

Kind and Gentle Jesus (song)

May 13, 2012



You Who knew me well
Long before I was born,
You Who formed me
In my mother's womb,
May Your kingdom come,
May Your will be done,
May we see You coming soon.

Refrain

Kind and gentle Jesus, carry me today.
Hold my weary soul within Your arms.
Draw me ever nearer, nearer to Your Heart.
Sweet and watchful Shepherd
Hear my prayer.
Sweet and watchful Shepherd
Hear my prayer.

Gracious Husband, true.
Take me unto You
As we celebrate our wedding day.
Oh, this love we share
And the fruit that we bear
I have kept in store for You.

Be Still and Know That I Am God (song)

August 6, 2012



Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I care.
No weapon formed against you
Will ever prevail.
For I have written your precious name
Upon the palm of My hand.
And all who defame you,
Will fall away (will meet their end)
Not to be found anymore, anymore,
No, never to be found anymore.

Overcoming Fear

August 11, 2012



Hi. I'm going to talk to you about fear, especially for my dear friend, Trish, who is having some problems regaining her peace after a robbery that took place at her house.

The Lord promises us His peace. It's written in John: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

As I had mentioned before, Trish, on the phone. The devil doesn't have permission to do things to you, most of the time. But he does have permission to be able to affect your mind and your thinking and to steal your peace. I think the Lord probably allows this because He is training us in faith and trust in Him

It's written in the book of Job that Satan had to go to God for permission to sift His servant, Job. So, before Satan could do anything to Job, He had to get permission from God. He's on a chain, he can only go so far. But then, there's the whole area of our life, our mental life, that can be affected by impressions.

As I had said earlier, there's a mist or fog. I grew up in the Midwest, and in the morning the roads would be misty on some occasions, and you couldn't see ahead. Well, in our minds, the devil likes to project misty images of threatening things. Thoughts that are threatening. "You're going to have an accident. One of your children is going to die. You're going to lose your business." These are like lions that are lunging out at you, except mentally. They're like mental lions. When you take the word of God and you stand on Scripture, the Lord IS our Light, He is our Salvation. And when you stand on a Word, you can speak to that fog, to that mist, to that threat and completely dispel it, just as the sun burns the fog off of the road in the morning.

So, let's take a look at a couple of Scriptures to stand on. And when I say stand, what I mean is, when a thought that is threatening or disturbing comes to you, know that this thought is NOT from God – it's from the enemy. He has his little demons that have their way of speaking into our minds. They live in the spirit world, and they have ways of flashing images as well. All of these things can be put on the run and completely dissolved in the light of God's Word.

Here are some Scriptures to remember:

The Lord is my light, the one who saved me. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom should I be afraid? Even if an army gathers against me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if war rises against me, I will be sure of you of Lord. Psalm 27:1-3

Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give to you not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John: 14:27-28

This is not the kind of peace you feel when you have get the laundry done, the dishes done, all the meals cooked and now you can relax and have a good time. No, this is the peace that comes from the spiritual world and it's from the Lord. The Lord lives inside of us. You have invited Jesus into your life.

Scripture says it very simply that: Whoever loves Me will keep My word, and My Father will love him. We will come to him, and make our dwelling with him. John 14:23

When you open your life and your heart to the Lord and tell Him you love Him and want Him in your life, and you want Him to have control in your life, He comes and enters into your heart and He abides inside of us. He lives inside of us. Even He and the Holy Spirit will bring to mind the Scriptures you need in different situations.

The Lord watches over those who are right with Him, and He hears their prayers. But He is against those who sin. Who will hurt you if you do what is right? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you will be happy. Do not be afraid or troubled by what they may do to make it hard for you. I Peter 3: 12-13

The Lord will not allow you to be tested beyond your means. That's in the Scriptures. If you are on a safari, and a lion jumps out of the bushes, well, you've got a gun, you're going to shoot the lion. That's not being tested beyond your means. But He's not going to let a lion jump out of the bushes in front of your house! Images like that, any kind of scary images – being watched, or being troubled – those images are from the evil ones to steal your peace.

You can be sure that any time that you lose your peace or your joy, the enemy is behind it. You needn't be afraid of the enemy because Christ dwells inside of you. He will give you the wisdom to discern and to see that a mental attack is coming against you. This is only, again, a mirage, or a fog or mist to steal your joy, to steal your peace.

We have no reason to be afraid of demons. Here in the South West were we live now, every once in a while a coyote will come into the yard. Or, anywhere in the country, we have dogs that wander around. If you've got your back door open and a dog wanders into your kitchen, what are you going to do? Are you going to welcome him, are you going to run from him like you are afraid? More likely than not, you'll turn around and you'll say, "Get out of here!!" You might be a dog lover and treat the situation a whole different way – but let's just say the dog came in and lifted his leg on the cabinet. You're going to grab a broom and say, "Get out!"

Okay, well when we're talking about a Christian against demons, we're talking about something on that level- we're talking about mischievous, impish creatures that have very little intelligence or they wouldn't be working with Satan in the first place. And within you dwells the Lord. They're afraid of Him – they're afraid of the Name of Jesus! "In the Name of Jesus, you unclean spirit, LEAVE!"

Men are very often tormented with sexual thoughts. They aren't coming from inside of them – they may have seen something in the past that could evoke that. But they don't always come from inside a person; they are flashed at them. And you can take authority over things like that by simply saying, 'In the Name of Jesus, the Almighty God of Heaven and Earth, you unclean spirit. I bind you and command you to leave and never return.' Take authority. Just like the dog who walks in to your kitchen and messes on your cabinets. You have all the right in the world, all the authority in the world, you have all the power in the world. In the Name of Jesus.

You needn't be afraid of these things.

Some of what I've been saying – if your peace leaves you and you have fearful thoughts, run to the Scriptures. Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a Scripture. We like these little Bible Promise books, they're pretty useful. They have topics on Fear and different things. Joy. Lust. Money and the World. God's Love. Humility. Things like that. So when you are troubled by Pride or a Lustful thought, troubled by a Fearful thought, you can turn to that chapter and there are beautiful Scriptures to choose from.

And the way the Lord works, the Holy Spirit works is, He will quicken to you a word. There might be 8 Scriptures on that page, and one will feel like a butterfly in your heart – it will just be quickened, and you'll feel it inside. And you'll say, "That's the one. That's the one I need to memorize, that's the one I need to stand on. That's the one that will get the job done."

And you take that Scripture into your mind, into your eye gate, your ear gate, your heart. You speak it out. And the demons tremble! They are afraid of the Word of God, and they're afraid of the Name of Jesus. And you have that authority, because He's living in you. So, try no to be troubled. Rely on the Lord, His goodness, His mercy, and especially the power of His Name.

Dwelling Prayer, videos 1-5

August 12, 2012



Dwelling Prayer 1 of 5
August 11, 2012

It's my very great pleasure and joy to share with you some very beautiful and revealing experiences that the Lord came to me with, revealing His nature; revealing His playful nature, His romantic nature. When people fall in love, when men and women fall in love, they want to be together. They want to spend time together - maybe going for walks in the forest, or going to the city. To an art gallery or go to a concert or just sit together and watch a beautiful sunset. Or just sit together and enjoy the sun in the park. This is the nature of love: that we want to share ourselves, our substance with one another.

And the Lord is no different. He's fully God, but He was also fully man. He created love and He created emotions. He created our capacity to love one another and our capacity to love Him - which has to be activated.

No one can come to Me unless the Father draws Him. John 6:44

That's what Scripture says. That's an activation. And Holy Spirit is involved in that process as well. When the Lord finally does reveal Himself to us, we can spend time with Him, finding out more about Him. We can run from Him because we feel guilty or we are too busy. There are so many different things that can happen, but His heart is to spend quality time with His beloved Bride.

Now, the scriptural basis for this can be found in Song of Solomon (or Song of Songs in some Bibles), all you really have to do is read the first line and you can see where this is going.

More delightful... (This is the Bride speaking to the Groom, the Beloved) Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. More delightful is your love than wine. Your name spoken is a spreading perfume. Draw me, we will follow you eagerly. Bring me, oh king, into your chambers. Song of Solomon 1:2

Now, this was written by Solomon for his beloved. But classically it's been understood by all the ages of Christian scholars and Jewish scholars that this is also a love letter to the Bride, to the Church, to His wife. And there is another place in the Scriptures (which I don't have readily marked here) where the Lord says that:

He who has created you will become your husband. Isaiah 54:5

So, going back to - or going forward actually - to John, I want to give you a little more Scriptural basis here for this.

Whoever has my commands, commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him. John 14:21

So, when we became Christians, we had a desire to please God. And when we have this desire, the Lord gives us the grace to help fulfill the desire. But it's also a sign to us through His Word that He is dwelling with us. Let me see, there was one other Scripture here:

Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. John 14:23

We have a website called Heartdwellers.org and it's all about this interior life of Dwelling Prayer and this intimacy with the Lord. So, what is my great joy and pleasure to begin to share with you is something the Lord did with me back in January - on the 2nd of January 2007. A very mature and seasoned, retired pastor had invited us for what's called, "soaking prayer". Which has... by some people become infamous, because it's been abused. Just like with some people, speaking in tongues has been abused. Legalism has been abused. Pharisee-ism has been abused. So, we don't judge a movement or something that could possibly be the work of the Holy Spirit by the abusers. You know, men abuse, women abuse. We don't judge men and women by that. We look at what it is, for what it is. And if someone has taken it and abused it or misused it, then, that's a perversion.

So, what we are talking about here is what the Lord is talking about in the Scriptures when He says, We will make our dwelling with him. Or her.

What does that mean? What is a dwelling? It's a house. It's a place where you live. God lives inside of us. Inside of us! He's not out there, He's in here. It's another dimension. I'll let you in on a little secret: wherever God is, Heaven is. And if you enter your heart, you enter into the Lord's heart, because your heart is His throne room - He sits in your heart like a King on His throne. If you go into your throne room in a quiet state of prayer and adoration, eventually God will reveal His manifest presence to you. You

The experiences that He gave me to share with you are a little bit different. These have to do with His nature as the Bridegroom. As the lover. Now this isn't carnal, so don't get any idea about that. It has nothing to do with sex. It has to do with profound love and profound and deep affection. But these sexual feelings that we experience on Earth, they aren't present in Heaven. It's not possible. Why? I don't know exactly, but I know one thing the Lord has told me. (Because I expressed a fear about that, you know..."Lord, I feel... I'm so in love with You, this is so wonderful, you know - I'm afraid I might have a thought!") And His answer to me was, **"It's not going to happen. It doesn't happen Here."**

Wow! That's beautiful. That's wonderful to hear, because I'd hate to be in that situation where I had a thought that was impropriety.

So, the first thing that happened while we were having this soaking prayer meeting: He spoke to me in an allegory, in the sense that I began to see a scene, actually like a movie! Sometimes you'll hear people, New Agers and they will talk about, "Well, I experienced that lifetime, I saw all that happen." And what I usually say to them is, "Have you ever been to the movies? Guess what? Satan has his movies, too. And he can play those movies right in front of you."

So, how do you know you aren't deceived when you have a vision like that? "Well first of all, you're in a state of worship; you're going to the Lord and you're in a place of adoration." (Some would answer.)

Well, sorry to tell you, but you can be deceived! Discernment is not anything easy. But if He's drawing you into a spousal intimacy as in Song of Solomon, is He going to deliberately mislead you, allow a seducing spirit? Is He going to do that? I don't think so, that's not His nature. He's drawing His Bride into intimacy.

Now, there *can* come a time later on, when you're more mature in this kind of relationship with the Lord. If you get it in your head that you're something "special" and that pride starts to make your head get real big... yep, He might just allow deception to humble you and bring you back down to Earth!

You see, what we are doing here is, we're entering into His Rest. We are ceasing at our own efforts at prayer, our own efforts at communication and entering into HIS Rest. And I want to go back for just a second and just kind of describe to you what a Dwelling Prayer meeting is like.

Basically, we have a meal together, which is different. Most people say you are more spiritually alert when you've been fasting. And for some people that may be true and correct, but for some reason we were introduced to it at a small, light, meal beforehand - so no blood sugar issues. And afterwards, sitting in a nice, comfortable living room someplace where you're at home, you know, with your coffee cup and maybe a couple cookies. Maybe stretching out on the floor comfortably with a pillow under your head or maybe slouched down in the couch. Comfortable. At ease. Entering into Rest. And whoever is leading the prayer will just simply turn the music on real low and we'll just quietly worship the Lord in our hearts and dispose ourselves to receive from Him. And again, what Father "would give you a snake when you ask for a fish," I think is how it goes.

So, the Lord is very tender, very gentle and this is a spirituality. He's told me this is a new movement in Christian community to draw His Bride into His arms, to purify her wedding dress and prepare her to be taken to Heaven with Him.

As such, these experiences that I've had in Heaven - and I'm not alone, my husband also - we both experienced this. What happened was, we went to this meeting, the soaking prayer meeting, which goes on for maybe 45 minutes to an hour of just resting, resting in a spiritual state, in a state of quiet adoration of Jesus.

But in Dwelling Prayer, we encourage you to enter into your heart, because you know that Jesus lives there. What is the work of a Christian? It's to believe. It's to have faith. If you have faith you can enter into His Rest. What did He say in Hebrews?

He said:

Oh, that you would hear his voice, harden not your hearts where you saw my works for 40 years and because of this I was provoked with that generation because they were rebellious and I said they've always been of erring heart they do not know my ways and I swore in my wrath they shall not enter into my rest. Take care brothers that none of you have an evil and unfaithful heart as to forsake the Lord. Hardened by the deceit of sin. Hebrews 3:7-8

So, one of the sins that we can all commit, is unbelief. The Lord has done so many things for me in my life, to be unbelieving is a travesty. It's a sin! You can't enter into His Rest if you don't believe! And what is the job of a Christian? To believe! That's what the Scriptures say. Believe in God's only Son, Jesus Christ. To believe His Word. To believe that He is with you, that He dwells inside of you and that He desires for you to dwell with Him!

So! Going back to what actually took place...I guess you could say I kind of have a fancy for the medieval times or whatever. All I know is that I was on a horse, I was galloping through a long forest and I came across a wooden bridge; a moat with a castle and a wooden bridge that came across it. I dismounted from my horse and I was drawn to this door inside the castle. There were no people there, no one! I thought, 'This is odd, this is really strange. Is this you Lord?'

But I felt drawn, so I followed it. And I entered into a room that was a chapel! It was actually the church of the castle or the chapel of the castle. And there was no one there. Except all of a sudden I saw my guardian angel standing on my left. And I was wearing a wedding gown! A beautiful wedding gown, with pearls; and I saw myself from the back like I was up in the balcony or the choir loft. The back of my dress was interwoven, silver, dove feathers, white dove feathers interwoven all the way down to the waist line and then you know, full on the bottom...beautiful train.

And then I saw angels and they were weaving pearls in my hair! They were preparing me to meet the Groom. I looked at my angel and he looked at me and Oh! My heart just melted! I thought, 'You're gonna take me to the Lord! And we're not going to be working together anymore, and I've never really thanked you for all that you've done for me! I don't even know you! And you've been the most intimate companion I've had.' And it was like he kinda said to me, "Don't worry about that right now."

Then the next scene that happened was very beautiful. All of a sudden the Lord was at the front of the chapel.

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August 18, 2012

So here I am, in this magnificent medieval chapel with a beautiful rosette window at the very top. And Jesus is on the right hand side. And I'm standing in the aisle with my guardian angel on my left. And I see

myself from the choir loft and I see this exquisite bridal dress, the back of which is interwoven dove feathers coming to a point in the back and the whole skirt and train spreading out behind me. A beautiful veil and there are angels weaving pearls into my hair under this veil. And as we started to move forward, well I caught sight of the Lord. He was magnificent in white, a beautiful white gown that was very luminescent. And our eyes met and I nearly died from love. When He looked at me, my whole being was penetrated with such intense affection and love and appreciation, unbelievable emotion that I've never experienced before, ever! My feelings for Him when I saw Him, when I saw the look of appreciation He had for me and loved me. He loved me! This magnificent man and He loved me profoundly. His heart was melting at the sight of me. It just completely undid me! I was just totally unraveled! I couldn't even, I couldn't think beyond the next moment.

My angel began to lead me towards my Lord. I realized that the angel was going to give me away to the Lord because the guardian angel had been with me all my life. He had prepared me for this very moment. This was his greatest honor! The pinnacle of his experience to bring me to my Beloved. I looked at him and I was so, so profoundly grateful and so very sorry that I didn't know him better, that I never made the effort to really appreciate him and thank him for... I mean he was with me my entire life, through everything I ever did, guiding me and protecting me and leading me and never ever did I, did I ever give him the kind of thanks that he deserved for what he did for me in my life! I was terribly... I was heartbroken over this! I looked at him and he looked at me, he looked down at me, he was very tall and he said, "Don't worry about it now." And I thought, 'Ok I'll try!' I turned my focus to the Lord who was yet ahead of me and my angel presented me to the Lord.

The Lord had tears running down His cheeks. I had tears running down my cheeks. He was so in love with me! I was so in love with Him! I've never experienced anything like that! It was truly divine. It was totally divine! After we exchanged vows with one another, we turned and faced the pews and the Lord took my hand and all of a sudden we rose up and up and up and up through that rosette window, which now I remember. There was a beam of light coming down from that window and we rose up into that beam of light and I found myself in Heaven!

And we are in Heaven and before me is this glorious fountain. First, there's a palace, there's this huge palace, it must have been maybe 60 or 70 feet high and the entrance was probably about 50-60 feet wide. But there was this beautiful, round fountain outside as you would pass through it to enter into the castle or the palace, actually. Something on the order of the palaces they have in India, the Taj Mahal, something like that. Polished marble floors, this beautiful white marble fountain reminded me very much of Buckingham fountain in Chicago where I grew up. And beautiful colored water flowing out from it all around, flowing out, beautiful! It takes your breath away! This was the introduction to our palace in heaven; the Lord had prepared a place for me!

All I can say is that while I was experiencing this, I was marveling, I was totally marveling. But then after I came down from this experience, after the soaking prayer was over and I started to review it I was shell shocked for days. I could not, in my wildest imagination understand what I did to deserve this kind of a dwelling in Heaven! I mean, I was beside myself! I knew it was the Lord. I had a conviction. This is God! This truly happened to me. This really is the Lord. I had the conviction and I knew what it was but I was beside myself in wonderment that for the little that I've done in my life for Him. Not only did He give His life and die on the Cross for me, and wash away my sins, but then He goes to Heaven and makes a palace for me? For what?

And this is where I'm saying that this experience in Heaven is a little different than the experiences that I've heard - you know from other people in Heaven. Only because the Lord was trying to reveal to me His love. Not what I did, not my accomplishments, HIS LOVE. You would not believe this place! Everything in that palace really, really made me joyful and happy!

First of all, there were seven waterfalls! I love the number seven to begin with, but there were seven waterfalls! The waterfalls were 30 feet high. There were three going along one side, three going along on the other side and at the end was one very long, 40 or 50 foot waterfall. In between the waterfalls were these beautiful spruce trees and ferns and lilies and oh, my gosh, all the things that I love! There were sparkles of light coming out of the waterfall. Indigo happens to be one of my favorite colors, Indigo and Purple and Pink and beautiful Indigo sparkles coming out of this waterfall down to the choices of the colors. It was so beautiful, so perfect. This is only the first waterfall, right? There's six more to go! To be honest with you, I haven't gotten to... I've gotten past five, I have no idea what six and seven are like... but every waterfall was unique and different. Unbelievable!

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Well, we were asked to share our experiences after the dwelling meeting was called to a halt. I didn't dare share the details because I felt that it was just way out of anybody's reality zone. I hadn't even grappled with it yet, let alone trying to share it with others. It was just so incredible to me.

One of the things that happened that I didn't share was that the Lord gave me a wedding present. Oh, the castle was not enough, the palace was not enough, of course not! Out from between the rocks of the first and second waterfall I saw something black and white moving. And I thought, 'What is that?!' Amidst the fern and the beautiful, beautiful blue spruce, out emerged this absolutely stunning, white tiger!

And he came up to me - at this point we were sitting on kind of a loveseat arrangement, like a wrought iron loveseat with white velvet, facing the waterfall. Just resting, just enjoying it. The Lord was absolutely... He was so thrilled at my reactions! He was so gratified; He was overwhelmed that I was just awestruck! This tiger comes over and starts rubbing up against me, going back and forth and purring and starts to lick my feet. And then, because I was kind of reclining against the Lord, in a loveseat kind of situation, reclined against Him with my feet up and the tiger was licking my feet. Then he came and laid his huge, gigantic head right here, on my tummy. He just looked up at me.

I love cats. I love big cats. It's always been a dream of mine to have big cats. So, this was my wedding present, a white tiger! It was amazing. I was told his name is Simba and don't have many other details about him, but whenever I am called back to Heaven, he is there along with another assortment of animals as well.

So, several different times this happened. Now, on this one particular night when I returned to the palace on the 3rd of January, my husband started having experiences very much like mine in his room at the other end of our house during his prayer time. And what emerged from that was what we call the *Chronicles of the Bride*. The Lord told me probably half way through these experiences that He wanted us to write a book to draw His Bride to Him. To reveal His love nature and His ability to create for us, for His Brides, and His appreciation, His profound appreciation of us. The littlest details I can tell you about:

the beautiful, blue Morpho butterfly that came by, about the beautiful golden eagle that landed gently on my left arm. I mean there were so many things in that first experience.

As I mentioned earlier, my husband at the same time, was having similar experiences, but unique to him - very different in some ways. As a result of these experiences, the Lord asked us again to write *Chronicles of the Bride* which are the chronicles of our experiences in Heaven for a certain time period. There are a whole lot more experiences but what we've put together is a book called *Chronicles of the Bride* and it is available at heartdwellers.org as a free download, free PDF.

And there's also the music that corresponds to that, so we're going to be coming out with more music but it sets the tone of the things that happened in Heaven and more chronicles of the events that happened.

But I have to say, the most important thing for us to understand is that this is all about His love not anything we deserve. The times when you stop to give someone a ride, the times when you worked at a food bank and you fed somebody, the times that you forgave an offense. The times that you took time to explain the faith to someone or just to sit and listen to them and comfort them - you accumulate things like this in your lifetime over and over and over again and we forget about them. You know, we do it as unto the Lord because He says to do them and then we forget. But He doesn't forget! He's forgot nothing that we've done. Everything has been written down.

When He said, I go to prepare a place for you, (John 14:3) he wasn't kidding! The place He's preparing is for YOU, special! It's special for you! I think I might have mentioned earlier if you don't like water, don't worry there won't be any water there. If you don't like cats, there won't be any cats. You'll have an elephant if you want one. Horses, whatever you want. Heaven is full of animals, full of plants, full of creatures, beautiful creatures, friendly creatures!

The rest of the Chronicles, I may go through some more experiences, you know explaining some of them to you and sharing with you - but the reason He is gone to prepare this place for us is because of Him, His nature, His love and His gratefulness. Little tokens for God, but humongous things to us, just gigantic. I turned and looked at the Lord at the end of this experience, after the white tiger, and after the golden eagle. I asked Him, because I was overwhelmed, I had no... I couldn't understand, I didn't understand it.

"Does this, does this belong to the Angels, this place?" He's telling me, *"No this is your palace! This is your place. I created it just for you."*

And I looked up at him (this just this will unravel you, I mean, it unraveled me, it really unraveled me). I was overwhelmed with these wedding gifts and I said in a broken voice, "But I haven't done anything to deserve this Lord!" With a gentle air of finality He said, *"You Obeyed."*

Magnificent to behold were cascades of water tumbling down, some in gentle sprays, some with great volume. Lavender, aquamarine, periwinkle blue, delicate rose and satiny white ribbons of color gracefully float through the water. Doves flew back and forth, their wings echoing throughout this place of wonder.

The Lord turned and looked deeply into my eyes. And I'll close with this. Because I really want you to remember this.

Not being able to control my thoughts I said, "But I have not yet overcome, I mean there are so many faults that I still have. I haven't overcome." And He answered me, "*I have overcome for you. All of this is yours.*"

What an awesome God! What an awesome love! He is hungry for your company. He longs for intimacy with you. He has prepared a place for you. But the one thing that He has for you that's more precious than anything else is His love. And that's Presence, when you dwell in His heart you allow Him to engage you. His presence, His manifest presence is the most wonderful experience anyone on earth can have. God Bless you!

Dwelling Prayer 5 of 5

August 18, 2012

Beloved, have no doubt that God can do this kind of thing. I mean, Walt Disney can create movies and cartoons that engage our imagination. He's only a man! And if Disney World and Epcott Center and all those places can be put together by a man - what can God do? I mean after all, He holds the whole universe together by His love.

So these things may seem a bit outlandish and wild to some, but ponder it for a moment. We've seen more outlandish things on television and in movies. What He's done for us is unique to Him. It is a love letter; it's an expression of love that doesn't leave out one detail.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor. 2:9) That's Scripture you can count on that!

Jealousy and Fear in the Body of Christ 1-9

October 11, 2012



This message is entitled, "Starving Body of Christ," and tonight I want to share with you some readings from Rick Joyner's book, *Visions of the Harvest*. He's a wonderful prophet of God, has a complete and total heart for the body of Christ, has his fingers on the pulse of the Lord, and is acutely aware of the things that hinder us in the body; the dynamics that go back and forth.

So, I'd like to read this selection; and it's from the chapter called "War and Glory." In this particular chapter, he portrays the church as an island and all the different denominations as different buildings on the island, and around it, of course, is the sea and the ocean. And later in the chapter, you will see they both will start to arrive and they want to get into the island, but there is fighting going on so...

