jesus says to go and do whatever Jesus says to do! Will you be one who crosses over into the new or will you be stuck in a cul-de-sac of the best of the past? *Supernatural Revolution* will create an appetite within you to cross on over to the current activity of the Holy Spirit and create fresh faith within the reader.

—James W. Goll
Encounters Network • Prayer Storm • Compassion Acts
Author, *The Seer, The Lost Art of Intercession, The Coming Israel Awakening, Dream Language,* and many more.

Jamie's book, *Supernatural Revolution,* is a glimpse into the way the Church and Christianity were intended by God to actually be. This is a prophetic roadmap for where ministry is going over the next few years.

—Doug Addison
InLight Connection
Author, *Prophecy, Dreams and Evangelism* and *Personal Development God's Way*

I've known Jamie Galloway for several years and can verify that he is the real deal. He not only talks it—he walks it. Jamie is contagious. Hang around him and you will "catch" the anointing for the supernatural. If you can grasp the truths presented in *Supernatural Revolution* and put them into action, the supernatural realm will become a living reality.

—Gary Oates
Author, *Open My Eyes, Lord*
International Conference Speaker

Every believer's life is a spiritual journey encompassing spiritual lessons in which he or she learns how to rule and reign with Christ. Jamie Galloway is an

anointed prophet with a magnificent obsession with Jesus that shines through his life and ministry. This book will create a hunger for the reality of the supernatural world and will result in prophetic experiences and exploring heavenly realms. I finished reading this book praying, “There is more!”

—Leif Hetland
Founder and president, Global Mission Awareness

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FOREWORD

Jamie Galloway's new book, *Supernatural Revolution: A Prophetic Vision for the 21st Century,* offers amazing insight into the unusual world of the prophetic minister. I found the book provocative to my faith, exciting to my spirit, and discomforting to my soul. I believe it will be representative of the new generation of "twenty-somethings." It is written from a position of victory rather than defeat for the Kingdom and the Church of God.

I have known Jamie since he was a teenager in my church in the St. Louis, Missouri area. Even then he was different. He was extravagant in his obedience to Jesus, fervent for power evangelism, and mystical in his Christian experiences with the presence of God. He would go with his mentor, Chuck Schmidt, to the area of the city where the universities and the New Age coffeehouses were located. He would spend several hours a day reaching out to these young people, using his prophetic and evangelistic power gifts to bring them to Christ. He would also spend hours each day in His presence. Jamie is the real deal. This ministry God has given him has been in process for over a decade. And, Jamie isn't yet 30 years old. He is not a Johnny-come-lately to the prophetic arena. He has been having prophetic experiences for more than ten years.

Jamie traveled with me for three years as one of my interns. He has much wisdom as well as zeal. His stories of his experiences with God always amazed

me; especially the time in Brazil when he was taken out of his body to the throne of God. This happened to him while he was helping serve my ministry on an afternoon Youth Power Invasion trip. That same evening his body radiated light; this was witnessed by the rest of the team. When this happened, spontaneous healings occurred in the meeting. These healings were verified by the rest of the team who were with him. I have watched him grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God. I believe he has something important to say to the Church today and I appreciate the hope he brings for the future of the Kingdom of God in this book.

There are gems of insight to be found in Jamie's book. Statements such as: "Power can be defined as how quickly you can demonstrate strength. But strength is the ability to maintain power under times of extreme pressure." And, "Trust, or *faith*, does not just blindly believe; it is the byproduct of encountering the goodness of God." And, "As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we need to remind one another of the works that God has done in and through us. This is the opposite of the world's ways. The world works through competition and jealous striving, but we are sons and daughters of courage, not competing with one another, but encouraging one another to press deeper into God's manifest presence." And, "The new wineskin does not mean that the old is done away with. Instead, the two should work together, each appreciating the true value of the other. The new wine does not find its significance in the mere fact that it is different than the old. Instead, it learns from the successes and hardships of the previous harvest so that it can grow into a well-rounded, full-bodied drink offering."

In the chapter titled "The Coming Faith Movement" (which I found very interesting and informative) Jamie says: "In order to walk in this type of faith, we must not only be obedient, but also submissive. Obedience does what God asks regardless of whether or not our hearts are in it. Submission, on the other hand, is the act of obedience with our hearts in it completely. The faith of God is the fruit of a life submitted to God. Obedience does what God says, but a submissive heart begins to understand the mind of Christ. I pray this prayer all the time, 'God, please make it make sense to me.' I ask this, not because I don't think He makes sense, but because, as His son, I want to see the way He sees so that I can act as He acts."

And, from the section, "The Windows of Heaven," he writes, "It appears that there is something special about the night seasons. It seems to be a particular time allotted for visitations, dreams, and visions in which a special portion of

grace is available so we can tap into them. I have noticed that supernatural activity increases dramatically in the night seasons. Some nights it is hard to sleep during certain hours of the night because of the amount of spiritual movement."

These are only some of the insights I gleaned from Jamie. Just as important to the book are his many prophetic supernatural experiences. This is a very exciting book and I believe it will encourage many people, especially young people, to press into God so they, too, can have similar heavenly supernatural experiences.

For example, while Jamie was my intern, we attended a very large, strong, well-balanced church. The pastor's son became acquainted with Jamie. He traveled to Brazil with us, where he had a supernatural encounter with angels that radically affected his spiritual walk with God. This encounter opened up the pastor's son to many gifts of the Spirit, allowing him to see into the heavenly realm where angels were present. He had gone to Brazil praying, "God I want to see like Jamie sees. I want to have experiences like Jamie has." God answered his prayer. This young man, Brandon Hess, is blossoming into a young prophetic person who moves in the power and grace of God.

Your sons and daughters can meet Jamie in this book. They can be challenged to go deeper into His presence and be overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, just as Brandon was.

Go ahead, buy this book, and give it to your sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters. This is a safe book in that Jamie lives a holy life, a humble life, and calls us, not only to a life of experiences, but also to a life of character. He calls us to live in such a way as to bring glory to God. I encourage you to purchase this book and open up your own doorway to a better understanding of the heavenly realms.

—Randy Clark
Global Awakening Ministries
International Conference Speaker
Author, *There Is More!*

Chapter 1

THE TALE OF TWO CAMPS

Some time ago, I was at home with my wife when I heard the voice of the Lord say that the next red Powerball number was going to be the number 32.

I told my wife what I had heard and went on with the rest of my day. Now, I do not condone playing the lottery, but I knew the Lord was up to something interesting. So, I did what I believed to be wisdom: I watched and prayed as Jesus commanded us to do (see Matt. 26:41).

The next week, the red Powerball number was pulled and it was 32! That got my attention. After further investigation, I learned that the jackpot prize was $32 million. The Holy Spirit quickened to me that He was doing "the double," as indicated by the two instances of the number 32. He prompted me to look it up in the Word. I went straight to Genesis 32 and read the following:

> *So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And He called the name of that place Mahanaim* (Genesis 32:1-2).

I looked up the meaning of the name *Mahanaim*; it translates literally as "double camp."[1] You see, we are about to witness with our eyes something truly

amazing. I believe we are going to see, not just man's camp, but also God's camp in the midst of us. For so long, much of the Church has been camping out seemingly alone and, for the most part, aware of God in theory only. But get ready; we are going to see our King and the host of Heaven in our midst. It is going to be something awesome to behold.

Shortly after this event, I was studying for a license to practice a certain business, so I signed up for an educational course at a local learning center. The class was by no means a Christian course, but I was learning nonetheless. On the first day, in the middle of the class, I noticed an angelic light ministering to the teacher while he was speaking. This caught me off guard because the teacher was not a believer. Nevertheless, I witnessed it.

Most of my educational experiences occur at events for Spirit-filled believers, so seeing this supernatural manifestation in the marketplace was wonderful. On the third day, a new teacher entered the classroom and began to teach the class. I was listening intently when, all of a sudden, the same light showed up.

I knew God was up to something because, biblically speaking, the entrance or presence of light indicates the release of something good. It is one of the ways in which God manifests Himself. In fact, Scripture tells us there is no darkness in Him at all:

> *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning* (James 1:17).

Suddenly, the woman teaching the class blurted out in alarm, "Oh my goodness!" Everyone in the room felt something shift in the atmosphere. They didn't know what was going on, but I did.

In a panic, the teacher told the class that something or someone had just walked behind her. She turned to see who it was, but no one visible was there. Trembling, she interrupted the lesson and dismissed everyone for a short break.

I walked up to her during that time to ask her what she was seeing. She told me that she saw someone walk behind her, push her physically out of the way, and whisper in her ear in the sweetest southern voice, "Excuse me, I have got to get by now."

I told her what I had seen and explained that I could see angelic spirits. As I spoke, she soaked up everything I said. Favor started to issue forth from her as though I had become her "angel guru"! Her fascination was so great that, when I approached her the next day to discuss something out of the textbook, she was not interested. She wanted to know more about the angel!

As her classes continued, I had a revelation that, as an ambassador of the Most High God, my presence had changed the atmosphere in that room. It was no longer a mere camping-out place for people; it had become a site that God would invade.

That is what you are—an ambassador for the King of kings, Jesus Christ! Every environment you enter—whether it's the grocery store or your children's school—you release into that place the Genesis 32 "double camp" by your presence. You are like Jacob walking to your next destination when, suddenly, Papa God's world invades and ministers to the land before you.

You are of the company of saints being raised up by the Father in this hour, a company that will lead others into the Promised Land.

Get ready, for the time is upon us.

Answered Prayer and Manifestation

We are currently in one of the most awesome seasons in the Body of Christ. God is grooming His leaders to carry the power of the cross throughout the nations of the earth. We are witnessing this taking place within the Bride of Christ. She is growing in the confidence of knowing who her Bridegroom is. I believe we have experienced only the tip of the iceberg in this.

If we look back at the early Church, we see something extraordinary. It was during the time of Herod's persecution of the Church, when Peter was imprisoned.

> *Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church* (Acts 12:5).

Then, when an angel startled Peter out of his sleep, Peter's mind struggled to make sense out of the peculiar thing happening to him:

> *So he went out and followed him and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision* (Acts 12:9).

Peter beheld the power of prayer! We have seen an awesome prayer movement rising up in our day. There are pockets of people groups all over the world continuously crying out to God for a move of His Spirit throughout the earth today. We are still seeing the glory of this thing, but there is more to come. We are coming into a time of *answered* prayer. The bowls before the throne are being filled up and are about to be tipped over onto planet Earth (see Revelation 5:8). This will come as a surprise for many, just as it was for Peter and for the saints who prayed for his release.

Trances and visionary experiences were so familiar to Peter that he thought he was in another trance, perhaps seeing another vision like the one he saw in Acts 10:10 with the sheet and all sorts of four-footed creatures of the earth coming down toward him.

The time we are coming into will be marked by events like Peter's experience with the angel. I have been all over the earth and witnessed the Holy Spirit coming upon people, giving them supernatural visions and the ability to see in the Spirit, but what we are about to see now is God's realm invading our natural realm.

People come up to me all the time to ask how they can begin to see in the Spirit. I have had visionary experiences, trances, and open visions. Yet, we are about to enter a time when God will be seen, not just in the spirit realm, but in the natural realm. Supernatural phenomena will become very familiar territory for us. Even so, we will be as surprised as Peter was to learn that the things we see are more than just visions—they are events happening before our very eyes.

The point of seeing something in the Spirit is not just to see it, but to *seize* it. The goal is to bring the evidence of what was seen into this natural realm. Likewise, the point of praying is not just to pray, but to have prayer answered. You cannot have the latter without the former.

The wisdom of God being released right now involves learning how to manifest those things that are unseen. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers:

> *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love*

> *Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God* (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

I have observed a latent ideology held by many. It has mistakenly been quoted as, “Eye *cannot* see, and ear *cannot* hear.” This is not the truth. The truth is that what Paul said to the church of Corinth is still true for our generation. The things we have seen in the past were once new to us; but now they have become more commonplace.

This doesn’t mean we are not grateful for past wonders. It just means that, though we were once excited when Jesus ministered through us to say, heal a headache, we are no longer satisfied with those results. We long to walk at a greater, higher level with Him. We want more. That has always been the heart cry of God’s people. It was the cry of Moses that he would know Jehovah’s ways, His works, and His glory (see Exod. 33:12-18). It still is the cry of those leaders whom God is raising up in this hour.

Once Peter came to himself and rejoiced at what God had done, he went to the door where the prayer gathering was being held. Among those praying for Peter’s release was a girl by the name of Rhoda, who came to the door and recognized his voice. She was so overwhelmed by the sound of it that she forgot to open the door. She ran back into the house to announce Peter’s freedom.

> *But they said to her, “You are beside yourself!” Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, “It is his angel”* (Acts 12:15).

We know prayer is powerful, yet when the answer comes, it is sometimes astonishing. Here they have Peter right outside the door, but they are so locked up in desperation that they can hardly believe the manifestation.

Get ready, because this way of responding to answered prayer is going to change in the Body of Christ. Yes, prayer is awesome, but answered prayer is better! And answered prayer is the goal, remembering as I said earlier that you cannot have the one without the other.

The disciples’ response, “It is his angel,” is interesting. If you notice, the response contained almost a sound of nonchalance. I believe that angelic appearances were so commonplace in that time that they did not even feel

compelled to rush to the door. In some circles in today's Church, religion and tradition have caused the people to be so malnourished in the supernatural that if you told them a visible angel is at the door, it would probably trigger a stampede! Shortcomings aside, the Church is maturing to a place where angelic appearances are becoming the norm.

That said, we need to maintain a biblical perspective regarding angels. I have heard many people talk casually about certain angels as though they were cute and cuddly creatures. Let me tell you this: when angels and ministering spirits with a high degree of power are sent forth from God and allowed to manifest themselves to us, they carry with them a level of very sobering godly fear. I have heard about sightings of this or that angel, but when those high-ranking angels show up, huge things happen.

We can see this demonstrated in Scripture. When a virgin girl named Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel, she became troubled and afraid at his manner of greeting (see Luke 1:26-38). Daniel fell to his knees like a dead man and trembled before the angel who visited him (see Dan. 10:10-20). I myself have been in the presence of high-ranking angels and, believe me: It is always a sobering and holy moment.

Those visitations always produce a huge shift in my life. Immediately after a visitation of that magnitude, I begin to experience unprecedented amounts of favor. I also become aware of a strong requirement to walk in whatever was told to me.

By contrast, there are some ministering spirits and angels for whom the level of power and glory coming off of them is more familiar to us. It does not mean that the element of surprise is absent, but these angels do not seem to carry the same terror of the Lord as other stronger angels do.

What I do believe and have seen with my own eyes is that we all have individual angels and ministering spirits sent forth to minister to us.

> *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?* (Hebrews 1:14)

I believe that those who prayed for Peter's release had come into contact with Peter's angel before. When Rhoda had declared that Peter was standing at the door to the others praying, not one of them ran to the door in excitement as if they had never seen an angel before. If that was the initial outpouring of the

Holy Spirit, we are in for an awesome ride as we move toward the fullness of this present age.

Seizing the Supernatural

I work with seers all over the world. We describe to each other the things we see and learn from each other how to respond. We learn from and encourage one another.

> *Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another* (Proverbs 27:17 NASB).

This sharpening is happening across the Body. The Lord is maturing us, removing our dullness of understanding, and restoring our cutting edge. When I submit some revelation to a mature seer and he or she gives me further insight into the thing I am seeing, I have just become sharper. And, now it seems God is getting us ready for something new that He is about to do. He desires us to be razor sharp accurate for what is about to come upon us. As I mentioned earlier and as I tell seers all over the world: the point of being a seer is not just to see something, but to seize something. We are called to bring Heaven to earth.

> *So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"* (Luke 11:2).

God is calling us to a higher place in His Spirit. For so long we have prayed, "God, we don't want to put You in a box." But, we have been putting him in the box of Heaven, if you will. The truth is, He wants to be let out of the theological box we have put Him in. He wants to tabernacle with us.

> *I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them"* (Revelation 21:3 NLT).

Get ready, because the supernatural and natural realms are crossing over. We

are nearing a time when fellowship with God is going to intensify and we are going to meet with Him and have communion with our Father.

Heaven is looking for an invitation in this hour to do something unprecedented. But, in order to receive answered prayer, we must first have intercession. I believe the prayer movement is the vehicle of invitation. This prayer movement is going to grow in stature as well as mass. We are seeing the call to prayer as in no other time. This is a principle in every religion. In Islam, prayer calls are going out over the loudspeakers in every major and minor Muslim city. How much greater is the call because of the risen Lord, Jesus!

In order to experience a movement of answered prayer, we need an intercessory movement like no other. This is not a responsibility we should be expecting the Church's elderly women to handle alone. Every man, woman, and child is being called to prayer on some level. Jesus is teaching His followers what it means to pray, *"…On earth as it is in heaven"* (Matt. 6:10). We need to know how to walk in the manifestation of what we have been praying for and we need to know how to pray.

In some cultures they call the place between Heaven and earth, "the thin place." It is the lining that separates the natural from the spiritual. It is so thin you could reach out and poke your hand through it. We are called to pull down that veil wherever we go through the anointing of Christ, Jesus.

Endnote

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "Machanayim," (OT 4266).

A Call to Action

- Pray for a worldwide release of intercessors who walk in the revelation of the manifestation of God's supernatural ways. Pray: "Father, raise up the sound of intercession in the nations. Let the intercessors call forth the glory of the Lord, bringing about a move of God in biblical proportions."

- Corporately watch and expect the supernatural realms to begin invading the natural realms in the local church body. Within your church, call for the sharing of testimonies that acknowledge the workings of the supernatural in every believer's life.

- Ask the Lord to pour out His grace for intercession upon you and your family. Pray: "Put in us a spirit of prayer, O Lord! Give us a heart that asks, seeks, and knocks."

- Pray for the release of the Church to walk in the wonderful glory of answered prayer! Look for answered prayer, being confident that God enjoys fulfilling the desires of our hearts.

Chapter 2

STRENGTH IN THE MIRACULOUS

They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion (Psalms 84:7).

Some time ago, I was in a situation that illustrates the type of strength I believe the corporate body will express on a consistent basis. I was mentored under a man who loved the outcast and consistently walked in signs and wonders. He used to take us all over to minister any place he sensed darkness and a need for the light of God.

At one point, we infiltrated satanic meetings at a local coffee shop. We would go knowing it was a gathering place for the local covens. There we would minister the Good News and the love of God.

It was awesome to witness the grace of God on this man. He was willing to reach out to satanists whom he knew would release demonic power against him just for showing up. He was a warrior and loved those who had not yet been born into the Kingdom of Heaven. As we left the coffee shop one day, we were led back to the area where we normally ministered. We thought we were going fishing for souls; what happened upon our arrival was unexpected.

At a local mall earlier that month, I saw the familiar face of a young man who desired something greater for his life. I prayed for him and he experienced

the power of God. As that power coursed through his body, he exclaimed, “This is the best high I have ever had, and I have tried a lot of things in my life.” I told him that Jesus is the Most High, and that He was present to save him.

The young man came into the Kingdom that day and his life was changed. He was doing very well, walking in the grace of God in truth—until the night he joined us as we ministered to the group of satanists at the coffee shop.

Afterward, in the car, the young man, whom we will call *J*, said that he did not want to follow Jesus anymore. Alarmed, we asked him why. He simply insisted that he did not want to—bleep, bleep, bleep—follow Jesus anymore.

As the profanity continued, I realized I was no longer speaking to J—or at least, not only to J. My discernment kicked in and I heard the sound of witchcraft in his voice. I stopped him in the middle of his sentence and said, “This is not you J, this is witchcraft that was sent against you when we were ministering to those witches and warlocks. Don’t believe the lie. This is something demonic taking hold of you!”

Immediately, J began to convulse as though in an epileptic fit. He screamed and beat his head on the seat in front of him. There was little time to deal with this; it was midnight and we were parked in a public lot. I knew I had to bring an end to the episode as soon as possible or we would attract the attention of the local police. We would have had a hard time explaining this one!

My friends began to freak out, praying as loud as they could. In the back seat was my good Pentecostal friend, speaking in tongues. In the front seat was an evangelical friend pleading the blood of Jesus. I was in the middle, aware that I did not have time to explore the young man’s past. This was not the venue to learn about his relationships with his parents or to figure out when this demonic door had opened in his life. I needed the power of God to deliver him—*now*.