Let me go on with this story and explain to, or just read, to you exactly what he has to say:

"I was in a vision standing on an island in the middle of the sea. There were many types of buildings spread about in groups all around the island that seemed to make up several little cities. Even within each of these little cities, the buildings seemed to clash with each other in color and architecture. There were very old

ones next to very modern ones. This made them all seem unattractive and confused.

“There was a war going on between the occupants of many of the buildings and many were already bombed out shells. The people who were still living in the buildings were starving and wounded. At first I thought that I had been caught in the middle of a terrible civil war. Then I realized I was looking at the church.

“As I continued looking, I saw two dark spirits over the island. Together they were directing the battles and the clashes between the buildings. One was named Jealousy and the other one was named Fear.”

And that’s what we’re going to talk about tonight.

“They congratulated each other every time one of the buildings suffered damage or people were killed or wounded. It seemed that no one who was involved in the fighting could see these spirits, though they dominated the island.

“As I was kept looking, two more even powerful and frightening spirits were rising up over the sea. These became great storms. One was named Rage and the other Lawlessness.

“They quickly started causing a stirring up of the seas and causing great waves to crash into the island. Soon these storms became so large that I felt they were going to do even more damage to the island than the war, and maybe even destroy the whole island. Even so, the war had the people in the building so occupied that it did not seem anyone was aware of these growing storms.

“I knew these people in the city had to be warned about these storms. Then I saw some apparent watchmen trying to do this, but no one would listen to them. Those that could hear the watchmen could only debate about whether the watchmen could be trusted. This was remarkable, because if anyone could look up, they could see the storms themselves. But no one would look up.”

My words...they were so embroiled in the battles that they weren’t looking up.

“These wars had left so many people wounded that the hospitals were quickly becoming the largest buildings on the island. Hospitals were movements or denominations that had given of themselves to healing of the wounded.

Don’t you just love that bumper sticker that says, “Christians kill their wounded.” Boy, I tell you...

“The very small hospitals seemed to be respected and the warring factions would not attack them. The ones that had grown larger were being attacked as the jealousy of the warring factions would not allow them to have respect. Even in a place where their own wounded were being cared for. Soon the attacks on these hospitals from the other buildings became some of the biggest battles.

“As I watched time pass swiftly before me like pages being turned in a book, the conflict just went on and on and soon everyone was wounded somewhere. But even those who were not badly wounded had the appearance of being either phantoms or grotesquely deformed from starvation and disease.

“Anytime a building received a supply of food which would attract people, it would become a target. I could not comprehend how a war could be so cruel and yet this was the church.

“In the midst of the battle, men were still trying to add to their buildings or start new ones. New ones-- but it was futile. Anytime one building would start to rise a little higher than the others, it would become the main target of all the other buildings close to it. When a new building would be started, it would become the focus of unrelenting attacks by all the others around it.

“My thought was that this entire island would soon be like the temple in Jerusalem after it was conquered by the Romans. Ultimately there would be not one stone left upon another.”

And I don't think I will go on too much more with this but, he was then carried to a place where the leaders were planning different things and they all had the word “Treasury” written on their foreheads. Treasury.

So he goes on a little bit and says:

“The grief of listening was too much to bear. It was so obvious that if the effort and resources were put into building rather than in what was going into fighting, there could a city build that would be no equal. Yet, they had chosen the way of destruction instead of life.”

And here he goes on and speaks about the lights—those who refused to get involved with the conflicts, arguing over doctrine. These are my words now...Arguing over doctrine, wanting to be first, wanting to protect their territory, feeling threatened. Jealousy and Fear are the two spirits over this island that is depicted as the church with all the different people in it.

We go now to 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 and I will read from the NIV. “Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit, but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

We should all be following Jesus Christ.

And in 1 Peter 2, I want to quote from this because I feel it's a direct salve from the problem. Really, he says, “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every...”

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“1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” In the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, which I happen to like this translation, “Therefore, put away from you all wickedness, all treachery, partiality, envy and slander.” Put these things away.

You know, what is slander, really? I mean, there’s telling lies about people, there is telling, disclosing of weak points of people and difficult things, lies of people. They’re telling the truth, but things that are not so beautiful to look at, which tend to deprecate the person and put them down. I think we know. I think the Holy Spirit quickens to us when we’ve crossed a line, when we’ve said something that is injurious to a person.

One of the standards I like to apply to myself—if the person was standing in the room right now, would you say it that way or would you say it at all? There’s a good question. Would you say it if the person was in the room right now? And would you say it that way? So, this is something to look at. How many times do we cross that line in a day? When we’re wounded or we’re hurt, when we are feeling rejected, unwanted, when we feel challenged, when we feel threatened. Is it just human nature to pull up some dirt and to fight back with wicked claws, tooth and nail, saying things that are injurious to the other person?

One day the Lord said to me point blank, *“Look! When you criticize another soul, first of all, you’re criticizing Me. I live in that soul. Second of all, I died for that soul.”* And as my husband often says, “When a mother has a mentally-challenged child, she doesn’t want to hear how mentally-challenged the child is.” To her, the child is beautiful. She wants to hear good things about the child because she’s helping that child to walk and to adjust to life.

So the Lord has said to me categorically, *“When you say anything negative about anyone, you’re actually launching an arrow that goes into that person and wounds them.”* They may not hear it with their own ears, they may not understand exactly what it is, but they feel it in their spirit.

And one of the things that Rick Joyner talks about later on in his book is that the Lord was watching this whole scenario, these battles between the churches and between the people and the churches. And at the end, the Lord begins to build His Church. When He does so, He says, *“Tell them anyone who has their brother’s blood on his hands will not be used to build my House.”* That’s pretty serious. That’s very serious.

So, if they’re not building the Lord’s House, whose house are they building? You know, that’s a good question. If we have blood on our hands, if we bite and tear at each other, if we find fault with each other, if we gossip and deprecate one another, we have blood on our hands. Just as Cain had blood on his hands and blood that swallowed up in the Earth, “your brother’s blood cries out to me,” this is all part of jealousy.

And I have experienced this emotion. I understand what it feels like. And when I boiled it down to get to the root of the problem, why do I feel jealousy? It is because I have not applied myself to the gifts God gave me and I haven’t used them. So, I look at someone else that HAS applied themselves and HAS used them, and I feel envy. I mean, that in a sense is a very healthy emotion because it tells you that

something not right in here (points to heart). Something's wrong with you if you feel envy, if you feel jealousy, there's something going inside of you that's sick. It needs help.

And of course, the Lord is so good, so gentle to come to us and to pinpoint exactly what it is. What does a body look like? What does a healthy body look like? I've been in a couple healthy churches. They've been very active. They're very positive. The people are upbeat. They may have problems, but the way they act in general is very upbeat.

There are a lot of ministries that are healthy. People are delegated different jobs according to the anointing that God placed in them. People are being trained. People are being raised up and taught so they can go from being a spectator out there and listening to the Word of God to being a messenger of the Word of God; one that has nothing to be ashamed of. As the scripture says, "Show yourself as a workman who has nothing to be ashamed of."

One of the things I have sensed in different churches is that's it is okay to sit in the pews, be quiet and listen, be supportive in very simple ways. But if your ministry begins to rise up inside of you, and there's not some kind of vehicle for training you, then you're gonna feel frustrated. You're gonna feel let down, rejected and frustrated because all the time pastors are talking about how they believe in the five-fold gifts and how they want to raise up prophets and about the anointing.

I mean, people come from different places and they come in and prophesy over different people and the pastor is aware of what is being prophesied over that person. Well, that person needs a place to go. Once they've been prophesied, they need a vehicle to take that dream, that seed-word that's been planted in their heart. They need training and a vehicle to get them launched, to get them to be able to exercise the gift. Otherwise they just sit there and lie dormant. Nobody's happy feeling like they're unused. Nobody feels good about that.

So, what are the signs of a healthy church? Are the ministries, and the people in charge of those ministries, constantly imparting anointing, imparting teachings, and people graduate out of that? They go from sitting and listening to receiving, to being messengers of the gospel in their community.

It may be the start of another church. I mean, is this something to be afraid of? That you've trained somebody under you so well, they can go out and start another church? Aren't there enough people to go around for the gospel?

A sick body that isn't getting this kind of training - they're not getting channeled. They're not getting used. It's like God is constantly, constantly pouring down His Spirit on the congregation. And unless that water, that Living Water is captured and runs through the lines in the plumbing in the House, that water comes in through the roof and begins to rot the roof, rot the floor, go all the way down and rot the foundation.

The anointing has got to go somewhere. The Power of God, the Spirit of God, it's got to go somewhere and if it's not being properly channeled, like plumbing, the water source comes in. Some goes to the kitchen, some goes to the water closet, the bathroom or bathrooms. Some of it goes outside to the hose. In the same way, in a church, a church building, there are different ministries and ministers who serve the flow of the Spirit into the proper channel. And if this isn't happening in the church, it's not healthy.

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In this situation, you have good people, anointed people, committed people. They come and they don't find any place for them to be used, they leave. Because the Spirit won't be mocked. The Spirit will be used.

If you have a heart for God and are praying for the gifts and you're prophesied over that you've got a gift, you don't want to just sit there. You want to be trained in that gift. And you want to be able to be use that gift. You're being called by the Holy Spirit. You will account for that gift. Everything that is given, we will make an accounting to the Lord for.

So, what does a sick body look like? Well, the first of all, the water is just pouring in through the roof and it's getting all the bedding wet. It's getting the ceiling wet; it's buckling. It's getting the walls wet; they're molding. The floors are beginning to disintegrate. If there's beds in the building, they're soaking wet. And the water is going through to the disintegrating floor to the foundation until that house collapses. This is serious stuff. Very serious. To waste the waters of the Spirit and to waste lives and vocations. People who feel called and to frustrate that and not to nurture it, that's serious.

And you see, the principalities that are over the church right now that are causing these problems are Fear -which I'll get into next, and Jealousy. And jealousy, as far as my understanding goes, is always a function of what am I not doing. That when I find someone else successful at what they are doing, I'm jealous.

If your relationship with the Lord is profound and personal and precious to you, He's going to pinpoint what it is that you're not doing that's causing you to be jealous. But then there has to be a venue for you to work out of that jealousy by being used.

So, there's division, there's stagnation, there's unrest. There's a feeling of hopelessness that prevails. People feel frustrated and dissatisfied with where they are and where they are going. There's a general feeling that "I'm not growing in the Lord, I'm not doing anything. Isn't there more for me, Lord? Isn't there more?"

Because people are good, they don't overstep their bound of leadership. And if leadership doesn't open doors for these people, they're not going to go crashing them down. They make a few suggestions, but hey, if they're not going to be received, they are just going to turn around and leave. They're going to go where they are wanted. They're going to go where they're needed. They're going to go where they can be trained. And that church is going to suffer terrible loss. Plus, in the meantime, the foundation is rotting out from under the building. And it's going to collapse, the building, if someone doesn't do something really quick about it.

What should the body of Christ look like? What should a church body look like? Simple. It should look like Jesus. It should feel like Jesus. There should be joy. There should be levity. There should be commitment. There should be brotherly love that is so sacrificial that if there is a position open in the choir, and two people want the position in the choir, but there is only position open that the one person prefers the other person to take it and the other person prefers for them to take it. You know like a contest over humility. Who's going to win this contest? You go—No, you go—No you go, it's okay—Well...no, no, you better go. I mean, we've seen it so many times. That is brotherly love.

Love, one another. Deeply and from the heart. Tenderly, love them. Brotherly love is such a sign. You know? I'm not talking about smiles, and "Hey, I love you, Brother and how are you?" and "Love you, Sister, and I'm so sorry you're not feeling well, can I pray with you?" I mean, those are all nice signs of affections, but I'm talking about where the rubber meets the road, taking a look at the needs of that individual in the church and seeing, "Are the needs of that person, according to the Spirit of God, are they being met?" Or are they being glanced off and pushed aside?

A healthy body looks like Jesus. That's number one. It feels like Jesus—there is joy, there is levity. There is brotherly love. There is no fighting over places. There is no arguing and backbiting, because everyone is so happy with what they have been given to do.

So God gave some (as the Scriptures say as going now to the Scriptures,) "And God gave some to be apostles, and some to be prophets, and some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach the unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

The body of Christ has a FULLness. There is fullness there. There's ligaments. There's muscles. There's bones, there's nerves, there's blood. There are so many different positions for people to fill in the church.

You know, addressing this whole topic of jealousy, the Lord once told me, "I have millions of positions for people in churches. No one musician can meet everyone's needs. No one minister can minister everyone's needs. You know, different strokes for different folks. Some people like this way, some people like that way. They're ministered on a deep level. Some people have this gifting, some people have that gifting.

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All of these giftings, thousands of these giftings fit together in the body of Christ. There is NO room for jealousy, people. No room, because every charism, every single gift and gifting is needed in the Body at one time or another. And if we're too busy pushing people away, you know, because we're afraid or jealous, those poor people are never going to be raised up into the ministry God has for them.

And don't bother trying to send people to the church. "Give me more people, Lord." If you don't have the ministry set up and you're not using what you have the way the Holy Spirit wants you to use it, you don't want to pray for more people. You wanna find out what are the gifts I have overlooked right now and do something about it.

So in God's house, a healthy church, what does it look like? It's full of hustle and bustle and people who are committed, joyful. And sure, they have problems like anyone else, but they're feeling completed, they're on the way. They're happy with where they're at and even happier where God is taking them. It's an exciting journey.

But if they're not moving forward on any journey, then they feel lost. And they are—they are like sheep wandering the hillside. When this happens and we attain unto the fullness of Christ where every

member of the Body is being used, the way God intends them to be used, the way the prophets prophesied over them to be used - when this happens, the Body of Christ is healthy and vibrant and alive and able to handle new people. Then the Scripture has it..."Then we will no longer be infants, tossed to and fro by the waves and blown by every wind of teaching, by the cunning craftiness of men, and their deceitful scheming Instead speaking the truth in love. Ephesians 4:14

Now this deceitful scheming thing, this is important. Because that's what Jealousy (whose principality, Jealousy and Fear) are continually, treacherously, scheming deceitfully to separate and divide and cripple the Body of Christ. Constantly. And they will use anyone who is willing to do it, because people who are wounded and not healed from their wounds go out and wound some more. And the thing just cascades.

You know, here we are with the book from Rick Joyner, *The Vision of the Harvests*, and all these different buildings and they are all fighting each other, and they're all fighting inside the building. And if someone goes to the hospital to get help, then they start attacking the hospital. You know, how many times have we seen a beautiful movement of God being attacked?

One of the things I think about especially is the woman who wrote the book, *Always Enough*, Heidi Baker. You know, she labored in Africa for 20 years. Twenty years that woman labored and brought forth maybe a handful of churches. Maybe. She went to Toronto and got slain in the Spirit. And they couldn't pick her up off the floor, she was so heavy. The Power of God glued that woman to the floor. And it took several people to get her up from the ground. And she was out, for something like three days.

And yet this Toronto movement got so much bad press that the people, well, the people that actually funded Heidi withdrew and said to Heidi, "if you're going to be involved with those fruitcakes and those nutcases, then we're not going to support you in Africa."

She went back to Africa anyway. What happened? An unprecedented movement on the African continent, an outpouring of the Spirit that is beyond imagining. In the history of the world, an outpouring of the Spirit. Conversions. Healings. Miracles at the hands of little children. And that was a hospital in Toronto. So what happened?

People attacked it and now any form of prayer out of Toronto sometimes gets attacked. For instance, resting in the Lord. If the Holy Spirit touches you and you go out, and you rest in Him, and He works on you profoundly. He does surgery. Major surgery. But people ridicule that. And that's a hospital. People come out of that strengthened and healed. Soaking prayer is another one, because soaking prayer comes out of the Toronto movement. Resting in the Lord. Sure, there's been abuses. Abuses of different movements.

For all of our tongue-speaking brothers and sisters, which I happen to be one of them, look at the kind of bad rap that speaking in tongues got. I mean, that's ridiculous. The Power of God through the Holy Spirit, through the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a beautiful manifestation of a supernatural movement, through a person's intellect and heart. And yet, it's slandered. Maybe because someone used it and acted really weird. (It) May have been the Spirit or may not have been the Spirit, but then the whole movement of speaking in tongues is tagged and anathema. Is tagged as being bad and shameful. So, you can't blame a movement by a few blunders and things you don't understand.

You have to look at the overall fruit and the fruit is there, folks. The fruit is amazing. But Toronto was a hospital and it came under attack. And it's still coming under attack. So, what Rick said is true. I mean, this was shown to him by the Lord. It's not something he dreamt up. He's a prophet of God. He receives dreams and visions and what he is reporting to us about the state of the church is accurate. This is not something he dreamt up.

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First of all, we need to stop being jealous and to find out what it is that we are not doing to other people. We need to deal with ourselves.

And you know, I think a lot of times we are talking about sloth. We're talking about laziness. We're just too lazy. We don't want to put in that much effort. Or maybe, God help the poor people who do it, but maybe you've been in a church and you were slapped down. You had a gift and it wasn't cultivated, and you were slapped down and told to get back into your seat. And it broke your heart.

You need to get healed of that. Because that gift that God gave you is still alive. He wants you to use that gift. Don't let anyone slap you down. Yes, there is a place for order, for rules of order, and to do everything in order, but if you've been given a gift and you can't be trained in that gift and raised up in that gift where you are, it's time to move on, to find a place where there is room for your growth.

That's very important to the Body. Because you someday will be used as a messenger of healing to other people who need that touch. There's not enough people to go around to touch ones that are wounded. There's not. We need more healers. We need more wounded healers. People who have come from that kind of background and they understand what you're going through. And they cover you with compassion and prayer and lead you in the right direction.

So, I'm all for schools of prophesy and prophetic. I think that's a wonderful thing. That's a beautiful thing. There's far too few. Talking about obtaining a whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Okay. That's what we're talking about. And we're talking about the whole Body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament.

Each individual minister is a supporting ligament to the pastor and to one another. There's no favoritism. There's no division. And the pastor honors the gifts bestowed on each individual by Christ the head. The head is the one who does the bestowing of the gifts. The pastor moves from becoming a pastor and an overseer to becoming a coach to raise those people up and to make sure they are progressing in the giftings that God has given them. 'Cause each part does its work.

Everyone has an opportunity to use their gifts, and believe you me, there's plenty of room for every gift you can imagine. They're nourished in many different ways, with different talents and abilities. And there's no room for jealousy because everyone's busy being productive and using their gift. Rather, there is a growing sense of new life and excitement.

Things are expanding. People are being added to the Body, daily bringing others in. And people are not only being added, they are being raised up and sent out or they're being added and they stay. They don't move on right away because they're finding the nourishment. Okay.

Let's move on now and talk about Fear. Because the two principalities that were over the island in *Visions of the Harvest* that the Lord revealed to Rick Joyner were jealousy and fear. So let's take a look at the inner workings of fear and what's really at the foundation of fear.

What part of fear makes the body weak and sickly? Fear of the new, the unknown, the different. It becomes a habit. We've used...you know, fear has its place. We use fear to protect ourselves and to protect our interests, to protect our family. In some ways it's a healthy response to something we don't know or we don't understand. But then God has given us an intellect and we can go beyond the points of brushing something aside because we are in bondage to the fear. We can go beyond that. We can take the time necessary to discern, or Is this a threat? or Is this a blessing from God? That takes time and effort.

And a lot of us are so busy with the work of the Lord that we don't have a lot of time to look into a person's background - where they came from, what they teach, with an open mind to discern whether or not we should be afraid of that person or whether or not that person is going to be a blessing to us. So we just phsst (hand swipe). I mean many times that's what we do. We just say, "Oh, I'm too busy for that, I can't handle that right now, it's just too much."

I can't tell you how many times I've done that. And you know, Satan is an artist at sending his demons and getting you busy with 'something', Martha, Martha; getting you busy with things. Because he knows some things are coming that's a real blessing, and he doesn't want you to recognize it so he'll get you too busy with things. You'll be so overwhelmed that, when that potential blessing comes, you won't have time to discern it. And you'll miss the Lord. He's done that to me many times.

It takes a while to get onto that trick. The minute you find yourself so busy and overwhelmed with things, it's time to...it's like two thieves in a store. One goes to the cash register and make a big ruckus, you know, makes a scene. And everybody's drawn to that person's scene. In the meantime, his buddy over there is picking up everything in sight, sticking it under his coat and making out the door. And the alarm may go off, but they're so busy watching the guy holler and making a scene, they don't even know it. So, the enemy gets away with theft: grand theft, theft: thieving of life, thieving of gifts. He gets away with it, because we're so caught up in the world and worldly things that we're not paying attention. Close attention to what's in front of us.

There's a lot of virtue to be had with checking with the Lord before we do anything; because anything we do that's going to take time (first of all, we don't waste time—time is a precious gift), it's gonna take time, take resource and attention. And it's going to take effort, which will wear you out. And if you haven't checked with the Lord before you do something, you may be being set up by the devil to miss something else 'cause you're just too tired, you can't deal with everything.

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You just can't deal with everything. There's a lot to be said also for relegating duties and jobs. You know, pastors can't do everything. They need helpers. They need people to do different things so they have the time to discern and do the really important things when they come along. There is no fear in love, because perfect love casts out fear. Everyone knows this scripture, because fear hath torment and he that fears is not made perfect. I John 4:18

Fear is something we use to preserve and protect, but if we don't take the time, as I already said, to discern something as a threat, we may miss a blessing from God.

Fear of the different and the unknown is one of the most powerful suppressants of the Holy Spirit: fear of being ridiculed, fear of being rejected, fear of failure, fear of loss. There are so many different things that Satan succeeds and causes us to be afraid of. How careful we have to be to not let that happen. So, you know, "I won't speak in tongues because there are some people, well, they just don't believe it that, and I'm just not gonna, you know, ruffle the waters." That's sad.

The gifts that come with the manifestation of tongues are vital to the body. Strike for Satan. He just disarmed a soul that could be used in the Lord's army, in one area at least. According to Mark 9, it says, Whoever is not against us is for us. Well, teacher, said John, we saw a man drive out demons in your name and told him to stop because he's not one of us. Do not stop him, Jesus said. No one who does a miracle in My Name can not in the next moment say anything bad about me. For whoever is not against us is for us. I tell you the truth. Anyone who gives a cup of water in My Name because you belong to Christ certainly will not lose this reward.

Guys, there are water bearers everywhere. There are people bringing a cool, refreshing cup: a word in season, a prayer in season. And because of fear, many times they're not paid attention to. They're overlooked. They're swept to the side. Oh, we don't know that person. We don't know where they're from. We don't know their family history. I mean, you know, they're not related to any of us. I mean, you know. Who knows? Maybe they're running from the law. I'm going to be serious about this, because it is important.

Fear of the unknown and why are we afraid of the unknown? Why do we allow it to control us? Because we don't want to make it an unknown. So, it remains an unknown and it remains in the 'fear' file cabinet. Oh, we don't know about that. And because we are so busy with other things, we don't take the time to find out. That's a shame.

I didn't know this man and I wanted to censor him. When Paul was converted, the work they had to do to get the other apostles to listen to him. They were still afraid that he was going to arrest him. Fear. Fear. Fear is no replacement for discernment. Throwing a name tag on something 'se you don't want to deal with the true nature that it is and sticking it off in a corner is no replacement for painstaking discernment and seeking God with your whole heart to find out: "Is this relevant to me or is this a gift from you, Lord, to me or to my body? Please, Lord, enlighten me on this."

Do we take the time to discern? I know I haven't. I've been guilty about brushing people aside. I mean, the Lord used Balaam's ass to talk. That ass had more sense than Balaam did. So if He can use Balaam's ass, why can't He use us? Why can't He use someone we don't recognize. Someone with a different cultural background, maybe, someone with a different economic background. Educational background? I mean, it's just like the world to pigeon-hole people according to those things.

And yet, what does the Lord say? The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the poor. We should be listening to the poor because they are simple. Their mind isn't cluttered with all these things - all these games, these social games, all these things that people use to try to impress other people. Their mind isn't cluttered like that. Their mind is simple like a child. And unless we become like little children, how can we enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

So, fear of listening to people from another economic strata, fear of listening to people without an education, without seminary training, without college training in degrees in religion. So, we become afraid. And we don't recognize the Lord's golden vessels sometimes because we are too busy trying to size them up: "Well, they belong to my culture. I don't where they came from, I don't know their background. Well, they didn't do this school or that school or that seminary or they didn't do this or didn't do that." So, you know... I don't know? (hands raised) You know?

I just, you know, status quo, things are good just the way they are. Let it go. Fear's is no replacement for discernment and the Lord will hold us accountable. I mean, He will say, "Why didn't you listen?" You know, I read from a beautiful testimony today. She wanted so badly to reach a woman who was from a royal family in Europe and she just couldn't make herself to do it. A simple woman, she was a very simple woman, spirit-filled, full of knowledge, full of wisdom, full of understanding, not literate in the sense of a person from royalty that had gone to universities. And you know, it could very have been that that woman's salvation hung on the ability to communicate with her. But fear prevented her from speaking to that woman.

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The Lord was urging her to speak to her, but fear prevented it. Because she was judged to be of a higher social strata, more educated, more enlightened. And yet she wasn't. It was the poor, simple one who had the true wisdom, the wisdom of God. And how many times has the Lord nudged us to do something and we've "Oh, that person won't listen to me", "Oh, oh, they, no... you, oh, you know, I mean, you know, oh, I don't know how to talk to him". Or maybe it's someone on the street. And the Lord wants you to show that person love and affection and what if they steal my wallet? I mean, what if they knife me? Fear. Fear. Fear is such an effective stopper of the Holy Spirit and the anointing. "What if I prophesy that and what if I prophesy to that person and what if they reject it? They're going to think I'm a kook." Well, what if they do? Who do you answer to? We answer to the Lord.