Then a certain strength seemed to come out of my spirit. I spoke to the witchcraft spirit and commanded it to leave in the name of Jesus. Immediately, the young man stopped convulsing and began to feel pins and needles all over his body. My discernment went up and I saw a spirit of pain. With authority in my voice I declared, “Pain go, in Jesus’ name!”

The man was instantly free and rejoiced wildly before us! As we all began to cry out in high praise to God, the glory of God came down in that car! Everything seemed to be in slow motion. The glory was so thick and cloud-like that we could have scooped it up into cones like cotton candy. In that moment, it seemed like we had been praising our Father for an eternity.

J opened the car door to walk around while praising God and said, “I am walking on air! I am walking on air!” Suddenly, a couple who appeared to be on a date began to make their way into our area of the parking lot. I looked at J and saw a glorious glare in his eyes. It was as though someone had just put fresh steak in front of a hungry dog.

J unashamedly approached the couple and boldly asked the gentleman whether he knew Jesus. The man responded, “No thank you, I am a pagan.” J turned to the woman and asked the same question. Her verbatim response was, “What must I do to be saved?” It was as though we were watching the book of Acts unfold before our eyes!

That night, while the pagan gentleman waited, J led the woman to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Supernatural Strength

A revelation of supernatural strength—which can be described as strength of spirit or strength in the Holy Spirit—is going to manifest in the Bride of Christ in this hour. There is something about a state of emergency that can force a decision to either cower in its wake or rise above it and become courageous.

You see, a state of emergency will cause your true colors to shine and will reveal the strength of God within you to those around you. Right now, the world is in a state of emergency. Just turn on the news; you can see panic in the hearts of men and women everywhere. With the world cowering in fear, now is our chance to shine in the strength of God.

Supernatural strength is connected to the anointing. It seems we are coming out of the introductory stages of the anointing. Though we still have much to learn, it seems the Holy Spirit is wanting to take us higher beyond the elementary principles. The apostle Paul understood about strength and the anointing. Paul, in the midst of adversity, wrote to the believers in Philippi:

> *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13).

Strength is also connected to the greater works Jesus promised that we would do. John 14:12 records:

> *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

I believe a key to these "greater works" is found when we understand strength. The Body is about to see a new level of strength in the miraculous.

You see, the Church is not called to *ask for* miracles, signs, and wonders; it is called to *steward* miracles, signs, and wonders. The transition being made within the Body right now is from a wilderness mentality to a Promised Land understanding. In the wilderness, the Israelites asked for miracles and were given miracles. In the Promised Land, they were called to steward what God had already set apart for them.

We are called to steward the mysteries of God. I believe that is the subtle, yet drastic difference between those who see miracles every once in a while and those who walk out a miracle lifestyle. As the Bride of Christ, we are called to be in complete reliance upon our Bridegroom, but not from a position of insecurity. Our dependence on the Christ anointing working in and through us should continually increase our strength in manifesting the Kingdom of Heaven. As we see this strength mature, the prophecy of Daniel will break open before us:

> …*The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits* (Daniel 11:32b).

The key to the greater works that Jesus promised is to find our strength by drawing on our intimate knowledge of God. Out of that, we are enabled to steward the miraculous.

Smith Wigglesworth said it like this: "If the Spirit does not move me, I move the Spirit."[1] That almost sounds overly confident, but there is something about tenacity that moves the heart of God. In reality, I do not just want to visit the land of miracles; I want to know how to occupy, steward, and live in it.

Strength in the Midst of Visitation

Isaiah the prophet saw something in God and wrote the following:

> *Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint* (Isaiah 40:31).

I believe that, in the Body of Christ, we are about to see the mature eagles come forth. It is going to be an awesome time. We have seen much revelation about waiting, but we are going to see those who have been waiting and soaking in His presence begin to truly mount up with wings like eagles and enter into visitations of the glory realms of God.

One of the key things I practice in my prayer life is to wait on God in stillness. There is a key moment in this waiting time when the presence of God enters the room and I go into a trance or open vision. This began for me when I was about 19 years of age.

When Isaiah wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He explained that the benefits of flying in the supernatural things of God would be given to those who wait on Him. It was seven months from the time I began the practice of waiting until I actually experienced what I was asking for. I longed for visitation and was not going to stop pursuing heaven until I became a habitation for continual visitation. Waiting on God activates the strength needed to consistently walk in the supernatural ways of heaven. Isaiah described it as “mounting up with wings like eagles.” This is the fruit of renewed strength.

There are times in my walk with the Lord that my spirit is in such a place of strength that when I wait on God for a supernatural visitation, I don’t have to wait long. You see, waiting is the recipe for strength in the Spirit and strength in the Spirit is the key ingredient that propels us into the supernatural things of God.

There are times when I am in desperate need of a refill of God’s presence and I approach His throne in prayer to get it. It may take awhile for my spirit to enter into the breakthrough where my strength is renewed and I am filled afresh with His presence. The presence and manifest power of God will surely come, but it may require some patience mingled with perseverance and faith. There are other times during which I continually maintain that waiting and exerciseing my spirit through prayer and the fresh Word of God as a staple part of my diet—times when I do not have to wait long for an encounter into His glory.

I am not much of a body builder, but when I go to the gym and see all the people lifting weights, I notice something that separates those who bench press

crazy amounts of weight from those who do not. The strong ones are the ones who are constantly lifting and increasing in muscle mass. Some of them practically live at the gym. The others who are smaller in build come to the gym only once or twice a week. They struggle to lift one quarter of the weight the power-lifters can hoist with ease.

Now is the time for the Body of Christ to grow exponentially, not only in mass but in strength. For this to come about, a call is going forth across the Body. It is a call to abide in that place where strength of spirit is cultivated. It is time for us to learn how to strengthen ourselves even as, *"…David* ***strengthened himself in the Lord*** *his God"* (1 Sam. 30:6b, emphasis added).

What do you think it would look like if our spirits were really mature in strength? I believe the "impossible" would begin to occur. The devil hates one who is strong in his spirit because a person like that sees adversity as opportunity.

Mature eagles are that way. When strong winds come against a mature eagle, it doesn't cower in fear of it. Instead, the eagle uses the wind to take it higher. In fact, it stops flapping its wings and spreads them out even further, making the wind of adversity his ally. The wind will take the eagle up above the storm, where it can soar.

This a beautiful picture of you and me. We are called to mount up with wings like eagles and soar above our circumstances.

Strength and Power

There is a key difference between strength and power. Sometimes we get the power of God on us and we see it as a measure of how strong we are in our spirits. Power can be defined as how quickly you can demonstrate strength. Strength, however, is the ability to maintain power during times of extreme pressure. It can also be said that strength is power under self control.

It has been said that, in a battle between two athletes, the stronger will prevail because strength can go the distance. To me, one of the most awesome demonstrations of strength at the Olympics is the rings competition in the gymnastics category. Athletes who compete on the rings position themselves gracefully and hold near-impossible positions for extremely long periods of time. They remain suspended between the heavens and the earth merely by the

strength of their arms, performing seemingly impossible feats in pursuit of the gold medal.

Before these athletes perform, you can see their shoulder muscles bursting with power that is waiting to be released. Then, as they hold themselves up with their arms, balancing their total body weight while extending themselves horizontally, they demonstrate the most awesome strength. Watching them perform these unbelievable feats is like watching something nearly supernatural. Power catapults them into their creative poses, but strength enables them to remain there. They need both to succeed.

The truth is that both power and strength are needed in any battle. When an eagle flaps its wings, we see a demonstration of power, but when an eagle extends its wings to full length and holds that position steady while riding the wind, we see strength at work.

In major league baseball, any player could hit a home run at some point. Few, though, are expected to hit or nearly hit a homer in at every bat. In my life, I want to hit a home run every time I enter my prayer closet. I am not saying that I have arrived at that place, but if I continually cultivate it, I am likely to move into the manifestation of His glory more times than not.

This kind of strength requires years of breaking up the fallow ground in our hearts—or it could take a day. Either way, we are on a journey. To me, all the time of waiting and pressing in is worth it.

> *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him* (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

How do we get to this place of strength? I believe this place in God is for those who continually enjoy His presence. We are constantly waiting and enjoying Him and, at the same time, we are developing the spirit's ability to interact with His Spirit.

> *Solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil* (Hebrews 5:14).

God desires a royal priesthood of believers to be strong in His Spirit in every

situation. Paul the apostle prayed for this regularly. Begin to pray his prayer on a regular basis and watch what God does:

> *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen* (Ephesians 3:14-21).

Endnote

1. Julian Wilson, *Wigglesworth: The Complete Story: A New Biography on the Apostle of Faith* (Tyrone, GA: Authentic Publishing, 2003), 112.

A Call to Action

- Face adversity head-on and see it as an opportunity for growth. Do not cower, but be bold as a lion when in uncertain circumstances.

- Chart for yourself and your family a long-term vision of the supernatural stature you desire in the Lord. Wait on the Lord for this and write the vision down. Place the vision before you in locations your eyes frequently find themselves. Give yourself to this vision, becoming tenacious in every way for the Spirit to flow without measure in your life and the lives of those around you.

- Practice, practice, practice! Practice perfects and matures your spirit so that your awareness of His Kingdom is sharp. Practice the presence of God and watch what happens.

- Finally, surround yourself with others who are like-minded in pursuing the fullness of God's Kingdom. Be careful that you protect and jealously guard the breakthroughs you have in the Lord, not letting others steal the place of visitation that you enjoy.

Chapter 3

THE RELEASE OF THE PROPHETIC

I believe we are in the times of a new prophetic release. Those who went before us have not plowed the ground of the Spirit in vain. We are going to see a new breed rise up and walk in the prophetic; it will be unlike anything we have seen in our day. I believe this opportunity is knocking on the door of our spirits. We are going to witness something truly marvelous. There will be a prophetic culture that will walk in revelatory insight so impressive that it will catch the attention of major news networks, kings, queens, and even whole people groups.

Prophets will once again be called upon in secret by heads of state for prophetic counsel and strategy. These mature prophets will have the Word of the Lord upon their lips and will be given the secrets of kings' hearts. Those who walk in this place of authority will have gone through the fire of testing already and will shine forth like gold and silver. Because of this purification of their spirits, they will not use their connections as a means to advance their own ministries. Their only agenda will be to humbly submit the Word of the Lord and seek the Kingdom's increase.

By contrast, there is a tendency within some circles to speak very freely about private audiences held with national leaders. When we see the release of this type of favor in our lives, whether with celebrities or political figures, we should be extremely cautious about opening our mouths to boast of it. I have

seen some ministers gain influence with high-profile types, but the influence is quickly taken from them because what started out as a private audience was too soon announced publicly, not by the party receiving ministry, but by the minister.

It is one thing to boast about the Lord's work. It is another to squander our influence with those in authority just so we can get a crowd to recognize our legitimacy in the prophetic. The prophet Daniel understood this; that understanding and wisdom maintained his influence, not only in one king's court, but in audiences with two others.

As a prophetic culture in this hour, we not only need wisdom; we need mature wisdom. David himself said it this way:

> *I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart* (Psalms 101:2).

We will see a people who give themselves wholly to living in wisdom. The wisdom of yesterday will attempt to rear its head against mature wisdom but, in the end, the Lord will remove the veil and this so-called wisdom will be seen for what it is: fear.

Along with mature wisdom, we will see revelation knowledge poured forth. Knowledge without the pursuit of wisdom just puffs us up, but because the desire for wisdom (which is the understanding of how to respond to and act upon the knowledge poured out by God) will be so intense, the Lord will be able to entrust His people with greater levels of knowledge.

Therefore, there will be a shift in the prophetic as we now know it. An awesome prophetic movement has already washed the globe with its wake, but I believe there is more. For some reason, the prophetic has been reduced to simple words of encouragement. I thank God for encouraging words; we need them, but we also need the razor-sharp prophetic that causes men's hearts to tremble.

This razor-sharp prophetic move will involve so much more than just encouraging words. I believe a new accuracy in the prophetic is coming corporately. It will be so clear that we will not only give people the understanding of their dreams, but we will tell them *what* they dreamed, as the prophet Daniel did with Nebuchadnezzar (see Dan. 2:28-35).

Trusted Bond Slaves

Along with this prophetic outpouring will come signs and wonders that will be seen in operation through those who give themselves fully to the Spirit of God. This is somewhat unfamiliar territory to the Body of Christ, but we are going to see an understanding come forth of signs that God puts on display in the heavens above.

Somewhere along the line, we strangely became disconnected from this very valuable tool in the prophetic. It is the ability to understand with a prophetic unction, *"…wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath…"* (Acts 2:19; see Joel 2:30).

The earlier part of this prophecy from Joel (as recorded in Acts 2) tells us of dreams and visions, but it reserves these signs for those whom the Father recognizes as His "menservants" and "maidservants." In Acts 2:18, these words in the Greek are *doúlous*[1] and *doúlas*,[2] respectively. In the Old Testament, these are the bond slaves or servants[3] named in Exodus 21:2 and discussed in the first six verses of the chapter.

In ancient Jewish custom, the servant worked for seven years, but upon the seventh year was allowed to go free. He could choose instead to stay because he loved the master of the house. When the servant made the decision to stay and become a bond slave, the master would have his ear pierced up against a door (see Exod. 21:6). This piercing would signify that he was no longer his own, but instead belonged to his master.

This was not just a higher form of serving; this was becoming a love-slave—one who volunteered to become his master's property because he loved his master. The master of the house would take him, no longer treating him as a servant but, instead, taking care of him as though he were a son. This is what Jesus was talking about when he declared to His disciples:

> *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you* (John 15:15).

These bond slaves will emerge with revelation that comes only from Jesus. We will once again see the manifestation of what is written in the first part of

Revelation 1:1: *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His **servants**—things which must shortly take place"* (emphasis added).

The word used here for, "servants" is the same root word, *doúlos*. The high calling of a "doúlos" will come with a realm of incredible revelation. Those who walk in this calling will experience a deeper revelation of Jesus Christ and He will show them *"…things which must shortly take place."*

There is a call going forth even now for a deeper level of love for Jesus. As love-slaves, we enjoy rights in the Father's house that ordinary servants do not. Bond slaves do not belong to themselves; they are the Master's. Yet, what may look to others like bondage to the Lord is actually the highest level of freedom. These bond slaves no longer behave like servants; instead, they have the confidence of sons and daughters. We are about to see an unveiling of those whom God calls "My menservants and My maidservants."

> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God* (Romans 8:19).

The Fragrance of God

I know a very precious man who was in the middle of a field one day praying and hanging out with Papa God. While he was praising and worshiping, he started to smell the fragrance of God. This fragrance was unlike any cologne or perfume that could be purchased here on earth.

The scent started manifesting thickly upon him. He was just enjoying and getting lost in the fragrance and the presence of God when he noticed a moose extremely close to him in the field. In his natural mind he realized that the proximity of the creature was very dangerous, but he wondered if God was up to something. He then heard God speak to his spirit saying to pet the creature.

As he and the animal got close to each other, my friend began to pet him. To his surprise, this completely wild, nondomesticated moose began to lean into my friend's hand as it brushed his face. The animal began to grunt and groan as my friend grew bolder and bolder. The fragrance of God was thick. My friend asked the Lord what was going on. The Lord responded saying, "He thinks you are Me." My friend realized that the large animal was leaning into him and smelling the sweet fragrance of God the whole time.

There is a fragrance that is about to pour forth from the Bride of Christ. This is the Bride the whole creation is groaning for.

> *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now* (Romans 8:22).

We are going to see this company of prophets arise who will carry His fragrance. Not only that, but creation itself is going to accompany us in this wonderful display of God's rule and reign. Let me tell you now: the more we smell like Him and act like Him, with His Word on our lips and His love in our hearts, the more we will see signs follow all around us. I believe the whole creation is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God.

All creation recognizes the Creator, God. This may be hard to hear, but right now creation is not just looking directly to God; creation is looking for the great *I Am* as He moves through us. Again, I believe we are in a time during which we will experience levels of revelation that manifest in signs and wonders all around us. We know the Scripture speaks *to* us, but what does it look like when the Word becomes flesh and signs start happening through us to display the Word of God?

For example, we are becoming more aware every day that Jesus is already our Healer. A covenant name of God mentioned in Exodus 15:26 is Jehovah Rapha.[4] It is interpreted "the Lord our healer." When I receive a prophetic revelation of any kind from the Lord, I usually watch for the parallel evidence of it in the natural realm. I look for some kind of clue in the physical world around me. A corresponding sign in the natural often accompanies a prophetic word; it is evidence and a witness that the word I received is actually taking place. I look for signs of things that are prophesied in the Spirit to show up in the natural. They speak to me of what is taking place in the Spirit. For example, if my wife and I are brought into a community of people and we discern a heavy spirit of blindness, we look for where it is influencing the natural world around us. As people show up to the meetings and there are unusual numbers of blind people, we can see how this ruling spirit of blindness is crippling the community. When we pray for healing and see blind eyes opened, we understand from the natural what is taking place in the spirit realm: we know the spirit of blindness is being judged. This is a sign to us that brings us to the realization that a ruling spirit of blindness that has kept the people's physical and spiritual vision in captivity is being dealt with by the Finger of God. We are partnering with the Lord in

releasing judgment on the fruit of satan's works. This is why Jesus came.

> *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8b).

Some time ago, on a missions trip with Randy Clark, we were ministering at a stadium event in Brazil. There was a roof on this building at the time, but the walls had not been built yet. Suddenly, as Randy was praying for the sick it began to pour heavy rain unlike anything the Brazilian leadership present had seen. It was pouring so heavy it seemed like streams were flowing down all around us. The winds began to pick up strongly and a burst of wind blew the rains in to the building and it landed like an enormous splash over the deaf section. Some words of knowledge from the team were going out right before this declaring God wanted to heal deaf ears. As a deluge of water fell upon the deaf I can remember the energy in the place as screams of excitement came forth. In a moment seven people instantly received a miraculous healing from severe deafness from the Lord.

The love of God overwhelmed me in that moment as people throughout that stadium rejoiced in the God who heals. What was going on was incredible, but even more was happening than meets the eye. In the invisible realm, God was dealing with a ruling deaf and dumb spirit in that area with one fell swoop. Often times there are prophetic messages in a healing that are more than realized. We must learn to pay attention to the things God is speaking all around us.

Healing is one of the many prophetic signs that the Lord does. The thing is, we must be very attentive and sharp with our understanding so that we receive the full measure of wisdom in what the Lord is doing around us. Often we miss all there is by overlooking the message within the sign, by becoming satisfied with the sign itself.

Not too long ago I was praying with a friend of mine. The Lord showed me that my friend was going to learn that his wife had conceived a child. I told him this before his wife returned from an overseas trip. Upon her arrival, she told him the wonderful news. He came back and told me about it.

I knew the Lord had established a prophetic signpost in the earth. This baby had become a sign and a wonder to me and I was to watch for it. We entered into prayer again and I began to perceive a word in my spirit concerning the child. I began to declare over my friend:

> *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder* (Isaiah 9:6a).

About a week went by, and my friend came back and announced that his wife was carrying a boy. I reminded him of the prophecy that had come forth the week before about a son being given. I knew the prophetic word that was confirmed in the natural was releasing something greater than just the gender of the child. The prophetic word was announcing that government from God was not only going to be released through this child, but that a release was happening in the spirit realm concerning government. This baby boy was a sign to us that government was going to be released at the season of his birth. Now, we know the prophecy of Isaiah is really about the Messiah, Jesus, but this child was a sign to us of what Jesus is releasing to His Body right now.

Some time went by. Then, one day while my wife and I were in worship together, I felt a return of the anointing of that which I had prophesied over my friend. Suddenly, I began to see in the Spirit that my friend's wife was going into labor. I could feel the weight of the government that was being released to the Body. It was pushing its way into our world. I turned to my wife and told her to make a phone call to the couple. She asked me why and I told her that I saw the young lady going into labor at that moment. She called and asked the young woman how the pregnancy was going and whether anything unusual was taking place. The young woman said everything was normal except for this strange water that was coming from her. My wife responded excitedly, "That is your water breaking. You are going into labor!" They quickly rushed her to the hospital and sure enough, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

Signs can point us to an understanding of which season the Body of Christ is in on the earth. When we see signs manifest in the natural, we need to pay attention because the Lord is speaking His language of signs and wonders to us.