You know, once we're given a message to deliver and we've delivered that message, our work is done. It's not a matter of if they accept it—that's between them and God. I did my part. Now it's between the Holy Spirit and that person. I can pray. That can be part of my part, but I'm not going to blame myself if I am turned away.

I gave a pastor a letter one day that I was going to give a musician. It was a beautiful exhortation and encouragement about spending more time in the secret place with the Lord. So the ministry that poured forth from this beautiful garden, this interior garden, would be richer because the Lord was calling this man to a great depth, a profound depth, a special anointing. And that was the basis of the letter.

The pastor never read the letter because he came back in front of the congregation and said something about that letter. Kinda joking around—that was totally irrelevant. never said what he thought I said. I didn't get that impression. He didn't read the letter. He didn't read the prophecy. He presumed I was saying one thing when, in fact, I had given a beautiful exhortation for this musician.

Why was he afraid to read that? Maybe he was too busy. Maybe he had a lot of things on his mind and reading a page of...babble or whatever, from someone unknown, unproven, and not a lot of credentials,

schooling, or whatever. Didn't have enough time for that. Just phsst – tossed it aside. Just go on, I knew what she was going to say anyway 'cause I know where her head's at.

But he didn't know and what I said was not from me.

You see, why are we so afraid to listen to what people have to say to us? What is that shuts the water off, that backs up the plumbing, that stops the flow? It's fear. You don't want to take the time to discern whether or not this person is authentic, just throw them aside. And you go with the people, the usual ones. Well, let me tell you, the usual people get worn out. They can't do everything. They can only get spread so thin and they collapse.

So the Lord gives us all a little piece of the puzzle. I like very much what Rick Joyner said. Basically He said, "There's no way that one person can fulfill the 'job' of Christian. There are so many different facets of being a Christian and so many different needs, that there's no one person on Earth that could fulfill all those. No matter how great his prophetic anointing, it's just impossible."

And what's so beautiful is, the Body of Christ is like a puzzle. That's why the Lord gives a piece of the puzzle to this one, another piece of the puzzle to that one, one piece over here, another over there. And when you receive the pieces of the puzzle, they become one whole, cohesive understanding. And you get the whole picture. Until we receive from the different places that the Lord wants to give us, we don't get the whole picture. We may think we have the whole picture, and then things don't go right, and we say, "where did we go wrong?" And the Lord's standing there saying, "I sent you prophets to tell you. I sent you people that had a word for you – but you were afraid to listen to them. That's why this happening to you."

I can look back on my marriage and my husband, you know. Wow... He definitely has a way of communicating with the Holy Spirit. What He has shown him, whether I want to receive it or not. If I'm afraid to deal with it – can't run from it for very long, not when you live with someone that's really anointed. It's going to keep coming back.

I remember once the Lord was dealing with me about providing for myself, when we were in Florida. A woman had...an attorney had come, a woman attorney had come and chained herself to a light post outside of the courtroom. She brought absolutely nothing with her – she had nothing but the clothes on her back.

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Because by the end of the day, she had a tent, she had a sleeping bag, water, (she was fasting,) she had juice. She had a porta-potty. She had everything. At the end of the day - she was there for like a week long vigil protesting a case over the custody of children. And here I was priding myself on not needing a lot of things and needing Jesus only. Well, pride is bad anyway. But, I mean, here I am thinking that I have it all together (air quotes) and this woman comes along and shows me that no, you don't have it all together. You're still insecure, you're still trying to do for yourself. You're not trusting the Lord.

"Look at the way she trusts me."

Yes, Lord, I see that. Guilty as charged.

But, you know, it can be a bumper sticker that convicts you. The Lord is famous for putting a car in front of you, you can't get around, and the message is on the back of the car or on a license plate. You just didn't want to hear it that day because it was confirmation of what your husband was trying to tell you or your pastor was trying to tell you, or even a friend was trying to tell you and the Holy Spirit is dealing with you.

So fear is huge. Fear blocks the movements of the Holy Spirit through us. Fear quenches the Spirit. Fear deprives of life and cuts off life from people, because we're so afraid we don't want those living waters to flow so we bottle them up or we turn the faucet off in order to prevent damage from being done.

Now, I'm not saying that there aren't cases where we do have to turn the faucet off. There absolutely are cases like that. But what I'm talking about here is the principality of fear working with jealousy, in the church, causing people to kill each other, to wound each other. Causing churches to be destroyed, causing spiritual hospitals to be destroyed because they're afraid. They're afraid of the anointing, they're afraid of the gifting, they're afraid of the new movement of the Spirit.

Fear.

God help us.

We don't want to succumb to fear. I have to laugh every time I think of it (it doesn't really exactly fit in here), but I always think to myself when I get out of bed in the morning, 'Shoot, there might a lion out on the corner, I better stay in my house.' LOL! So, the Lord always deals with me so I ask him, "Help me get out of bed, please!" (looks up heavenward) In this case, you know, again, judgment. Making a value judgment or pigeon-hole judgment, that is no place for discernment and that won't wash.

When we face the Lord and He says, "*Why didn't you listen?*"

Um. "Well, because of this, because of that..."

"No, why didn't you discern? Why didn't you take the time to listen very carefully and discern if that was of My Spirit or of that person's flesh?"

Why is the body of Christ weak and starving for food - emaciated? Fear has a great of do with it.

You have to look for our fruit! Is there fruit in this person's life? Are they peaceable? Are they gentle? Are they humble? Are they helpful? Are they self-sacrificing? How long have they been Christian? How are they serving the community? I mean, these are part of the things we need to look at when we discern whether or not a person has an accurate message for us.

Matthew 7, "For out of the overflow of the hearts, the mouth speaks. A good man brings forth good things of the good stored up in his heart. And an evil man brings evil things of the evil things stored up in his heart. But I have to tell you that man will have to give an account at that day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words, you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned.

So, if we're criticizing somebody the Holy Spirit has sent and haven't taken the time to get to the bottom of it, and to discern it, we're going to be accountable for that person's blood. Because as I mentioned earlier, to talk about someone is to shed innocent blood, and it cries out to the Lord.

Of course, as the Bride of Christ, we are called to look like the Lord. And the Lord's innocent blood was shed. Not that we're that innocent. But what I'm saying is He was rejected, despised, scorned. And people had contempt for him.

And if you're in the ministry, or want to be in the ministry, you can expect to wear the crown of thorns, the crown of scorns. You can expect that. It's gonna happen. You're gonna have to resemble Jesus. You're gonna go through those trials, those fires, and gonna be wounded. But your intimate connection with the Lord will serve, continue to heal you—to heal you from the wounds. So that you can go back and love, even from the way Jesus loved from the cross. *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Forgive them, Lord."*

I mean, this is the response that we got to have when people unjustly criticizes us. Eventually, somehow, the Spirit of God has got to bring us to the point where we grieve for those who criticize us when we know that God has sent us. WE need to grieve for those people because they don't know what they are doing. They'll find out someday, but we need to pray for them, forgive them, and move on.

In Matthew, the Lord says, Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another for God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in him. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. And the one who fears is not made perfect in love because if anyone...

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...says I love God yet he hates his brother (gossips about his brother, backbites, and pulls down his brother), he is a liar. For anyone who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command, 'Whoever loves God must also love his brother.'"

Fear and love cannot co-exist. One or the other is going to win over. And these demons of fear and jealousy that have so hog-tied the Body of Christ, those two demons can be conquered by love. Certainly jealousy can be conquered by love. But fear can be conquered by love because when you love someone, you automatically want to think of the best of them. You don't want tear them to pieces. You want to build them up and encourage them. You want to talk behind their backs the way you would talk to their face, building them up...

Fear and jealousy are an unholy pair, and somehow Love has got to triumph over both of those. And through the Spirit of God living in us and the power of Jesus' Love in us, we can choose, make the choice to not allow fear and jealousy dominate us and to dominate our situations in churches. It's a real challenge. But if we want to grow in the gifts, we have to do it, because we can't minister out of fear. We can't minister out of a partisan spirit, a spirit of separateness, name-calling or labeling. We can't minister from that place.

Ministry flows from Love. And the Lord will not entrust his choicest gifts to His Golden Vessels unless they are ministering from a place of love, authentic love, which has no fear. In Matthew 12:30, the Lord says, “He that is not with me is against me and he who does not gather with me scatters.” That was what was going on in those buildings, that Christian island. People were being scattered. Inside the church, they were being attacked, and running from each other and being scattered and outside the church. There were even camps... Rick goes into that... were outside of the city walls proper. And the people there were being attacked and were being scattered.

In the meantime, these tremendous storm clouds were building and building and building. And people were coming in ships; fugitives from the world wanting to get on the Christian island. They can't because the fighting is so intense in the church that there is no place for them to land. And if the Lord did - if the Lord allowed them to land, then the people would be conscripted into different groups to fight more battles.

So, the Lord has to put His arm out and basically say, “Wait. They're too busy fighting and being petty right now. When they get it out of their system and things dies down, then I can build My Church. Then you can come on the island. Then you can learn about Christianity.”

There was a situation where people, you know , were not from the same culture, the same background. Well, let's say we're part of a group. They were outside the group. In Numbers 11:24, “He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again. However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent...and they prophesied. “

Then the people say, “Well, look, look, they are prophesying. They shouldn't be doing that.”
And the Lord said, “No, no, no, no. no. Leave them alone.”
Moses said, “Leave them alone.”

This whole spirit of fear, fear of the different, the new moves of the spirit... It's been said by some very, very knowledgeable people that the elders of one movement and the church rarely accept the new movements that come in. They tend to be suspicious and to reject the new movement of God because they are not familiar with what's going on.

And, I mean, this is just human nature. But they're not having the nature of humans; we have the nature of Christ who can understand and discern all things. And so, I just want you to please search your heart. If you have backbitten or gossiped or looked down at people because they are a different culture or different economic strata, you know that's just a very sad thing because they are vessels.

First of all, Christ died on the cross for them. Second of all, you don't know that the person you're looking down on isn't a prophet of God and isn't a very pure soul that is coming to edify you to help you along and to support you. You don't know that.

And If you just reject them out of hand just because they don't fit your criteria and you don't really take the time to discern? My, my, my... what a blessing you've lost. What a tremendous blessing. And I've done it. I've done it.

Father, forgive me if I have turned anyone away because of pride, fear, or jealousy. Give me a heart that affirms others and always takes the time to carefully listen to see if they are truly your messengers and have a word of hope and truth to share with me and those entrusted to me. Amen.

Why Wasn't I Healed 1 to 4

November 2, 2012



Tonight I'd like to talk to you about a subject that is very close to my heart. A subject that causes a lot of pain to people. A lot of different teachings, a lot of condemnation, and simply it's about healing. In our situation, my husband happens to have some medical issues. It's been very difficult for him through the years. People have prayed for us and we haven't seen dramatic results in healing. We had some of the finest people pray over us. People with very strong healing ministries. The question is always, "Why didn't I get healed?" or "Why didn't he get healed?" Perhaps it's that you don't have the faith.

When Jesus went to Nazareth He couldn't do much, except He could heal a few people because of the unbelief and the hardness of the hearts of the people. I haven't found that to be the case in the majority of situations and I'll explain to you why. For my husband's particular medical condition, he might be suffering pain at the moment and I'll reach over and lay my hand on him and pray for him and the pain will stop. Now this happens a lot, but then there other times that the pain doesn't stop. So, here you have a situation where the gift of healing is in operation and the faith of the recipient of the gift is in operation, but for some reason the healing doesn't take place all the time. Why is that? I believe that it has to do with the Lord's cross.

Going to Scripture, I'd like to show you where that can be found. In Colossians 1:24 (NLT) It says, "I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for His body the church". In the KJV it says, "Who now rejoices in my suffering for you and fill up that which is behind the afflictions of Christ in the flesh for His body sake, which is the church". One more translation, "I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ to continue in His body the church".

So, addressing this subject as to why some people are healed and some aren't when faith is present and the gift of healing is in operation. Let's take a look at the Cross and what the Lord says about the cross over and over again. He began to teach them the son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priest and the teachers of the law and that He must be killed after three days and rise again. He spoke plainly about this and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him but when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You do not have in mind the things of God but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with His disciples and said, "If any one would come after me, he must deny himself take up his cross and follow me." (Luke 9:21-23)

What did Christ accomplish on the cross? Our salvation. When we look at the economy of salvation and sanctification, what He did He did once and for all - He opened Heaven and He released the captives from the world below. We were given access through His blood and through His suffering and given Heaven. The most marvelous thing took place. What did He ask us to do while we were here? He said, "Deny yourself and pick up your Cross and follow me." What do we call the Cross? I look at Paul's situation when he was given the thorn in his side. "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you fill up that

which is behind the affliction of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake which is the church." (Luke 9:23) Certainly the Lord suffered in His body and it can never be duplicated and there's no need for it to be duplicated. He asks us to pick up our cross and follow Him.

Not all of us are put into jail. Not all of us suffer stonings and beatings so, what kind of crosses to do we have in our life? What I'd like to propose to you is that there's ample evidence in the Scriptures that sometimes our cross is an illness and it's not God's intention to heal us of that illness. That for us, it is a source of fasting and offering unto God. It's denying our self and through that sacrifice graces being released. Hardship and suffering can very well be a cross for us. We don't necessarily suffer the things that missionaries suffer... that martyrs suffer. Certainly dying of cancer is a martyrdom of sorts. That's a very difficult thing. And why does the Lord allow this to happen, aside from the fact that He wants to have us so badly in Heaven with Him? He can't wait to release these earthly bonds so that He can love on us in Heaven and we can receive our reward. So, certainly that's part of His motive for allowing us to die from a disease and not healing us.

There are three people from the healing world: one person is healed and two people aren't healed. The person that's healed may be a new believer and the healing is a sign to them of their salvation. That's a beautiful thing. Maybe another gets healed who is a seasoned believer and they've been praying for a healing for a long time and finally they get their healing. So, let's say two out of the three get healed.

Then there's another seasoned believer, a very deeply committed Christian that prays for his church, prays for missionaries, prays for the world, and he's not healed. He walks out of that building still suffering... why? His attitude - disposition of heart - was the same as the other two people. The other two people were healed and he wasn't - why? There's no answer to that's easy, anyway. When the Lord said deny yourself and pick up your cross. What kind of cross was He talking about? I believe whatever He gives us that is difficult and we are receiving it out of obedience to Him and out of love for Him is a cross. It could be adopting children and starting an orphanage. It could be receiving news that you're very sick and there's no cure for what you got. What do you do in those cases? You pray and of course you want to be healed. Your family wants you to be healed. No one wants to carry that burden of that sickness.

What happens when the Lord doesn't heal you? Do you walk away feeling condemned because you didn't have the faith to receive the healing. I've seen this an awful lot in the body of Christ and it's sad, so sad to see a person who is sick, who comes with a pure heart and has examined their conscious and has no reason at all to believe that he's in sin or done anything that has been displeasing to the Lord. On the contrary, he has reason to believe that the peace the joy and salvation of the Lord are part of his daily life. He knows he's in God's will but God has allowed the suffering of this illness.

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He knows he is in God's will, but God has allowed the suffering of this illness.

Well we used to live up on a mountain here in New Mexico, in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and we would have to ride by horseback to get to our mission up in the mountains...to our little chapel nestled in the mountains. My husband would go into Espanola, which is about 50 miles from here, and he would be busy with mission work on the streets. Boy, I tell you we would go through some things. I remember one winter, when we had sheep and horses, we couldn't give them water because it was so

cold the water from the well was freezing. So what did we do? We had to build fires around the well to get enough water melted so that it would go down to the horse pen and the sheep pen and have what they needed. It was unbelievable what we went through for just a few drops ...the biting cold, wet feet, frozen fingers, and different tools to break the ice up and get the fire going around the well. We would just suffer a whole lot from that. My son and I would look at each other and say, "Boy, dad must be having a very productive time in Espanola because this certainly is a cross. Sure enough, he'd come home three or four days later and say, "Honey, you just wouldn't believe what the Lord did. I would say, "If it has anything to do with what we suffered, I totally would believe it."

We began to recognize a pattern and the pattern was simply that suffering would come to us at a time when we were praying for certain people. Sometimes people would come to me for prayer and tell me how much pain they were in and the first thing I would ask them was, "Who are you praying for?" The pattern we've seen is when we are in deep intercession for a person, it doesn't even have to be a sound, fervent prayer. It's consent of the will.

Let's just say that a person comes to us for prayer and they tell us they have loved ones who are caught up in the drug culture. They're really suffering and in very dangerous positions. And then other people will say, "I've been praying for so-and-so, and so-and-so." I have noticed I can take on a prayer burden for someone and not even get into the burden, but just say, "Yes, I'll pray for you," and they can be going through tremendous upheaval and tremendously difficult times and I'll either get a severe headache or something will happen physically to my body that is very painful. I recognize that it's...well I have fibromyalgia. so I don't have to wait long. I will recognize that there is a connection between the cross of fibromyalgia and the person I'm praying for.

I may not even be in prayer. I may not be shedding tears and pleading with Heaven. It's just the consent of my will and the Lord gave me a cross. I received that cross, knowing that it wasn't for me to be healed but for me to use to heal others.

Some people would argue that grace can't be bought. I'm not saying grace is be bought by the cross. What I'm saying is what did the Lord do with His cross? By His suffering He relieved many burdens we have. And when He said, "Deny yourself pick up your cross and follow me." He's expecting us to carry a burden of some kind for humanity, for the sanctification of souls.

He did everything necessary for salvation, but what about those missionaries that are deep in the jungle and are having difficulty getting to the tribes that have never heard the good news? Salvation is coming with those missionaries, but their suffering is through dysentery or maybe malaria and it's very difficult for them to get through. When people are back here in the states praying for them and offering up their crosses for those people in the mission field, the blockades move to the side and those missionaries move in and the hearts of the people are open to receive the Word of God, to receive salvation, and sanctification.

So, we didn't create salvation by our prayers, or sufferings, or our cross, but we certainly aided the missionaries who were carrying the finished work of the cross to those people. That's exciting. That's so exciting. You people out there who are sick, you have no idea the power of your prayers. They're unbelievably powerful.

So many of us who have been in pain are suffering incredible depression, because we're saying we can't do the things we want to do. We want to serve the Lord this way and serve the Lord that way but we prevented from doing it because we're sick. Let me tell you something, people: God gave you a precious,

golden cross that is accomplishing so much more than you could possibly accomplish on your own going to those people. You're backing someone up. You're opening a heart. You're defrosting some souls that have been frozen in ice forever. Every single time you receive a cross from the Lord, whether it be sickness, or whether it be a well that's frozen solid and it's now producing water - whether it be a traffic jam, be it a toothache... we've seen some amazing miracles with toothaches! No matter what it is that God allows in your life, that's a suffering. It is a cross. If He chooses to leave that cross with you, you shouldn't lay under condemnation that you weren't healed.

You see, people don't understand and they beat you and they beat you and they tell you "by His stripes you are healed." Ok, I believe that. So... why didn't He heal me? I'm not saying that's not true. He healed the person next to me. He healed me last week of something else - but why didn't he heal me of *this*?

I'm finding out more and more, when you receive a cross like cancer, MS, fibromyalgia... God is using your suffering to release graces to souls. You are in the midst of an incredible fast offering and you should be joyful about it. You shouldn't be beating yourself up and sad because you're not healed and the person next to you was.

God loves you and He sees the strength of your love for Him. Because He sees this, He allows you to carry that cross of that illness, because He knows that you will carry it with love. I do so want the body of Christ to understand that, when you are sick or suffering, you are doing a very profoundly important work for Jesus. The time that you are not healed, to the time that you are healed, incredible things are happening. You won't see them now...well you might...you might see those results in your family and in your children. But if you don't see those results, the Lord is hiding it from you. And some day, when you go to be with Him, you're going to find out just how much good your suffering did, because you received it as a cross. It's been on my heart to share for a long time.

Going back to what we said. He began to teach them the Son of man must suffer many things. We know we're going to be rejected for being a Christian and we know we can get martyred and killed, that can happen. Peter was thinking as a man thinks. The Lord said, "Get behind me Satan. You do not have the mind the things of God but the things of men." Man thinks we should be healthy, prosperous, and happy. The Kingdom of God is not food or drink. It's righteousness, peace, and joy. It's not things that pertain to the carnal body. It's things that pertain to your heart, your mind, and your spirit. That was the purpose of His Cross: to releases graces for us. What He did is far greater than anything we could ever do, but He is allowing us to participate in that. Just as Paul said, "I am glad for you when I suffer in my body because I am participating in the sufferings of Christ." Wait of minute, He wasn't being crucified. Well, he suffered being shipwrecked, being bitten by a poisonous snake. He did suffer being stoned.

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Paul suffered a lot of things but he also had a thorn in his side. 2 Corinthians 12:7 "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these passingly great revelations." He was talking about being transported into the third Heaven, which is the Heaven, Heaven. "...There was given me a thorn in the flesh. A messenger of Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me but He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you. For my power is made perfect in your weakness.'"

You see what I am saying? You're in that wheelchair and you can't get out of that wheelchair and you're suffering that infirmity. God is transforming that cross of that infirmity into power. The more helpless you are to do anything about your condition, the greater the power of the cross that He's given you. He only gives those crosses to those that deeply love Him, and are very strong in their love for Him and they're willing to sacrifice and say, "Your will be done, Lord. If you choose not to heal me, then I understand. It's not because there's something wrong with me or something wrong with the person that prayed for me. It's because you've given me a cross and that cross is working a weight of glory. I can't see it but I believe it because you said it."

"My power is made perfect in weakness, therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power may rest on me." Here he was talking about his flesh. He was talking this thorn that brought him almost to a state of despair. Three times he begged the Lord, "Please take this away from me!" but the Lord said, "No, that thorn in your side has so much power. You have no idea now, but you're going to see it one day. You're going to see the power that that thorn was working in your life. My grace, in the meantime, is sufficient for you. You don't need anything more."

I can imagine he was very distracted by that. If he called it a thorn in his side, it must have been pretty disturbing. I'm sure he had trouble writing, trouble thinking, he may have had trouble moving around. That's a cross. The man was brilliant. Look what he accomplished? That wasn't him accomplishing it. It was that thorn plus Jesus, working through him. Graces were being continually released through Paul, through his thorn, and through his suffering. So, this is really good news for people who are sick. Because when you feel infirm and you feel helpless - you're not helpless.

Now this is an exception to this, I want to talk about for a moment. Let's say that you go to that healing conference and you do get a healing. Two of you get a healing and the other person doesn't. That cross stays with that person. Then, you all go home, and pretty soon the symptoms start to creep back in on one of the people. For the other person there are no more symptoms. They are totally freed of that infirmity.

Here is some news and this is important for us to know. This is a prayer you can pray anytime to maintain your healing. There are spirits that will come and imitate and create symptoms in your body that mimic what you were just healed of. These tormenting spirits are called spirits of Lying Symptoms. Again, bringing to mind my husband's pain. I just prayed for him 15 minutes ago and he was totally relieved of the pain. So, I know he was healed 15 minutes ago. Why is the pain back? I will simply pray, "You lying symptoms, in the Name of the Lord of Jesus Christ, I command you to loose him and don't ever come back, and don't send for reinforcements. Loose him."

Now if I think there's a demon involved *I'll tell him to go to the abyss*, because that's what the Lord has instructed us to do (Luke 8:31). You will be shocked at how you will feel better instantly. Absolutely shocked and amazed that your peace is restored and your body is restored and you feel good again. Can you believe it? Just by praying a simple prayer. "You lying symptom, I was healed and I command you in the Name of Jesus to don't ever come back." Then all of a sudden you feel fine. There's no mystery. We are surrounded in the second heaven by the demons and the first heaven, the spirits of the air, down here where we are. They can't do anything to us without the Lord's permission. They really love to make a Christian lose hope and lose their healing.

What I'm saying here is you can take authority over those demons the minute you recognize the symptoms returning. And you know you got your healing, because the symptoms immediately lifted off

when you were prayed for and now they are starting to creep back in. Take authority over them right then and there. Command them in the Name of Jesus to loose your body. Pay attention, because they'll try to come back.

These are things that will really help us to understand the dynamics of healing and for the economy of salvation. Every single person on this planet has a part to play. They have an important part to play in the salvation of souls, whether they are aware of it in their intellect or not. There are things going on in the spiritual realm that we are involved in that we have no clue about. They are still happening. There are amazing things going on.

I will tell you a little story here. We knew some folks and the man had been in Vietnam and he was an alcoholic. One day he confessed to us that thing that caused him more torment and more pain, and caused him to drink. My heart was just rent for this man. I prayed and prayed and prayed for him. What had happened actually, is that he was standing guard at a post in Vietnam and a woman came in with a basket. She was going towards the kitchen to take some things there. She gave the basket to the little boy and told him to take it into the kitchen. She immediately turned and ran in the other direction. The man saw this and this huge bomb went off. It killed the little boy and everyone in the kitchen and dining area. This horrible thing has haunted him his lifelong.

I went to prayer for him and the Lord showed me something - and I'll never forget this. I saw that I was in New York City near central park and there was a little boy who was a child of a drug addicts. He didn't know who his father was. His mother was an addict and also a prostitute. This little boy was so lost and so confused, and in so much pain. He went into Central Park and he had a red and white striped t-shirt on that was dirty and dirty jeans. He was by one of the ponds there and I saw the Lord Jesus standing there. He came and held the little boy and they talked for while.