My wife dreams quite a bit about things that are going to take place in our life as a family. I pay close attention to her dreams and can usually pick out a clue that God is giving in the dream that will be a sign for us to watch for. In the middle of the dream she may see something that seems totally unrelated to the rest of the dream. For example, she might see a pink elephant at the end of the dream and, later that day, we'll see a huge new billboard with a pink elephant as we are driving into town.

When we see something like that, the billboard speaks to us of the initiation of the specific season the dream was referring to. The billboard is a sign pointing

to the wonders God is going to do in that season. We will then watch and pray over the rest of the events of the dream and watch as they unfold in our lives.

Signs in the Heavens Above

One Friday night at the start of a weekend during which my friend and I were scheduled to preach on the streets, we found ourselves in one of these types of moments. I had been at work earlier in the day, so I came home and took a quick nap.

Suddenly I was in a deep sleep and dreaming vividly. In the dream, my friend, who was my mentor in the Lord, was walking beside me in a field. We looked up at the stars, which started to fill the sky and make patterns all over the heavens. I watched the stars zip in and out of one another as though they were fireflies.

Immediately, I became aware of an angelic minister from the presence of God standing next to my bed as I slept. I could feel great power coming off of him and washing over me. It was so intense that I awoke with the power still coursing through my body. It reminded me of the time when Jesus was ministered to by the angels after his trial with satan:

> *Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him* (Matthew 4:11).

I made my way to my mentor's house and spoke with him about the dream. He quickly responded with understanding. "Those stars represent angels," he told me. So, we started our journey down to the local town center where many college students, punk rockers, hippies, cultured folks, and those looking for a drink hung out. It was a perfect fishing spot. The man I was with had been cultivating the soil of that place for years, washing it with prayer and soaking it with the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Suddenly, in the heavens, we could see something happening that was out of the ordinary. We were about halfway to our destination when brilliant white lights started forming in the sky. First there was one, then four; then more came and pretty soon there were more than 20 brilliant white lights forming all sorts of patterns in the heavens.

Our eyes were as wide as saucers. We were seeing this in the natural realm. My friend pulled his car over to the side of the road and we knew we were watching my dream unfold right before our eyes. Two young ladies walked past and my friend blurted out for them to look at what was taking place. They totally freaked out and he began to say, “This is real! My friend had a dream and this is all real! Those are angels!”

They watched with us for a few minutes and then nervously told us, “Thank you for sharing that with us. We are going to go now!” We knew something big was taking place. It was an open Heaven. The hosts of Heaven were pouring out God’s glory all over that city. God was about to do something incredible for us that night.

We then proceeded to the place where we normally did our “fishing.” It was unlike anything we had ever encountered. There was an open Heaven of God’s manifest power and presence. On the first night of that weekend Jehovah Rapha manifested His goodness to a struggling mother. She was hobbling past us, leaning on a cane, when the spirit of faith manifested from my friend’s mouth. He exclaimed to her, “Hey, what is wrong with you? I will pray for you and Jesus will heal you!”

She took him on and he began to pray. He asked her to do what she could not do before and she began to move her head back and forth as though she were saying “No.” Puzzled, he asked her again to do what she could not do before. She responded, “I could not do that before. I had a head injury after my ex-boyfriend beat me over the head!”

That weekend was an incredible time of harvest. The presence of God was thick over that place as we prayed for God’s power to manifest itself in unusual ways.

Love Is the Password

If we are going to walk in this level of prophetic revelation, we have got to become a people driven by love. Whatever we do in love will succeed. Our love needs to be so sure that when we see the hidden things in people’s lives, we can still walk in a clean heart toward them without judging them wrongly.

There was a time when the Lord began to teach me about the value of love. In this time in our life together my wife and I were moving around quite a bit.

We were moving into an apartment and I had not yet had the time to get the Internet set up.

While we were unpacking, I realized I needed to get my e-mail up and running as soon as possible. It was quite urgent so I opened up my laptop and began to scour the neighborhood for a free wireless signal. The only signal I came across was locked up with a password. Now, what I am about to tell you I do not encourage you to do, but I was in a desperate position to get my e-mail so I began to ask the Lord for the password. Immediately, He spoke back to me a password that sounded like *I love,* but I saw a different spelling in my spirit; it was *I-l-u-v.*

At first I did not believe Him, but then I figured I might as well try it out. I made sure that not just any password would work, so I typed in a few mock passwords. Then, I typed in the password that He gave me. When I typed it in, I was instantly connected to my neighbor's wireless. Freaked out, I got off immediately. I just sat there before the Lord in awe of Him. He spoke to me and said, "Son, I just want you to know that love is the secret password to your neighbor's information superhighway." He said it with a tone of wisdom that shot right into my spirit. It was one of those incredible God moments in which, as He speaks, you can almost feel the weight of what He is saying to you.

You see, love is the secret password. If we want to walk in any level of revelation, we have got to be rooted and grounded in love. There have been times when I felt an anointing come on me that caused me to move in compassion and begin to weep for a person or a situation into which I was about to release a word. It seems those times break open a whole new realm of revelation.

This is where I believe we are going as the Bride of Christ.

Endnotes

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "doúlos," (NT 1401).
2. Ibid, s.v. "doúle," (NT 1399).
3. Ibid, s.v. "ebed," (OT 5650).
4. Ibid, s.v. "rapha," (OT 7495).

A Call to Action

- Step into the awareness of God's voice in your life. Pay attention to the subtle signs in the world around you that speak of how the Kingdom of God is at work in your life.

- Consecrate your spirit, soul, and body to the Lord, giving yourself to Him as a love-slave of the King of kings. Prepare yourself to be set apart in order to speak His Word. Consider His promise: "*If you take out the precious from the vile, you shall be as My mouth…*" (Jer. 15:19b).

- Finally, walk in love. Remember, love is the secret password to your neighbor's information superhighway. Love is the substance and evidence that releases the most profound prophetic insight. Give yourself to loving God and loving others.

Chapter 4

CREATIVE POWER

Power is a dangerously wonderful thing. Power, as I have stated before, is how quickly one can demonstrate strength. Still, many avoid power—and avoid even talking about it. If the subject of power does come up, we seem to find religious excuses not to seek it, even though God desires to pour it out on us!

One of those excuses is our misunderstood need for "maturity." Don't get me wrong, the need for authentic maturity cannot be overemphasized. Yet, maturity was never meant to replace our need for God's power. (Nor should His power be the substitute for maturity.)

The issue is balance. We get out of balance when we try to discourage ourselves from the passionate pursuit of His power. We allow too many things to distract us from walking in it. Sometimes, we can get caught up in good preaching. I love sitting under a wonderful preacher, but preaching alone is not enough. The preaching of the Gospel should be backed up with the signs and wonders that speak of God's presence (see Mark 16:15-18). His presence is as Moses said, the thing that *"separates us from the rest of humankind"* (Exodus 33:16). I believe that, in this day, we are going to see a marriage of prophetic preaching and declaration coming together with power gifts. When the prophetic message is backed up with the power of God's presence the effect is multiplied. The prophetic word points us to where it is the Lord is taking us, while the

power of God accelerates the manifestation of that word in us and around us.

Let's imagine for a moment that the Body is walking in true humility and godly character, has all its spots and wrinkles washed by the blood, and is practicing righteousness. This may sound farfetched but, according to Scripture (including Ephesians 5), that is the direction we should be going. We need to picture ourselves and the Church in this condition; we need to imagine the miracles and transformation that would occur if God could trust us with the fullness of His power. When godly character comes together with His power, it is like nitro meets glycerin!

What do I mean by the word *power*? Is it something possessed by influential people or those with great leadership skills? Or is there more to it? My answer is simple: there is much more to the idea of power. Although having influence and leadership abilities are aspects of power, I am thinking about something much more supernatural.

When I was born again, I was introduced to the true God—and He had real power. An evangelist in my church came up to me and began to pray for me. I was not expecting something specific, but when he prayed I could feel a warm liquid-like energy coming off his hands. He would thank the Lord and the power would travel to different parts of my body. At that point in my life, it was the craziest thing I'd ever experienced.

This was real power. The evangelist seemed to be flowing with it as if he were moving with God to persuade this living energy to travel up my arm to my head and down to my feet. While he continued to pray, I could feel it intensifying as it coursed through my being. In that moment, there was no doubt in my heart or mind that God was real. I knew that I had tasted of the *"powers of the age to come"* (Heb. 6:5). That experience gave me an insatiable hunger for the raw power of God's presence. The electric energy of God's love that seemed to wash over me whenever I would draw near to Him, became the core craving of my spirit man. I became so desirous to abide in His presence that I would keep my hands constantly open on my lap while driving as if I were receiving a download of energy into the palms of my hands. I learned this through my mentor. He would use his hands to feel the presence of God wherever he would go. I needed the touch of God's presence, and if this was the way God chose to pour it out, I wasn't about to miss it! I became aware of His presence, not just on my hands, but on the top of my head as well. Sometimes, I could feel it come up beside me, as though something carrying the atmosphere of Heaven was standing next to me.

I so wanted His power to flow through my life that I went and purchased a prayer chair and placed it in my bedroom. It was the ugliest green lawn chair (all I could afford), but I knew I was destined for encounters with God on that thing. I set it up in the middle of my bedroom and worshiped and meditated as Handel's Messiah played on my stereo. I had such wonderful encounters in God's presence while seated on that chair. I would raise my hands to Heaven and this static electric power would flow into my hands and increase as though I were being recharged—a depleted vessel getting a refill of Papa's awesome love.

There was no doubt in my mind that this power was real, so I started taking it to the streets. Hundreds of times, I watched my mentor pray for people on those streets. They would drop their jaws in shock as the power of God began to touch them. Startled by the power they felt coursing through their beings, they would swear and scream: "What the h--l is that, man? What are you doing to me?" I can remember one weekend, the power of God was so thick it didn't matter who we were praying for—no one could escape the power of His presence.

On a street corner that weekend, we prayed for a group of young men to experience the real presence of Jesus. Suddenly, one of them fell out under the power of the Spirit. Then another fell, and another. We had about four of those young men stuck to the sidewalk crying out to one another. One would ask, "What the heck is going on?" Another would respond, "I can't move! Can you guys move? What is happening to me?"

We found this to be the easiest way to lead people to Jesus. Once "cornered" by the power and presence of the Christ anointing (the very anointing that lives and moves through you and me), they cannot help but discover that God is real.

A Change in Perspective

Many struggle with the inability to move in God's power. This struggle is very real but, as we'll see shortly, there is a solution.

We wear our disappointments like a pair of discolored lenses over our eyes. These lenses can pollute our vision and ultimately affect our perspectives about God. The trouble is that we are constantly being set up for disappointments in life. Someone says they will meet you at 5:30, but they show up at 7:00. A parent promises something to a child, but ends up not being able to provide it because of financial difficulty. The cycle of disappointment and distorted vision begins as trust is violated and becomes distrust. Left unchecked, the cycle

continues till distrust matures into a full-grown fear of disappointment.

Trust is another word I like to use for "faith" in regards to faith in our Creator. I like to use the word *trust* because it is relationship language and God is all about relationship. Trust, or *faith*, does not just blindly believe; it is the by-product of encountering the goodness of God.

Many struggle in their inability to flow in the power of God because they have not yet experienced God's goodness. This is a trust issue. When trust wavers, the question we are really asking is this: "If I step out in faith, is God good enough to do as He promised?"

Chances are that I am not the only one who finds it extremely difficult to trust those whom I don't believe have my best interests at heart. The people we trust are the ones we know are pulling for us. We trust their motives; therefore, we trust them.

This is the reason prophecy is so powerful; it is God's way of reminding us that our best interest is found in His best interest. It is for this reason that a baptism of love and power is on the horizon. Another wave of God's presence is about to hit planet Earth. God will do in a moment what would typically take years and years to accomplish in the natural.

This is the baptism of His love. His perfect love will wash us clean of all of our fears because *"…perfect love casts out fear…"* (1 John 4:18). God wants His love to become the lens through which we view life. No longer will the fear of being disappointed by God rob the Church of her mandate to flow in resurrection power. Instead, we will see God's goodness and power through His perfect love and be free to operate in it.

It has been said that trust is a two-way street. This is true. Not only do we need to develop our trust in the Lord, but we must also become a people He can trust. The ability to walk in His divine power is given to those God can trust not to bring ruin to themselves or others. A mentor of mine would say it this way: "You don't give a gun to a toddler."

On the other hand, we do need to see that God's power is available to all who are in need. With this in mind, we understand that love not only removes the fear of being disappointed by God, but it also helps to grow and mature us into a people whom God finds trustworthy.

It is interesting to note that when God's presence is manifested with power, people start to become themselves. Their true character begins to shine, whether

good or bad. The positive thing is that, the more we encounter His incredible presence, the more we are transformed into people God can trust.

My friend and a father in the faith, Randy Clark, has taught for years that all believers are able to move in the healing anointing. He has done a great service to the Body of Christ in teaching these things. We have also been teaching for years that all may prophesy. These things are very biblical, but the fullness is yet to be seen. There is a greater release of power coming to the Body than just healing a few here and there and prophesying to a few.

Recently, Randy has seen an explosion of miracles in his meetings. I traveled with him for years and I can remember times when we would be ecstatic over simple things like back problems being healed. Now, however, Randy is seeing success, not only with the deaf and blind, but also schizophrenia and even metal rods in people's bodies miraculously disappearing so that they could do things they were unable to do before. We are fighting for a greater level of miracle healing power, so that even the medical community would come to us astounded.

Imagine the power that would be released through a generation that does not settle for the small breakthrough. There is something about challenging one another and keeping one another accountable in this pursuit. I sincerely believe that we need to encourage each other to higher realms of the power of Heaven. I have seen people experience breakthroughs with miracles flowing in their lives. Yet, too often, I'll see them a year later, only to discover that they have neglected to become strengthened and have failed to grow in the breakthrough they were given.

As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we need to remind one another of the works that God has done in and through us. This is the opposite of the world's ways. The world works through competition and jealous striving, but we are sons and daughters of courage, not competing with one another, but encouraging one another to press deeper into God's manifest presence.

There is a time of great miracles coming upon us, a time when the demon-possessed will get free in an instant. If you are trying to imagine what that will look like in a meeting or in a conference, let me explain that I am talking about something completely different. We see the demon-possessed set free in conferences and events all over the world now. What I am talking about is seeing these things happen in the workplace, the hospitals, the streets, and the shops.

During the reign of the Roman Empire, there was a specific time when Christians were not just tolerated, but celebrated. Christians were looked upon as

a good thing for towns and cities alike. This was because they were the only ones who could free people from their demonic problems. What would it look like if we really demonstrated the power of Jesus like He did with the Gadarene demoniac?

In Mark 5, we read that Jesus went into the country of the Gadarenes where a man was tormented with an unclean spirit. Jesus asked the spirit in the man what his name was, *"And, he answered, saying "My name is Legion; for we are many"* (Mark 5:9b). Jesus cast this thing out into the large herd of swine that was feeding nearby.

> *So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea* (Mark 5:12-13).

It seemed Jesus was taking care of two problems at once. Not only was Jesus knocking out the demonic problem, the Jews were conducting something unclean by farming pigs. The un-kosher farming business was not in keeping with the levitical law concerning unclean animals. This unclean situation was the reason why, "*no one could bind him, not even with chains…*" (Mark 5:3). The people of the Gadarenes had lost their standards of righteousness as a region and in doing could not operate power and authority over darkness. Jesus, walking in the wisdom and creativity of the Father removed both the fruit of the darkness which was the demoniac problem as well as the root of darkness in that region that was the swine business.

> *Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him* (Mark 5:15-18).

I cannot see a greater time than now to advance in this direction. Oppression,

depression, schizophrenia, insanity, and all sorts of tormenting lies are gripping people with fear. I thank God for the breakthroughs we are seeing in different types of prayer counseling deliverance sessions, but we still need to advance in the power of God. Listen to what they said of Jesus:

> *What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out* (Luke 4:36b).

We will see in these days a real marriage of authority and power. This will not only be the authority to command the thing to leave, but the power to force it out. Christians with the fresh oil of the Holy Spirit on them will walk into their workplaces and see those with demonic issues fall to the floor, foaming at the mouth. Co-workers will not know what to do; they will run for help from Human Resources personnel, but even they will not know what to do.

I can see these born-again champions walking into the place filled with God's Spirit of grace to deliver. What would it look like if the power of Heaven instigated encounters like this? We have the mind-set that the Lord is trying to keep us out of trouble, but when His power shows up, trouble is something that happens only to the enemy.

Creative Realms

There are creative realms that have been stolen from the Church by dark rulers in realms of wickedness. For way too long, the religious spirit has held these realms of creativity in bondage. This spirit has locked up our God-given imagination by lying to the people of God. Many have believed those lies and have been kept from delving into the depths of the mind of Christ (see 1 Cor. 2:16). A great shift is happening even as you read these words. The creativity that has been forfeited to the world is being restored to those with hearts longing for more of God.

Along with these creative realms come creative miracles. I thank God every time I see a paintbrush in our worship services because I am witnessing the people of God responding appropriately to the portals of creativity. Often, as I visit different churches and conferences around the globe I see artists and artisans released during worship. Some are painting and others may be dancing, expressing with movement the ways of heaven. This is absolutely the

appropriate response and direction we should be taking at this time. As time goes on we will even see more creative originality springing up within the church in new and inspiring ways. God is opening up portals of creativity all over the earth for us to receive even more from Heaven. For quite some time, there were leaders in the Church who did not understand the positive impact the arts can have. But this is changing. Many leaders are embracing those with artistic gifts, not only for the gifts themselves, but also for the atmosphere these gifts help to establish among us.

The church that embraces the creative arts will be the church that makes way for an atmosphere able to release a realm of creative miracles. The arts will go to a new level as we break free of our fears to explore artistic expression. Dancers will become more and more celebrated for the gift they are to the Body. They will take their places next to the worship team.

Painters and even Christian film artists will experience a new creative anointing that will help them break through to a new place of originality. We have experienced a slow but steady increase in these areas, but there is a breaker anointing coming up, many that will catapult them to the next level.

As we journey deeper into these creative glory realms, we will start to see limbs grow out and stunted bodies grow. We get excited when a short leg is lengthened to match the other leg; but get ready, because there is more. We are going to start to see those whose growth was stunted rising to their full stature in the midst of believers' gatherings. It is time that limbs and digits that were cut off or missing altogether begin to grow as we gather together in the name of Jesus.

The Art Rooms of Heaven

Some time ago, I was lying before the Lord just before an evening meeting at which I was scheduled to preach. Little did I expect what was about to happen. As a good friend of mine often says, "One of God's names seems to be Jehovah Sneaky."

I had just rested my head down to take a quick nap when, suddenly, I found myself flying through the clouds. This was not a normal vision; I knew something else was taking place. I could feel the sensation of flying. It was similar to the feeling of weightlessness or midair suspension you experience when riding a roller coaster.

Quickly, I floated down onto what appeared to be an eternal city. I am not saying that I saw all of Heaven, but I was shown a small part of it—a "small" part that seemed gigantic in my eyes!

As I floated I could see people, seemingly of every tribe, tongue, and nation, gathered near the wall of a palace. They appeared to be fellowshipping on a palace balcony that extended as far as the eye could see.

I flew through an entrance into the city. I could see warriors all around and angels big and small protecting these warriors. They were laughing and carrying on, talking to one another. Still, I could see the incredible warrior abilities in their stature. I remember studying the details of their weapons, including the thickness of their swords and the particular details of their armor.

Everything was breathtaking, but none of that could compare with what I saw next. As I journeyed farther into the heart of the city, I saw a door deliberately open for me. It was as though it had gestured for me to come inside. When I entered, I saw a stairwell before me. The architecture reminded me of structures I had seen in art exhibits during a trip to Italy.

As I made my way around a corner at the bottom of the stairwell, one of the most beautiful creations I have ever seen stood before me. It was a spectacular cross formed into the wall. This cross was not small by any means and the illumination coming from it was overwhelming. The cross itself was made of glistening gemstones, sparkling and radiant. Every conceivable color flowed forth from these gemstones; there were thousands upon thousands of them.

You see, I do not believe we have seen the full glory of the cross yet. In the natural realm the cross is not a thing of great beauty. But get ready! Jesus is about to reveal the magnificence of what He purchased for us at Calvary. We are going to see the outrageous wonders for which Jesus went to the cross. I believe we will see this glory released in our time and it will be undeniably God.