In the next scene, the little boy left and he was crossing the street and he was killed and hit by a truck. The Lord spoke to me and He said, *"That little child, that soul, had an agreement with Me to offer his life and to come live in Heaven with Me. Before he was born, he knew - his spirit knew - the conditions he would be born into and that he would not live out his days. But that God would rescue him and take him out of that situation."*

There are some people who probably won't believe what I'm relating to you. That's alright, I understand. Take it to the Lord. We always have to discern the spirits. What I was given to understand is that the soul, apart from the intellect, was very aware of the circumstances of the life that God was giving them and he knew that he was going to be taken out of his misery. He knew what the misery was and now he is in Heaven. There are things that go on, people, in the spirit realm that are out of this world. Disney has nothing on God. God's ways are not our ways.

Turning to [Isaiah 55:8](#) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways My ways." New Living Translation: "My thoughts are nothing like your thought says the Lord and My ways are far beyond what you could imagine. Eye has not seen ear has not heard neither has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him." [Philippians 3:18](#) Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame. Their mind is on earthly things but our citizenship is in heaven."

What's Heaven's agenda? Salvation and sanctification. That's our homeland. So, the Lord said Don't worry about what you're going to eat or what you're going to wear. That's what the pagans run after. Rather seek first the kingdom of God and the things that you need will be added unto you (Matthew 6:31). [1 Corinthians 1:18](#) Paul said, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are

perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 3:18 "Do not deceive yourself if any one of the you think he is wise by the standards of this age.

That's the naysayers who say, "That couldn't have happened. That's just a made up story."

"He should become a fool to confound the wise for the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." (1 Corinthians 1:27)

Why Wasn't I Healed 4 of 4

November 2, 2012

Romans 8:17 "Now we are children and heirs of God and coheirs with Christ. If indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."

Again, His suffering was the Cross. Well, it was a lot more than just that. He was denied by the very same people He came to save. And yes, we will be denied - that's one of the sufferings. But don't tell me that your sickness isn't a cross. You know your sickness is a cross, and there is so much God is doing with that sickness until He chooses to heal you. The healing could come in the form of you leaving your earthly tent behind, or the healing could come in the form of someone praying over you and all of a sudden, you're healed. And you're freed from that infirmity. Until that healing comes, there's work to do. Things are going on. There are powerful graces being released from that work of that cross. The complications to your life, your loved ones - all of us feel terrible when we are sick and we're a burden to other people. What could be more miserable? You're a burden to yourself and you're a burden to others? That's a heart cross, but you have to understand there is sanctification going on in that household. The ones who are suffering with you because of all the work they have to do to take care of you are also being sanctified. They are being made complete lacking in nothing as James says (James 1:4). It's through their perseverance. So, even in situations where you feel terrible because you've got it terrible, I've got news for you: you are a cross that is bringing forth virtue into their personality and their character. You are preparing them for Heaven. It's a beautiful thing. Very hard, very difficult, very painful... but a beautiful dynamic.

The other thing about the cross that is so powerful is humiliation. Being humbled, just as I talked about. You're in a household and you're a burden to other people - that is so humbling. Maybe you can't get up and go to the restroom. You have to be helped in that way. That is so humiliating and so humbling. But you see, how humble was the Lord, that any of us ever attain to that kind of humility? Yes, through the cross we can be very much like the Lord. He asks us to be that way. In fact, Paul says, to keep me from becoming conceited Because of his revelations he was given that thorn, right? (2 Corinthians 12:7)

How many times when we're sick do we feel like nothing? I mean we're worst than nothing. A deficit. A burden. In Philippians 2:6 it says, "The Lord, who being in very nature of God did not consider equality with God to be grasped at but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. Being made into human likeness and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death. Even death on a cross."

There's nothing in our lives that could be as humiliating as what Jesus went through. Let me tell you, when you have to suffer tremendous, humiliating situations because of a condition of your body, you're very close to Him. You're beginning to look very much like Him. One thing He's continually telling me is, *"My Bride, you must resemble Me. That is the reason for your sufferings. I want you to resemble Me. When you come to Heaven, such glory will be yours for the crosses that you carried."*

Never mind if you've complained. I hope that I'm giving you a perspective on this, so that you'll stop complaining and start thanking the Lord. This is something He's been working with me for a long time about and my husband, as well.

The glory will be ours, because we received those crosses and we carried them faithfully without becoming bitter, angry, or disillusioned. Maybe we had to deal with depression sometimes. Even that can be a terrible cross to carry. If we know the Lord and we love Him, He will communicate His grace, mercy, love, and His comfort to us and whisper into our hearts, "Beloved, there's nothing wrong with your faith and there's no great sin in your life. I'm sharing the Cross with you. Will you help Me carry it?"

You see, the Lord is going to suffer pain until the very day that this whole mess is wrapped up and every soul's destiny has been decided. He's going to suffer, because He has created us. And when we suffer, He suffers terribly. He cries with us, He hurts with us. His compassion is beyond reckoning. You can't understand God's compassion. It is so much higher than anything we could ever imagine.

When you're carrying that cross, He's right there with you. The Lord whispers in your ear, "There's nothing wrong with you, you're not lacking in faith. There's no condemnation, there... was nothing wrong with the gift of healing. This is a cross that I've given you and because you have carried it with love and devotion for Me, I've united your suffering to My suffering on the Cross, and great glory will be yours in Heaven. And you will see all the beautiful things that were accomplished through your suffering."

Relatives that eventually came to the Lord, loved ones that were released from drugs, missionaries that were successful and brought a whole tribe of souls to Jesus. How beautiful. Truly, the Lord's ways are not our ways. Don't let anyone lie to you and tell you there's something wrong with you because you didn't get healed. There's nothing wrong with you.

Jesus is sharing His cross.

God bless you.

Turning Drama Into Peace

October 12, 2012



Is your life a constant drama? Or fragmented by cycles of drama?

I have realized at times that my life has been drawn into some kind of 'drama' and one thing after another, like furious waves crashing down all around me make it impossible to find peace, rest, security.

How often the enemy uses others to accomplish that. I remember living in Phoenix as a single mother of four children, always counting on the providence of God to sustain me. But I noticed a pattern: if I was sick or weak from the feminine cycle, that would be exactly the week that everything would hit me as if projected out of a high powered fan.

I began to see that the enemy used my weak cycles and moments, times when I was most vulnerable and at my lowest, to harass me with more than one threat, so as to overwhelm me. So often they involved other people, even well-meaning church people. The plumbing would back up, the landlord would threaten us, our rent would be late, the car would vapor lock, the children would catch a cold. Altogether, it was sometimes so overwhelming that I almost fell into despair, I just couldn't handle it all at once.

But the Lord soon began to teach me, it's not about you, it's about Me. You are My servant and they, the demons, want to incapacitate you so that you will give up, back down, throw your hands up in defeat. That is their favorite goal, but at the very least: STEAL YOUR PEACE.

The Lord promised us in John 14: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." NIV
"I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." NLT

You see, when the enemy accomplishes turmoil, distractions ensue, your mind is turned into a turbulent ocean, a place of danger rather than security. If you are serving Him and the turbulence continues, you become ineffective, all wrapped up in yourself, unable to cope outside of your circle of problems.

Along come other people who are looking for peace and instead of being Jesus' ambassador of peace and healing, you pass on your turbulence to the next person, they pass it on down the line, and the world continues to revolve around chaos.

There is a way out. Jesus Himself gave it to us, through Paul's words in the fourth chapter of Hebrews: "Enter into My Rest."

See what the New Living Translation of the Bible has to say about this: "God's promise of entering His rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it."

And indeed fear is the very thing that sets in when peace is lacking. "Hebrews 4:2 For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God. 3 For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, "In my anger I took an oath: "They will never enter my place of rest,"" even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. 4 We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." 5 But in the other passage God said, "They will never enter my place of rest."6 So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. 7 So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts."8 Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come.9 So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. 10 For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. 11 So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall."

Yes, we will fall, and fall and fall – again, and again, and our lives will resemble a turbulent merry-go-

round of stressors, emergencies, high tension, impossible situations, and we will be in a constant state of agitation and unrest. We will pass on this drama to others because our space will be turbulent and anyone who comes in contact with us will walk away touched by turbulence, hopelessness, insecurity.

Brothers and Sisters, we must get ahold of ourselves and see clearly once and for all WE ARE NOT GOD, and only God can resolve the things that are thrown at us. And the sooner we turn to Him and let it go, and encourage others to let it go, the sooner we get on our knees and pray for God's intervention, the sooner a resolution will come. BUT WE CAN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN.

I see this so often in adults who were raised in or lived in abusive families. There is always a mediator or two, someone who is trying to restore order and calm and 'make it alright.' These people can be very controlling, not out of malice but because they are trying to make it right. But only God can truly make it right. Yes, blessed are the peacemakers, but it is the anointing of the Holy Spirit on a person, not their reactions to turbulent dramas every day that give them the power to be a peace maker.

And how do you become a peacemaker? First you must be at peace with God. You must know deep down in your heart that He is the answer to every situation. This involves FAITH... YOU MUST BELIEVE in someone outside of yourself, you must believe in Him. Only then can you let it go and let God.

You may be used to resolve the tension, you may not, but only your faith and relationship with Him can guide you into the right role. Stand back and let God...or give you a word to speak in season...make a phone call...or put it to rest at the foot of the Cross. How amazing that sometimes when we finally stop trying to be God and fix it, the answer comes and all is made calm again.

He wants us to look to Him for answers and then after we have placed the problem in His hands, stand back and wait for direction. Encourage others involved not to call their friends or get busy on the phone, but to get busy on their knees and pray. That is where the power to resolve is, not in your hands, but in God's hands.

How we love to be around joyful, peaceful people, how beautiful their presence - but notice, they don't have dramas...they only have prayers waiting to be answered. They have a deep, resplendent peace in Jesus that inspires others to turn to Him and be healed. They are carriers of the words of truth, the words of resolution, the world's answer to all dilemmas.

The Scriptures teach this as well in the Book of John, chapter 14, entitled: Christ Is Our High Priest.

14 "Since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Let us leave off with responding to the button-pushing demons, let them cause turmoil to themselves. Let us calmly turn to God and watch Him accomplish what none of us thought possible. Have faith people! Not faith in what you can do.... Faith in what GOD WILL DO, because you prayed and are waiting for Him to do it.

Wounding Waters, the Worldly Church: Introduction

September 28, 2013



We live in *very* exciting times, and I don't think that anyone doubts that the Lord is coming for His Bride *very* soon. What He's called us to share with you are the preparations that He's waiting for us to make, so that we will be 'without spot, wrinkle or blemish.'

On that note, He's given me a five-part teaching that He wanted me to share with you. It's a slightly different perspective, and it has to do with the things in the Church that are *really* killing the anointing. The things that we need to do to have a wedding garment that has *no* wrinkles, *no*

spots, and *no* blemishes at all!

I'm going to give you an introduction to all this, and before I do, I want to share with you a dream that I had, when I first became a Christian. I was swimming in a lake, and all of a sudden, this black panther came up out of the water and grabbed me and pulled me down! What ensued after that was a life and death struggle to get free from this creature. This was a *very, very* powerful animal, and it had the ability to inundate me totally in the water and bring me down to the point where I could drown. I struggled *so* hard to get out of that place. It really *was* a life and death struggle! Sometimes, I would win, and I would be able to push the panther down and keep *him* under water. Other times, he would win, and he would keep me *under* water. This went on for a very long time.

When I woke up, I was just bathed in perspiration. By the time this dream ended, I had him under the water, and he was no longer visible, but that had happened *so* many times before; and he would come shooting up out of the water to grab me again! I had *no* assurance that he was *truly* dead.

I didn't know what this dream meant for a very long time, but then the Lord had mercy on me and told me that it was a warning dream. It has to do with my involvement with the world; with the distractions of the world, with beautiful things - with nature. I used to be a nature photographer, so with nature, and with things having to do with beauty. He especially quickened to me The Parable of Thorns, from Matthew 13.

Some of the seeds sown fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

Later, Jesus explains this parable:

The seed falling among the thorns' refers to someone, who hears the Word, but the worries of this life, and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, making it unfruitful.

'Martha, Martha...' (She laughs) This definitely relates to the 'Martha, Martha' side of me that - well - we're still working on.

A lot of what these teachings are going to be about are preoccupations. When I say *preoccupations*, I mean distractions - things that have bound up our attention, our minds, our resources, and our time. We are so bound up in these preoccupations that they are staining our wedding garment and getting in the way of a really pure relationship with Jesus. He wants to teach us, so that when He comes, we're really ready for Him.

One of the things that I'd like to mention is that our demons are far more subtle than we give them credit for.

When we think of demons, we think of monsters lurking in the dark, ready to wrestle us to the ground. But they are more likely to linger in our Amazon's 'Wish List,' than demons, who are lurking around the corner ready to scare us.

These demons cause us to have desires that are inordinate - things that we don't need; things that are superfluous. A lot of these things take important attention off of God, and they focus it on how to covet, and how to acquire things that will increase our social standing, our appeal, our popularity, our acceptance, and our income.

I want to expose these socially acceptable behavior patterns for the worldly habits that they are, because these things that we get caught up in are accepted. We talk about them! We talk about our shopping sprees, we talk about our vacations, we talk about all kinds of things that have nothing to do with the Lord. **And this is acceptable!** This is something that is normal; something that we do. But life is *not* all about enjoying these things.

The Lord said, *'I have come to give you life and life more abundantly.'* And later, He talks about that life. The Kingdom of God is *not* food or drink but righteousness, peace and joy. So, let's take a look at how we can increase those things in our lives, and let's look at some of the venues that Satan uses to trick us into being distracted by these things.

The first one is the **love of money**: things, entertainments, curiosities, travel, beauty, clothing, health, food, the pride of life. In essence, the 'good life.' Also, mismanagement of time and money on frivolous things, things that aren't important. And really, we know when we've blown it. I know when I've gone someplace, just for the fun of it. I would think, *'I need a little retail therapy.'* Does that sound about right?

We know when we've blown it; when we've spent too much time someplace. Our conscience grieves. We can feel that the Holy Spirit is grieved. A lot of people – myself included – just chalk that feeling up to part of living. After all, we have to have a *little* pleasure and enjoy ourselves. Well, there is a time for that, but I think that in our culture, we're *far* too preoccupied with it.

The second one is **social status**: keeping appearances up; being accepted by the Church community. Keeping our relationships on a level that is acceptable to the status that we're seeking. This means not associating with people that are below our level on an intimate basis, like having them over for dinner, or having them over as friends. Doing things together, but keeping those associations on a higher level, according to our status. We want to match our social activities and networking with what we are trying to do in our lives, and the kinds of people that we want to be involved with.

It also has to do with approval, and getting involved in programs and activities that will increase our social status.

I'm going to go into each one of these areas in great depth, but for instance, with respect to this particular topic, there are so many different things that we can offer to do in the church, and so many different programs that we can get involved in. And it always feels good to be helping, **but** the Lord wants you at home, studying the Scriptures, or teaching your children, or taking care of your husband, or baking cookies. However, if you are pursuing with great enthusiasm the programs at the church, but you are neglecting what is going on at home, then you are not doing His will. This is something to look at. We get involved in these programs, because we know that they look good to the Church, and they're fun, and they'll be a social accomplishment, so to speak.

The third one is living the results, and a **goal-oriented life**. I'm guilty (smiling with embarrassment). Actually, I'm

guilty of *all* of these, and that's the reason why I'm sharing them with you, because my life is *so* happy now and *so* rich, because the Lord has unchained me from my preoccupation with these amusements. That's the reason He's asked me to share this, because I'm very stubborn, and it took the Lord years, and years, and years, to set me free from these entanglements.

No soldier who serves goes out into the world and gets entangled in the world; he stays free of those entanglements. For those of us who are really serious about the Lord, and about His Kingdom, and being a part of bringing His Kingdom to Earth, we need to take a razor-edged look at exactly what are we doing in our lives with our time. Are we wasting our time? Are we spending it on frivolous things? On things that would go up in the fire? Things that are *not* God's will? We'll get into this in greater depth.

Now, living the goal-oriented life. I used to be a nature photographer, and I got *very* intense about my work. And since that time everything that I've done, I get very intense about. Before I do a painting, or record music, or sing, or anything like that, I really try to be sure that this is what the Lord wants me to be doing now; that I'm not neglecting my husband or my family, or the poor that come to our door for food.

So, I have had to learn to stop, and put down something, which I considered required a high level of technical concentration. I had to learn to stop – in mid-stream – get up, and go to the door, to make sure that a family has food for the night, or to take care of some little detail that's frustrating my husband, or if one of my children comes to the door. I had to learn to totally re-vamp my night, to show hospitality to them, whom I love very much.

Being goal-oriented is *not* a healthy thing. You see a lot of Hollywood movies these days, about people who are highly successful in business but tragically unsuccessful in their marriages. Those are goal-oriented people. People who are *really* serious about what they're doing to the exclusion of all other facets of their lives. The Lord has not called us to that. He's called us to love our brother as we love ourselves, and to love Him with all our hearts.

This is something that is sometimes laughed about. You hear, "Oh, this person's a compulsive, addictive worker" or something like that. We make fun, or we chide people about it, but it's really quite serious. Because it's one of the things that wrinkles the garment that the Lord is wanting us to make pure and white for His coming, by cooperating with His Holy Spirit.

The fourth one is **fear of encountering the Lord**. What I want to interject here is that conferences are good. Concerts are good, Bible studies are good. All of these things are good. But they are a ladder to help us to reach that beautiful place of intimacy with the Lord.

If we get caught up in constantly going to conferences, and constantly hearing the latest speaker who comes into town, we're just running, running, running, running, running! As I said, there is nothing wrong with this occasionally, if we know it's the Lord's will. But when we get so caught up in it, rushing from one conference to the next, thinking, 'Oh, is Joyce Meyers going to be speaking? It's only 30 miles away.' We have to ask ourselves, "Is that the Lord's will?" She's a wonderful teacher, but is that the Lord's will for me to be doing that?"

Here's the thing: we become so busy with these conferences and activities at church, that we really don't have the time to dedicate to the Lord in absolute purity; worship time, listening for His voice, studying the Scriptures. That intimacy where you hear His voice, where He speaks to you, where He holds you in His arms. Where He comforts you, He warns you of trials, He teaches you. That intimacy comes at a cost, and the cost has to do with *not* filling your life with busy work, and busy studies, and running here and there to be taught. Because *if* you

have an intimate relationship with the Lord, He will teach you directly, from the Scriptures, from life lessons. From things that happened during the day, from nature. There are so many different ways that He communicates with us!

He *will* teach you, if you take the time to cultivate Him. “Those who seek me, find me.”

So, getting too busy with conferences, Bible studies, and group meetings can be a real detriment. Because if you dedicate two or three hours of time *just* to the Lord every day, the intimacy between you just grows and grows. You become more sensitive to His voice. In the end, after you spent all that time to go to a conference, you might have learned, perhaps, one or two things that were important to you. But that information could have been infused in your heart and imparted to you, through that intimate time with the Lord, *without* all the trappings of having to get dressed, to travel, to be in crowds, and all of the other things that are involved with going to a conference.

This fear of encountering God also has to do with fear of who we are before the Lord. But we have nothing to be afraid of, because He loves us so tenderly. When He shows us our faults, it just melts my heart, because although it can be hard to deal with your faults, He is so tender and gentle about it. He prepares you with the anesthetic of Love so thoroughly, that when He brings to you the things that you are so afraid to sit and be quiet about, you begin to lose that fear, and you begin to become eager to hear what He has to say.

“Lord, *show* me the things that get in the way of our relationship.”

That’s going to be a really neat video and a neat teaching. I’m really looking forward to that, because I was one to run to *every* conference, *every* group meeting, and everything else that you can imagine, completely wearing myself out.

One day, my life changed rather drastically, and I started becoming *really* intimate with the Lord, and that’s when I realized, “Wow! This has been here all the time, and I’ve been out there looking for it.”

The fifth one involves **worry**; security for the future, fear of getting old, health issues, fear of poverty, the need for us to do things ourselves. The need to get involved in trying to do things that only God can do, especially as they relate to our family.

Some of us really long to help the children that aren’t saved or that don’t know the Lord intimately. We really long to help, but prayer is really where it’s at, because God’s arm is so long, and anything that you try to do just pushes them away.

So, worry and fear and insecurity are *huge* And again, the fruit of being in His presence and encountering Him in an intimate way leads you to a particularly special fruit: you lose your fear of the future, because you trust Him so completely! He is so trustworthy, and *He proves* Himself to you over and over and over again!

Are we willing to look through the eyes of the Holy Spirit at those spots, wrinkles, and blemishes? I thought about that for a while, and it came to me! Wrinkles take time and pressure to build up in fabric. They are deep, ingrained habit patterns. They *look* innocent enough on the outside, but they mar the regal, flowing garments of the Bride. Wrinkles mess up a dress! They break up the lines of the dress. Habitually sleeping in your wedding garment, or sitting when you should be standing and serving, is going to create a lot of wrinkles!

When the Lord said that He is coming for a Bride without spot, wrinkle or blemish, I think that it’s worth taking

a look at what those things are.

So, now we've just talked about wrinkles. Spots occur with our interaction with the world. Have you ever been dressed really nicely – like when I lived in New York City – standing on a corner, and a cabbie goes flying by, through a mud puddle – and, whoosh! It's all over you? Suddenly, there are mud spots *all over* what you were wearing.

Well, in the old Southern adage, "If you play with dung long enough, you're bound to get some on you." That's what the world is like. If you play around in the world long enough, you begin to have the soil of that interaction on your soul, and it gets in the way of your purity of heart, because you're thinking about these things that have to do with the world instead of just thinking about the Lord and what's important to Him.

Blemishes are another story altogether. Blemishes are *deep*. A blemish in a piece of fabric would be threads missing from that fabric that would cause it to unravel. In our bodies, blemishes have to do with impurities in our blood. So, "without spot, wrinkle or blemish" – without interior pollution or structural weakness – things that are hidden but *highly* important are blemishes.

As you know, in a Temple sacrifice, the Jewish people *never* offered a blemished lamb. The offering *had* to be unblemished, in order for the Lord to accept it.

This is what He is telling us about our wedding dresses. They can't have spots, wrinkles or blemishes. And He is so into preparing us, and preparing this wedding garment for us, and purifying our hearts and minds, and making this garment "without spot, wrinkle or blemish"...but we have to be willing to look at what *we* might be doing to stain it.

I encourage you to stay tuned for the next five teachings, and I look forward to seeing you. Please write to me, leave some comments; I appreciate it. My name is Clare du Bois, and we have a web site called Heartdwellers.org. You can get music there, as well as teachings, and daily readings, and things like that.

Stay tuned...we'll see you later.

Wounding Waters, Part I: Love of Money

1 of 3

September 28, 2013



Welcome to the first teaching in this five-part series. It has to do with the love of money, as part I, and I want to begin with the Scriptures of Luke 16:13:

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

The Scriptures say that the love of money is the root of all evil. When we talk about the love of money, we are talking about a preoccupation with money, and the things that money can help us to attain.

The repercussions of this sin are really far-reaching and difficult to calculate, on the surface. You really have to delve into it, in order to see how much your life is impacted by chasing after things of the world that money can buy.

I speak this with an open heart; the Lord has so many graces for us, but as I said before, the spots on our wedding garment have to do with our entanglements in the world; and we don't want to have these anymore, because it won't be long before the Lord comes for His Bride, and we're not ready! We need to be ready! These are teachings to help us prepare to *be* His Bride, *without* spot, wrinkle or blemish.

I want to begin with some examples. The simplest example that I can think of involves an unknown person, who is seen driving up to the church in an old, beater car. His Bible is ragged, and his clothing is plain and simple, with wear and tear at the cuffs and around the neckline. The jeans bear some noticeable holes here and there, and nothing about them says 'designer jeans!' This is a plain, simple person, who is coming to worship the Lord on Sunday.

He enters the church and immediately draws a barrage of judgments from people, ranging from "Okay, is he going to want money for gas or utilities?" to 'Obviously, he's not important, so we'll just ignore him and look away.'

We move on to socialize with our friends - the stratum that we're a part of, or at least, that's what some people think. We may greet him in the name of the Lord, and do the usual things that we do when we greet people at church, but there are hidden judgments there about the person in question. Are they going to cause trouble? Are they going to ask for money? What's going to be *their* issue? Are they here to get something from us?

The kneejerk reaction that we have to people who appear poor can be like that, and we need to be *very* honest with ourselves. I'm talking about me, and I'm talking about you; I'm talking about everyone. We really need to be honest, and if this attitude of the heart is in you at all, then you need to take a look at it. Try not to get too upset with me, for picking at these things, because these are things I've had to overcome, too, and I could "fall" in a *heartbeat*! The Lord is constantly giving me the grace to be His emissary, to be His "lover of souls."

Some of us have actually sat next to Angels and not known it and had judgments about the way they were dressed or what kind of car they drove. And they weren't even earthly beings!

How does God look upon that man? Well, God may see someone who is a prophet, who spends a lot of time in prayer; who doesn't consider working in this world worthy of his time. Rather, he helps people. He's always there when the drunk staggers home at night; he's there for the little boy who doesn't have a father anymore. He's there for the single mother who has holes in her roof, and water leaking in. He's there for the elderly and the sick. He could be a person who visits shut-ins. This could very well be who this man is!

But he's so "plain wrapper" and teetering on the edge of looking poor, that he elicits a knee-jerk reaction from those of us who are used to the finer things in life and are looking to other people who are well-heeled or well-dressed.

Perhaps the Lord sees him as a prophet sent into the church with a Word for the pastor or a Word for you, and because you shied away from him – or because I shied away from him – I may not get that Word or that healing that he brought to the church.

Now that's the potential. I'm not saying that this applies to everyone obviously, but God looks at him differently.

If he is a Christian, then Christ dwells in him, and it's a great honor to sit next to someone that Christ dwells in. If he's *not* a Christian, Christ died on the cross for him and the Lord wants him in Heaven with Him for an eternity – in either case! This person has *tremendous* value beyond what our superficial judgments would automatically react to.

Now, I'm going to be a little stereotypical here, but I promise to ease up as we go on. Let us now say that a well-dressed man, stepping out of a late-model car sporting a large gold ring with diamonds and carrying his brand-new, leather-bound Bible, walks in the door...and heads turn. "Wow, he must be someone important." "Maybe he's a prophet?" It's certainly difficult to say. He might be. He's well-to-do; he's a success in life. He was noticed the moment he pulled into the parking lot, because he had a really nice car.

He sits close to the front and his just being there commands attention. Heads turn, and voices whisper, "Who is that man?"

Now, how does God see that man? First of all, the Lord died on the Cross for him, and if he is a Christian, of course the Lord lives in him. But the Lord may see things that are not apparent to us; hidden things.

He may be a landowner with sub-standard housing. He may be involved in business deals which are a little 'shady;' there may be tenants in his houses who don't have running water. He buys *more* property, instead of repairing the property that he already has, that he's renting to the poor. That is a *real* possibility! We don't know!

On the other hand, he could be a family man who works day and night to make a living for his family; he could be very faithful and devoted - he tithes, he gives to missions. Perhaps he's on a sales trip and he's visiting this church, and he's a *good*, upstanding citizen! *And* a good Christian! He does what he can to help.

In any case, he is someone that we want to get to know. He is someone that we're attracted to and drawn to, because he is a success.

The Lord warned us about preferential treatment in James 2:

My brothers and sisters, believers in our Lord, Jesus Christ, must **not** show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting, wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy, old clothes comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes, and say, "Here, here! Here's a good seat for you, right up in front," but you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or you can sit on the floor or here by my feet." Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Those are difficult words! *Evil thoughts*. Showing judgment because of economic status.

I had a friend once who had been in publishing, and we were talking about this very same issue. And he said, "Well, I don't see anything wrong with that. After all, we *should* associate with people who are on our own level; in our *own* stratum."

I was really quite scandalized by that, because I know that there are many wonderful Christians who make wonderful friends, and who are *very* deep - and economically, they don't measure up. But isn't it about anointing? And relationships with the Lord? Devotion to the Lord and brotherly love? Isn't *that* our standard? Why are we looking at rings and clothes and cars, and making judgments based on that?

I'm going to move on to another example now, and I want to say this much:

In Proverbs, it says to scorn the poor is a slap in the face of Jesus and casts mud upon the cross, for it is written, "He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their maker."

Money has very deep roots in our consciousness, and people *with* money have a certain meaning, and people *without* money have another meaning. We need to take a very close look at our attitudes and our preferences for people, based upon their economic status.

I'm going to give you another example: We're going to go from very small examples of how it corrupts our Christian walk to some very big ways that it has an effect on the Church.

Wounding Waters, Part 1: Love of Money

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September 28, 2013

Now for our second example: there was a time in our lives when we went from being fairly well off, in the historic district of Annapolis, Maryland, living in a nice, historic, 3-story building to poor - quite literally overnight. (Snaps her fingers) Just like that! We ended up in a tar-paper shack on the side of a mountain, in the Poconos in Pennsylvania. Previously, we'd attended an affluent Washington D.C. church, and we'd been drawn into the social circle of the pastor and the pastor's wife. They were fond of us, and they were very good people and very, very good to us. He was educated at Oxford. They were very Spirit-filled, special, good people.

When we went from that social status or that income bracket to being poor, and we moved away to a different area - when we walked into church with our four children, we drew some *amazing* stares. The coldness, the rejection, and the suspicion of people toward us was amazing! I was totally floored!

I look back on that period now, and doing without the niceties of life - like hot water and having to shop at thrift stores and so on - was no big deal. However, the social stigma *attached* to that change and to the way that people treated you, as well as the opportunities to minister that they closed the door on, and the ways that they judged you was a whole different matter!

It was as if, all of a sudden, you had gone from someone who could do something in the church; make a contribution and be helpful... to someone who is utterly worthless. After all, you *couldn't* be a success. Because *if* you were a *success*, then you would be dressed *successfully*. If you are not a success, then we shouldn't hand over the ministry-type jobs to you, because you obviously don't measure up. This is universal. We can deny it. We can say that it doesn't exist; but we know that it does. And it's very painful! It's so terribly painful! Not only are we discriminated against in those situations, but our children are discriminated against. We just aren't worthy of the opportunities that the wealthier class and the Church get.

This makes me think of Proverbs 13:7

One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing. Another pretends to be poor that has great wealth.'

I have to tell you that when we made this move, our spiritual life exploded in depth: in comprehension, in unity with the Lord, in His priorities, in our love for Him, in teaching our children. Overnight our lives went from being superficially engaged in all the trappings of a well-heeled, middle-class family, to focusing almost exclusively on the Lord. On His integrity and virtue, on loving Him, on worshiping Him, on learning about Him. Our lives

changed overnight!

This particular Scripture reminds me so much of our life at that time! We had to borrow a chainsaw in order to have enough wood to stay warm throughout the winter. That's the kind of situation we were in. When we were in Annapolis, we pretended to be rich. We had all of these things that kept us so busy – getting the house properly manicured, getting it properly decorated, getting the 'right' clothing and the 'correct' accessories for this clothing, making certain that we had all of the right trappings for living. We were just going around on a merry-go-round.

This reminds me of a very specific magazine cover done by Keith Greene. It's very hard to forget. It was of a woman standing in a classy, yellow kitchen, and she looked like a swirl of water that was getting flushed down the toilet drain. She was spinning and swirling around like she was being swallowed up and flushed down this drain. That is how we felt when we pretended to be rich!

Then we come to the second portion of this saying: "Another has nothing and pretends to be poor; yet has great wealth."

How beautiful our life was at that time! How rich in the Lord it was. I'm convinced that this fear of rejection, and of not being given opportunities in Ministry or in the Church haunts a lot of Christians, and even pastors. They really feel obligated to keep up with what they look like. The kinds of things that they have, the kind of house that they have, what types of cars they drive. They feel that an important aspect of being a shepherd - and being a leader - is to present a prosperous image. This thought brings us to our next example.

I don't think that the Lord has anything against people who are wealthy and well-groomed. In fact, these are the people that He has chosen to manage the funding of missions and other endeavors for the Church, for the spread of the gospel. They are people with great integrity that He loves very much; that He can trust to do His will. Many of the wealthy are, and that's a beautiful thing! We're not going to criticize wealth or being well-groomed. However, what I know the Lord doesn't like is to judge people by these standards of the world. That's what we're talking about here – judging people's worth based upon their economic status. He hates that!

What about pastors that have an eye toward expansion of their churches, big prosperous ministries and luxurious homes? Let's take a look at that for a moment. I've heard pastors talk about other pastors who were very wealthy and had a lot of money and incredibly beautiful, extraordinary mansions. I've heard them hold these people up as examples of how they want to be and how they want their Christian Body – their church – to be. I think that this is terrible! What are we talking about here? We're talking about all of the trappings of the world; we're not talking about anointing, Church holiness, or personal holiness. We're not talking about these examples. We're talking about examples of money. That has to do with the world, and that can get us into a lot of trouble!

Let's say, for instance, that there's a pastor of a small church. And he is very conscious about how he looks, how he dresses and his appearance at church. At the same time, there is a single mother there who doesn't have a car. The pastor has saved money; he has a job on the side. He's saved money, so that he can go spend \$300, \$400, or \$500 on clothing one weekend, because the things that he has are getting a little old. And a woman comes to the church, who is a single mother and a regular church-goer, whose husband has deserted her - and she has no car. No way to take the kids to the doctor, no way to go shopping, no way to take them on outings. She's in a really rough position, not having a car! She finds a car for sale, for a \$500 down payment - that's out of the question for her. She doesn't have that kind of money. So, she goes to the pastor.

Now, the pastor is going to be confronted with a choice: Do I keep up with how I'm supposed to look - this successful, prosperous image? Or do I give this money to her, and go on wearing frayed shirt collars and the same old suits to church? What am I going to do in that situation?

Folks, we should never have to make that kind of a decision! That should be a non-existent threat in our lives as Christians. That should be totally *irrelevant* to us – having to influence other people with our appearance, to the point where we can't be charitable toward other people, because we need that money to look good.

Here is another example of a single mother at a conference. She's wanted to go to this conference for months, because she heard about this wonderful teacher who is coming. She finds a babysitter among her friends for her children; she has a friend who pays for her ticket and they go together to this conference.

She absolutely adores the teacher, and she would love to have some of the tapes and books that this teacher has written! During the intermission, she goes out into the lobby and she looks at all of the things that are being offered for sale, and everything is just *so* expensive. It seems like the price of each next item is more expensive than the last! This woman is thinking about cough syrup for her children. She can't go to Walgreen's and buy cough syrup, *and* have one of these teachings on CD... She walks away frustrated, hurt, and disappointed.

Perhaps she writes to the teacher/evangelist, and asks if they would donate some materials to her. She gets a polite letter back that says, "I'm sorry but we only do that for people who are in the mission field, overseas." The really difficult thing is that the teacher here likes clothing, loves to go shopping, and talks about that pretty liberally, along with her teachings. This is sad! This is just tragic! That a woman should go without teachings like that. Where are our priorities, where we have such a need to appear in different clothes every time we go out to teach, that we have to spend large amounts of money on clothing? What about those women who come to the conference who can't leave with the materials they need to extricate themselves from a life of despair and poverty and depression? She doesn't have a computer, so she can't go on-line to purchase some of these teachings. She's lucky if she has a CD player that works. This is another way that this whole culture of prosperity affects the little people and their children; and it can continue on for generations.

I want to quote First John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything *in* the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father *is not* in that. For everything in the world -- the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life -- comes *not* from the Father, but from the world. And the world, and its desires, pass away. But whoever does the will of God lives forever.

I'm going to talk about someone like that in just a few moments, so don't get discouraged by negative examples. I'm just trying to draw attention to the ways that we really have cheated ourselves out of grace, and cheated others out of grace, by putting such a high priority on these superficial things.

Wounding Waters, Part I: Love of Money 3 of 3

September 29, 2013

I was once called into travail in intercession for a very famous TV minister. After about the third hour in prayer, the Lord stopped me, and He made me to understand that this man, and men like him – evangelists and teachers like him who lead a very wealthy lifestyle with villas, private planes, expensive cars, chauffeurs, and bodyguards -- bring this mentality with them when they visit poor, innocent, developing countries and their people. Their first introduction to Christianity is "Become a Christian, become rich! Look at this! I get an

anointing for healing, or teaching, and I can be rich! I can fly around the world and teach. I can have villas! I can have houses! I can have expensive clothing!”

The Lord stopped me after about the third hour, and I felt so nauseated that I *knew* that I had to go to the bathroom to throw up. I felt so grieved over how the Holy Spirit felt over this situation; presenting Christianity in this light, as an affluent, prosperous, money-making, financial gain, status-building **thing!** What kind of example are we giving? Hollywood actors or holy Christians? Goodness! The **Lord** was born in a **stable** and buried in a **borrowed tomb!**

This man, and many like him, have been surrounded by scandals and divorce, and the Scriptures say, Better a little, with a fear of the Lord, than great wealth with turmoil.

Very often, people who have a lot of money don't get any rest or peace from it. Their children fight over it. It *doesn't* make life better in a lot of ways; it stresses a life out. Paul talks about the evil effects of focusing on money and gain. He says, in First Timothy, ...People who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

This is what I'm talking about. That's abhorrent to the Lord!

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil; and some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all of this and pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. I Tim. 6:10

Pursue these things. That is the life the Lord came to give us. That's the abundant life. Not a life filled with things!

I want to give you my final example of how this kind of corruption can affect the Body on a large scale. Let's consider the situation of a wealthy man who joins a church. He really likes the pastor, the teachings; he likes everything about it. So, he becomes an established member of this church. He starts telling his friends about it, and they join, and he gets a little group together after, perhaps, three, four, or five years.

There are now several very wealthy people in the church that have formed a little group. They're all friends, and they hang out together, and they form an elite but powerful clique in this church. Their tithes have enabled the pastor to live a more prosperous life – to have a nice house, a nice car – because they are big tithers. The pastor is even able to make plans for his children to have a better education.

Now the church has become so popular that they want to have a building project, so they begin that and break ground for a new sanctuary. One morning the pastor is in prayer before service, and the Lord convicts him of something; so he sets aside the sermon he was going to preach, and he teaches on what he was convicted of. He shares this story with the congregation, and there's an altar call and a lot of repentance and people come forward. But the small, elite group didn't like that message.

They invite the pastor out to lunch afterward, and they have a little talk with him. They tell him, “You know, I don't think that's really something that you should be dwelling on and preaching about. That's really not that important, and it's just not a good idea to be preaching on that topic. I think you should be focused more on other things, like missions, and so on and so forth.”

So, what are the options that this pastor has? Toe the party line, or watch the tithes walk out the door! No one

should be put under this kind of pressure. The repercussions of this issue are that *if* he loses this wealthy group of men, he can forget the building project, the nice house, the nice car, etc., because he'll be going back to a much more modest living as a pastor. This is how we get entangled in the world. We spot our garments, we develop blemishes; we wrinkle our garments with these entanglements. They put us in precarious situations where our integrity is on the line. We should not have to worry about taking care of our family and *not* offending a certain group of tithers in the church! There should not be that kind of a struggle going on. How do you avoid something like that?

Here is where I want to bring up the good example. I want to talk about Heidi and Roland Baker. I may not have all of the facts exactly in line, but I do want to share what I do know about them. Heidi went to Ontario, to the Airport Church, and got slain in the Spirit and knocked off her horse for three days. She was so heavy that they had trouble picking her up and moving her out of the church and taking her to the hotel. She just couldn't move!

Now, they are both highly educated. She has several degrees. And she'd been laboring with Roland in Africa for about a decade, working *very* hard, and she has only a handful of churches to show for all the hard work that she has done. Well, when she was knocked out, the Spirit of the Lord took over and started doing some things with her. She comes back up out of that, and she starts sharing with people about all of the wonderful things that happened there and about the Toronto blessing.

The people who were backing her were ultra-conservative. They heard about this, and they were very unhappy about it. They gave her an ultimatum: "You go there, and you talk about that - and we're not going to support you." Well, Heidi had plans for orphanages and all kinds of things back in Africa. She was coming to the States, but she was planning to return to Africa and get these orphanages built and help a lot of people. And, all of a sudden, the people supporting her said, "We're not going to back you anymore, if you endorse the Toronto blessing, because we don't believe it's of God."

That didn't bother Heidi! She knows who her Maker is; she knows who she serves. She completely ignores them, at the risk of returning to Africa and abject poverty and not being able to do anything. She *knows* her God will provide for her! She ignores them, and she endorses the Toronto blessing; many other people are later blessed, because of this. She returns to Africa, and the Lord uses her to spearhead the *greatest* ministry that has *ever* been on this Earth, as far as how many souls have been saved! In the history of the world, no one has had as much of an effect on saving souls as Heidi and Roland Baker have! Without the backing of the wealthy people that didn't approve of the Toronto blessing.

That is how we need to handle these things! There is absolutely *no* comparison between God and the wealthy. We have to stand up for what's right and not compromise; and it means that if we don't have an airplane ticket back to Africa – that He has to bi-locate us or put us on the "slow boat" – it doesn't matter. God is going to bring great fruit out of that, *because* you were faithful.

I love First Timothy 6:17

Commend those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant; nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain; but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Our enjoyment doesn't come from expensive meals, fine dining, traveling, and seeing the sights, going to shows or concerts, or anything of that nature. Heidi's enjoyment comes from seeing the fruit of the Spirit, or the fruit of her labors; from seeing all of these children being born into the Kingdom of God. *That's* where her enjoyment comes from! And if that's where *our* enjoyment comes from, then we won't be swayed by these compromises. We won't give in to them. We'll be able to keep right on going and say, "Bye, bye!"

Now, I'd like to talk about the standards and the qualifications of Christian ministers. What do the Scriptures say a pastor is supposed to be like? In First Timothy 3:1 Paul says, Here is a trustworthy saying: whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now, the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money.

Do you realize what Paul has just said here? Paul has just said that being quarrelsome, being given to drunkenness, being unfaithful to his wife, is being equal with being a lover of money. That's how important this is! I've discussed with you four or five examples of how this corruptions affects the Body of Christ. It prevents people from coming into their full anointings, because they're not of the "right" social status. It cuts off prophetic movements. It cuts off all kinds of things because of appearances; because of social status and money. We'll talk more about social status in our next teaching.

This is really revealing! Paul is saying that being unfaithful to your wife is a *major* thing. And he is putting a "lover of money" on equal footing with that! He is categorizing that as a *serious* sin. He is saying that an overseer that loves money should *not* be an overseer! How stark are the words of Paul, wherein he says, But Godliness with contentment is great gain. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. I Tim. 6:6

My goodness!

Those who want to get rich, fall into temptation, and into a trap, and into many, many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. You cannot serve both money and the Lord. Sooner or later He will put you to the test. I Tim. 6:9

He'll put you to the test to see where your loyalties lie. He's going to sift you. He is going to find out whom you are really serving. Are you serving yourself, because you want to be wealthy and prosperous and look good to the community? Or, are you serving the Lord, and you don't care *what* you look like to the community, as long as your Lord is happy with you?

When I look at the example that says, "If we have food and clothing, we'll be content with that," I think, 'Oh, my goodness! How many people in our culture would be content with food and clothing? That's not even mentioning a roof over your head or a hot shower!'

Paul is talking about some pretty *basic* standards here. I'm not saying that we should be *that* primitive, but I am saying that all of these other entanglements that we get ourselves into, to conform and to look good, are very destructive and not pleasing to the Lord at all; and they prevent you from growing spiritually. I struggled with these things for years! And the Lord showed me how much He *could* have done, if I had abandoned these things much earlier in my life.

In the end, we're going to be judged on what we did and what we failed to do, and we're going to face calamity and judgment. The Lord warns us, in Ezekiel, what that looks like.

In Ezekiel 7:19

They will throw their silver into the streets; their gold will be treated as a thing unclean. Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them on the day of the Lord's wrath. It will not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs, for it has caused them to stumble into sin.

Christian people, Christian leaders, and Christian pastors *don't* pursue money and wealth and that image, and they *don't* teach their people to do that. Teach your people to be totally 100% devoted to the Lord, without compromising. Teach them simple standards of living; teach them important things, and teach them to cleave to those things with all their hearts. So much depends upon that!

I want to say, please. Rethink your priorities! Please rethink your priorities and what's being taught to and modeled for people. Look at the kind of example that you are setting, and the kind of example that the elders are setting. Don't elevate people that have money and put them on a pedestal; don't talk about how wonderful they are, because they have money. That's the way the world talks.

If you've done those things, search your heart; go before the Lord and ask Him – beg Him – to show you the way, since you've compromised, and you've taught that compromise to other people. Repent for that, and ask Him to forgive you.

This message is coming with the grace to change. It's here before you, if you are willing to look at these dark places in your heart and to give them up, so that you can be 100% 'sold out' for Jesus, and for His Kingdom, and for His agenda right now. The Lord is with you, and He is going to give you the grace to repent and to turn your life around. This way you can show the world what it really means to be a Christian. â

God bless you.

Welcome to Heartdwellers.org

October 10, 2013



Welcome to Heartdwellers. We are a ministry dedicated to restoring the Bride of Christ and preparing her for Jesus Christ's coming

The Lord once said to me, *"All of My great generals have been Heartdwellers."* And I realized that was probably the most important thing in our lives – to dwell in His heart. As His Bride, we do not focus on doctrinal differences and debates, rather we are immersed in His Love, so we can become His vessels of love to the world. We believe that seeing and hearing our God is the heritage and right of every Christian. As the Scripture promises in John 14: If anyone loves me, he will keep My word, and my Father will love Him and we will come to him and make our abode within him.

And so a major part of our lives is dwelling with Him in our hearts – keeping Him company, adoring and cherishing every minute with Him. He places a very high emphasis on purity of heart. As He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." So, we are ever concerned and watchful to keep our wedding garments clean and without stain, without compromise with the world.

Methods of communication have changed from sermons beside the Sea of Galilee to Internet podcasts and live streaming. And the lines between worldliness and holiness are seemingly obscured. Yet the very heart of our hearts, the very love of our lives, the very One who means everything to us wants us to know where that line is between the world and holiness.

I'm not talking about Phariseism and blanket condemnations against the Internet: rock music and drums in church, or girls in jeans, etc. etc. That's not the focus. I'm talking about what our hearts are preoccupied and taken up with. In the depths of our hearts, what do we find? Jesus and what's important to Him. Or a plethora of worldly concerns: what shall I wear? what shall I eat? where shall we shop? ect. Is it the latest fashions and nice car, popularity with our peers, pleasing our parents or relatives? We all have necessities, living in the modern world. Tools of communication, travel, learning and those things, when used for the Kingdom of God are good. What is harmful are endless curiosities and frills. Things like that take life and time that could have been spent for Him, and for our brothers and sisters who have fallen in the abyss of confusion all around us.

If anything is in our hearts that is not useful to Jesus, we are bound to fall short of loving Him with the single-minded passion of His Bride. Yet, even when we see it, we can't change it. Only He can, with our cooperation. And for it to happen, we must make the decision to give Him our all, to turn over to Him all things that are not on His agenda.

That's kind of scary, actually. Self-will and all our hopes and dreams. We're going to put them on the holy altar or His perfect will and see which of those things really are ordained of Him, and which things aren't. Really, I think it makes a very brave person to make that decision, to yield all of that to Him. But even if we are cowards, like me, He'll work with you until you have the strength to actually do that, and to mean it with all your heart.

But we must trust Him, for never does He take from us without first considering how we're going to grow closer to Him and how it will enrich and benefit us. His standards are not the American dream – that's for sure. His standards are a literal Heaven on Earth. Where righteousness walks the stores, the streets, and the schools, and when people see us they see something is different. They can't quite put their finger on it, but there is kind of a sweet fragrance around us, that accompanies us – and that's Jesus.

If we are pursuing any vain and worldly pastime, we are falling into bondage and hurting ourselves. And the Lord is all about healing and setting us free from bondages. So, do we trust Him enough to relinquish our cherished and ill-fated agendas into His capable hands. Or do we want to hold on to them, and make our own decisions about what we're going to spend our life doing and where we're going to be, how we're going to spend our time. Do we really want Him in total control of our lives? This is an honest question, and it's right where the rubber meets the road. Not something you can just pop up and say, "Yes, I want Him in total control." It's not that easy, because there are areas we might hold on to. So, it's a very serious question when we ask how much control are we willing to hand over to the Lord. How far are we willing to go? Or are we lukewarm, comfort-loving Laodicean's, fond of shopping and entertainment and pleasure and pastime. In these very moments in history He is even at the door, soon to descend and claim His Bride – I really, really believe that. But what will He find when He comes? That's a question. Will He see and find a distracted, worldly Bride in a wrinkled and dirty wedding gown, running around and seeking her own interests?

Martha, Martha. And I have to admit to you, that's been my hardest struggle. I've have been a Martha, Martha for a good 20 years. It's taken the Lord a very long time to teach me how to be a Mary, and to put that desire in my heart. I'm not saying that I've arrived, I'm only saying I'm in a better place now than I was then. And He's so masterful in getting me in these places; He does it in such innovative and sweet ways. It's really quite amazing to watch Him working and separating me from the world.

Well, when He comes, will He see this distracted, worldly Bride in a wrinkled and dirty wedding gown – or a Bride in pristine attire, passionately on fire, serving Him and awaiting the sound of that trumpet. We can't be ready for Him on our own. We really and truly need the power of God working in our hearts. We need to dwell with Him consistently, passionately and let Him be the all-consuming love of our lives. He lives in our heart! All you have to do is immerse yourself in Him in your heart – He is there! And He'll teach you how to see Him and how to hear Him. He's waiting, really only waiting for our consent. Give Him an inch and He'll take a delightful mile! That's one thing about the book we have on the site, *Chronicles of the Bride*. It's all about the delights of Heaven and the special place that He's prepared for us. My place in Heaven's gonna look different from yours – but I guarantee you that it will be the most delightful place you can ever imagine, because you'll have everything that you love there.

Well, once we are on the road to freedom from our vain attachments to the world, we'll never want to turn back. Those things will seem flat, without luster, without interest – where they used to have such a passionate hold on us before. Why? Well, I'll have to say it's because we'll have more and more of Jesus, and the more we love Him the more we want Him. And the more we see Him, the more we love Him, the more we want to be with Him and we also can look back on the emptiness of the lives we once led before. Even if it's in little steps. Moving forward in little steps you can still look back and see the little things He's detached you from. So, you can be filled more with Him and less with yourself and things of the world.