What would our world be like if *supernatural* were the only word the nations could use to describe what is happening within the Church today? What if they could not explain away what is happening as being the work of man. They would have to admit that what they are seeing and trying to describe is the work of God.

The work of the cross has given us the ability to walk in supernatural means that cannot be misunderstood as being the work of an organization, a human emotion, or even money. This work of the cross is the very thing that has unlocked for every tribe and tongue, not only freedom from sin, but the divine

enablement to walk in the glory of God’s resurrection life.

As I journeyed farther into the room, I could see a tall angel. It seemed like he was giving a tour of the room to a group of people. There were works of art on every wall. The place seemed to be an art gallery in Heaven. I tried to focus on everything around me, but that cross had completely stolen my attention. I knew there was something in store for those who would embrace the glory of the cross.

We will see entire nations saved in the days ahead and it is only because of the blood that Jesus poured out at Calvary. His blood speaks better things (see Heb. 12:24) and we will see the better things just as, even now, we are tasting of the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come (see Heb. 6:5).

I understood that room to be much more than a gallery. It was a realm of creativity made possible by the cross. I believe that tall angel is still giving tours of that realm to us; I also believe that the mysteries of that realm will unfold to us in the coming days.

There is an invasion happening all around us. It is an invasion of God’s possibilities. Let His potential, which is not only unending but also eternal, permeate your entire being until you are overflowing with His creative promises.

A Call to Action

- Ask the Lord to fill you with His power and presence. Worship in His presence until He fills you with His power. When the power shows up, learn to live in it and walk in it.

- Step out and heal the sick. Be bold and speak to the demonic presences tormenting people. Command them to leave. Let the authority and power of Jesus flow through you causing everything contrary to the cross to crumble. When you sense victory in seeing the sick healed, go a step further: lay hold of miracles and ask the Lord to grow limbs. Seek opportunities by His Spirit to see body parts regrow. Realize that you have been anointed for this purpose.

- Finally, allow creativity to flow through your life in new ways. Celebrate the creativity God has placed in you and others and you will begin to see creative miracles flowing in your life.

Chapter 5

THE EMERGING MEDIA REVOLUTION

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and said:

> *This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in* ***the last days****, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit* ***on all flesh****;"* (Acts 2:16-17, emphasis added).

The prophecy that Peter pointed to told of a time when God would no longer hold back His Spirit from His people, but would instead pour out His Spirit in a measure never witnessed before—"*on all flesh.*"

The specific period to which Peter referred was the time known as "*the last days.*" I do believe we are in the last days. As we draw near to the last day and last hour, we will see a great battle erupt on planet Earth. God will release great signs and wonders through the Bride to combat the powers of the wicked one. God will begin to release realms of the supernatural that have been reserved for a specific time. A clash of two kingdoms will emerge and God will release His anointed ones to bring down the kingdom of the beast.

The Bible tells us of a time when God will release two witnesses to prophesy and demonstrate signs and wonders that will point to the coming King, Jesus

Christ.

> *"I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the* ***two olive trees*** *and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth* (Revelation 11:3-4, emphasis added).

The Bible mentions these "*two olive trees*" in the book of Zechariah, saying, *"These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth"* (Zech. 4:14). These will be sent to planet Earth to bring about a move of God unlike anything we have ever seen.

Some speculate about the identity of the two witnesses, saying that they are Enoch and Elijah. If you remember the stories of these men, neither died a natural death. And since the Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27 that *"it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,"* many believe that Enoch and Elijah have not yet fulfilled this Scripture and will therefore return to the earth.

Others say that the two witnesses are Elijah and Moses, two men who met with Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration and witnessed to Him concerning the things Jesus would have to suffer (see Luke 9:28-36). Since the Bible tells us that *"the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died"* (2 Cor. 5:14), we can say that Enoch and Elijah have already died in Christ and it is not necessary for them to return and fulfill Hebrews 9:27.

Personally, I believe the two witnesses are Enoch and Elijah speaking of a sign and a wonder that is the Gospel is for both Jew and Gentile. I see it speaking also of a time when both Jew and Gentile will flow together as two witnesses of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although Enoch is of the line of Adam, he is also pre-Abrahamic, which makes him a Gentile. Elijah, being a Jew, represents those of the covenant made with Abraham which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Together, they will flow in what will be one of the most significant ministries on the face of the earth in what the Bible calls *"one new man"* (Eph. 2:15b).

One significant moment during the ministry of the two witnesses comes in their final battle against the beast, who will seemingly overcome them while the nations of the earth watch. After this defeat their *"dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city"* (Rev. 11:8) and the *"nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days"* (Rev. 11:9).

In order for the nations to see these events, they must be televised in some form or another. Images of the two witnesses' dead bodies lying in the streets will be broadcast all over the news and other forms of media communication.

Following this, those who dwell on the earth will rejoice and send gifts to one another (see Rev. 11:10). Why would the nations rejoice with such energy over a couple of ministers being martyred? The answer is found in the previous parts of Revelation 11. It says in verse six that…

> *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire* (Revelation 11:6).

The nations will be enraged by the amount of authority the two witnesses have as they perform at will miracles reminiscent of the prophet Moses. It will capture the attention of the entire planet. The unsaved who dwell on the earth will blame these men for the problems they are facing. This will in turn align the media's focus on the witnesses during the time they are to prophesy.

All the nations will watch as miracle services are broadcast over prime-time news. The degree of controversy generated by these two men will far eclipse any controversy we have seen spawned in the news over present-day ministries. No doubt, they will prophesy of a coming Kingdom with an already established King who will overthrow all those who stand in His way. Those leaders with Herod-like political tendencies will be gripped with fear as they quickly start to realize the threat this King named Jesus poses to their empires.

This will cause kings of the earth to quickly set themselves against the prophecies of the two witnesses. However, the world's powers will not prevail during the days of this prophecy-giving. Instead, *"if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner"* (Rev. 11:5).

We will see an end-time move of God so powerful that news organizations will consider it the hottest of "hot scoops" and attempt to capture every moment of it. Not only will the level of controversy catapult this end-time move into the spotlight, but the Holy Spirit will use it to capture the attention of the nations and draw their focus onto Jesus.

Although I believe these two witnesses represent the fullness of this kind of

ministry, I also believe there will be forerunners who precede them. This company of forerunners will not have the full scope of power that the two witnesses carry. Yet, they will demonstrate the Kingdom and the power of Heaven, and their witness will be broadcast on the worldwide information superhighways and byways.

Because of this, we will see a major shift within the realms of Christian media in the coming days. We will witness a renaissance in our thinking about what a Christian television program ought to be. The change will soon turn from an appearance of godliness toward the reality of God's acts and ways.

We have already seen a parallel shift in television programming; reality shows have become the focus and are replacing the sitcoms people used to watch. Likewise, many will begin to hunger and thirst for a different type of reality—a heavenly reality. Not all of it will look the same; different streams of His presence will flow and manifest in different ways. Yet all of it will stem from authentic, original ideas brought forth from Heaven.

These original ideas will soon make their way to the forefront. The end-time move of God will be brought forth in such a way that every eye will see it. I believe God is going to do this in our day.

The Media Generation

Many have characterized this generation as either a "John the Baptist Generation," or an "Elijah Generation." These descriptions are both true. I believe we will see the spiritual fingerprints of John the Baptist and Elijah upon this generation and the ones to come.

It seems the most evident characteristic shared by young and old involves media use. Simply stated, we are a media generation. At no other time in history were people as up to date of what is happening in the world as we are now. We have multiple ways of connecting with one another across national boundaries—all at the push of a button!

In years past, the methods by which you could send someone a message were extremely limited. Now, a multitude of choices exist. No longer are we restricted to snail mail when writing to others. Now we can say, "I love you" instantly via e-mail—and even that is becoming "yesterday's technology." Texts sent to mobile phones are very popular, but even texting will soon give way to

something more convenient. Video options are evolving, too. Video conferencing makes long-distance gatherings easy, and digital graphics make images easy to share. Today, parents can send video of baby's first steps to a loved one's phone halfway across the world!

Even as I write this, I am well aware that I am dating this book. Technology is changing faster than at any prior time in history. In ten years' time, technology will have advanced by exponential proportions and developed in ways we may not be able to predict.

I believe we will see, within the framework of emerging multimedia platforms, a supernatural revolution take place. The power of the King of Heaven will be demonstrated as people take the Gospel to the information superhighways. It will eventually change the focus of nations.

I foresee a time when believers will mentor new converts over the Internet. Demons will be cast out in live, face-to-face chat rooms. Group chats where world issues are discussed will become opportunities to bring forth the Gospel. God will instruct us in wisdom as to how we can carry His power and salvation into the world via the communication venues that develop.

In some quarters, new converts are being discipled via the Internet. I know of a certain individual, a great force in the major Islamic nations, who is bringing people to Jesus via television and mentoring them online. We will see these methods multiply more and more as new avenues open up for the sharing of the Good News.

A New Sound

The new sounds that will be brought forth in this revolution will totally blow the existing Christian music scene out of the water. Although there are many godly people in this arena, we will soon see a distinguishing take place between the fake and the real. We are about to see a demonstration of that which truly sounds like Heaven and that which does not.

This distinction will cause many to part ways with those who want to continue to echo the earthly sounds. I have heard the sounds of Heaven in my prayer time and those sounds carry something so different upon them, something otherworldly. These are the glorious sounds this generation needs to hear—and when they do, the sounds will evoke a response far beyond emotionalism. These

sounds will be what the psalmist described as, *"…songs of deliverance"* (Ps. 32:7).

The temptation within the music community is to think that, when we become really good at what we are doing, we have reached the goal. If we truly want to go higher as worship leaders, we have to be careful not to fall into the pit of professionalism. Professionalism can work for us; but it can also work against us. We can enjoy excellence and all it entails, but it should never take the place of being genuine.

When we let expertise take the place of authenticity, we fall into the trap of looking good on the outside by sacrificing what really matters. What really matters in worship are the depths of our hearts. God is calling us into the deep places in this hour and it will require a reality check. We cannot pretend any longer, even if the fake and phony are producing followers.

A New Wineskin

For decades, existing Christian media outlets have pioneered something important. I want to honor them for the forerunning role they have played to that which is coming. Yes, new wine is emerging, and with it must come a new wineskin. We cannot keep putting new juice into old packages. Jesus said:

> *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved* (Luke 5:37-38).

New models for the sharing of the Gospel are about to emerge. For those in the secular arena (those who do not have the Helper, the Holy Spirit), it will be extremely difficult to duplicate these models (see John 15:26).

The choice will have to be made whether to remain an old wineskin or to say "Yes" to the new. This will not be an easy transition for some. It may even raise eyebrows in some board meetings. Yet, God knows how to push all the right buttons so His light can shine.

Jesus said, *"No one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better'"* (Luke 5:39). The old wine has had some time to

mature, making it a lot easier on the palate. The new wine may still have many years to go until it has reached its prime. Yet, the Lord said, *"…The new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it…'"* (Isa. 65:8).

There is something precious in the new wine, even though the taste is young and immature. Enduring the under-developed taste may be the cost of entering into the new. And, although new things can be exciting, a time of maturation is necessary; we must endure until the point of maturity is reached.

Often, even when God wants to do something new in me personally and eventually through me, whatever it is may begin in immaturity and often unfortunately be presented in immaturity to those around me. When I realized that I had been hearing from God about people and situations around me, I was so overjoyed it was like I was the woman in the parable Jesus spoke of who found her lost coin.

> *"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'* (Luke 15:8-9)

Excitedly, I began to tell everyone what was going on in my life. The problem was that I was not presenting it with maturity of understanding and so I often found myself in situations where I was not being fully received. I remember explaining to a very godly woman the way I hear from God about people around me. I told her that I simply imagine things about people around me and then I tell them the things that I imagine about them. The things I imagine about them are the prophecies I would give them. This wonderful sister had a very hard time hearing what I was saying because I was not presenting the genuine thing the Lord was doing in my life with understanding. Now, years later I can present it with a little more understanding because I have had a little time to season in that area and have stewarded my gifting by studying it. I have discovered that the way I receive revelation about people around me is often in a visionary realm and I see visions often in my imagination about them. This is not something I conjure up, instead it is something that by faith I tap into from the Spirit of God.

The new wineskin does not mean that the old is done away with. Instead, the

two should work together, each appreciating the true value of the other. The new wine does not find its significance in the mere fact that it is different than the old. Instead, it learns from the successes and hardships of the previous harvest so that it can grow into a well-rounded, full-bodied drink offering.

Jesus spoke about gleaning from things new and old: *"Then He said to them, 'Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old'"* (Matt. 13:52).

It has been said that, historically speaking, the old move of God tends to persecute the new move of God. This seems to be true. Still, I believe that the new movement needs to hear the wisdom of God, even when it comes from "old" packages. Likewise, we need to glean wisdom from packages that are as yet unfamiliar to us.

Isaiah 25:6 declares that *"The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine"* (NASB). The Lord is not preparing a feast where only new wine or only old wine will be served, but both are being prepared to be served at the same time. The key in this is to discern the difference between the mere wineskin and the actual wine the Lord is pouring out.

I believe we will see a shaking coming to many mainstream media outlets. Hollywood has already begun to feel this shaking, and it will intensify. Many believers are being called to bring not only transformation into those arenas, but a new way of doing things. When Mel Gibson self-financed approximately $25 million to produce *The Passion of the Christ*, most of Hollywood's top dogs rooted against him. According to some statistics, the film today has grossed over $600 million.

That got the attention of media moguls, causing an immediate change in attitudes regarding faith-based movies. If you notice, Hollywood has produced more Bible-based films for the big screen since *The Passion of the Christ*. Normally, these movies would not be shown in theatres, but would be ported straight to DVD.

Much like the crucifixion itself was the lead-up to the resurrection, I believe *The Passion of the Christ* was just the beginning of a change in mainstream media. Nations—even full-blown Islamic nations—gathered to watch *The Passion*. In one Islamic nation, the Emir shut down the movie theatres so that they would only show *The Passion of the Christ.* For six weeks, the movie

played more than several times a day and Muslims from all over came to see Jesus upon the cross.

The surprise ending caught Muslims off guard: they saw the depiction of Jesus resurrecting from the dead; they saw Him stand to His feet; and they saw the scars on his hands. The blood of Jesus was poured out all over the big screen throughout the nations of the earth. That was the beginning of something awesome. More of that is coming, but we will not just see more of the same; we will see resurrection power hit Hollywood, the movie industry, and television sets across the nations.

The Future of Things

More and more, the Internet, television, news, e-mail, phone, and more are becoming integrated media. In times past, I had to go to my computer to read my e-mail. Now, I can turn on my phone and there it is. Technology has advanced so rapidly that we must slow down a little to allow innovations in practical application to catch up. At the same time technology is becoming so easy to use that four- and five-year-olds find it easy to work what used to be hard for a middle-aged man to handle. Ease of use plays a big role in spurring innovations to the ways that media and communication integrate with our lives.

Technological benefits will not just be used for the purpose of evil. We will see born-again believers filled with the Spirit of creativity, develop and produce supernatural programs that major networks will beg to air on their channels. The production and broadcasting of content used to be difficult. Now, it is easier than ever to deliver content to viewers, as YouTube demonstrates. I see Christians with supernatural ideas releasing supernatural shows that will blow any New Age show out of the water.

With all this available technology, the temptation is to reveal everything that is “under the hood.” New Age shows give you everything they have in the first 30 seconds; the rest of the program is all fluff. I believe God will give us wisdom in how to guard the things He has revealed to us. As sons and daughters of the Most High, He will show us how not to squander those priceless revelations. Wisdom from Heaven is being revealed in this hour for this very purpose.

We will once again see a showdown like the one in which Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and Asherah (see 1 Kings 18:19). It will not be a competition between supernatural artilleries. Instead, it will be a demonstration

that will reveal whose god is the true God. Elijah did not gather those who sat at Jezebel's table just for the sake of a little competition. He gathered them so he could destroy the competition.

Still, those who are called in this way need to acknowledge wisdom and not be caught in the pitfall of presumption. Just because there is a fight does not always mean we are called into it. One of the fruit of the Spirit, self-control (see Gal. 5:23), must play a major role in the lives of those who are called to this type of ministry. If we find ourselves being drawn into a battle when the Lord has not given us the green light, we must be patient enough to wait until He says, "Go."

In the midst of this media movement, we will have to be disciplined enough to avoid falling into old patterns. There will be a tendency to copy the old ways. This new move of the Holy Spirit is not designed to raise up a new breed of televangelists. Instead, this calling will take on a new form as God begins to pour out organic, creative ideas to reach the masses.

There will be evangelists, but this move will bring about a new definition of authentic Christian media. There will be those who do not even have their own television shows and are not concerned with their own fame; however news about them will spread because of the miraculous works that are being done by their hands, in His name. These will not care about touting their own reputations or waving their own banners. These are the ones who will be entrusted with the power of the name of Jesus. Incredible works will be seen as they lay hands on the sick and, suddenly, the sick are made well.

Word of what these Christians are doing will spread like wildfire on national television. Heads of corporate news channels will freak out as they send out their news dogs to try to dig up some dirt. It will be more important than ever before for those called to this ministry to keep their hands clean and their hearts pure. The Church will be given an option to either side with their accusers or to pray for those in this role.

Those called in this way must stick very close to the counselors in their lives, for without them they may fall into the trap of becoming "lone rangers." The spirit of Jezebel will try to infiltrate their ranks as she did with past media movements. She may have a little success but, ultimately, she will fall. This media army will not be tempted by Jezebel's tactics because they will be a company of spiritual eunuchs. Their desires will not be to touch the Bride for their own purposes or to build their own kingdoms; instead their desire is for the Bride to be made ready for her Bridegroom.

On-the-Air Resurrection

And what will happen to the bodies of the two witnesses? After their bodies are on the streets of Jerusalem for three-and-a-half days, they will suddenly resurrect for all to see. The breath of life from God will enter them and they will stand on their feet. Great fear will fall on those who see them. They will hear a loud voice from Heaven saying to them, *"'Come up here.' And they* [will ascend] *to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies* [will see] *them"* (Rev. 11:12b).

Resurrection power will be seen all over the television and other mass media as the two witnesses stand to their feet and are levitated into Heaven. Resurrections, miracles, levitations, and greater works are going to be seen all over prime-time news. Get ready, because it is coming.

Now, imagine something with me for a moment: a day when You-Tube is no longer filled with pornography; instead the most watched videos of the day are clips of your sons and daughters praying for the sick in Wal-Mart and casting out demons in the malls. Just think of what it will look like when the generation on the rise starts to perform miracles, signs, and wonders to be displayed all over the media.

Get ready; it is coming, and you have been drafted—into the emerging-media army.

A Call to Action

- Realize the power of social networking over the Internet. Use it as an outlet for the Gospel to be revealed. Tap into the various social networking venues and use them to release the Kingdom of Heaven into the lives of those on earth.

- Sow into emergent, supernatural, faith-based media projects and production companies. Seek the Lord for vision and a level of creativity that will display His wonders in amazing ways.

- Purchase a video camera and take it into the highways and byways. Capture all the wonderful miracles the Holy Spirit is doing. Create God-envisioned film projects to share with family and friends. Show them wherever else the Lord gives you favor to do so.

- Finally, pray for those already moving in this sphere of influence. Seek Heaven in intercession asking the Lord to give them boldness. Ask Him for signs and wonders to be manifested at the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 6

THE COMING FAITH MOVEMENT

This is the time for the greatest faith of all. The type of faith that we will see will not be just great faith *in* God, but the faith *of* God. This is faith to see greater works even in places of unbelief.

When Jesus returned to Nazareth *"He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief"* (Matt. 13:58). Yet, one of the greatest promises with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the greater works:

> *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father* (John 14:12).

The greatest miracles of all time will be done during the hardest times of despair and blatant cynicism. I believe we will see the works of Jesus in operation, but an even greater work is going to happen in our day: miracles in places of unbelief. Jesus set a precedent for us to follow, but before He ascended He raised the bar by giving us this promise of greater works. This divine enablement is not just a quantity of miracles as some have experienced, but I believe Jesus knew that, in the days after His ascension, we would need greater works just to get people's attention.

Some years ago, a certain moment illustrated to me what I knew in my spirit to be true. I was with a friend ministering in the streets of Manchester, England. We were partnering together in some conference meetings and one day we saw an opportunity to minister out in the highways and byways. I ran into a young man and felt the Spirit's leading to minister to him. I caught his attention and began to ask if he had ever experienced the power and presence of God.