Well, as far as timing goes, in America right now we're on the brink of an economic chaos and I believe this is no accident. We truly have become the lukewarm church that says, "I'm prosperous. My closets and freezers are full; I have my savings and retirement, my vehicles. I've got it all together. Except the gold that WE (as believers) possess. For the most part, for most of us it is not fire-tried. But I believe it soon will be. The Lord Himself is allowing this, to reveal that we are truly poor, blind and naked. I've seen a lot of good Christian people just throwing their hands up and not understanding what's going on. "Why, Lord, why have YOU allowed this to happen? Why have we had so many financial disasters?" I believe He's emptying His Bride of all of her worldly attachments, I truly believe that.

I'm reminded of a conference I attended, with Heidi Baker speaking. She looked over the audience, fell to her knees and begged Jesus, "Please, don't leave us here. Please visit us! Don't let us stay here in this place!" She prayed for all who came forward and I thought it conspicuous that no miracles took place. Had she prayed that prayer in Mozambique, undoubtedly the blind and the lame would have been raised on the spot. But our blindness, our infirmity is far more insidious. We don't see our spiritual state. If we observed the little girls the Lord saved from being sex slaves in Africa, if we saw them praying over the blind and deaf, and witnessing the miracles that fell upon the people – perhaps then we would see with spiritual eyes that truly we are the blind and naked. And they are the ones who are rich in fire-tried gold.

The grace is the same, whether it be Africa or America. So, what was different? I believe we in this country are surfeited with the world – so much so, there's little room left for the agendas and grace of God. In Mozambique the people have nothing, no one but God. Their hunger and emptiness calls out to Him, and the graces fill their empty cups to overflowing. But here, our cups are overflowing with worldly things, and the graces find no place to land.

So, what can we do? Well, I know that on my part I have to empty my heart of all that is not God. That's a continuing process, 'cause there's more layers than I recognize. So, each time one layer comes up,

another layer presents itself. But I believe with the economic difficulties that are coming, if we work with it, and recognize that we are acquiring fire-tried gold that we'll make some progress in detachment. I believe that we'll see ourselves as poor, blind and naked, and finally we'll realize and recognize what is lacking and do something serious about it. Like giving the Lord our very best time, and pushing the world out more and more.

This is what Heartdwellers is all about. Letting go of the world and its fatal compromises and embracing Jesus with a pure heart. I hope you'll stay tuned with us as we share with you the continuing revelation of the Lord's love and wisdom. On this site you'll find teachings and inspiration for daily living, music and our first book, *Chronicles of the Bride*, in which we share with you some of the delights of Heaven. A foretaste that the Lord was so generous to give to us, of what He's prepared for those who love Him.

Please pray for us and we will pray for you, that through mutual encouragement we may live a life worthy of the very souse of Jesus.

God bless you. And I hope to hear from you.

Wounding Waters Part 2: Social Status

1 of 2

October 14, 2013



Welcome to Heartdwellers. This is our second video teaching in a series of five, which addresses ways that the Church is worldly, and this has to do with social status. Let's get right into it.

Social status and order are important, as it applies to the world and the way things are categorized and held together. That's very important. However, when it comes to His Church, the Lord abhors social status, and things being done the same way that they're done in the world.

We've grown up since childhood being taught the world's ways of measuring Man; these things go deep! From the earliest age we are taught: this is proper; this is improper. This is a person to look up to; this is a person not to look up to.

Most of the time, the standards are worldly, and they're *not* spiritual. Let's take a look at the differences that are there. We've all heard that expression that "Man's ways are not God's ways," so we know right away that God has one yardstick; Man has another yardstick. Usually, on Man's marker, it has to do with being beautiful or being ugly; rich or poor; intelligent or slow; talented or lackluster; high-born or lowborn.

On Earth, the most powerful and talented people are often the most ruthless in defending their title, and that is not necessarily what the Lord wants *us* to be like. But what are the markers on God's yardstick?

Let's go ahead and read Matthew: 18:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" He called a little child to him and placed the child among them, and He said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly

position of this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

That’s pretty interesting. What are the characteristics of a child, versus the characteristics of an adult? Well, for instance, children tend to be innocent; adults tend to size up situations, be calculating and deliberate. Children are accepting, and they don’t ask a lot of questions; adults are more judgmental and discriminating. Children are without guile; Man is more cautious and subtle in how he deals with other people, and in sizing them up. Children are transparent; men and women are guarded, and sometimes evasive. Children tend to be loving and accepting when they’re young, unless they’ve been taught something different; adults look more at ulterior motives, and they are more opportunistic. We size situations up, and we decide whether this is something that is going to benefit us.

For instance, children tend to be candid. Sometimes, they say the rudest things - things that you wish that they had never said - but they say them completely out of candor and simplicity of heart. I’m reminded of a story that my husband told once, about a preacher man in the South being invited to dinner. At the dinner table, a large chicken had been cooked and everybody had eaten a piece of it, but there was a *tiny* bit left over. The woman putting on the dinner said, “Well, Preacher, we’re always so glad when you come over to eat dinner with us! We are so happy when you do that!” And the little child pops up and says, “No, you ain’t, Momma! You told me that all he’s gonna do is come over here, and eat all our chicken!”

That is just so typical of a child! They are so innocent and without guile. They say the silliest things sometimes, and really embarrass their parents. You have to be careful about what you say around your children, because it’s very likely to be repeated. Even more important than that, however, you should be careful what you say at all, because the Lord and His angels are always listening in.

I want to tell you another story about Rick Joyner’s trip to Heaven. Rick had an experience where he was taken to Heaven, and there was a man in Heaven that he recognized. He was sitting on the throne, and Rick said, “I know you from somewhere.” The man replied, “Yes, you do. Do you mean you remember me?” Rick says, “Yeah. I *know* you from somewhere.” The man said, “Well, I’m the ragged street preacher who was on the street, homeless, that you passed by in the bus station once.” And Rick was terribly, terribly embarrassed, because when he had passed by that street preacher, he said to his companion something on the order of, “Oh! There’s another one! It’s gonna turn people off. Cuz they’re out there on the street corners preaching! It’s another one of those!” And he kept on walking.

Well, I think that Rick had a vision about this person. Later, he thought that when he saw him, he kind of recognized him; but he brushed it aside, as we often do with visions. We don’t always take them seriously. Well, now he’s in Heaven, and the angels are waiting on this man. He’s sitting on a throne, and the angels are busy, coming and going, and doing all kinds of things for him that he’s directing them to do. Rick is amazed by this, because – well – he had judged him by *society’s* standards, and now the Lord was showing him *the Lord’s* standards!

He asked the Lord, “Why is this man so important in Heaven?” The Lord replied, “Well, this man - I only gave him one grace, but he used that grace to the maximum! This man saved the life of another man. He gave his life to keep a man who was drunk on the street, alive; to keep him warm. He laid on top of this man through the night to keep him warm - but, in the process of doing that he, himself, died.”

We’re going to take a deep look at the Lord’s standards, because right now we’re in a world where it’s easy to get by with the world’s standards in the world. But pretty soon that’s going to be stripped away. For some of you, it may be today; for some of us, it might be today or tomorrow; or it may not be for another twenty years.

But the point is, we're going to have to confront the social standards of Heaven and the Lord, and we're going to be comparing how we acted - and how the Holy Spirit *wanted* us to act. This could be a very distressing moment in our lives - a very, very distressing moment. So, this is something we want to look at *now, before* we get to that point where we're confronted with it, but we can't do anything about it, because we can't change.

Let's look at the choices that God the Father made in bringing Jesus into the world. The Lord came as an example of holiness and of what God was like. Before this, people had a vision of God the Father - YHWH - in Heaven, on a throne, filled with power and might! But God had a deep need not only to save mankind and to die on the Cross, but He had a deep need to communicate His personality to the people on Earth. So, God incarnates and Jesus comes and sets an example of holiness for all of Man.

Now this gets *really* interesting! This is something that we should really meditate on. For parents, He chose the working class. He wasn't guarded in a royal nursery. Rather, He was a fugitive on the run from a *very* early age, from when He was a baby. His crib was a trough for cattle feed. I don't know if you ever looked at one of those carefully, but we raised horses and it's full of slobber - not exactly neat and tidy and sanitary. It's pretty lowly, as far as furniture goes. His bedding was rough straw, and I don't know if you've ever laid on straw, but it's *very* scratchy and rough and it pokes you in different places - it's not comfortable at all! As far as education went, he was home-schooled.

Here's where reality really takes a dive, as far as 'out of reality.' For the Lord's PR team, He chose an uncultured, long-haired non-conformist, living-on-a-raw-food diet and crying-out-in-the-wilderness, "Repent!" I can think of some people who resemble this description right now, and someone like that is *totally* without credibility to the rest of the world. So, once again, He was living in the wilderness on a raw-food diet crying out, "Repent." There was no Rolls Royce, no armed guards, no formal parade with floats and dancers. Rather, His entrance was meek and submissive.

The ritual washing of baptism for repentance He had no need of - except to set an example for us. For His companions, He had men with calloused hands from drawing in nets. Their clothing *reeked* of fish entrails. Their faces were wind-burned and rough. A motley crew, to say the least, and eminently unqualified to govern God's Church.

They were *not* college-educated, except for the one who betrayed Him. They were *not* influential princes from royal families or fabulously wealthy merchants. They were basically 'blue collar' workers - just regular guys.

Here we are looking at the example that the Lord set. His clothing was rough and poor, not priestly. And so often people choose clothing as an expression of how they want to be seen. When I think about it, Jesus was *singularly* unimpressive in every single thing He did - except for the miracles, the healings. He was very unimpressive in His presentation to the world.

Now, for us who are called by His name and living by His example, how will we get mansions, Rolls Royces, chauffeurs, private jets, and clothes from Nieman Marcus? I don't know. How do we get that out of *this* example? This is a real contrast, and this kind of contrast is something that we're going to be looking at in Heaven when we stand before the Lord.

Isaiah even told the religious leaders what to be looking for. He said, He grew like a tender shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by mankind. Rejected like one from who people hide their faces. He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. Isaiah 53:2

The Pharisees were forewarned by Isaiah what the Messiah would look like, and He fit *every one* of those descriptions so beautifully when He stood in front of Pilate and the High Priest. Only a very few – like Nicodemus and a few others, *really, really* recognized who He was and how perfectly He conformed to Isaiah’s prophecy about Him.

Here’s the big question: usually when we have an important mission, we think that we’re going to start it off with a big bang. So, why in the world would He choose to look like a common man, whom most would consider a loser? He’s certainly not any person of note, or any person of import. So, why? Why would He choose to look that way?

Let’s look at some of the possible reasons. Could it be that He was setting an example of holiness that *anyone* - even the most common man - could easily attain? Is that possible? Could it be, that the class system that the Pharisees operated under was an empty pretense that consistently mislead the people and quenched the Spirit of God? That’s a possibility, too! Or could it be that He was presenting the only necessary thing?

Let’s take a look at Luke 10:

They were getting ready for dinner, and Mary was immersed in every word the Lord spoke, while Martha was a whirlwind in the kitchen. So, Martha came up to Him and said, “Lord, why do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha! You’re worried about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. For Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Could it be that the Pharisees were wholly taken up with so many things that they didn’t have the discernment to recognize the Messiah? Obviously, they were very busy, and obviously there was a very strong political undercurrent in the temple. They lived and judged according to the flesh, so they couldn’t recognize Him by the Spirit – that’s a possibility. I believe that it’s all of the above: Jesus set an example of holiness that anyone could follow, anyone could attain; He rejected a class system that reeked of the world and was at enmity with the Spirit.

These religious professionals were very busy weighing the cost of their mint and cumin. They didn’t have time for God. They were strangers to Him. However, later on in the Scriptures, the Lord says, “But you are not of my father. Your father is the devil.” John 8:44

Well, the devil is the prince of this world, isn’t he? It all fits together and makes a great deal of sense.

Wounding Waters Part 2: Social Status 2 of 2

October 14, 2013

The Lord spelled out every mark on His yardstick for status. In other words, the qualities in Heaven that would qualify a person for high-standing. Let’s look at Matthew 5:3-12:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Not the proud and the haughty, but those who honor others, better than they honor themselves. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Not those who are continually celebrating their worldly victories in sensual luxury, but those who ache for the needy and the poor, and the ones that are treated unjustly. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Not the greedy, the aggressive, but those, who look out for others. Blessed are those who

hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Not hungry for prosperity and power, but hungry for right-standing with God. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Not the ruthless, who strip the poor in court, but those, who forgive debts. Blessed are the pure at heart, for they will see God. Not those who live a continually compromised lifestyle, but those whose eyes are on the hand of the Lord and eager to promote His agenda. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called "children of God." Not those who gossip and stir up strife and division, but those who stop the lips of slanderers and defend the innocent. Blessed are those who are persecuted, because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Not those who compromise to please men, but those who suffer loss, because they love the Lord, and they choose what's right for Him. And they suffer a lot of loss because of that. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.'

This is the yardstick of Jesus. This is how He measures the status of a man. He didn't come to fulfill corrupted political agendas. He came to seek out His own: the poor and the outcast. To heal, to teach, to deliver from bondage, and open the gates of Heaven to them.

He descended from perfection - absolute perfection - into this dark morass of a world, and He lived the perfect life that all could easily embrace. This ran against the religious community that was taught by the law: "Those that were pleasing to God, He prospers with many possessions – cattle, sheep, land, children, slaves, gold, silver. Prosperity, prosperity, prosperity! Those were the ones that had God's favor." This was the teaching that was prevalent at that time. Does that sound familiar?

What were the martyrs thinking when they were dragged out of their houses, which were taken by the State and pillaged? Were they thinking about prosperity and enjoying their retirement? I don't think so.

What were the on-lookers saying? I've heard this before, in contemporary churches; it's really sad. "God's not pleased with you. That's why you've got nothing now. If He were pleased with you, this Jesus you're following, He'd be blessing you and you'd be prosperous."

What a condemnation! What an unnecessary condemnation of innocent people who live a simple life. This is a travesty! This is an offense to the Lord! It's an offense to the example that He set, Himself, with His own life. He set an example, and there are people who follow that example...and they are ridiculed by Christian communities, because they're not wealthy and prosperous: driving nice cars, savings accounts, nice houses, sending their kids to college, and everything else. They're looked down on. That's the world's system of determining a man's worth.

We have much before us, and we really do need to take a look at where our hearts are at on this issue. And we need to take a stand, because too many people are into this way of thinking that is insulting to the Lord's incarnation and insulting to the pure, little ones that follow Him in a very simple way and are not constantly taken up with making money.

Jesus was not afraid to confront the status quo and call their pretentious lifestyle a sin, so that He could bring a righteous standard back to Godliness. I believe that we should stand up for Him. We should stand up for the example that He set. We should defend people who don't partake in a luxurious, expensive lifestyle - either because they are too simple, or maybe because they've made the quality decision in their lives that they don't want to do that with their time. That's not important to them.

They'd rather spend their time reading the Scriptures, serving at a food bank, being with their children, teaching

their children, spending time with their families – they don't have the time for this "worldly business!" That's the way it is with a lot of people.

In Mark, Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, *"How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God."* The disciples were amazed at His words, but Jesus said it again: *"Children, how hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for someone who is rich, to enter the Kingdom of God."*

I've heard it said that there is a gate called The Eye of the Needle, which requires camels to get down on their knees in order to scoot through.

The Eye of the Needle brings to mind the idea that, to be pleasing to God, we need to be stripped of family, security, possessions, recognition, status; if we don't go through that Eye, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Now, I'm not saying that we have to throw our families away! What I'm saying is that if our families are interfering with our walk, they have to be moved to the side, so that the Lord can have all of our attention. We cannot live for our families. We have to live for God. He'll take care of our families if we are living for Him. If security and possessions are holding us back from answering a call to the Lord, then those things have to go! If the Lord is calling us, it is one of the greatest honors that we can have. So, we have to be stripped down in order to respond.

The truth is, there are no U-Haul trailers behind a hearse. They are not going to go to Heaven with that stuff. These are things we need to consider, when we start holding up the wealthy lifestyle as the ideal model of a blessed Christian walk. That's just not accurate. It bears no resemblance whatsoever to the example that Jesus set with His life. I'm sorry. I don't mean to step on anyone's toes. But it doesn't! Look at it. Look at the hard facts of the Scriptures.

What is the Lord really saying here? I believe that He's saying, *"If you love playing the stock market and making a killing in the business world; and if you love the rush of success, when you appear on the cover of Newsweek; if you love anything on this Earth, then you are tied to it. And you won't pass through that needle."* These are things that I've had to confront over and over again in my life.

I'm certainly not innocent. One of the reasons the Lord is having me share this with you is because He has dealt so mercifully with me, and so patiently with me, teaching me how to wean myself off of these props in the world that have really no value whatsoever, and to give my full attention to Him. I'm not perfect at it yet, but I'm in a better place now than I was 20 years ago, or even one year ago. If you listened to the other teaching on money and the world, I share some of the things the Lord did in my life to help me wean myself off of those things, so that He could have more of me and there was more room and more time in me for Him.

Just to clarify, I'm not talking about those who rejoice over earnings because they've been chosen to finance the spread of the gospel. That's a whole different thing. They have something in mind, and they're rejoicing over the Lord's agenda, not over whether they can build more barns. There are people of high integrity who are chosen by the Lord to finance the Kingdom of God on Earth. These people are very honorable, beautiful people. We're not talking about that. We're talking about people who feather their own nest rather exclusively, and they live for these things.

God is jealous. He doesn't want to see us rejoicing - or worrying, for that matter - over the goods of the Earth. Didn't He say, *"That's what the Heathen do?"* He doesn't want anything of this Earth to mean anything to us,

beyond its necessity to maintaining life or a tool to build His Kingdom.

Paul said in Philippians 3:17, Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have had us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

Did he say “Keep your eyes on Herod and the Pharisees and live as they do?” With influence, power and wealth? Even Jesus warned against that, and Paul knew full well the corruption of that lifestyle. After all, he lived it! He called himself the Pharisee of Pharisees. He knew what he was talking about here.

Continuing, he said, “For as I have often told you before, and now tell you again, even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction; their god is their stomach; and their glory is in their shame.” How sad. Their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in Heaven! We are new creations. We are “born-again,” new creations.

You might ask yourselves, “How does this manifest regularly in a church?” Well, I’ve seen it happen before, where someone who is well-to-do and well-known (maybe even a minister) comes into a church service, and another person who is kind of unknown and lackluster (who may be a blue-collar worker) is also in the church service, but he happens to be a prophet, and the Lord sent him in with a message for that congregation. It’s not a bad message, not an ugly message, but He sent him in with an *important* message.

The pastor says, “There is someone here who has a message for us!” Of course, his eyes go back and forth across the congregation, and he notices the man who he knows, who has somewhat of a prophetic calling. And he points him out, and he says, “Brother, you have a message for us.” Well, the man is immediately put on the spot. He may think, “Oh, I’ve got to come up with a message!” or he may have enough integrity to say, “It’s not me!”

In the meantime, the prophet in the back is raising his hand modestly, to indicate that he has a message, and the pastor recognizes this other man. He motions the other man to come up, and says best what he could say for encouragement or exhortation, but the prophecy that was meant for that congregation doesn’t get heard. Now, I know this sounds extreme, but I’ve seen it happen before: I’ve seen people shut down who had a legitimate message. But because they weren’t well-heeled in religious circles, with all kinds of “alphabet soup” after their names and well-known, they were *not* given a hearing; much to the sad result of the people they were sent to. There is, really, much to regret there.

If we surround ourselves with comfort-zone people – the ones who agree with us – and we avoid the new and the different, because they might disagree with us or challenge us in some way, that’s no replacement for discernment. We can’t judge who is fit to speak by social status. We need to have real, authentic discernment, which is *not* an easy thing to gain. It takes tremendous time and tremendous effort, and failure, and success, and trials. Discernment is a quality that is *absolutely* necessary, but most of us discern the way the world discerns. We don’t discern the way God discerns, and that’s where the problem lies. That’s something that we need to look at now, before it’s too late.

When we surround ourselves with ‘comfort-zone’ people, and people that are accredited, so to speak, and replace that for discernment rather than having a real spiritual sense of who has the right message, the Lord has something to say about that.

In the fifth chapter of John, He says, “*I have come in My Father’s name, and you did not receive me. If another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*” Why is our faith so weak? The Lord goes on to say, “*How can you believe when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only*

God?"

How do we receive glory from one another? What are some concrete examples of that? Well, when we make others feel secure, even when the Holy Spirit is convicting us that something is not quite right. When we do that - make them feel secure, without addressing the feeling that something just isn't quite right - then we are receiving glory from one another. When we choose to placate and satisfy, instead of giving a timely instruction that addresses sticky issues - like pride, selfish ambition, dominance, quenching the Spirit - then, we're receiving glory from one another.

There was a church that we attended for a short while, and the Lord revealed that it had a situation which caused it to gain grace, only to immediately lose the grace, and slide back again into stagnation. I call these Wounded Waters, which is where the title for this teaching comes from. Not the fresh, Living waters which cause an abundance of new growth, but the Wounded Waters; they are wounded, because the Spirit is quenched and those who serve the Spirit are capped off, just like a well is capped off.

There was a prosperous and dynamic prophet who often visited this church. I thought to myself, "Surely the prophet knows what the problem is here, and why the prophecies that this prophet is making just aren't coming to pass?" They are potentialities. I like what Joyce Meyer says about it. They are potentialities, but you have to go with the Spirit in order for them to become eventualities. And something is missing there in that connection; those eventualities are not happening.

I asked the Lord, "Why doesn't that prophet address that situation? It's obvious that this is stagnating the church something awful, and it's rotting the foundation out from underneath the church." I had a dream about the church, where the water was falling from Heaven, but it wasn't being captured into the right containers and dispersed to the people, the way it should have been. As a result, it was going underneath the building and washing away the foundation, and the foundation was already half-washed away. The bedding in the house was mildewed. There were three beds and the bedding was wet, and the waters weren't being captured and dispersed properly. There's more to say about that situation, but I'll leave it there.

So, their Living Waters turned into Stagnant Waters, Wounded Waters. I'm sorry if this steps on someone's toes, but the Body of Christ is a worldly mess. I asked the Lord, "Why doesn't that prophet address this?" All I heard was, "Prophets like to get paid, too, you know." I thought to myself, "Oh, my God. You can't be serious?"

But then, look at the Old Testament, and how many times the king's prophets told the king what he wanted to hear. It was all a bunch of malarkey. Then, a real prophet would step forward, who had the integrity and the strength and didn't care about his life, because, in those days, if you made a prophecy that the king didn't like, you could lose your head. He'd come forward, and he'd tell it like it is.

The Body of Christ is a worldly mess, because prophets and pastors are afraid to loose ties. That's part of the problem. Why? Because there is this prosperous lifestyle, "approved by the Lord," "flowing in faith," "pleasing to God and the Holy Spirit," and if you're not living that prosperous lifestyle, then you're just not having enough faith. Something is wrong with you.

This puts pressure on pastors and leaders to show that they are living a credible, prosperous lifestyle. This is such a false standard! This is *not* the Lord's standard, and it's ruining the Church.

Really, I don't know what we're thinking? Why do we want to convince the world to become Christians, so that they can be prospered by God, too? Why are we trying to tell the world that? Is this a business deal? Did

everyone in Constantine's court become a Christian because they were head-over-heels-in-love with Jesus? I don't think so. Along with the status quo, they wanted to be received and accepted and continue to stay in Constantine's court. When he made Christianity the State religion, they had to bow to that. Was it sincere? Perhaps in some cases it was, but I am sure there was posturing going on, and it wasn't.

It seems that things haven't changed much, have they? They really haven't. Well, my husband had a dream one night that I have to say is foundational to our mission, and why we struck out in this direction: for the Bride, and for getting the 'spots, wrinkles, and blemishes' out of the Bride. Because we're working on that ourselves, and the Lord is showing us these things, so we want to share them with you.

In this dream, he was in John Hagee's church, sitting in the very last row during the service - and John Hagee was preaching. Abruptly, he came down from the podium and began walking down the aisle, prophesying over people. He came to the last row, where my husband was sitting, and he looked down at him at the other end. And he walked over to him, behind the pew, and he put his hand on my husband's shoulders, and he prayed three different prayers.

Ezekiel remembering: "Each time he prayed, a mantle fell over my shoulders and I felt heavily burdened. He returned to the podium and began to preach again. In mid-sentence, he stopped, slammed his hands down, came down from the front and made a beeline for my husband. My husband knew that something important was happening, but really, he had no idea just what all of this was about!

"As John moved toward my husband, he felt the need to get out of his seat and into the aisle, but the burden on his shoulders was so great, he could not stand. He crawled, on hands and knees, into the aisle. Suddenly the floor of the church opened up, revealing a great chasm that was belching smoke and flames. Looking down into it, he saw many different, jagged rock ledges and tiers, layered randomly, descending down into this dark cavern with a multitude of fires burning on each one. The flames were shooting up, up through the sanctuary. He was then on his hands and knees, at the edge of the abyss, and began praying hard against it, to close. John came up behind him and once again put his hands on my husband's shoulders, and he began saying, in a loud voice, "Push! Push! Push!"

"We both stayed there, praying against the smoke and flames that leapt out of this horrible opening. Then John said, "The smoke and fires of Hell have opened up inside the Church! The world has come into the Church! And the Church is courting the world. You have to go! You have to go and tell them. You have to tell them that the world has entered the Church!"

And this is very much our ministry.

"Many in the sanctuary were horrified at the sight and began praying against it. Several went into the prayer rooms off to the side, to enter into warfare and to pray against what was being revealed. At that point, the dream ended."

This is the state of the Church today! And, as a whole, She's not ready for the Lord. Not ready at all. Folks, we need to fall on our knees and seek out our involvement with this scourge, before it's too late for us. Right now, the Lord is allowing circumstances in this country - the United States - that will flush to the surface the real contents of our hearts, and the real agendas - the things that really matter to us. To help us recognize it, and deal it a final blow. We are being tested in our faith and our purity as never before. This is the mercy of God and His preparation for His Bride.