"No," he replied. So I asked if I could pray for him and show him the power of God. He said, "No, not here, man!"

I asked, "Why not?"

He said, "We are not even in church."

So, I began to explain why I offered prayer and I shared just how much God loves him. I then sensed that he had something physically wrong in his lower body. He explained to me that he actually had a problem with his knee. I asked if I could pray for him.

He said, "No thanks."

I said, "Are you sure? If I pray for you, Jesus will heal you."

Again he replied, "No."

I felt led to persist and offered prayer again. He replied this time saying, "No, do not pray for me. I do not want you to pray for me!"

I felt faith rising in my spirit and replied, "I am going to pray for you anyway. Be healed in Jesus' name." I quickly moved my hand above his knee and released the presence of God over him.

Instantly, he buckled in his knee and looked incredibly startled. "What did you just do to my knee? All the pain is gone. This is crazy, man! I had a football injury and surgery and now all the pain is gone!"

He put as much pressure as he could on his knee, bending it and jumping up and down. He said, "This is crazy, man. I mean, this is stuff you see on television!"

I told him how Jesus wasn't just on television; he was right here, up close and personal. A few minutes later, the young man was walking away and every few feet he would jump up and down on his leg while shaking his head. He refused prayer, but the possibilities of God's love and power broke through. He shook my hand and told me with intensity that he needed to go home and think

about what just had happened to him. He walked away completely stunned by the close encounter he had with Jesus.

Not only was he unbelieving, but he refused to allow me to pray for him. I believe there is a fine balance between what we allow God to do and what He wants to do. Sometimes people say “No” to God and He is patient enough to listen; but other times He is God and there is no telling Him no!

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a huge God who is coming back whether people like it or not. He is coming in such a way in these last days that even those who do not want to be healed or receive from God may end up finding themselves made whole.

The same is true of salvation. For so long, we have stressed salvation as a matter of choice, which carries the weight of truth to it. But I want to tell you there is something else coming that we have not seen except in certain times of harvest.

Some time ago, I was out with a friend ministering the love of Jesus on the streets. He has a Pentecostal background, so when he starts preaching, watch out! I love listening to him getting into the flow of the rhythm of the Spirit of God. It is just captivating. On this particular occasion, he began ministering to a young man. It was very entertaining to watch as my friend preached salvation to him. He preached with a certain twang in his voice saying, “God is gonna touch ya! God is gonna heal ya!!” I loved it.

My friend came to the end of his message and he shook hands with the young man and walked away. I said to myself, “Wait a second, God wants to do something more.” I then asked the young man if I could pray for him. He said I could. I asked him to stick out his hands as though God was about to give him a gift. I proceeded to pray and I asked God for His power to begin coursing through the young man’s body.

As I prayed, he told me that he could feel something like heat moving over him. In my spirit I knew there was about to be a blast of God’s miracle power. I asked one of my friends to stand behind him, just in case. I then prayed, “God, show Your power so strong that he can barely stand up, now!”

Within a split second, the young man shot back into my friend’s arms. Now, I do not know how this happens, but he either got saved on the way down or on the way back up because tears were streaming down his face as he was crying out, “Praise Jesus! Praise Jesus!”

I asked him what he was feeling and he shouted back loudly, “Electricity!” In a moment, God had snatched him out from the power of darkness and brought him into the Kingdom of the Son of His love (see Col. 1:13). That young man will never forget an encounter like that.

I believe that this type of power is about to flow through the Church corporately. We are going to see this level of power because we will see not only faith in God, but the faith of God. In Mark 11:22, Jesus responded to the disciples’ questions about His withering of the fig tree with His words. *Young’s Literal Translation* renders it this way: *“And Jesus answering saith to them, ‘Have faith **of** God’”* (emphasis added).

Many translations have failed to convey the original sense here by interpreting Jesus’ response to mean: “Have faith in God.” But, the “*faith of God”* is really a more accurate translation of the original text.

I believe that in the decades to come we will see a major shift in the operation of our faith. This will be a radical faith that will not agree with unbelief, but will even overcome unbelief. We must, of course, walk in the fruit of self-control to allow people to make decisions for themselves, but there is a grace coming that will draw even those with the hardest of hearts into healing and salvation.

What is required to walk in the faith of God? This type of faith takes God Himself. The faith of God is a supernatural work that is not the mere ascending of one’s consciousness; instead it is the operation of the mind of Christ being witnessed through a believer. This type of faith does not work apart from God; instead it works from the very center of the mind of God. In order for this quality of faith to operate, we must develop complete dependence upon God.

In our natural lives, maturity is equated with finding independence from those who initially supported us. Maturity in God is quite different: it is growing into full reliance and dependence upon Papa God. Jesus said, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 18:3). Little children are completely dependent upon their parents. They haven’t a care in the world because they know Mom and Dad will support them in every way.

The faith of God finds its full operation when we are fully dependent upon our heavenly Father, just as little children would be. In order to walk in this type of faith, we must not only be obedient, but also submissive. Obedience does what God asks regardless of whether or not our hearts are in it. Submission on

the other hand is the act of obedience with our hearts in it completely.

The faith of God is the fruit of a life submitted to God. Obedience does what God says, but a submissive heart begins to understand the mind of Christ. I pray this prayer all the time, “God, please make it make sense to me.” I ask this, not because I don’t think He makes sense, but because, as His son, I want to see the way He sees so that I can act as He acts.

The Voice of Faith

> *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak* (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Faith speaks. That is why the Bride will have a voice in these last days. It will be a voice of hope in a dark place, one that will bring about miracles, signs, and wonders. This realm of faith will play a vital role in the community of believers worldwide as the people of God come to the forefront with real answers to real needs. The power of the spoken word will be even more significant as we learn that we must eat the fruit of our own lips.

> *A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled* (Proverbs 18:20).

Even more power and authority will be given to those whose lips are consecrated to God to speak and declare His Word. It has been said that “loose lips sink ships.” This will be even more evident in the days ahead. True authority comes from God and the degree of that authority is given as a trusted partnership. To some are given authority with one talent and others more (See Matthew 25:14-30). Those with any degree of authority on their lips will have to be careful to speak forth only what the Lord has commanded them to declare. With any form of authority comes responsibility. Not only is it a responsibility to steward the authority given with God’s wisdom, but the responsibility of having to answer for the fruit of one’s actions.

> *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit* (Proverbs 18:21).

And so, this is not a time to cower at the rising storm. Rather, I see a boldness coming upon the Church so strong that grown men and women will shake at the sound of the Church's voice.

It is naïve to think that nothing destructive will come upon the world. It is not so naïve to believe that we, as people of the covenant, can be spared during the tough times. In fact, it is reasonable to believe that, by faith, we will rise to the top and become the great lights in this world that we were created to be.

We have already begun to see a distinguishing of those who are truly walking by faith from those who are outside the covenant. The power of covenant means you are bound to a promise and alliance with God whereby He is your God and has bound the power of Heaven to you. God comes as a package deal. When you receive the King, you also receive the Kingdom. Because you have been given the Spirit of God, the very reality that fills Heavens atmosphere has been joined to your spirit. With this reality in our hearts, we will soon see the people of God truly walking by faith.

A New Language

> *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit* (Jude 1:20).

One significant release of ministry to the Body of Christ will be new levels in the power of tongues. We have not yet seen the fullness of this; I believe it will really begin to take off into new dimensions.

God has given to us a spiritual language in order to help us walk in faith. Every time I pray in the Spirit, I am building and strengthening the muscle of faith, as our verse from the Book of Jude explains.

So far in the Body of Christ, we have seen people praying and speaking in other tongues, but there are new levels coming for the Bride. She will be adorned with the ability to converse in other languages of humankind, and even the tongues of angels.

Whenever I think of languages, I think of open doors of access and communication. When I started studying foreign languages, I did it because I knew I wanted to minister to other people groups. Now, because of my studies and practice, I am able to converse with people from certain other countries.

Because of this, it is easier for me to make my way around their nations.

Imagine what you and I can do now that we have been given Heaven's language. Imagine the places in the supernatural realms that this language of the Spirit is able to take you. We are going to see a people walking in the fullness of tongues accompanied by an incredible faith.

The Gateway

> *And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth"* (Genesis 11:4).

One of the most impactful events in all of history took place at the tower of Babel. The Bible tells us in Genesis 11:2 that after the flood, humankind spread out to the East and they began to build an unusually large tower to reach to the heavens in the midst of the great city. The Bible records what the Lord said:

> *Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech* (Genesis 11:6-7).

The magnitude of this situation was enormous. God saw the potential problems about to come forth. In His wisdom, He confused their languages. The tower was not just a great building project; it was an act of man's independence from God and an attempt to achieve greatness apart from Him. It was man's largest-scaled unified effort to build a supernatural gateway between Heaven and earth.

This magnificent tower was a display of man's effort to glory in himself and achieve something collectively of great significance without God. I believe they not only attempted to build something physically spectacular, but planned to tap into a demonic spiritual power by building a high place *"whose top is in the heavens…."* There was a unified effort to release a demonic power greater than

any evil that had been seen up to that point in history. They believed this power would help establish their safety in the land. Success in this would have released such great evil upon the earth that "nothing they proposed to do would have been withheld" (see Gen. 11:6).

God's way of thwarting their attempts to do whatever they chose was to confuse their languages. He knew that in order to stop them from having godlike power, He would have to hinder their ability to communicate with one another. When God confused the languages, He aborted their ability to accomplish whatever they set their minds to.

Fast forward a few thousand years. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost following the resurrection. At that divine moment in history, God gave back to man what He had taken away at the tower of Babel. He gave humankind a unified language once again. This time it was a holy, heavenly language. Yet, this was more than a restoration of the languages. God also lifted the limitations imposed when the languages were confused. It was as if He said, "I now restore to you the keys of the languages so that you can do whatever you propose to do."

> *And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs —we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"* (Acts 2:6-12)

"*Whatever could this mean?*" It meant that God had established by His Spirit a gateway between Heaven and earth that was far superior to the tower of Babel. It meant that He was giving back to humankind the ability to do, by His Spirit, anything God would purpose to do through His people. It meant that it was now time for humankind to be empowered with God-faith so they could speak to the mountains in their way and they would be moved. It meant that God

was pouring out His Holy Spirit onto humankind without measure so that he could live seated in heavenly realms in Christ.

The possibilities are limitless. That is what the Holy Spirit is all about. He is breaking us free from limitations in order to live within the fullness of God. In one moment, it was as though God declared, “I Am the Strong Tower whose top reaches the highest places in Heaven. I Am the Strong Tower that keeps you, protects you, and empowers you to do whatever it is you propose to do.”

Some years ago, I was in my room, praying in tongues. I had asked the Lord to grace me with a few hours of uninterrupted prayer in the Spirit. After a few hours had passed, a young man knocked on my door. My brother was having a party in his room down the hall, and one of his guests had ventured out to my door. The young man asked me what I was doing. I told him I was praying and talking to Jesus.

He replied, “Oh, I believe in Jesus. I am a Muslim.” I got excited in my heart and told him to come and check out what the Bible says about Jesus.

He came over and we started reading over the Scriptures concerning Jesus’ deity. He wasn’t completely convinced so I asked him to stand up and let me pray for him.

He agreed. As we began to pray, an angel came down and smacked the back of his neck. The young man fell out onto my bed. Full of the faith of God, I asked him to stand back up. Earlier, he had explained to me that he was a foreign exchange student from Iran and his mother tongue was Farsi. I stood him up and declared to him, “I am going to pray to my God that I could speak in your language and my God is going to let me speak to you in your language.”

Just then a good, Pentecostal friend of mine walked into my room and heard what I’d said. He was incredibly excited. He loved to speak in tongues and was eager to see what was going to happen. I stood before the Muslim man and began speaking in tongues. I felt a boldness rise up in me; it was the conviction beyond the shadow of doubt that God was going to perform a miracle.

As soon as I started, the young man became very excited. I was speaking Farsi and he started to translate saying, “You are telling me that Allah is not God and that Brahma is not God, but Jesus is God!” As I stood there speaking in tongues over him, it physically felt like rivers of living water were flowing out of my being. The young man ran back into my brother’s party with his hands raised high in the air while yelling, “Praise Jesus! Praise Jesus!”

Greater works are at our doorstep, at the gateways of the earth knocking and pounding on the doors of our world for us to let them in. God is about to open up our eyes to begin to see into the realms of limitless possibilities.

The God Nature

> *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth"* (Genesis 1:26).

Originally, man was created in the image of God as a tripartite being. Notice God says, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."* The Father is not speaking with the angels; He is speaking with Himself, the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were having a particularly creative moment when He decided to make people in the image and likeness of God. Even as God is three in One, we are tripartite beings—spirit, soul, and body.

> *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

We are spirits even as God is Spirit (see John 4:24). Each of us has a soul made up of mind, will, and emotions. We live in bodies consisting of flesh, bone, and blood. The human body is what houses the human spirit wherein the soul can act out every decision the spirit makes. Volumes of books have been written with revelations concerning the depths of this wondrous miracle.

Creation was just the beginning, an invitation into something more extraordinary than just being formed. Yes, God formed man out of the dust of the earth, kissed his nostrils, and breathed the breath of life into him. In that moment, man became a living being. Yet, God did more than breathe life; he invited us to partake of His divine nature.

> *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory*

> *and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust* (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Someone once said, “You are what you eat.” We partake of the divine nature of God by feeding on His promises. When we partake of His divine nature, a transfiguration takes place that causes us to become like Him in character: patient, kind, merciful, and loving.

We also start to see a transformation in the realms of the supernatural expressed through our lives. His divine nature overtakes us and transforms us until we are moving and acting just like Him, in the earth. The victim mentality starts to fall away from us and we no longer see every form of opposition as a threat. Instead, we start seeing opportunities for God’s divine nature to flow through us until we are not only overcome by His love, but we are also overcoming in His love.

The God nature tells us that we are going to the other side; in other words, it enables us to walk on top of the water that seems to separate us from our destinies. The God nature manifests in us and causes us to ascend above the circumstances. Whether that ascending manifests as perseverance in the midst of persecution, as an ability to call forth an end to a drought, or as an anointing to heal all cancers, it must be done in love because that is the very nature of God. *“God is love”* (1 John 4:8b).

A Call to Action

- Cast aside all unbelief, and purpose in your heart to walk in faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you forget how to be in unbelief. Ask Him to renew your mind to faith.

- Pray in tongues as often as you can. Jude 1:20 tells us that, in doing so, you are, *"building yourselves up on your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit."* Sing in tongues and when you do, focus on the Lord. Watch as this transforms you and causes the hope of good things to rise within you.

- Realize the potential of the divine nature flowing through you. Ponder, meditate, and imagine yourself going into the marketplace, your church, your local school, filled with the power of His Spirit. Let the Lord fill your thoughts with faith and the potential of what this can look like in Him. Allow the Lord in this way to redeem your logic so that the way His Kingdom operates is what truly makes sense in every situation you experience.

Chapter 7

FROM THE WILDERNESS INTO THE PROMISE

> *Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple* (Psalms 65:4).

For so long we have been preoccupied with the miracles, the signs, and the wonders. These are wonderful and we need them, but they are pointing us to something greater than themselves.

The wilderness journey from Egypt to the Promised Land was packed full of miracles. We read that throughout the desert journey the Israelites were provided for by God in various ways. They were given manna supernaturally every morning (see Exod. 16:31,35) and received water from a Rock (see Exod. 17:6; Num. 20:11). According to First Corinthians 10:4 the Rock that followed them and poured forth water was Christ. (Whether that rock levitated or rolled or was transported to the next campsite, we don't know.)

We also read that, for 40 years, neither the Israelites' clothing nor sandals wore out (see Deut. 29:5). Not only that, but a cloud of God's presence followed them by day and a pillar of fire followed them by night (see Exod. 13:21-22). It seems they had a slice of Heaven out there in the wilderness! I mean, what more do you need? They were clothed, wore supernatural shoes, had food, and could

enjoy seeing God's presence.

Still, God desired more for them; but for what reason? At their first "visit" together, God spoke to Moses about *"a good and large land…a land flowing with milk and honey"* (Exod. 3:8). All along, God was planning to bring His people into this land of promise. This *"good and large land"* being prepared for them was the land of Canaan. It was the most desirable of all lands. Apparently the land was abundant enough to support six different people groups—and God was going to gradually drive all of them out so the Israelites could have the land to themselves.

The Joshua and Caleb Mind-set

The Lord described the land to the Israelites as *"flowing with milk and honey*." Little did they know that this land was better than anything they could have imagined. It was so good that when Joshua, Caleb, and the rest of the 12 were sent to spy out that land, they found things they had never seen before:

> *When they arrived at the Eshcol Valley they cut off a branch with a single cluster of grapes—it took two men to carry it—slung on a pole. They also picked some pomegranates and figs* (Numbers 13:23 MSG).

Either this cluster was so overfilled with grapes or the grapes themselves were massive. Personally, I believe it was the latter. Either way, it was supernatural.

Shortly afterward the spies returned to give their report. Out of the 12 who were sent only Caleb and Joshua came back with a good report.

> *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it"* (Numbers 13:30).

But the others quickly spoke up and polluted both the good news of the Promised Land and the hope of the Israelites. They started spreading rumors and telling tales about unstoppable giants. Their own words give us a clue as to the

root of their problems:

> *There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight* (Numbers 13:33).

There is a spiritual principle revealed here that is still active in everyday situations: the way we perceive others is highly dependent upon our perceptions of self.

Some years ago, I was at a conference infiltrated by witches and demonic plants. A plant is someone specifically programmed by the satanic groups in the area to attend a church, event, or conference. They usually come in with a level of wounding from satanic ritual abuse. Therefore, they require high maintenance and become like black holes demanding high levels of attention from church leaders. The good news is that these people are not without hope; God is raising up even now leaders who have wisdom from Heaven on how to effectively and efficiently deal with the strongholds attached to these people whom God loves so much.

At the conference, a tormented man came and began to manifest with demons. A woman at the conference—who we discovered during this process was a witch—was desperately trying to find this young man because she knew that the speaker at the conference was going to minister deliverance to him. She did not want this done because this deliverance would cause the demon-possessed man to reveal information about the operation of the coven to which they both belonged. Desperately, she kept knocking to come to the back room to find out what was going on. We knew what she was operating in and we would not let her in.

Suddenly, the demon began to speak through the young man to the minister who commanded the demon to leave. The demon replied, “He [satan] respects you!”

I remember the confidence of God coming off this minister. He had the same mind-set as Joshua and Caleb. He replied, “I don’t want him to respect me, I want him to obey me.”

This moment taught me a valuable lesson in knowing who I am in Christ and who Christ is in me. Being confident in my identity in the Lord means a whole lot more than just knowing who I am. It determines how the enemy perceives me

and the degree to which he understands who it is he's messing with.

It is as Solomon said: *"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23:7a). These are the days when the Bride of Christ is beginning to understand who she is in this world. That understanding will deal a death blow to the enemy of our freedom!

Despite the stinking thinking of the other ten spies, Caleb and Joshua remained strong. There was something different about them. They understood who they were and who God was for them. While all the children of Israel, polluted by the unbelief of the ten cowardly spies, began to complain viciously about their wilderness experience, Caleb and Joshua raised their voices and began to speak of future promise.

> *But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them"* (Numbers 14:6-9).

Now is the time for the Joshuas and Calebs of our day to rise up and speak to this generation of the promises. There is a great wave of champions being released right now, even among our youth. They may not have the experience of the generation that came before them, but they have the heart of a lion.

It is time for the older generation to begin to shepherd the younger. This generation will rise up with a love for the wild side of God. When everyone else is trying to play it safe, they will say like Caleb and Joshua:

> *Do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them* (Numbers 14:9).

What is it that gave Joshua and Caleb such boldness? The Lord said that

Caleb had something different. His faithfulness was so evident that God spoke of him as one unusually dedicated to the Lord. His testimony of Caleb was, *"…he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully…"* (Num. 14:24).

Joshua had something different about him, too. It is written of Joshua that when Moses would return to the camp from being in the tabernacle with the presence of the Lord, *"his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle"* (Exod. 33:11b).

Both of these characters had a rich history of faithfulness to the Lord. Joshua would hang out with God way past the time required of him by Moses. Moses would retire for the night and yet Joshua would still be glued to the presence of God in the tabernacle.