Let's look at another way we compromise. Let's say that a worship leader is needed. First of all, we think of skill – who are the skilled musicians? Then we think -- who has the anointing? How do they work under authority? How will they appeal to this faction? How will they appeal to that faction? This family? That family? Will they approve? And when someone meets all those conditions, they're considered. But if there are those who oppose the person that the Holy Spirit would like to choose for the job, rather than honoring the Holy Spirit... who would we choose?

Worship leading is not a political position! Worship leading is purely spiritual: purity of life, purity of heart, purity of devotion - along with skill, yes. Worship leaders should not be picked for their political standing in the Church, considering who will approve and who will not approve. That's honoring Man over God. The repercussions? Choose by anointing and enter into Shekinah Glory, and see miracles happen! Choose by social status - and keep it lukewarm. That's our choice. It's our choice.

These are the way that the world has inserted its way of controlling things into the Church. Controlling the Holy Spirit. And who is the god of this world? That's Satan. This is his way of controlling the Church – using worldly standards of social status to call to question, to make the decisions.

We have to realize that, very often, people who are anointed are just a little bit different. There's just something about them that's just a little bit different. But if you have spiritual discernment, you're going to understand that this is just something that is just a little bit different about them...but they still have the Spirit.

When we choose Jesus over the world – like at my conversion; at my husband's conversion – we lost families. You can lose wives and husbands, children, mothers, fathers, employers, influential friends. We lost a lot! We are no longer “of the world.” We are born again. After giving all of that up, are we going to go back to honoring Man above God? That's a lot to give up, just to turn back to the same old system! We have quite a stake in this, because of what we've left behind. So, we don't want it in our churches!

Jesus said, in John, third chapter,

Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God, unless they are born of water and to Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh; but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit. John 3:5

What does new birth mean? It means, Judge, as God judges; Order, as God orders; Think, as God thinks; and make the crooked ways of Man's shallow reasoning to be straight – an unobstructed path to heaven. There are no men standing in the way.

In Romans 6:4, We were buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father we, too, may live a new life. Now, if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. And we are not under the law, but under grace.

What does that mean, “under grace?” If we live with Him, we are co-heirs with Christ, descendants of Abraham; we are neither slaves nor freemen. No longer do we make choices by social standing, by the way the world makes choices, or by the way the world thinks, because there are no slaves. There are only disciples and children of God. Neither slaves, nor freemen. We're all equal! Our citizenship is not on this Earth; it's in Heaven. So, if our citizenship is in Heaven, we must be thinking the way people think in Heaven. That's the goal – to think as the Lord thinks, to put on the mind of Christ.

Therefore, our net worth is not in stocks and bonds, our net worth is His blood! His blood is our net worth. The Lord declared,

Thy Kingdom come, they will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Matt. 6:10

That was not a hopeful sentiment - He was really serious about that! It was a statement of our purpose – bring Heaven to Earth! That’s what we’re here for, Christians! To bring Heaven to Earth.

In Galatians 3:28, it says,

There is neither Jew, nor Greek; there is neither slave, nor freeman; there is neither male, nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus!

Now, if that isn’t a blanket statement abolishing the class system, I don’t know what is!

Here is just one last thought: When I was in the world, I spoke like the world; I thought like the world; I reasoned with worldly reason. But when I was born again, into the Kingdom of God, I gave up all the Earth’s ways. All the world’s ways. I gave it all up, because now I’m a citizen of Heaven. A citizen of Heaven with the mind of Christ. That’s our goal. We have to stand up for that. We have to stand up for that in our churches. We have to repent; we have to turn around and live by God’s values – by spiritual values, and not by worldly values. It’s killing the church! It’s killing the anointing! It’s stifling and grieving the Spirit, and we have to change it. We have to! We cannot go on letting this happen.

In conclusion, Paul exhorts us in Philippians 2:1

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind. Maintaining the same love, united in Spirit, intent on one purpose: The Glory of God.’

Not your own glory, as you pull into the parking lot in your new Mercedes. No. That’s not what it’s about. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit. With humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves. That’s a mighty work of grace! If you’re not in that place, and I’m not in that place, we pray, “Lord, by your indwelling, make us to be in that place, where we honor everyone above ourselves. Where we see the reality of how little we really are!”

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Worship leaders: Don’t turn the mike down on the other person. Unless, of course, it’s a song they’re really not supposed to be singing...

A person, who thinks this way has the maturity to lead. They aren’t protecting their turf. No, they’re protecting the Lord’s honor and interests. Sometimes that puts you in the position of being the underdog or of being quiet, because the other person needs to come forth. It’s the person that has the anointing for that specific job that must come forth. And you need to honor that.

Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped at. But He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant. Philippians 2:5

Again, here is the example: from His birth to His death and burial, He took the example of a bondservant. And not prospering himself, taking the form of the rich young ruler. But He emptied Himself – EMP-TIED HIM-SELF – as an example to us.

In the end, many who were first will be last - the ones who use status to get positions. And many who were last will be first - those too childlike and simple to use tactics like that. We may not want to admit or face the control

social status has over us in our churches, but when we stand before the Lord, we're going to see it plainly, and then it's going to be too late to fix. So, I think we'd better get on it. I think it's important for us to look at this, and to make a change. Repent and turn around. No one is worthy of our motives except God. No one's motives are going to survive the burning fires of purification unless they are pure, done for the love of God and neighbor. These are pure motives!

In order for Him to recognize us, we must first recognize Him: His anointing, His choices. And by putting Him first, throw the preferences of Men to the wind, where they belong. If we're looking at men, we're blind. We can't possibly see. Because if we did see, we would no longer look at men!

I believe all of us were attracted to the teachings of Christ by His purity; His detachment from the world, His refusal to modify His mission for the Pharisees, the rulers. He had something huge in mind that was going to spread over the whole world, and He didn't compromise it one iota for the rulers. It spread on its own virtue, in spite of the fact that He flew in the face of modern religious leaders. That's where the anointing is. That's how you know it's a "God-thing."

These were the rich waters of the first few centuries of Christianity. Waters of purity, holiness, devotion, selfless service. A people willing to die for what they believed. They were willing to die, and to lose all of their possessions. Prosperity meant nothing to them!

How many stories have we heard of an emperor's wife giving her life, because she believed in Jesus? She didn't care about all of the status that she had. She gave it up for the Lord.

Now we all swim in the Wounded Waters of a Church that is taken up with social status and worldly ways of operating. These ways actually wound the innocent and the pure. Those seeking healing from the world's turbulent and fickle standards don't find healing all the time. They find more turbulence in the Wounded Waters. Unfortunately, the world and all it applauds has entered center stage through the churches, and the waters have become polluted. It's now a place not safe from predatory influences, agendas, shadows of influence, preferential treatment and conflicting teachings.

Let's begin today by asking the Lord to reveal to us how we have grieved Him through compromise. Please, let's go before Him with contrite hearts and ask Him, "Lord, please reveal to us how we have compromised."

I want to pray this simple prayer: "Lord, save us from compromise. We are not strong enough. We are not strong enough to come against the standards of the world to stand up for You. Many times we're too little, we're too cowardly, we're just not strong enough. But you live in us, Lord, and you can do it through us. You can help us make that resolution to live strictly for you. We ask, Lord, that you will accompany the understanding with grace, and that we will have the will to change, that we may grieve you no more. And your Church can grow into the Body of the holy sanctuary you've ordained it to be for all ages, against every influence of Man, a triumph of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Thanks for staying with us. Come back and visit again. God bless you.

Wounding Waters, Part 3: Goal Driven Life 1 of 2

October 25, 2013



Welcome Heartdwellers. Tonight I'm going to discuss the subject of the goal-oriented life. It's the third set of videos in the series entitled Wounded Waters – The Condition of the Church. The Lord said that Living Waters would flow from us, but in the Church, there are some Wounded Waters – places that are polluted and difficult to swim in. These are the subjects that He is bringing up.

The first one in the series is Love of Money; the second one in the series is Social Status, and how that affects the Church and the Body; and now, the third one, is the Goal-oriented Life.

I want to begin by focusing on the abundant life, because I believe that all of us want to live that abundant life that Jesus came and promised to us.

In John 10: 10, it says,

A thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came, that they may have life, and life more abundantly.

I was raised to believe that the abundant life consisted of setting firm goals, and then working straight toward them, in a very linear fashion. In my professional life as a photographer, this is a concept that I took very seriously. I would move everything else aside, and I would head straight for that target! Yes, I did have success in my career, but I was empty inside. There was definitely something missing. I'll share my conversion experience with you sometime, which was really amazing!

Now, back to the point we were discussing: my understanding of the abundant life was being a success; seeing a return on your investment, and being accepted by the professional community – being used, being called upon, working on teams. All of those things to me signified the abundant life, before I became a Christian.

When I became a Christian, I brought with me and into that life some of these habits from the world. I was goal-oriented. I was frustrated with interruptions – I didn't like to be interrupted when I was in the middle of a project; I was selfish with my time. I had very long To Do lists, which was a frustration in and of itself.

One day, the Lord said to me, *"You're too ambitious! Don't make that list so long, because you're bound to be disappointed at the end of the day."* But I had these To Do lists, and they were part of my goals. But something felt wrong, and as my walk with the Lord deepened, and as He began to address these things in my life, I realized that I had been selfish, self-serving, and arrogant. And I want to share some of those insights with you tonight.

God would give me goals. He's really fun when it comes to teaching you, and straightening you out – He's the Master! There's no two ways about it - He is the Master! And we don't even know what He's doing with us half the time...that's the fun of it!

The Lord would give me a goal - He would hold it out to me and say, *"This is where we are going."* Now, I don't want to get into it too deeply, but when the Lord gives us a goal, He expects us to wait on Him and do things in the sequence that He orders. Not to go shooting – WHOOSH! – off on our own, to try to get to the end of that goal as quickly as possible.

He would give me a goal...and then He would send frustrating interruptions - interruption after interruption

after interruption - and I would return in tears, saying, "You expect me to do this? You let all of this happen - people come to the door, the phone rings, You let my husband have an emergency, You have my kids calling me with another emergency - how am I supposed to do this?"

That was a good question! The Lord was testing me. He was testing me to see "Where is your heart?" The heart is so important. It is the very life of our lives, and what we have in our hearts is really important. It is important for us to know, and to be exposed to what is truly in our hearts. A lot of times we don't really know where our thoughts are; where our desires are – that's where your heart is! Those things are in your heart!

I want to use an example from the Lord's life, because He set an example for us that is perfect; and, as in everything, if we lead a life that is conformed to Him, we will lead a very abundant life! This life may not resemble those that are touted in some churches, but it will be abundant in that it is very satisfying, very beautiful, very rich, and very rewarding.

Now, to return to this example – in Luke 8, as Jesus was on His way, the crowds almost crushed Him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. In fact, somewhere in the gospels it states that she spent all her money on being healed, and we know what that's like! She came up behind Jesus, touched the edge of His cloak and, immediately, the issue of blood stopped.

This is rather a scary situation, because she was bleeding and considered unclean and, certainly, she was not to touch a rabbi. In fact, she was not supposed to touch anyone. She was to be isolated during that time! But she had endured this problem her whole life. Who can imagine what she went through? And she was very frightened, because she had touched a rabbi! She, an unclean person like a leper – had touched a rabbi!

The Lord stopped. In the midst of this huge crowd, where everyone was touching Him, He asked, "*Who touched me?*" When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you, and you are asking, who touched Me" And the Lord replied, "*Someone touched Me. And I know Power has gone out from Me.*"

The Lord knew that she had touched Him, in faith, and been healed because the Power left Him. The woman was scared to death! She had tried but could not go unnoticed, so she came, trembling, and fell at His feet. In the presence of all the people, she told Him why she had touched Him. That, in and of itself, must have been very hard, because the ones that didn't know that she had an issue of blood must have been shocked, I'm sure! She told why she had touched Him, and that she had been instantly healed. He replied to her, "*Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.*" What a beautiful thing!

She needed to hear those words! She needed to hear, "Go in peace," because I'm sure she was struggling with guilt for having touched Him. And when He turned and called her forward, allowed her to explain to everyone what was going on, and then told her, "*Go in peace. Your faith has healed you,*" that took so much off of her mind! Demons could have tormented this woman, telling her, "You touched the rabbi! You did an unclean thing!" She could have been tormented for the rest of her life. Healed, but tormented. And the Lord took the time to address her situation. That is beautiful. He stopped what He was doing and took the time to search her out, because He wanted to be sure that she would be in His peace, and to take care of any type of guilt that she might have had.

The Lord had a goal - to get from Point A to Point B - since, obviously, He was going somewhere to teach. And all of these people were pressing in on Him, as He attempted to move. Linear, goal-oriented people are most likely thinking things like, "I've got to be there by 5:00; I have this to do, I have that to do" and they take the most

direct route possible, involving the fewest interruptions. Given this huge crowd of people, pushing Him this way and that, a “normal,” goal-oriented person would have been anxious about getting through that crowd and to his destination; but not the Lord!

I am going to relate to you an example from my own life, which I feel has a lot to do with this topic. We were going to a conference in San Francisco, riding in a car with a group of women, and the driver takes the wrong exit; then turns around and goes the wrong way, so that we’re heading away from San Francisco. We’re already late, because we had to pick up an extra person.

She goes the wrong way, and everyone is saying, “Oh no! You went the wrong way!” She gets to the next exit ramp and she gets off, loops around, and begins to approach the new entrance ramp, going in the right direction; and she sees a woman, standing off to the side of the road, holding up a big sign which says, “hungry.” This is a one-way street, and she pulls off, jumps the curb, parks right next to this woman, and gets out of the car. The other women in the back are saying, “What is she doing now? What is she doing? We’re already late for the conference! We’re never going to get there at this rate!” She goes and speaks with this woman, and then she returns to the truck and grabs this huge bag of pistachios that she had just bought, along with the other people’s lunches (which is certainly getting their attention) and everything that she can find. She brings it all back to the woman and hands it over to her, gets back into the truck, and once again they start on their way to the conference.

One of the women in the back seat says to her, “I’d really like to get to this conference before it’s over. Do you think we could do it the right way this time?” I have to say, that comment smarted. It did. The woman replied, “This lady’s husband is out of work and sick, and she had nothing to feed her children tonight. I wouldn’t be surprised if the Lord hadn’t turned us around deliberately so that we could take care of this woman.”

The goal in this situation was to get to the conference on time. Right? Not to look for homeless people, or hungry people to feed. It was to get to this conference on time. (As an aside, it turned out that the speaker was an hour and a half late, so in the end it was no big deal.) It was a test! That’s what we’re talking about. It was a test, to see where our hearts are at. Where does the rubber meet the road in our lives?

In I John 2:6

The one who says he abides in Him, ought himself to walk in the same manner as Jesus walked.

I think that stopping for this woman was certainly like something that the Lord would do, and I think that was a result of her persistence in the gospel. And looking at what’s more important? To arrive at the conference on time, or to stop and help this woman? I think that she chose the abundant life! The spiritual life! The life full of the life that really is life. Which is an abundance of joy, of peace, of love spread to other people. Of seeing joy on their faces, knowing that God has really touched someone through you! That is so beautiful...

I like James 1:27, which says:

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is to be punctual for church events and make a good impression.”

Obviously, that’s not what it says!! It says:

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphans and the widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Jesus met people as life happened to them; it was random. We need to be ‘in season’ all the time. The

Samaritan woman at the well, the widow who was burying her own son is a good example. The Lord met people right where they were at, when they were at that point in their lives. He was never in too much of a hurry, or so goal-bound that He couldn't stop. In fact, in the Scriptures it says that He healed everyone who sought Him! Huge crowds followed Him, and He healed every single person! That's amazing! No person is too little for the Lord to touch. Using the Lord as our example, there shouldn't be anyone that we aren't willing to help.

We are tied to goals. We are obligated to keep our focus on the goals and not respond to those things around us that could distract us. That is not an abundant life. It is a life that is confined by agendas and goals, and in the long run it is about productivity and what you have to show - with your gifts and talents - for your time. That's pretty shallow, considering the needs of people around you that might be pretty desperate or dire.

Let's look at the word Life, as it's used in the Scriptures. In John 6:63 it says:

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

The Lord is defining life here. His words - the words of Jesus - are life. That is an important thing to remember. It's the Spirit that gives life, and the words of Jesus are life; and He came to bring an abundant life.

Let's look a little deeper at what He means by that. Later on in John 6:33 :

For the bread of God is He who came down from Heaven and gave life to the world.

Jesus gives life – a commodity that only God can give. Certainly not material possessions!

In John 6:47

Verily, truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the Bread of Life.

The Lord Jesus is nourishing; the very substance of life itself.

How does the modern Church define abundant life? Let's look at that. I've heard this time and time again - the abundant life starts with tithing. You cannot 'out-give' God. If you want an abundance, then give, and you will get in return. We're "sowing seeds" into the Kingdom. The more money we give, the more money we'll get. In other words, if you want a prosperous and abundant lifestyle, then start by giving money. That is the way to a prosperous and abundant lifestyle. This is what is being taught in some of the churches.

How does that measure up to the Scriptures? This is important to look at. The object is to give more money, so that you'll get more money. It's not about love; it's about selfish ambition and gain. This doesn't resemble anything that the Lord came to give us. This is not what the abundant life is about. That is a real twist and perversion of these Scriptures!

Let's look a little further. The Lord said, in John 5:39:

You study the Scriptures diligently, because you think that, in them, you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me; yet you refuse to come to me to have that life.

What was the Lord talking about? There are probably several dynamics in play here, but the one that I want to focus on is this – do we refuse to come to Jesus for life? Let's take an honest look at our goals and the way that we allocate time throughout our day. Are we coming to Him for life? Is He as important as dinnertime and having a nice meal? Setting the table, preparing the food, sitting down to dinner, doing the dishes afterward – all of this takes time and effort. Is He as important as all of that?

Well, I suppose that this depends upon how much time you spend in prayer, and how much you get out of your prayers. It's not always about quantity of time; it's about quality of time. The lifestyle that we pursue is called "The American Dream" - financial security, a big house, two cars in the garage; a freezer full of meat, a boat, a motorcycle, a summer home, nice vacations, lots of leisure; things we've accumulated, vacations, entertainments, and so on and so forth. That is the abundant life! And if you give, then Jesus will give that to you, in return. This is part of the thinking right now. This is why we're swimming in Wounded Waters in a worldly Church -- because of this kind of perverted thinking and twisting of the Scriptures.

These are common goals amongst Christians. Life does not refer to money or material gain anywhere in the New Testament that I can find; but if I am mistaken, then please write to me. In fact, to the contrary, what the Lord has to say about money - and what the Scriptures say - is quite different.

1 Timothy 6:9:

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. I have to bear witness to that.

Wounding Waters, Part 3: The Goal Driven Life, part 2 of 2

I have seen this so many times. And if you ever follow what happens to people who win the lottery, it's pretty amazing to see how their life ends, and the difficulties that they have as a result of this money, this abundance that comes into their life.

In Luke 12:15 it says, Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed. For not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.

In 1 John 2:17 The world is passing away and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Beautiful!

So the abundant life Jesus came to give us has no connection with material wealth. The Scriptures are very clear about that. I have another little story to tell you.

There was a lady who took a friend to prayer group, a widow with three children. She took her friend to prayer group and when they were on the way home, (the widow had cashed her widow's pension of \$500, put it in her purse) she was going to go to the electric company, the gas company, pay her bill and pay her mortgage. Well, she went up for prayer at the front to the church during the service, and when she came back the money was missing out of her purse.

Now, she'd been taking care of a semi-homeless person who was sitting right next to her purse during this service. She had befriended her. She assumed that, well, that's where the money went. She asked, and of course the lady denied it. So, we don't really know what happened to the \$500, which is what she had.

Well, the lady who is taking her home from the prayer group heard this story, and she had JUST gotten a donation of \$500 to have CD's of her music burned. And she was so excited - she had the artwork done and everything. All she had to do was order the CD's. When she heard that the widow had lost her pension, and said, "I don't know what I'm going to do. I have no way to get this money back. I don't have any way to get it back, I don't know what to do. But I DO know that God is faithful."

Now, the woman had no idea at all that this other woman had \$500 in her bank account that had been marked for something - she didn't know anything about this, so it couldn't have been concocted. But the woman who was driving felt convicted that she needed that \$500 more than...that the widow needed it more than she did, and so she gave her that money. Well, her goal was to make the music, make the artwork, have the CD's burned and printed and distribute it for free. But she was unable to meet that goal because the \$500 wasn't there any more. So here again, we have a clash between motives.

In Luke 12:33 the Scriptures say, Sell your possessions, give to charity, make yourselves money belts which do not wear out and unfailing treasure in Heaven where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. For where you treasure it, that's where your heart will be, too.

Jesus wants our hearts. He wants ALL of us, and He wants our hearts. The good man, out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good. If Jesus is dwelling in our hearts, the fruit should be sweet and good. In alignment with the Kingdom of God and with a life that is truly life. Not material possessions, not applause from people and a product to show, the approval of groups or people. Or invitations or any such thing. It's all about the abundant life of the heart and meeting the needs of Jesus each day.

You know, when you are tied to goals, it's very difficult to stop what you're doing. But the Lord lived one complete, seamless life of Love. And that's what He's calling us to do. And that means that if you're focused on your goals to the exclusion of things that happen that could interfere - guess what? Your "god" is not Jesus - your god is yourself and your goals and accomplishment. That's the sad truth. If our God is Jesus, then we'll be willing to stop and give up what we think is important for someone who has something more important, a need. Especially when the Holy Spirit is convicting us of that situation.

So, the Lord wants our heart, and we can't make an idol of accomplishments, that's for sure. And you know, the Lord's not like a worldly employer, He doesn't look at our accomplishments - He looks at our hearts. He looks deep into our hearts, every nook and cranny. And He can see everything that goes on inside of us. He understands us so well. You know, Proverbs 4:23 says, Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Guard your heart. And if you see that something is beginning to tug at your heart and pull you away from the Lord, pull you away from charity and being instant in season, take a real close look at it. It could very well be something that is turning into an idol in your life.

Well, did she do the right thing? I think so. Did she meet the goal and feel productive? No... Did she have something for "show and tell"? No! All that she had were hidden things, things that are seen in Heaven but are not seen on this Earth. So, when you work for love, your only obligation is for Love. No trophies for doing the right things. No trophies. In fact, you're likely to get a crown of thorns. Think about that...

Another clash with goals - taking an example from the Lord's life. His mission was to spread the gospel to the whole world. Now, shouldn't He have approached that by going to the officials and winning them to His cause? Yeah, I can just imagine Judas, pacing back and forth anxiously while the Lord is sitting and talking to children and mothers outside the Temple. And I can just see the Pharisees on one of the balconies looking down and saying, "What is He doing talking to children and mothers??? What kind of Messiah is that? That doesn't make any sense, they're not important." But to Jesus they were so important that it was worth His time to be with them, even though I'm sure the other apostles and people thought, "Well, He should be appealing to the scribes and Pharisees, not little children!" That just shows you how different our thinking is from the world's thinking.

So, they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant, and said to them, *"Permit the children to come to Me, do not hinder them, for*

the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

Wow. I can just see the apostles, probably for the umpteenth time, blushing because the Lord straightened out their thinking a little.

For those who wanted to see the political goal of a messiah to free Israel, it was imperative that He meet with Pharisees, not mothers and children...really!

You know, I believe that goal-seeking is a virus from Hell – orienting your life around goals is an absolute virus from Hell, and it enters the church and dictates much of her behavior. Just as surely as our computers can be destroyed by a virus, true religion, pleasing and acceptable before the Father is destroyed by the virus of worldliness and living in shallow existence based on productivity and laurels. But Jesus' entire life was one of continuous outpouring of Love, to His very last breath. Other than the shroud and bloodstained Cross and spikes, He produced nothing! I believe his purpose was not fragmented by goals, but to Love until there was no breath left in His body.

Now, if He came to succeed at goals the way we humans set goals, He was a perfect failure! But He is our model. So, what do we make of that? I want to share something from my journal right now – a personal entry. I was close to finishing our website, Heartdwellers.org and totally buzzed – I love to get into Photoshop and just – Oh, I have so much fun. I'm very graphically oriented and minded, and I was so close to finishing and going live. But the needs of two women, one injured, and the other one running from domestic violence tugged at my heart. So, I put my computer away, and went to see to their needs. Later that night, when I went to the Lord for prayer, He started speaking to me and I wrote it down:

"I know it was difficult for you today, to lay aside your agenda, but I am proud of you for doing it. I'm satisfied that you love Me more. When I see you setting aside what you want, for what I want, to fulfill the very suggestion and longing of My heart speaks volumes to Me about your love. I needed to see the fellowship in caring for one another tonight. You mustn't be too attached to your agenda. I want you to be well-rounded and still sensitive to others needs in the midst of your passion for creating. So many of my artists are not. They live to create and are driven to give meaning to their lives through their creations."

And my note on that is, the only meaning in their lives will be when they fed and comforted the Lord. They're going to find that out.

"This is where spiritual adultery comes from. My Bride should live for Me and Me alone. Whether it's cleaning, cooking, building websites, music and art. I love these forms of expression of love for Me, but when they are driven by selfish ambition, they lose their savor and injure Me, as well as depriving the soul of their true nourishment, their true worth, which can only be found in Me. That is one reason why self-will is so poisonous and disastrous to the soul. When any activity becomes more important than Me, the soul ceases to obey the first commandment: Love Me with all your heart, all your strength and your neighbor as yourself."