It was out of this history with God that the courage came forth to speak against the popular vote and instead believe the word the Lord had given them. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones of that generation to walk into the Promised Land, and they became the leaders of the next generation.

We, too, will see a company of men and women who don't fail in the presence of giants—men and women who are bigger on the inside than any giant could ever be on the outside. I believe this is the company John spoke of when he prophesied:

> *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death* (Revelation 12:11).

This present-day company will not fear death, therefore, they will have power over it. When you have no fear of death, resurrection power can easily flow through your life. God is looking across the face of the earth for such a company of warriors.

Of their generation, Joshua and Caleb would be the only ones to enter the land of promise. Having the proper perspective can do that for you. Heavenly perspective is important; acquiring and maintaining it may determine whether or not you will enter into the promises of God. It is one thing to see and taste of the promises; it is something quite different to abide in them. All 12 spies saw the Promised Land and tasted of its fruit, but only Joshua and Caleb were granted residency.

I believe God is calling the Church to stop window shopping when it comes to the promises. We have been visiting the things we long to see in the Spirit, but it is time to see them manifested in the natural. For sure, we should be prophesying of things to come, but the time for taking those promises is upon us. The leaders God is grooming right now are people who will not settle for seeing the Kingdom; they will do whatever it takes to live continuously enclosed in it.

Jesus said in his discourse with Nicodemus, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). To be born again is just the beginning. When we are born again we are able to see the Kingdom and taste the evidence of it within us. In the beginning stages of this transformation our eyes are opened up to see, but as we journey deeper into metamorphosis we no longer see it afar off, but we enter and walk in the reality of the Kingdom. Like I stated before, we are not only called to see something in the Spirit—we are called to seize something.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Seeing the Kingdom and entering the Kingdom are two different experiences altogether. We have been satisfied with a taste, but there is still more to savor. We have been eating the appetizers thinking they were the only course being served, but tasting the Kingdom is only the beginning.

It may seem extravagant and excessive, but there are gourmet menus that feature 21 courses—for just one meal! The Kingdom of God is *always* extravagant. God is the God of heavenly "excess." If you have a hard time wrapping your mind around that one, just think of His mercy and grace on your life. He did not give you barely enough of these; He gave you a surplus. He poured out His grace and gave us *"grace for grace"* (John 1:16). In the wilderness, we get to know God as our daily bread, but in the Promised Land we enjoy an overflow of His goodness.

So what is the Promised Land really all about? It is one thing to look at it from man's perspective, but it is another from God's point of view. We can see that there is an abundance and overflow for the people of God, but what does it mean to the Lord?

This is the question we should be inquiring of Him. What did the Lord want His people to be part of? I believe His purpose was to establish an earthly house in which He would dwell. God desired a temple, a dwelling place that would be the center of attention for all people everywhere. He was looking for a place to

establish His Kingdom glory and from this place, His glory would rule.

The Temple

> *But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"*
> (2 Samuel 7:4-7)

The main difference between the tabernacle and the temple is that the former was mobile and the latter was a stationary building. The tabernacle was a place where God would move about with the children of Israel as they fought their battles while coming into the land of promise.

It would seem that up until the time of Solomon's reign, they were still fulfilling God's original word to them concerning the Promised Land. Giants were still in the land. David would do something about this when Goliath came against Israel.

It is interesting to note that David picked up five smooth stones when he was preparing for battle against Goliath (see 1 Sam. 17:40). The Bible notes that there were four other giants in that land aside from Goliath (see 2 Sam. 21). I believe David was preparing himself to do more than just take out Goliath. He was well aware that if he picked a fight with one giant, he would need to be ready to take on all of them.

In Second Samuel 21, we read that during David's reign he dealt with these giants and was victorious. David's kingdom was finally fulfilling the original command of God. Israel was to come into the land and drive out the giants. When the children of Israel went to war, the Ark of the Covenant would move with them. It was the sign of His presence among them, leading them while they fought glorious battles.

With Solomon's reign, it was time for God to demonstrate His Kingdom glory with Israel and to let it increase. God had shown Israel that He was with them by His presence, but now it was time to establish the evidence of His Kingdom glory. How would God do this through Solomon? He would instruct Solomon to build a temple that would become the center of all humankind's attention so that He could fill it with His glory. It would be a resting place for the glory of the Lord to go out from Israel. Because of this, Israel would become the center of attention for foreign kings and queens. Many would stand in awe of the magnificence that would be experienced by Israel in the Promised Land. This would become one of the most awesome times of fruitfulness in Israel's history.

Kingdom Glory

At the beginning of Solomon's reign as king over Israel, an unprecedented amount of heavenly wisdom would be granted to Solomon. So much so that even royalty of other nations would hear the news of his wisdom and come to ask of Solomon hard questions.

> *Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her* (2 Chronicles 9:1-2).

What really convinced the queen of Sheba that Solomon was given wisdom directly from Heaven? Was it his ability to answer hard questions or was it something else? The Scriptures go on to say that, after Solomon demonstrated his great wisdom, the queen of Sheba discovered another aspect of Solomon's wisdom that left her completely convinced.

> *And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. Then*

> *she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard* (2 Chronicles 9:3-6).

Solomon's kingdom provided overwhelming evidence that wisdom was truly in his house. All the riches and honor and wealth demonstrated the great wisdom that Solomon carried. You see, the queen came to Solomon for answers and received answers. Yet, it was not until she saw the splendor of the glory that God had poured out on Israel that she said, *"I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes.…"*

Prophetically, I believe the Church is about to enter a similar scenario today. For so long we have said that we have the answers to life, but when the world comes to our doorsteps they find something different taking place. They see that we are more broken and beat up than they are. They see a people with little wisdom at work. We don't seem to know how to have successful families; grow successful, wealthy businesses; increase in greatness; bring healing to the dying; or feed the multitudes.

But, get ready! A shift is taking place within the Body. We are His temple and Kingdom glory is about to fill the temple and cover everything the temple touches.

When the Lord appeared to Solomon and said, *"Ask! What shall I give you?"* (2 Chron. 1:7b). Solomon had the wisdom to say, *"Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of yours?"* (2 Chron. 1:10).

Because of this the Lord replied:

> *Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king- wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like* (2 Chronicles 1:11-12).

Because it was the dawn of something new in Israel, God was going to display the reign of His Kingdom through Solomon the way it was meant to be understood. God's Kingdom speaks of His royalty. It speaks of His majesty, because it is the domain of the King. *Majesty* speaks about the brilliance, splendor, beauty, and vast magnificence of something.

God unveiled a type and shadow of what His Kingdom looks like on earth and what happens to a nation fully submitted to Him. His Kingdom rule through Solomon was going to be marked by an unprecedented display of wealth, riches, and honor because that is the way God's Kingdom glory is to be understood.

Humankind desires to be part of something wonderful. Deep inside, all of us know that we were created, not only for something incredible, but also to experience the incredible. We are drawn to beauty and captivated by it. We long to experience majesty. True majesty is found in the glory of God which is the full expression of His majesty. It is the very nature of God Himself. According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus is the *"radiance of* [God's] *glory and the exact representation of His nature…"* (Heb. 1:3 NASB).

This glory reveals God's vast nature. The perfect expression of that nature is found in Jesus. Because we are His temple, the glory is about to be seen on us. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1 Cor. 3:16).

We are about to see the King of glory walk into His temple; when He shows up, His temple will shine with His majesty and God's Kingdom glory will begin to manifest all around. The King of kings will soon be seen in our midst, revealing His glory so that everything around Him radiates with brilliance.

We know the King is in our midst when His Kingdom is manifested. When the King, Jesus, is in our midst, His glory shows up: the natural becomes supernatural and things change and transform. When Jesus was transfigured in Mark 9:3, His very garments started to glisten so that they were *"shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them."* When God reveals His Kingdom glory in a town, city, or nation, things start to transform. There is an excellence that comes with His glory:

> *…His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence* (2 Peter 1:3 NASB).

Glory and excellence are in the same package. When God pours out His glory, excellence manifests along with it. Though Solomon started off strong, it was God who deserved the credit for all the wonderful things that Israel experienced. Israel had kings in the past, but something was different about this one because God was going to make Israel the Kingdom of His glory.

I believe there was a direct correlation between the glory that was poured out at the dedication of the temple and the abundant increase of wealth, riches, and honor Solomon and Israel saw during his reign. We remember that at the finish of Solomon's dedication prayer, there was a supernatural encounter:

> *When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever"* (2 Chronicles 7:1-3).

What is the glory of God? The glory of God is the express character of His being. It is the fullness of His name made manifest. When God manifests His glory, He is manifesting all of His goodness. Remember Moses' prayer, "*Please, show me Your glory"* (Exod. 33:18). The Father responded to this prayer by declaring:

> *I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion* (Exodus 33:19).

God's glory is the fullness of His goodness, the full manifestation of His name. That is why when we pray, "Hallowed be Your name," we are really praying, I embrace and rest in the fullness of Your glory. When God's glory begins to manifest in a church, city, or region, we see the evidence of His goodness.

Where does this bring us today? I believe God is taking us by His anointing

and transitioning us into His Kingdom glory. I love the anointing; I love to soak and saturate myself in it. One figurative meaning of the word *anointing* has to do with "fatness." The Hebrew word *shemen*, which means "oil for anointing," also means "fatness."[1]

> *It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil* (Isaiah 10:27).

Another translation states, "*…and the yoke will be broken because of fatness*" (Isaiah 10:27b NASB). Malachi prophesied about this fatness:

> *But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves* (Malachi 4:2).

The anointing is what we carry inside of us by the Holy Spirit. Glory is the atmosphere we carry that shifts whatever environment we find ourselves in. It is time for the people of God to begin carrying this atmosphere. When we do, the world notices. Suddenly, they are drawn to us because they know we are causing goodness to manifest all around.

Israel was in many battles with other nations up until the point of David's reign, but when Solomon took the stage God began to do something different. His strategy became new. Instead of constant battles, Solomon and his kingdom reigned in an abundance of peace and prosperity because of the glory that God was pouring out. It was a higher way; because of this nations became allied with Israel and desired to be a part of what Israel had their hands in. It does not mean there were no battles; however, I believe it was a more excellent way, as it will be for us as we go from glory to glory.

I believe it is time for the people of God to walk in the fullness of His goodness, as seen in His Kingdom glory. Something I heard one day made me realize how true this is. My wife, Emily Elizabeth, and I were working at a restaurant. Some of the upper management were trying to figure out exactly when we had come on board because they noticed an incredible increase in business. The business continued to increase and they knew it had to do with our presence among them. What was taking place? God's Kingdom glory was

manifesting through us and shifting the atmosphere. Because that company became aligned with us, they started experiencing the blessings of God's goodness.

It does not take a prophetic person to see that we are in times of deep darkness, but the realization of darkness is not the thing that is going to be drawing the nations to God's house. It is the goodness of God that draws men to repentance (see Rom. 2:4). It is time for God's temple in the earth—His people—to be filled with His Kingdom glory. It is time for the nations to be drawn to us because of it.

I see a people on the horizon who have moved beyond being the wounded and poverty stricken to being a company of healed people who in turn bring healing and prosperity to the nations in which they live. I see a people filled with God's Kingdom glory manifesting that glory wherever they go. I see nations being drawn to this glorious company and desiring to be aligned with them.

> *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory* (Isaiah 60:1-7).

Endnote

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "shemen," (OT 8081).

A Call to Action

- Look back in your journals and remind yourself of the promises God has already spoken over your life. *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us"* (2 Cor. 1:20). Give yourself to believing these promises. Pour yourself into reading the Scriptures. Pick out the promises that God has shared in His word. Mediate on them and begin to see that your future is filled with promise.

- Surround yourself with people who are moving in the direction of God's greater glory. *"The new wine is found in the cluster…"* (Isa. 65:8). Hang out in the cluster of people who believe there is more and have set their hearts to partake of it.

- Praise and worship the Lord, soaking, filling, and saturating the temple of your being with the same glory that filled the temple of Solomon. Summon the greatness of the God of Heaven by singing praises and living a life of worship before Him.

- Finally, walk in the spirit of generosity. Give with a heart full of charity. Act as nobility and royalty, humbly, yet full of kindness in the overflow of God's goodness.

Chapter 8

THE SONG OF SOLOMON

> *For thus says the Lord of hosts: "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory," says the Lord of hosts* (Haggai 2:6-7).

The Church has been through all sorts of seasons, but I believe the very best is yet to come. We are in a time of great shaking. It can be compared to the process of panning for gold: the prospector shakes the pan until the rare metal is revealed and all that glitters but is not gold falls away.

I am convinced that the Church is that gold and will soon outshine every institution on the face of the earth. It will be a time of great rejoicing and *"as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you"* (Isa. 62:5).

The brilliance that will be seen upon the Bride of Christ will result from her being drawn into the sacred habitation of what Haggai 2:7 calls *"the Desire of All Nations."* Some believe this prophetic Scripture points to Jesus; others say it refers to the glory of the Church in its fullness. I believe both groups are seeing the same thing, but from different angles.

That said, I see yet a different paradigm coming. I believe *"the Desire of All Nations"* prophesies a time when the Church will step into the high calling of bridal romance with her Bridegroom. She will experience a metamorphosis and become a glorious heavenly Bride filled to the brim and overflowing with the love of Jesus. The very heart of the Bride's desire is to *"…drink, and be drunk with love!"* (Song of Solomon 5:1b ESV), and she will be that drink offering to her lover, Jesus.

The Desire of All Nations will be the sweet romance the Bride has with her Bridegroom. Nations will long for what has been found by her. She will shine forth with the glory of the greatest love story ever told—the story of the Father who found a Bride worthy of His Son, Jesus Christ. The splendor that will be seen upon this Bride will be so yearned for that the prophet Zachariah describes it this way:

> *Thus says the Lord of hosts: "In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you'"* (Zechariah 8:23).

There will come a time in all nations of the earth that men and women of every age and background will cling to those who love Jesus, desperately begging for a touch of the love evident upon those walking in this revelation. Hearts of stone will melt as the lost weep over the shoulders of God's people, begging them for the secret to the bliss they have discovered.

The Bride Made Ready

The Bride will become the most beautiful display of God's passionate love on the face of the earth. But, her desires will not be for the praises of man. There will be a jealous love within her heart for Jesus as she adorns herself with the beauty that God will pour out on her. This beauty will be set apart for Jesus' pleasure only and He will make sure that no one else touches her for their own benefit.

> *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready*

(Revelation 19:7).

In anticipation of the Bridegroom the Bride will make herself ready. When I met my wife, the Holy Spirit impressed me that she would be a sign and a wonder from the Lord to me. For this reason, I have paid attention to the ways in which the Lord speaks to me through her life.

For example, I have noticed that when my wife really wants to get my attention, she fixes up her hair, puts on some makeup, and gets all dressed up, as though she were planning on going somewhere nice. After this she will come out of her room with the most beautiful smile, batting her eyelashes at me. I call it, "making herself ready."

At that point, she doesn't have to ask me to listen to what she is about to say; she already has my full attention! Even if I'm off in my own world, working on something of my own, when my wife enters the room looking that beautiful, I instantly become putty in her hands. I immediately start asking if I can do anything for her…if she would like to be my date for dinner…and where she would like to go. Budgets fly out the window. My heart takes precedent over my head. I start thinking about what kinds of gifts I can give her to let her know just how much I love her.

Without Blemish

One year, I wanted to get Emily Elizabeth something very special for our anniversary. I was drawing a blank, so I asked her what she would like. She smiled in the big, beautiful way she does and told me, "Honey, I don't want anything. I just want you." I stared back deep into her gorgeous, glowing eyes and thought, "Yeah, sure you do. There must be a lying spirit in there somewhere!"

Men, you may have already figured this out: if your wife tells you that she wants only you, then there is probably something else on her mind! So, I did some digging and went out and got her a complete beauty set—a simple, yet elegant antique mirror complete with a dresser and a chair upholstered in a delicate white fabric. One morning as we were preparing to go somewhere, my wife was busy "making herself ready" at her new beauty set. As we scrambled to get out the door, she accidently spilled mascara all over the white fabric chair. Thick, dark mascara seeped into the chair, making a large, dark stain. We did not

have time to clean it up as we were already rushing out the door, so we left it in hopes that we could clean it up afterward.

We got home later that evening, dreading the thought of Emily's new beauty set being forever stained. After doing a few chores, we began heading to the bedroom. Emily arrived ahead of me, examined the chair, and asked, "Did you already remove the spot?"

"No," I said, puzzled. Emily held up the chair and showed me that the spot that marred the beautiful white fabric had completely disappeared! I looked at her and instantly knew that the Lord had performed a prophetic miracle for us that day. He used this situation to speak to us. He was letting us know that when we "make ourselves ready," He removes every spot and every wrinkle.

This is why the Lord is even right now supernaturally removing the Bride's wrinkles by His miracle power. It is a sign that He is removing every blemish from His Bride so that He can present to Himself a glorious Church. The Bride of Christ will become so beautiful and elegant *"not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing…"* (Eph. 5:27).

We have been asking Jesus to come to us, but we have been like an unkempt Bride: our hair is out of place, teeth are missing, and we are hobbled by a limp. But, Jesus is coming back for a beautiful Bride, one that is worthy of His affections.

Even now, some of us are dealing with some really ugly stuff in our lives, even though we do not want it to be there. Take yourself to the place where God makes you whole and beautifies you. Stare into the mirror of the Holy Spirit. He is the Sea of Glass Like Crystal (see Rev. 4:6; 15:2) flowing before the throne. When you look into the Sea of Glass you will see a reflection in which the Holy Spirit will show you who you are really meant to be. Let Him pour out His love at that place; allow him to remove the shame and break you free of all anger. *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:8a).

For Such a Time As This

In biblical times, when the king of a great nation wanted to establish an alliance with another country, he would marry into that nation's royal family. This is what is known as a *marriage alliance.*

The wonderful mystery of Heaven is that the Son of God, who became a

member of the very creation He Himself created, came to earth to make way for an alliance between humankind and the Kingdom of Heaven. In order for this to happen, He needed a Bride and we needed the King of the Kingdom.

We have become a Bride chosen by the Father, prepared for the Bridegroom, Jesus. With this holy union comes the establishment of an alliance. Those who choose to walk with the King in this manner will have the entire realm of Heaven on their sides because they are aligned with the King.

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine" (Song of Sol. 6:3a). Many walk through life knowing that they belong to God, but the Bride understands that the Bridegroom belongs to them. He fully supports her and does whatever is necessary to ensure her success. And, when nations stand in her way, He is jealous over her and does whatever it takes to protect her.

Queen Esther is a beautiful prophetic picture of the Bride of Christ today. The Bible tells us that…

> *The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen…* (Esther 2:17).

When the queen and her people, the Jews, were threatened by the antichrist spirit moving through Haman, the king took up the battle as his own. *"So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?'"* (Esther 7:5).

Esther was given a very profound word of wisdom about the times and seasons in which she was living and the power of the role in which she had found herself. Seeing in her the potential means of saving the Jews, her cousin, Mordecai, pointed out this role to her saying, *"Yet, who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14b).

I believe the voice of the Prophetic Spirit is proclaiming the same thing over the Bride today. You have come into the Kingdom for such a time as this. Satan, like Haman, has planned a great evil against humankind. We are the Bride who, like Esther, is before the Bridegroom calling on the King to demolish the plans of the enemy and destroy him in every way.

Our King is more than able! *Christ* means "anointed."[1] Christ is the

Anointed One and we in His Body are anointed ones. The antichrist spirit will attempt to resist, however. He is anti-anointing; he stands against God's anointed ones, as Haman tried to do.

The final straw for Haman, who portrayed the antichrist spirit in ancient times, came when the King saw him attempting to violate the Queen. The Message translation really captures the encounter well:

> *As the king came back from the palace garden into the banquet hall, Haman was groveling at the couch on which Esther reclined. The king roared out, "Will he even molest the queen while I'm just around the corner?" When that word left the king's mouth, all the blood drained from Haman's face* (Esther 7:8 MSG).

Another translation says, *"Then the king said, 'Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?'"* (NKJV). Jesus is about to show up in His house as the Bridegroom of the Bride. When He does, you do not want to stand in His way. There is a judgment being released, a holy verdict against the antichrist spirit that has been against God's anointed. This thing will be dealt with; now is the time for the Bride to take her place and stand before the King of kings—for the deliverance of many.

Beyond Revival

Revival is often talked about as though it were the highest of Christian experiences. I love revival and I have been a part of several "revivals," but I believe God is drawing us into something much greater.

I have already explained how my wife is a sign and a wonder to me, often speaking to me of the Bride of Christ. Well, my wife and I had a very unusual engagement time and there was something uniquely prophetic about it.

Before officially proposing to her, I asked her where she would like to go for our honeymoon. I was hoping she would say somewhere easy on my wallet, not because I did not think she was worth it, but because I did not have any money. I also needed to pay off the ring and set aside money for my share of the wedding expenses. I was hoping she would choose a honeymoon destination close to home so we could drive there and maybe stay in someone's condo on the beach.

My wife is not as practical-minded as I am. She is more carefree and wants to experience things in the very best way possible. After timidly asking her where she would like to go, she replied, “Italy!”

“What?” I thought. “There is no way!”

Trying to help the situation I told her, “Honey, I thought you would say somewhere a little bit closer to home.”

She replied, “You asked where I wanted to go and I have always wanted to go to Italy. I am being honest.”

She was right: I did ask her and she answered honestly. Since I did not want to disappoint her, I began to pray. Time was short; we were engaged in February and our wedding was to be in April. I had a little over two months to find the funds for a honeymoon trip to Italy.

A couple of weeks into our engagement, we were swept up in a revival that had broken out in a little town in Ohio. Amazingly enough, Ohio was the state where both my wife and I were born.

The revival was outstanding. We witnessed more than two hundred people coming to Jesus in a little over three weeks. Broken families were made whole, generations joined together in worshiping Jesus, and miracle healings manifested in abundance.

During the revival, we would minister for one week and then go home. By the time we arrived at home there would already be a voice-mail asking us to come back because the church was still experiencing revival. There was such a sweet presence of God in that place and I felt such a strong love for the people there. It was supernatural. Everything taking place there was authentic and no hype was needed to keep it growing.

I can remember walking into the office one morning toward the end of our time there and seeing a pile of eyeglasses. I asked the secretary what it was about. She said people were leaving behind their glasses because they were being healed while standing in the presence of God.

Although my soon-to-be-wife and I understood that we were sent by God to break open something that God wanted to do in that area of Ohio, we also realized that God was using this situation to bless our wedding. And, because this revival occurred in the backyard of our birthplaces, we knew he was speaking to us about our future as a couple.

What Does This "Dream" Mean?

I was not there for money, but finances started to come in during the revival. It was exactly what I needed to get Emily a wedding ring. The whole thing seemed like a dream. At the end of the revival, the church threw us a wedding shower and I was handed a check as an honorarium, a gift in honor of what we had meant to that church in that season.

When I got home, I counted out the money. Since I already had the ring, I now had exactly what I needed to cover my expenses for the wedding *and* pay for our honeymoon to Italy. At that time, I knew God was doing something prophetic; and if this really was a dream, it was definitely a prophetic dream. But what did this dream and sign and wonder mean?

Here's what I believe God was showing us. What He is about to do in our times is to bring about revivals all over the world. These revivals will support the bridal romance that the Lord is drawing us into in this season. This bridal romance involves a dowry, and that dowry is the gift the Father gave when He sent His Son, Jesus, who died on the cross, shed His precious blood, and rose from the dead on the third day. Revival is what happens when we, as the Body of Christ, discover the power of the dowry:

> *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot* (1 Peter 1:18-19).

This dowry is what made it possible for the wedding ring of Heaven to be placed upon the Bride's hand. Jesus gave the Bride a gift—the Holy Spirit. He gave it as a pledge for His return and a claim to make her His own. The Holy Spirit is the covenant seal, the wedding ring of Heaven. That "ring" was placed upon the Bride on the day of Pentecost. He is still being poured out today.

> *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee* (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

You have been betrothed to the Lord; this is your time to engage the

Bridegroom in the romance of the Song of Solomon. God is about to bring forth a movement of the Holy Spirit that will not just be revival for revival's sake. Instead, He is drawing us by His Spirit into intimate encounters with Him. Out of this revival of encounters, the move of the Spirit will finance a honeymoon with Jesus in which God is going to pour out the resources needed to take you, His Bride, into the nations of the earth!

My wife is a picture of the Bride of Christ to me in that she did not hold back; she told me where she truly wanted to go for our honeymoon. She boldly spoke up and said, "Italy!"

Nations are in your heart. When the Lord asks you, "Where would you like Me to take you?" do not hold back. Tell Him which nations are on your heart.

To those who are still trying to equate what God is going to do by the size of their wallets—get ready! God is about to start something that will take you way beyond your means.

Jesus' Eyes

If the Bible were a menu, then the Song of Solomon is an "appetizer" entreating you to meet your lover. Jesus is longing to romance His Bride and wants to unveil Himself to her.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to see Jesus? Have you thought about what kind of questions you would ask Him? I did. I had a long list of things I planned to ask Him if given a face-to-face opportunity.

That all changed when I saw Him. As soon as I looked into His big, beautiful eyes, my list of questions went away. It all happened some years ago, when I stayed up praying late into the night.

In the midst of praying, I suddenly found myself in another place. I realized in that moment that I was in the Spirit. John the beloved said it like this: *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet…"* (Rev. 1:10).

Suddenly, I was ushered into the presence of someone holy. Standing before me was the most majestic being I have ever seen. It was Jesus. His hair was golden brown, as though both gold and brown at the same time. His face glowed with love. Winds blew His hair back so perfectly as He floated, seemingly in

midair.

Completely undone, I stared in amazement. All the questions I thought I would ask Jesus no longer mattered. I was in the presence of Majesty. I can remember staring deep into His eyes, realizing that He knew every detail, good or bad, about me. Yet I remember sensing that there was no shame, only love. His eyes were so blue in that moment; it seemed like I could see the galaxies in those eyes. They were like pools of crystal blue water that seemed to go on forever and ever.

Then I said the silliest thing I could possibly say to Him: "You're Jesus!" He did not say a word. He didn't have to; His smile said it all as He grinned from ear to ear. The love I felt was greater than any love I had ever known. In that moment, I fell so much deeper in love with Jesus than I could have imagined possible.

This experience changed the way I prayed. Instead of always praying for things to happen for me, I would read the Song of Solomon to Jesus. I would pour out my heart to Him and just worship Him saying:

> *O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely* (Song of Solomon 2:14).

Many desires that I had hidden in my spirit began coming to pass. It was as though the Lord were secretly going out of His way to do what I longed for, even though I had not asked Him for it.

The Bridegroom is wooing the Bride unto Himself. He will not let the desires of her heart go unfulfilled.

At the Feet of Our Beloved

Mary, the sister of Martha, found herself in the center of Jesus' eyes one day. Martha had invited the Master into her house, but it was Mary who found herself at His feet, hearing His words.

Martha was busy serving, doing what was necessary for her guests. At that time, Jesus had an entourage following Him wherever He went. Someone had to take care of the party and that someone was Martha. Martha was doing

something that seemed logical and right, but she felt all alone in the effort.

> *But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me"* (Luke 10:40).

Surely the Lord would take Martha's side and let Mary know that she needed to be productive in some small measure, right?

> *And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her"* (Luke 10:41-42).

Because there is so much need in the Body of Christ and the world at large, it is very easy to become distracted and hyper-focused on needs. Many good-hearted leaders run around as though their primary calling were to tend to those needs. Granted, there are many reasons for us to be *"…worried and troubled about many things."* In the end, however, if we let the needs outweigh the one thing that is really needed, we will become burnt out and begin missing our first love.

Jesus said that *"one thing is needed"*—for us to spend time with Him, sitting at His feet as Mary did, while the rest of the world is whirling around us.

Spending time with others demonstrates our love for them. In his book *The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman describes ways in which we express that love. He calls these means of expression *love languages.*

Jesus has many love languages, but I believe one of His primary love languages—if not *the* primary love language—is quality time. Quality time in Heaven is none other than pure worship, the pouring out of our affections to Him. It is that place of intimacy where we sit at His feet worshiping Him and letting Him speak over us the pure language of God's love.

The Lord longs for His beloved to sit at His feet, gazing into those beautiful eyes, intently listening to Him, as Mary did. She was found at His feet again after the death of her brother, Lazarus (see John 11:32). I believe that when Jesus saw her weeping at His feet, it reminded Him of one of His favorite moments,

the earlier time at Martha's house when Mary sat at her Beloved's feet, listening to His comforting voice and gazing into His eyes. This sent Jesus into groaning and led to one of the most powerful scenes in Scripture—the moment when *"Jesus wept"* (John 11:35)**.**

Something incredible happens in the heart of God when we draw near to Him in this way. When Jesus saw Mary once again at His feet, it initiated a divine moment that resulted in the resurrection of Lazarus.

This is a call to come away with your Beloved, sit at His feet, and gaze into His eyes. This is the type of intimacy that results in resurrection power.

> *You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!* (Song of Solomon 4:9-10 NIV)

Endnote

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "Christos," (NT 5548).

A Call to Action

- Read, study, and immerse yourself in the Song of Solomon. Meditate on Jesus as your Bridegroom. Read the Song of Solomon to the Lord, lavishing upon Him the descriptions found there concerning Him. Watch as this begins to soften your heart, causing a sensitivity to His presence within you.

- Make yourself ready for His coming. He will come to you, but prepare your heart to receive Him. Cast aside all spiritual blemishes, giving Him no reason to hesitate in drawing near. Become the Bride that He cannot resist.

- Finally, stand like Esther, who understood that her beauty was not only for the King's pleasure, but for the rescue of many. Stand in the gap even in that intimate place between yourself and the King, petitioning Jesus to release judgment upon those demonic forces that are plotting evil schemes against God's anointed.

Chapter 9

WATCHMEN

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth (Isaiah 62:6-7).

In my travels around the world I have noticed a theme among God's people. Everywhere I go, I find numbers of individuals being awoken in the night with a knowing that something unusual is going on in the Spirit and a desire to pray into it.

When something is happening to great numbers of people, we should take notice. I believe the Father is calling forth watchmen to their posts in this hour, and He is calling them in record numbers.

The journey of the watchman is unique. It does not always seem the most glamorous calling, for it is in secret that they watch. Yet, those who find themselves on this journey will walk in some of the most profound revelatory insights.

I like to call it, "owning the night." You see, the truth is that we own the night. The devil does not own any good thing. He may possess it for a time, but the original and true owner is God. There is something wonderfully mysterious

about the night. It can either be a time of deep darkness or a time of great visitation. The occult for so long has stolen the spiritual realities of the night seasons and walked in the power that comes with them. To be a watchman is to be one who ambushes the enemy and waits for the Lord.

In biblical times a watchman would be stationed on the walls to look out for any approaching threat. They had to be sharp in their discernment so as never to cry wolf. It was their job to warn the city of what was coming and to have the discernment to understand why. If it was truly an attack coming against the city, they were to notify the king. On the other hand, they had to have the ability to discern when allies were approaching so as to welcome them into the city.

We are getting ready for some unusually inconsistent times ahead. The volatility of everyday life will become more and more evident and for this reason many will be drawn to the safety of the watchman anointing. The Church will require watchmen to be stationed in their places in order to succeed in many of the circumstances they are going to face. These watchmen will give a foresight that will be invaluable to those with ears to hear. This is not for the purpose of releasing paranoia, for the watchmen will be seasoned with wisdom as to how to present what they see from a mature perspective. Though at times there may be urgency in their voice, overall, the wisdom of hope will resound in their message.

The Sweet and the Sour

Those who are called as watchmen will find themselves being trained by the Lord. For some it will be the school of hard knocks for, at times, the messages they bring will not be received. Even so, the character of the watchmen will be polished through these situations.

John the beloved, while exiled to the Isle of Patmos, received the greatest reward a watchman could ever receive: *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place"* (Rev. 1:1a).

While John was receiving this amazing revelation, he had an experience that was specific to his call as a watchman.

Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and

> *said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings"* (Revelation 10:8-11).

In many situations, the watchman's call is *"…sweet as honey in your mouth…,"* but*"…it will make your stomach bitter."* To those watchmen who have experienced this bittersweet reality and have walked away with an upset stomach, it is time to get healed and be ready to take your post again. For you *"must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings"* !

This is the time to get back in the saddle and be ready for what the Lord might show you. The watchman call is so sweet in that the secret, far-off things are revealed to those who walk in it. Before everyone else gets to see them, you have the honor of peering into the awesome works the Lord has planned.

Watchmen are anointed to see visions beyond the veil to prepare the people of God for the magnificence of the glory that is going to be released upon humankind. However, being a watchman is at times bitter to the stomach because you are called to describe the plans of the enemy and summon the troops into action. Nobody wants to hear hard things. Rather than hear the truth, some would rather stick their heads in the sand, pretending that nothing is wrong and hoping for the "bad things" to go away.

I am not a glutton for punishment. I do not enjoy hearing difficult things; but, I thank God for the watchmen who are able to warn nations, both about the things that are slowly creeping up on us and the situations that are coming upon us quickly.

Watchmen will certainly face some who will not hear their message. Some watchmen will even endure persecution from their own because of the message they bring. Yet, those called as watchmen must endure patiently in love. The key is to endure the bitter without becoming bitter.

Often, I see people who are in the grooming stages of the watchman call become bitter because the Body is not following their direction at every moment.

In their bitterness, it becomes hard for them to let go and trust that the Lord will make things right.

Watchmen must be free of bitterness so they do not find themselves striking the rock in frustration when God instructed them to simply speak to the rock (see Num. 20:8-12).

Watch and Pray

> …*all the people shall keep the watch of the Lord* (2 Chronicles 23:6c).

When we watch, our prayers before the Lord should be patient and waiting. Our watch reflects our expectation that He is going to reveal His wisdom concerning the situation. Often, the watchman's prayer is one that stands guard against the enemy's ways and discloses to the people of God what the enemy has planned among us.

Some years ago, I was staying at a friend's house, keeping watch and waiting upon the Lord while all of his family was sleeping. It was the middle of the night and I was perfectly silent, waiting in stillness upon God. Suddenly, I heard the distinct sound of a creaky door opening slowly, as though an intruder were attempting to come in unnoticed. I sat in silence, asking the Lord in my spirit what it was that I was hearing.

He replied, "I will show you." Suddenly, I was thrust out of my body and standing before a female-looking spirit. She immediately came close to me and attempted to kiss me. As she did, her tongue came out; it was forked and looked like a snake.

It was apparent that I was dealing with something demonic. Then I asked her name. She told me a name, which I researched later. I found out that it meant, "one who hangs by a noose," and "deceiver."

In that moment, I commanded the spirit to say, "Jesus is Lord." It grumbled and gutturally voiced something, but it could not and would not say what I commanded it to say. I repeated the command several times. Again and again, it raucously spoke strange, unidentifiable words. I knew this was a demon for sure. Immediately, I commanded it to leave, in Jesus' name. Screaming in a hellacious manner, it darted as far away from me as it could go.

Suddenly, I came back to myself and instantly understood that something evil was trying to make its way into the family with whom I was staying. I understood that one of the young men of the house had opened the door to something Jezebel in nature. I warned the father of the house about the lusty, demonic spirit and he dealt with it. He had a lot of wisdom and knew exactly what he needed to do. God had intervened in that family and cut off the plans of the enemy to put them in bondage.

Watching and praying are very powerful weapons against the scheming plots of the enemy. As a family and even as a nation, we must be on watch to thwart those plans so that we can maintain a constant forward motion.

Watching doesn't only reveal the plans of the enemy. As I mentioned earlier, it often gives us clues as to what God is about to do in our day. Watchmen pray into the plans of God and at times watch them take place in their own lifetimes. Simeon and Anna were two watchmen who waited patiently for the One who would deliver Israel.

> *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did*

> *not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him* (Luke 2:25-40).

These two had been watching and praying for years for the salvation of Israel to come. You might say they were at the right place at the right time. This is true of many today. There is a company of people God is grooming now. They are modern-day Simeons and Annas who are waiting on the Lord and watching for His movement in their midst.

I want to say something to those who have been keeping watch: "You have not waited in vain. God is about to show Himself to you. Stay in that place of waiting on the Lord. Keep watching for Him and you will find Him. Watchmen like Simeon and Anna have something in their spirits; they know what the Lord is about to do. Keep watching in faith and you will not go unrewarded."

Watch and Wait

> *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected* (Habakkuk 2:1).

A watchman's life is a call to prayer. It is also an assignment to wait upon God in order to know the ways in which He is moving. As a watchman, one goes beyond prayer and supplication and into the realm of waiting upon God in order to see what He would say.

Watchmen watch; what they are waiting upon is the move of God. In this place of waiting, the Lord may choose to demonstrate an aspect of Himself or to reveal a plan of the enemy.

God loves to show His people the plans He carries in His heart. He longs to show us so that the coming seasons do not catch us off guard.

My Story

Some years ago, I learned about the power of the night watch, but I wanted something different. I did not want to fill a time slot. I wanted worship and intercession that would bring me into a visitation. I loved to pray in tongues and worship God, but I did not know what to do in order to have encounters with Him. I wanted desperately to seek His face and feel His presence, but more than anything else I longed for a visitation.

I began waiting on Him and watching to see if He would say anything. I needed to hear Him, see Him, and experience Him. A simple touch from the Lord was not what I wanted. I wanted something more. I wanted my prayer life to shift to where I not only heard from the Lord, but I also had encounters with Him. I wanted to know prophetically what He was doing in the earth. Not only did I want encounters with Him; I was also seeking angelic encounters, open visions, and visitations.

There are four different watches throughout the night. There is the evening watch from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. There is the midnight watch from 9:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. Then comes the third watch, from 12:00 A.M. until 3:00 A.M. This is what is spoken of as the cock-crowing watch. And the time that the breaking of the day begins is the morning watch, from 3:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.

> *Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—* (Mark 13:35).

I am finding that God is drawing His people to prayer within these times for different reasons. Some of you have felt a stirring to pray at midnight. The voice of the Lord is speaking to you. He is calling you because He wants to visit with you.

I was about seven months into waiting and keeping the watch when I felt like giving up. I was so tired of praying and praying and praying but never experiencing anything while I was praying. I was so overly tired of being up all night with nothing ever happening. I would intercede, worship, pray in the Spirit, and finish it all up with waiting on the Lord. Yet, nothing happened.

Desperate for a visitation, I fell to my knees with tears streaming down my face. I needed to hear from the Lord. I began to tell Him how unfair it was that I

was not experiencing anything in my prayer times. I felt like I was sowing, but never reaping. Very soberly, I told Him I wanted to quit. I was going to stop praying and keeping the night watch.

Suddenly I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speak to me. It was so clear. “Get up in the night and wait on Me,” He said. “I will take you into the spirit realm tonight.”

I replied, “You have got a deal.”

The alarm went off waking me up sometime around 2:00 A.M. I woke up, splashed cold water on my face, and began seeking the face of God. An hour or so later, I spoke to the Lord, “All right God, here I am. You told me that You were going to take me in the Spirit tonight and now I am going to wait on You. We have a deal, Lord. Speak Lord, Your servant is listening.”

For about 45 minutes, I waited and wondered whether the voice I thought I’d heard earlier was nothing more than the voice of my own desires. Was that the case? Or was it truly the Holy Spirit? After the 45 minutes went by with no “results,” I told the Lord, “God, I am done now. I waited and nothing happened so I am going to lay my head back down and go to sleep.”

Just as I was about to fall asleep, I felt a power come over me. It came on suddenly and was like a blanket of electricity. I knew the Holy Spirit was the Comforter, but I was amazed to find that He felt just like a comforter blanket. While this power rested upon me, it began shifting my spirit out of my body. It was really happening. I felt like I was sitting in a luxury automobile seat, one in which you effortlessly push buttons and the seat moves to the perfect position.

It felt as though my spirit was being postured for a visitation. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw an angelic minister come right next to me. I was so freaked out that I thought, “Surely this is not an angel, but a deceiving spirit.” I could hear a harp being played in the background. Then the angel began to talk.

The angel said, “Hi!”

His voice sounded like the highest, yet sweetest voice I had ever heard. It was like the sound of many waters. I was still afraid, and for some reason it grieved the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, I felt myself being pulled back into my body. Instantly, I understood that I had grieved the Holy Spirit. I had violated one of the most basic understandings of the goodness of God.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock,

> *and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!* (Matthew 7:7-11)

I had been asking the Lord for visitations from the heavens in the night watch, but a latent fear was getting in the way. While I asked for heavenly visitations, I became fearful of having another, ungodly kind of visitation. I heard someone say, "Do not ask for angelic visitations to happen, because you will open up yourself for false angelic visitations." This is a lie not founded in the trustworthy goodness of our Papa God. We have a loving Father; when we ask Him for a fish, He will not give us a serpent. This kind of thinking has robbed so many in the Church. It is time to break out and be unashamed and without fear concerning our Papa's realms.

When I found myself back in my body, I popped out of bed as fast as I could. I switched on the lights and began to pray again, "Jesus, You scared me! We need to make another deal. I cannot have that happen to me again. That scared me."

Guess what? The Lord ignored my prayer. Three days later He began three months of solid visitation with me in the night watches. I am so glad He did not listen to my prayer at that moment. I was reacting in fear and He decided to teach me through that to trust in His goodness. Since then, the visitations have continued and I find them to be increasing.

The Windows of Heaven

One night, Jacob wrestled with God for a blessing in the late hours of the night watch. He did not at first realize that he was face to face with the Lord, so Jacob wrestled until the breaking of day. *"Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day"* (Gen. 32:24).

Jacob began to prevail in this wrestling match, but the Lord *"touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him"* (Gen. 32:25b). The Lord said something very interesting to Jacob in

this wrestling match. *"He said, 'Let Me go, for the day breaks.' But* [Jacob] *said, 'I will not let You go unless You bless me!'"* (Gen. 32:26).

If I could take a little liberty, it was as if the Lord said, "Let Me go, for the windows of Heaven are open and the space of time I have allotted for this visitation is coming to a close."

It appears that there is something special about the night seasons. It seems to be a particular time allotted for visitations, dreams, and visions in which a special portion of grace is available so we can tap into them. I have noticed that supernatural activity increases dramatically in the night seasons. Some nights it is hard to sleep during certain hours because of the amount of spiritual movement.

Take advantage of the night seasons. We own the night and it is time for the people of God to wake up and visit with the Lord. You may say, "But, I do not know what to do when I wake up." Pray in the Spirit and watch your dream life go to the next level. Worship and intercede and you will start to see things in the supernatural as the Lord begins to share with you the secrets of His heart, as he did with Jacob.

> *Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip* (Genesis 32:30-31).

Peniel means "face of God."[1] This is the place where Isaac's son was transformed from one named *Jacob*, which means "one who supplants; or trip up the heels as racers do,"[2] to one named *Israel*, which means "he will be prince with God."[3] After this encounter, Jacob walked differently. He limped because the Lord touched him.

The people of God are about to have a Peniel experience. This is where the noble character of royalty will come upon us and changes us into a new people. There are those who will seek the Lord and they will find Him in the night seasons. And when the morning dawns, they will find themselves with a new walk.

The Watchman Prophet

Some will be called to the place of the watchman prophet. The watchman call is a prophetic call. Those called in this way will speak to churches, cities, regions, and nations to warn of unforeseen dangers in the way.

The prophet Ezekiel was called to be a watchman during some of Israel's darkest days while they were in captivity in Babylon. The Lord visited Ezekiel and described the call of the watchman prophet to him.

> *Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul"* (Ezekiel 33:1-9).

God is grooming His watchmen for an hour that is coming in which the nations will need to hear God's message. The watchmen will take their posts and because of them many will escape and even position themselves to triumph in the midst of impending danger.

Even so, the full responsibility of the watchman's message does not rest upon himself or herself. The people of God must make the proper response to the watchman's message and have the wisdom to take action. We must, as the

Scriptures say…

> *…lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves* (James 1:21-22).

We do not want to find ourselves in the same error as the company of philosophers at Mars Hill. Paul preached an awesome message to them, but only some responded with proper action. The root of the error was a culture that, *"… spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing"* (Acts 17:21b). In these days, we cannot afford to be only entertained by the prophetic word. We must act upon the message that God is bringing.

> *As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, "Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord." So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. And when this comes to pass—surely it will come—then they will know that a prophet has been among them* (Ezekiel 33:30-33).

A watchman must be careful not to allow his message to be treated as, *"…a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument…."* As the people of God, we have to do the honor of receiving the gift of the watchman in our midst and also receiving the word they bring with the maturity of good stewards.

At the moment, some are being seasoned for this call, but have yet to enter into the fullness of the authority that is to come upon them. They are being taught the *ABCs* of this high calling. As they learn to master the *ABCs,* the Holy Spirit will give to them a greater platform in the prayer closet—and to some He will give cities, regions, and even nations!

Set up the standard on the walls of Babylon; make the guard strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes. For the Lord has both devised and done what He spoke… (Jeremiah 51:12a).

Endnotes

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "Penuw'el," (OT 6439).
2. Rev. Alfred Jones, *Cruden's Complete Concordance. A List of Proper Names and Their Meanings* (Grand Rapids, MI: M.A. Zondervan Publishing House), 795.
3. Ibid.

A Call to Action

- First off, study the night watches and realize your potential within them. Pray and watch with the Lord during each of the four watches of the night. Discover what each of them means to you. Learn about the power of God that can be released when you take advantage in those times.

- If the Lord wakes you, pray in the Spirit for a time. Watch for an hour with Him, and suddenly you will see an activation of the supernatural in your dreams and night visions.

- Finally, take the place of the watchman for your family. The watchman call is a call to supernatural leadership. Warn gently if necessary and pray that your loved ones would experience a release of God's presence that overcomes the power of the enemy.

Chapter 10

BORN AGAIN

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

At the end of the year 2003, some friends and I were discussing what we believed the Lord would be doing in the following year. A prophecy came through me at that time in which the Lord said that He would show us more butterflies in 2004 than we had ever seen. This would be a sign to us of the many salvations that would soon be coming forth. There would be a wave of the Kingdom of God bringing many to the born-again experience.

The following year, we began seeing white butterflies wherever we went. It was hard to go anywhere without seeing multitudes of them. We knew that this unusual thing God was doing was a sign and a wonder in the natural—a sign He'd already shared with us—of what He was going to bring about in the Spirit.

This, even as we speak, is the time of the release of the born-again people of God. Something unusual is happening in our generation. Authentic Christianity is once again being recognized as a voice in the nations. Media, politics, education, and all the rest will notice the shift taking place as the people of God become great in glory and number. We will see a harvest unlike any in all of

history. This will be the great harvest of souls as the Lord sends forth the call to those who are His.

Evangelists will come forth in great number. As the prophet Daniel prophesied, *"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever"* (Dan. 12:3). Many will be called forth as miracle-workers and the Lord will give them the tools necessary for the great white harvest.

Those who respond to this call will find healings and miracles following them wherever they go. Unusual miracles will break forth through their ministry on the highways and byways. God will begin to demonstrate through them unusual signs and wonders in order to captivate the hearts of those who have not yet believed.

I see a major power gift being released in these days. Evangelists will know how to move in the workings of powers found in First Corinthians 12:10 (NIV). We have seen healings in our gatherings, but the workings of this *dunamis*, or "miraculous power"[1] of God will come forth in much greater levels worldwide.

There will be an extraordinary measure of the workings of powers that will be poured out; it will seem like the world is the playground for those who walk in this power. Mountains that stand in the way of these fishers of men will melt like wax at the presence of God coming off of them. For a time, God will give to them an unprecedented measure of His power so that entire nations might come to the Lord in a short span of time.

The revelation of being born again or, more literally, *"born from above"* (as *Young's Literal Translation* interprets the term *born again* from John 3:3), will manifest in greater levels of understanding. Followers of Jesus will increasingly demonstrate a heavenly reality in and through their lives. As Paul the apostle stated, *"Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 3:20).

Knowing who you are and where you are from are two pieces of information that powerfully impact your identity. Many are still trying to make it to Heaven. They don't understand that they have been given citizenship to Heaven and are called to manifest Heaven on earth. We have been called by God to know Him. Because of this, we have been given the citizenship belonging to those born from heaven. Out of this identity flows the release of the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven through our lives.

Nicodemus

Not long ago, I had a visitation from the Lord in which I found myself flying straight up into the heavens. I could feel myself being pulled upward by an invisible force. Off in the distance I saw clouds that made up a type of throne room and in the center of these clouds was the Son of God. He was in a sitting position and all the clouds were pointing to Him as though illuminating a throne-room scene.

The psalmist describes God on the clouds saying, *"Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name Yah, and rejoice before Him"* (Ps. 68:4).

In this visitation, as I approached very close to Him, something suddenly shot out the presence of God. It looked to be a cloud and an angel at the same time. He was flying toward me at an incredible rate of speed and I had a feeling that he was going to get in the way of the visitation I was about to have with the Lord.

Sure enough, he tackled me and we collided in midair. I looked at his face; he was smiling from ear to ear. He had a spear in his hand about as tall as a man and he told me his name was Nicodemus. I knew this to be the same Nicodemus from the third chapter of the Book of John—the Jewish man who came to Jesus by night and received from Him the revelation of being born again.

Nicodemus held on to me and we traveled faster and faster toward the ground, when—sploosh!—we both fell into a large body of water. I came up to the surface and watched as Nicodemus shot out of the water and landed beyond its edge. Unexpectedly, a huge crocodile as big as a giant dinosaur stood up in the water. It was as though it had been sleeping at the bottom. The monster turned toward me in a kind of slow motion. It seemed like it was trying to capture me when suddenly, Nicodemus jumped off the water's edge and landed upon the beast, smashing it. He took out the creature and I was safe from danger.

In that moment the Lord was releasing the very revelation that He gave to Nicodemus long ago. The Lord is going to visit His people in the clouds—the cloud of witnesses found in Hebrews:

> *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is*

> *set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

That crocodile represents the load of "croc" that has been unleashed against the Church, lying to many and trying to take them out from the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It is the revelation given to Nicodemus, the truth of being born again, that will take out the "croc" for good.

Do you remember what it was like to become born again? I can remember it as though it were this morning. My shame was gone and it felt like someone had turned the lights on. No longer did I look at people in the natural; instead my spirit became alive and I could discern the spirit in others. I saw people in a different light. I now had heavenly perspective and saw them through the eyes of the Lord. Therefore, I was no longer suspicious of them.

> *From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new* (2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

We have been born from above by a new birth and all things have become new. The words *new creation* are taken from the Greek words *kainos*, meaning "new"[2] and *ktisis*, meaning "creation."[3]

Traditionally, this verse is understood as speaking of the individual as a new creation. But, the original picture given is more vivid. It provides the broader understanding of a new creation living in a new-creation reality. This is the reality we become aware of when we are born again. This broader picture includes the two elements of identity mentioned earlier: who we are *and* where (which reality) we're from.

We have become a new reality with a new perspective. The veil has been torn and God is calling us to live on the other side of this reality, seeing from His perspective.

The Cloud

> *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses…* (Hebrews 12:1a).

We are not alone. We are surrounded by saints who have gone before us. I have been in gatherings with believers where a misty presence fills the room. Many believe this to be the glory cloud, but it has a substance to it that is different from the glory cloud. Although the saints who have gone home to Heaven are surrounded in glory, they also make up the cloud of witnesses. As we believers who are still on the earth live more and more from the heavenly perspective, we will notice their presence among us.

When I was in Africa, I was awakened in the night by the presence of a strong angel. This angel was emanating the glory of God, which was so heavy that I feared being crushed by it. I could not move, but remained frozen in place under the glorious presence pouring over me.

The angel then took me in the Spirit to the prayer meeting that was taking place for the crusades we were going to hold that night. I was aware that intercession was in progress, but the ones interceding were the cloud of witnesses. There were martyrs who had already given their lives for the sake of the Gospel in Africa. They were still giving of themselves as the cloud of witnesses!

The Greek word for "witnesses" in Hebrews 12:1 is *martus*.[4] This is the same word used in Acts 22:20 and Revelation 2:13 translated as martyr in the NKJV. The cloud of witnesses I saw in Africa were the martyrs who had given their lives for the cause of Jesus in that land. Still in the Spirit, and transported by the angel, I stood among them.

Both the very young and the very old were in attendance. Then I was ushered in to the presence of a little girl. She looked to be about the age of four or five. She showed me the terrible fire by which she had been martyred for her faith in Jesus.

Now, this little girl was part of the great company of saints who had gone on in glory, a company called upon to cheer on the saints still in the earth who live by faith, in the manner described by the apostle Paul:

> *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me* (Galatians 2:20).

The cloud of witnesses consists of those commissioned by the Lord to cheer us on and celebrate with us in the victory in Jesus. They help us to stay focused on Jesus and on the race that is set before us. Meanwhile, we are called to present our bodies as a, *"living sacrifice"* (Rom. 12:1). Some of us will give the greatest honor to God by *"…not* [loving our] *lives to the death"* (Rev. 12:11).

Power over the spirit of death is given to those who no longer fear death. This company of living martyrs will be bold because their eyes are fixed on a different reality. They will no longer see according to the physical realm alone. Being born from above, their perspective won't be formed by earthly eyes. They will see from heaven's perspective and display a hope that is beyond anything found in this world. This will allow the manifestation of the heavenly realms to flow through them, bringing demonstration of the supernatural into the natural realms.

Earth Aligning With Heaven

> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now* (Romans 8:19-22).

Creation itself yearns for the children of God to be manifested in full glory. Creation longs for the sons and daughters of God to come to the forefront and take their appointed places within the created order.

There will come a time when the creation partners with humankind in a great move of the Holy Spirit. The Bible talks about such a time in Revelation 12 when the dragon (satan) is cast to the earth and begins to persecute the woman (the Israelites) who gave birth to the male child (Jesus Christ).

> *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth* (Revelation 12:16).

Creation itself will collaborate together with the sons of God in an end-time move of God governed by the Father of creation. We have seen this kind of cooperation from nature in the Bible. When Moses took the Israelites across the Red Sea, they were terrified for their lives. They were up against the water, completely cornered by the Egyptians. But Moses assured the people of God's intent on their behalf:

> *Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace"* (Exodus 14:13-14).

The Angel of God used a cloud to separate the two camps. Because of the cloud, the armies of Pharaoh experienced darkness while the children of God experienced light.

> *Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided* (Exodus 14:21).

The Israelites then crossed over on dry ground. This was not a small group of people. It took some time for them to travel between two gigantic walls of water. The entire entourage of the armies of the Egyptians pursued them. The Lord, however, caused their equipment to falter. The Egyptians found themselves stuck in the middle of the parted waters fighting a battle, not only against the Israelites, but against the Lord Himself.

> *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea*

> *returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained* (Exodus 14:26-28).

Creation itself partnered with God's people that day in obeying the Lord. This will happen again, as John described in Revelation 12:16b:

> *and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.*

There is a time pre-determined by the Lord when all of creation will be loosed from bondage and enter into the glorious liberty enjoyed by God's children.

New Heavens, New Earth

> *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea* (Revelation 21:1).

We are seeing an enormous global cultural shift in our day. We humans are becoming more aware of what we use, what we waste, and how it will affect generations to come. The people of God should be at the forefront when it comes to leaving our children a cleaner, better planet. Creation itself is looking for a born-again type experience, if you will—and those who have been born from above are to bring Heaven to earth.

When God made man, He planted him in a Garden. Adam was to tend and keep The Garden, but the earth itself did the producing. When humankind fell by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the earth came under bondage. Yet, there is a time coming when the earth itself will break free from the curse "*because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God"* (Rom. 8:21).

There is much talk in our time of "going green" and becoming

“ecoconscious.” Born-again believers hold the keys to being at the very cutting edge of what it truly means to “save our planet.” Imagine with me for a moment what it was like as Adam walked through The Garden. He carried the glory of God wherever he went. It was on him like clothing. When he walked through a certain part of The Garden, everything in that area lit up.

Creation recognized the glory of God on Adam. For this reason, he was able to name the animals. For example, as Adam approached the baboon, the creature’s true nature shone forth. This was possible because the glory of God was present. Adam then named the creature after its true character.

As believers filled with the Spirit of God and mantled with His glory, we have been called to light up this planet with the very atmosphere of Heaven. Creation is longing for those days, days in which the earth itself will again behave as God originally intended.

These are the days of healing and God is going to heal the land. I foresee a time when believers’ lands will be healed and crops will grow exponentially above what is considered normal. Many will see and be unable to dispute that what they are seeing is entirely supernatural.

Flowers, trees, and all sorts of vegetation will be abundant and beautiful. As the earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (see Hab. 2:14) through born-again believers everywhere, the very appearance of the creation will start to change.

Beauty for Ashes

> *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion,* ***to give them beauty for ashes****, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified* (Isaiah 61:1-3, emphasis added).

Several years ago, I woke up in the middle of the night. I was at home and my brother was sleeping over. He was downstairs and was awakened at the exact time I was. He found me upstairs sitting on a couch and told me about a dream he'd just had. The dream was about me. In it, the Lord told him that I was to pray in tongues for one hour straight, and afterward the Lord would visit me.

After an hour of praying in tongues, I waited in silence. One minute, I was laying my head down on the couch and the next minute I found myself standing on the Island of Alcatraz. Also known as "The Rock," Alcatraz was notorious for having been an island prison that housed some of the worst offenders.

Walking around the island, I noticed its barrenness. Then an angel came to me and told me to find the biggest boulders and cast them into the waters. We find a similar picture of this in Revelation 18:21,

> *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.*

He said that in doing this I would need everyone in the surrounding region to believe with me for the strongholds in the area to be broken as I cast the boulders into the water. It was a strange statement because he spoke it as though it was not expected to happen in that moment, but something needed for the fulfillment of what I was seeing before me to fully manifest in the natural realm.

After I followed the angel's instructions to cast down the boulders, something unusual began to happen. Little angelic lights began to move all over the prison island. They would plop into the ground and flowers would come up in their place. This was happening all over the island: gorgeous flowers began changing that dismal prison into a place of great beauty. It was an amazing sight to see.

Later on that day, I told my brother about the encounter. Intrigued, he began doing some research. He learned that the island had become a home to wildlife and, more interestingly, to rare flowers.

I believe the Lord was showing me a picture of what He is doing in the earth today. You see, the Lord is doing more than setting prisoners free; He is giving us beauty for ashes. It is as though He were transforming the situations of those who are bound between a rock and hard place and causing the situation to become a place of beauty.

Just as I was directed to cast down boulders, the Lord is calling for a casting down of the dismal rocks, for He desires beauty in their place. How interesting it is that such a horrible prison to the most devious criminals has been transformed into a home for some of the most beautiful and rare flowers.

I believe the Lord is doing the same thing all over the world today. I have heard well-meaning people talk about the strongholds in their regions as though the situations there were impossible ones. But, He is looking for a company of people that will believe together for the breaking of the strongholds in their surrounding regions. He is looking for a people to believe for what may seem impossible. God is going to take impossible situations and do miracles in our day. He is going to heal our land.

It is time to get born-again, *again*. It is time for a fresh, new, heavenly perspective of what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. God is coming to take over and He wants to take over through you!

Get ready! This is the time of your release. This is the time for those who have been born from above to bring Heaven to earth. I have been to some of the darkest places on the planet, places where everything seems to be dull and gray. These are the places where we will see some of the greatest lights shining forth. In these places, we will even see the earth produce some of the greatest harvests, spiritually and physically.

This is the time of release. We are about to see the healing of our land!

> *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Endnotes

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.* CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. s.v. "dunamis," (NT 1411).
2. Ibid, s.v. "kainos," (NT 2537).
3. Ibid, s.v. "ktisis," (NT 2937).
4. Ibid, s.v. "martus," (NT 3144).

A Call to Action

- If you are born again, realize that you are no longer a soul trying to make it to Heaven. Instead, you are a living spirit being born in heavenly places. Walk in faith and ask the Lord to change your perspective, knowing that you are seated in heavenly places in Christ, Jesus. (See Colossians 3:1; Ephesians 1:20.)

- As a prophetic act, physically demonstrate the act of putting on Christ and wearing Him like a garment. Put off that old man and put on the new one, living from the new perspective that the Father has invited you to enjoy. Become clothed in new creation realities and let them dictate the way you see yourself. (See Galatians 3:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

- Realize that you are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. You have an audience celebrating your victories and cheering you on toward the finish line of the calling authored by the Lord for you. (See Hebrews 12:1-2.)

- Finally, find opportunities to minister the love and power of Jesus. Go out into highways and byways, filling the streets with deliverance and praise to the King.

AUTHOR MINISTRY PAGE

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