"Yes, enjoy your work, I enjoy creating with you. But always be on the lookout for what your neighbor is in need of, and put them first."

So, that's where His heart is at. It's a beautiful place to be. Demanding, really demanding. It means we have to lay down our agendas for the Lord's agenda. And that's what we're called to do as Christians.

Okay. I believe that this is the abundant life. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, spreading perfume of His love. Making sacrifices like that. I mean, the world would pass people by left and right; they don't care. They're on their way to meeting their goals. But the Christian has something the world doesn't have. They have Jesus living in their heart. So we're called to reveal Jesus to a hungry, thirsty, hurting world, and that's very inconvenient sometimes. We never know when we will be called on to take care of someone.

So, if this is what makes Christians different and makes us salt with savor, I'm going back to our original Scripture: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. When we allow a worldly virus to dictate our lives to us, the thief steals the very life of the Gospel from us, and we are like salt without savor. Sanctity becomes a nice sentiment, but productivity is the bottom line. "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Let's begin right here and right now to kick this worldly virus out of our lives and our of he church, so that when Jesus comes, He will recognize us as His Bride.

Wounding Waters, Part 3: The Goal Driven Life, Addendum to Goals

October 31, 2013

Well, I just wanted to add a little addendum to the teaching on goals. I wanted you to understand that I am not speaking against goals in the sense of destinations. The Lord has destinations for us in our lives; different destinations at different times and I'm certainly not downplaying the role of being aware of your destination and making choices and decisions that flow into line with what the Lord has revealed to you is your destination.

So, I just wanted to clarify that, about the goals that that destination is a Godly thing and arranging your life around that destination is something the Holy Spirit will help you do.

What I bring up in this teaching on goals is the exclusion, it's really a spirit of ambition. It has a goal in mind and it excludes everything to pursue this goal leaving, many times, the Holy Spirit grieved because the things that were meant for you to do along the way you ignored, because your mind was on the goal and not on the Lord. So, in essence, it's a spirit of ambition and it's a situation where the product or the goal has become your god. There's nothing wrong with having a destination and making choices that will aid in the arrival of that destination in the Lord's timing.

So, God bless you and may the destinations He has for you bring you great joy.

Wounding Waters, Part 4, Fear of Intimacy with God

November 31,

2013 Welcome to



Heartdwellers.

This is the fourth subject in our series on the Wounding Waters the Worldly Church and the effect that the world has had upon the Church and how much the world actually controls the Church. So, we're going to examine tonight the whole idea of intimacy with the Lord. This is probably my most favorite subject because it's the most energizing and rejuvenating and completely restorative thing that we can possibly talk about.

There is nothing, nothing more important than intimacy with the Lord and so many people have a real problem with that. They have a problem with being able to see the Lord and to hear the Lord and to really sense His presence in prayer. So, we're going to explore some of the reasons why that is because this is not what the Lord wants. He wants us to be intimately bonded to Him. We are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh through communion, heart of His heart. He died for us on the cross. No one could love us more than He does and it's not His wish for us to feel distant from Him and not be able to hear Him clearly.

When we're in Heaven we'll hear Him very clearly. Why can't it be now on Earth as it's going to be in Heaven? Well, the good news is yes, it can be and so we're going to explore some of the things, the obstacles that get in the way of that.

And I have to say that intimacy is the very heart of our walk with the Lord. The more intimate we are with Him, the more rejuvenating He is, the fuller of His love, and His light, and His joy we are. And the more we project that out to other people and the more the Lord shines through us and the more we're able to touch people in tender places and bring healing.

So, I'm going to say something that might kind of shock you but, I believe the number one problem that we have with intimacy and why we don't have enough intimacy with the Lord: it's not our work, not our children, not our spouse, not entertainments, not sickness and not homelessness, not poverty, not wealth and not possessions. The number one problem we have is Fear. Now, why should we be afraid of the Lord? Well, Satan's done a pretty good job of slandering His character. We're going to go into that.

So, there is a lot of fear there, I think: don't squirm and deny this okay? No one is listening in on this but the Holy Spirit so I want you to, if you don't think this is true, I need you to maybe turn the video off for a minute and think about it. Think about if there is some kind of secret hidden fear or outright fear that you have when you come to be in the presence of the Lord.

So, we can be totally honest. Like I said, no one's listening except the Holy Spirit and we want this so badly -- so it's important for us not to put up any barriers. Okay now, if this statement hit you right where you live, welcome to humanity because a lot of people feel the very same way that you do.

Why are we afraid of God? Well, feeling worthless and bad about ourselves, to put it simply. But do you know that the Lord healed lepers? Do you know that there is nothing hidden on this Earth that He doesn't know about? So, He has a total view of your life and where you're at and there's nothing, nothing at all that puts Him off about you. Not a thing. Not if you want to get close to Him. That's not off putting to Him at all. And we're going to go into a little depth on that and why it's not offputting.

Okay, so I feel that there are basically two sources for this attitude and for these feelings. The number one thing is the most common thing that we have, our own assessment of ourselves when we compare ourselves to, maybe, T.V. personalities or church people or people that we assume have a

better life and have more character and more goodness in them than we do. And, just comparing alone is so empty. I mean, we have no idea what those people are like on the inside or what struggles they've had. So, comparing is something that we do. Society does it and it's just inescapable.

That's one off-putting obstacle, but the other one that's really important: we have some very experienced and talented liars whispering in our ears and they're doing two things. The first thing they're doing is telling us how bad we are, the "accuser of the brethren." We'll go into that in the Scriptures that I have to bring up, that support that. And the second thing; they lie about the nature of God. They lie about His character to the point where we become afraid to approach Him. They say He's just like your father who beat you or He's like that mean school teacher that used to slam the ruler down on your fingers.

You know, the demons have just a potpourri of all kinds of ugly things to say about the Lord. They never run out of ugly things to say and to insinuate. So, let's take a look at that in the Scriptures.

When the Holy Spirit is dealing with us and convicting us of a sin, or let's just say a shortcoming, He never, ever condemns us. What the Holy Spirit does is, He very gently and tenderly quickens in our spirit that something is not quite right between you and the Lord, me and the Lord and we feel this dis-ease, this unease in our spirits and we want to know, what have I done?

Now, the demons are opportunists so they'll hitch up to that simple, loving, gentle admonition that something's not right and they'll throw condemnation on it and they'll just piggyback along with condemnation -so you'll get slammed with condemnation and self-hatred as well as conviction. But the conviction part is the Holy Spirit. The other part is not Him at all. We have to learn to differentiate between these spirits; between God's spirit and the spirit of the world and demons.

In Revelation 12:9 it says, The great dragon was thrown down the serpent of old who is called the Devil and Satan who deceives the whole world: he was thrown down to the Earth and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ has come: for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."

So, the Scriptures are very clear that we are under attack through accusation. I was talking to my son tonight and said, "Have you ever felt like you were just bad and you don't have any reason for it?" and he said, "Oh, probably five or six times a day." I said, "Honey, that is not the Lord. That's an attack, a demonic attack against your character." And this is what we're dealing with, guys. We have a continuous litany of accusation going up before the throne of God about the brethren, about us, and then on top of that we have them whispering in our ears and saying things to us that are untrue. Lying spirits basically. I call this Toxic Streaming since we're all familiar with the Internet. I call it "toxic streaming", straight from Hell.

So, let's look at that a little bit. You know, if you doubt that what I'm saying is true, examine the Scriptures. It says... well, we're going to talk about the roaring lion and how Satan constantly looking for ways to devour us, to devour our faith, our hope, and our love. But, I want to talk about a young man.

Actually, he was three years old, Colton Burpo. He's written a book about going to Heaven. This little boy, at three years old, had a ruptured appendix and he was dying. Well, fortunately the Lord saved

him; he came back to life and he goes around telling people about what he saw in Heaven --- and I think in Hell as well, but he talks about what he saw in the spiritual realms. And, he mentions something about there being demons. He was watching what the demons were doing and the moderator said, "What were the demons doing?" and the little boy said, "They were running around and telling lies to everybody." So, there you have it. That's exactly what they're doing. The Accuser of the Brethren.

In 1 Timothy 4 it says the Spirit clearly says that in the latter times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits; things taught by demons. So, if you doubt that there is an interface, a demonic interface that is saying things to you, there is plenty of Scriptural evidence that there is indeed that interface and it has a very, very erosive effect on our joy and our happiness. We have to learn to see it and to know it and to recognize it when it hits us, otherwise it will just bring us down. We have to learn how to deal with that and the Lord gives us tools. He tells us how.

So, these ongoing subliminal suggestions streaming into our consciousness are constantly eroding our confidence in the Lord, in who He is, and who He's called us to be.

In 1 Peter 5:8 it says Be of sober spirit and be on the alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in the faith knowing that the same experience in the suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. So, this is something that is common to all mankind. Welcome to humanity. This is the way it is.

Now, I'd like to just explore this for a moment. Have you ever watched lions hunt? I love National Geographic and the Nature Channel and we watch it occasionally. It's wonderful. And we have seen many times how lions hunt. It's not really a pretty sight. I don't like to see the outcome. But it's interesting how they hunt. First of all, they look for an animal that's in a weakened state or separated from the herd. Okay, so a weakened state for us could be something like we're sick with something and it's difficult for us to cope with all of our responsibilities and it's just dragging on us and we're working so hard to just keep up with, you know, making a meal and taking care of the children or whatever has to be done.

So, we're in a weakened state. He looks for those times when you're in a weakened state and I can testify to that. I have four children and I remember there were times, you know, when that time of the month would come, that cycle when women get very emotional, they get very edgy and it's difficult and you just wouldn't believe all the things that would come against me that week. The landlord would complain about something, people would be ----- there would be noise out in the field -- people were fighting or something and a check would be late that I had to pay bills with. I just -- a lot of things came together that just hit me at my weakest point and this is how lions hunt. This is how the Devil does it, he looks for you in a weakened state or separated from the herd. If you don't have anyone as your backup, if you don't have anyone to talk to, to pray with -- if you're not going to church, if you don't have a group around you, you're very vulnerable. If you're alone, you're vulnerable. It really helps to have a few spiritual friends, at least.

And so, the lions -- one will crawl on his belly, and not move the grass hardly at all and he'll get close, as close as he can and the other ones will cut off the avenue of escape. And then when the lead lion hits the chase, gets going, then the others will jump into and block off the escape route of the animal that he's chosen to bring down. So, they look for someone who is weak, isolated from the herd. They close off the escape routes.

Now, the demons work in a similar way. Let's just imagine for a minute an assignment against you ----- a demonic assignment against you to cause you to be exhausted and just collapse, because you have a big Christian event weekend going on and you are one of the ministers. You are part of a ministry team and the enemy doesn't want you to make your presentation. He's going to do all he can to come against you and to cause you to go down before this weekend comes up so you'll just back out of the whole situation so that is his goal. Let's look at that.

So, a Lying spirit. Let's just imagine this for a minute. And, you know, these are all tests. It's not like the demons have that much power over us. The Lord gives them permission, just so far. They're on a leash. They can't go any further but He allows these things to season us, to try us in the faith and to see how we'll deal with them and how we'll deal with our brothers and sisters at the same time.

So, let's look at this. A lying spirit stirs up trouble between you and your best friend, who happens to be one of the presenters on your ministry team. And you talk about it and you try to straighten it out, but you guys can't come to an agreement. And there's just this grating against each other and it's not good. Okay, that happens.

Then another set of demons picks out a relative that lives far away and is very demanding and impulsive. They send that relative into town to stay with you without any warning. So now, all of a sudden, you've got company on top of everything else. And let's say we're dealing with maybe three days before the event, like a Wednesday.

Okay, then, your regular mailman got the flu and instead of your regular mailman there is a sub, and you're waiting for a very important paycheck in the mail that you're going to use to pay your car insurance and your cell phone --- which are overdue. You go to the mailbox to get it and it's not there. It should have been there three days ago. So, you start to get a little nervous. Well, it turns out the sub put the check in someone else's box. (These are all things that have happened to me personally. I won't say they've happened on top of each other but they've happened to me personally.)

Okay, so then you get to work and you get a call from Corporate. The project that you're working on so hard has a deadline but guess what? They decided to move it up a week because someone's visiting from out of town and they want to have a presentation ready then. Now you're under this extra pressure to produce something that you *thought* you had another week to work out... and you've got ministry coming up.

Okay, so your wife is not feeling so well. It looks like she's coming down with the flu (just to add another straw to the pile) and you've got to take care of the kids; get them to and from school. Only little Michael is pushed off the slide by one of the nasty boys at school and something happens to his ankle --- he can't walk on it. Now you have to leave work and take him to the E.R. and find out if your son's got a broken ankle.

Now, this is the way the devils work. They just lay it on as thick as they can. The greater the anointing that you have, the work that you have to do, the more you're going to come under attack. The more important your message is, the more you're going to come under attack.

So, it looks like this ministry event just isn't going to happen. You begin to crumble. These are all lions

on the hunt. They've surrounded you. You are their prey. You're the target. And their whole agenda is to bring you down. They're closing out the escape routes. Your good friend, your wife, your children, the overdue bills, the threat of losing your car insurance and your cell phone – they're closing off your escape routes.

But you cry out to the Lord, because you know He's faithful. You know He wants you present at this event on the weekend and you know He's faithful, so you cry out to Him, "Lord God, help me!" And of course He hears your prayer. And, He looses His angels, or just perhaps one Word, and things begin to snap and to snap and snap and all these burdens get lifted off of you -- and all of a sudden, you're free. That's just relying on the Lord.

See, these demons and these lying spirits, they work in tandem. So, in a group like that you probably have Lying spirits, Lying symptoms that mimic sickness, spirits of Jealousy and Strife, spirits of Fear, spirits of Unbelief... and they love to work together in a nest and in tandem. I tell you, when I pray against these things, there are so many of them, they have backup. They have those who sent them. So, "in the Name of Jesus, I bind you lying spirits, I bind your backup, and I bind those who have sent you." And just get the whole slew of them bound. Send them to the abyss. Some people might argue with me on that but, you know what?

It works.

So, we'll go on. Now, you know the Lord promised that "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear."

1 Corinthians 10:13.

But when you are tempted, He will provide a way out. So, we know for sure that the Lord is with us and that He will help us through, but we do have a real enemy and we're going to be continually buffeted and tested. It's up to us to use the weapons the Lord has given us to stay clear of these obstacles.

How do we recognize toxic streaming in our consciousness? Well, some people are better at it than others and it takes a little bit of practice, but I can tell you for sure what it looks or what it sounds like. You'll have a feeling of fear or anxiety. And for no reason at all, you can't think of any causes as to why you should feel that. It's just a vague feeling of anxiety and fear and discomfort. You'll lose your peace. You'll be sailing along in joy and peace and be really happy and just pursuing everything God's given you to do, taking care of your family, and all of a sudden your peace will just evaporate.

Now, if you did something, if you talked about someone or you judged or criticized then that could be it. But, if you didn't do anything like that and this feeling creeps in on you, you're dealing with Toxic Streaming from demons. And by that I mean "toxic" in the sense that they are saying you're worthless, something bad is going to happen to you, you're bad, you're children are going to get killed. I mean, they'll do anything subliminally to steal your peace.

So, when you start to feel that peace going, you need to suspect right away that you've got some kind of demonic toxic--streaming thoughts coming into your head that are damaging to your peace and damaging to your faith. Also, you'll have doubts about the faith. All of a sudden, out of nowhere. Issues that you have resolved in your heart and mind all of a sudden start pounding you again that

these things are not really true. You might be feeling guilty or condemned and not have any reason to feel condemned. You might feel depressed or hopeless or confusion.

Now, make sure that you're properly nourished, that you have had enough to eat. If you're on medication because of an illness, make sure you've taken your medication. Make sure you've gotten enough sleep, because these things can be caused also by physical symptoms --- so you want to eliminate that, at least. But nonetheless, as I said before, the demons are opportunists and they take advantage of those times when you've maybe forgotten your medication or you haven't eaten or you didn't get enough sleep.

Now, contrasting that, how do we recognize conviction from the Holy Spirit? Well, we'll sense that something's not right, in our gut or in our heart. Something doesn't feel right. "I think I grieved the Lord. I spoke out of turn or I said something I never should have even thought, let alone say." I'll have a check in my spirit that something's not right and I'll feel a need to seek the Lord and find out, "Have I offended you, Lord? Have I said or done something to offend you? What is it that I'm feeling right now?" There are times even --- a very beautiful thing, not easy, but beautiful --- when the Lord will be grieved about some situation and you'll pick up on His grief and He'll come to you for comfort. That's an amazing thing.

Now, there's also accompanying that sometimes a feeling of repentance, like you know you've said something you shouldn't have or thought something you shouldn't have and you start to repent. But there's absolutely no condemnation with this. And if condemnation tags onto it, then you're talking about demonic interference.

The Holy Spirit does not work that way. He does not condemn you. Ever. That's just not His way. He gently convicts you and brings to a place where you *want* to change.

Okay, so, we have these accusers over our shoulder night and day. Is it any wonder that we are afraid to face God? This is what I'm talking about. This is one of the dynamics that keeps us from that sweet, intimate wedding chamber that He has prepared for His Bride. There is this fear in us. And how do we conquer these lies? Well, very often our first thought is how imperfect we are, and our second thought is that God is a strict judge. "Wow, He doesn't want to get close to me and I sure don't want to face Him. Not after the way I've been."

So, we'll take escape routes. For women, they'll go nesting and cleaning and tearing everything apart and organizing and cleaning and getting into a big project that'll totally wear them out. For a man, he might stay and work really hard at night at his job. Or he'll sit down and watch T.V. and start eating -- bring on the chocolate. Or, we'll go shopping or we'll look for entertainment.

Anything to avoid face-to-face contact with God.

And even this has happened to me many times: when something was going on that was very hard for me to confront, when I was deeply, deeply hurt and wounded... I would run *from* the Lord, because it was too painful. I didn't want to face how I felt and knew that if I got in front of Him and I felt His presence, I would break down and cry. I didn't want to go there --- so I ran from Him. Sometimes in my early days I used to run from Him for weeks --- weeks on end, I would run from Him. Pretty soon my husband started to notice these symptoms and he'd say, "Honey, are you running from the Lord?" And then I'd have to sit down and examine what was going on.

So, Scripture does say though, and you know we need to know this, that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. John 3:17 The Lord is for you, He's not against you. He wants to help when you get to this place. He's given us a way out. And that's the next verse in Revelation. Revelation 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Now, in 1 Peter 1 it talks about the Blood: For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from this empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors but with the precious blood of Christ a Lamb without blemish or defect. That is, you were redeemed with His very own Blood. And the testimony in Romans 10:9--10 If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Because, For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

So, Jesus already paid for our sins with His Blood and in Romans, it talks about There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8 Why? Because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. We belong to the Holy Spirit, we are under His rule now. It is a rule of love.

Now, while I was writing this and preparing this, I came under attack. For two days in a row I was picking up on this toxic streaming and I was trying to fight it off. Finally, I asked the Holy Spirit, "Why are you allowing this?" and rather than tell you what He said, I just want to read from my journal.

So He said, **"Well, you're teaching on this, don't you think it's good practice? It's not easy, is it?"**

And I said, "No, it's a struggle."

"Exactly. This is what you need to get across to everyone so they don't fall into condemnation. There will be a struggle, you can count on it. But just as I have taught you they, too, will succeed in overcoming it when they shift their focus to me."

And I'll go into that in a moment.

"They cannot combat it directly without being injured or getting toxic waste on themselves, but they can shift their focus so only one thing is on their minds. This will do two things. One, it will change the subject and two, it will infuriate the devils who hate worship and adoration. It works quite well, actually but, it does take practice."

Okay and then going on He said, **"Shift your focus to me."**

In other words, refocus on the Lord. If you're in the presence of Jesus or the Holy Spirit, I mean where one is the other is but, whatever it is that you're picking up on, whoever it is, shift your focus to them deliberately, because you can't think about two things at once. So, if you change what's going on in your mind to God, you can't be receiving this toxic streaming.

Then He said, **"Then, they need to know the facts. You struggle to and it is work. Just like cleaning out the grease trap. It's not clean or pleasant work, but it must be done. The difference is, you can get a grease trap clean but the well of condemnation goes so deep it seems like it will never end."**

We have a well of condemnation that the demons draw on. Things from our past, our history, that they know about and they throw up in our face. It's a very deep well and this is something that we can't combat directly.

So Holy Spirit said, **"That's why you don't try to fix it or rationalize each event when you're looking back on what you did or someone else did. You don't try to fix it, don't try to rationalize it, you don't make excuses or explain away what happened or give shallow resolutions to forgive. Rather, state your fact. 'I forgive them. I forgive myself. It's under the Blood' And then shift your focus. 'Today is a new day and I'm keeping my focus on God, not my grease trap.'"**

I love that imagery. That's just beautiful. That is – have you ever smelled a grease trap? – oh my gosh. I don't think there's – well if you've ever walked your dog, there could be a little comparison there, but I mean it's bad, bad, bad, bad, bad.

Now, here are the instructions that He gave me, rather paraphrased. **"Things from the past are under the Blood. Keep your focus on Me. When you do this, the enemy can't get a foothold because you're not interested in anything he has to say. Negative thoughts are planned weapons against you to cause you to stumble and take your eyes off Me. So when these things come, as they most surely will -- I guarantee it, immediately return your focus to Me, to My loving arms, to My beauty and My complete, unconditional love for you. Let the sweetness of our union engulf you and let the barriers down and return your focus to Me."** That's His council on how to deal with this toxic streaming that comes against you.

Now, if you really want this intimacy with God and you think He's displeased with you, you're going to sit down and find out: "Are you upset with me?" And you're going to find that out. Rather than believing the lies, you know, rather than believing the condemnation that is groundless, the Lying spirits. Take the time to sit down and find out what's really going on here. And, the Lord promises in Jeremiah 29:13 You'll find me when you seek me with your whole heart you surely will find me I will be found by you declares the Lord. You see, that's the very crux of it.

If you really want Him badly enough, if you want this intimacy and this relationship badly enough, you'll pursue Him until He finds you.

Okay, now onto the second set of lies slandering God. I want you to picture this for a moment. Here we are in Genesis. The Lord has created the springs of water to water the whole Earth and to make it fertile. He planted a garden. (Can you imagine God planting a garden; how beautiful that must have been?) I mean all He had to do was think of a rose and the rose bush was there with roses on it. Or lilacs or lilies or anything, I mean He planted a garden. That's amazing.

He was planting it for Adam and Eve. He made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground; trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. He brought Adam all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky to see what Adam would name them. (Oh, that's so precious.) And the animals were submissive. He brings a tiger up and Adam looks at him and says, "Tiger." The Lord gave him all of that. And then, to top it all off, God Himself even walked with Adam in the cool of the evening and they had fellowship together. Then He created Eve for complete joy and satisfaction that he would have a companion like himself. The most perfect companion for him.

Okay, now there was only one thing that the Lord asked for in return, and that was basically, "I want you to trust Me and obey Me, because I'm asking you not to eat from the tree in the center of the Garden. Because if you do, you're going to die." So the Lord warned them ahead of time.

Now, what happened to this beautiful relationship? In Genesis 3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden? Did He say that?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden but God did say you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden and you must not touch it or you will die. "You will certainly not die" the serpent said to the woman. For God knows when you eat from it your eyes will opened, and you will be like God knowing good and evil.

Well, there's an insinuation. God is trying to keep something good and useful from Adam and Eve. He is depriving them of something important. This is the inference that Satan is making here.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked; so they sewed leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

You see, Satan is constantly trying to lure us off track with clever packaging and an inference that we'll be better off if we take the offer and ignore God's counsel. He masquerades as a friend until we're hooked, then he pulls his knife out and carves up our lives and turns on the 24/7 streaming of condemnation for our foolishness. He'll goad you on to do something that you feel you shouldn't do, and keep goading you and goading you and goading you and you get weak and you give into it --- and then after you've done it, he'll come in and heap the condemnation on top of you. I mean, he takes advantage of you coming and going. He examines every way he can make you miserable.

So, going on with Genesis: Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid from the Lord among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you've done?" The woman said, "The serpent, he deceived me and I ate it."

Okay, so you know, here Adam's trying to blame Eve and Eve is trying to blame the serpent. It just doesn't work though, doesn't come off. So, let's look at the dynamics of this for a moment. God created the perfect life for Adam and Eve. He asked only one thing, obedience. Satan wanted to steal, kill, and destroy what God had created for Adam and Eve. He slandered God's character by saying that God was withholding something good from him and he also accused God of lying. "You won't die." The woman took the clever packaging and involved her husband and he sinned against God. Then, Adam was afraid because he sinned, so he hid from God.

Fear set in.

This is again the dynamic that can keep you from intimacy with the Lord. Don't let it. Don't let it keep you from the Lord. If you've done something that you shouldn't have done, don't run from Him. He's

so merciful and loving and tender. He knows how you feel.

It was not God's heart for them to be separated from Him for eternity. So what did He do? John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world but that the world might be saved through him.

So the Lord made a provision for what happened. That's how much He loves us. Not just any provision. He suffered on that cross. Tremendous suffering. Suffering like we'll never know. He suffered. He's on our side. There's no reason to run from Him. No reason to hide from Him. There's no reason to cover up because of all our sins. He knows all that. He knows all the dirt on us folks, there's not anything He doesn't know. He's got all the dirt, but He's also got unconditional love.

You know, someday I'm going to share my salvation experience with you and my conversion. But I'll just give you a little taste of it. What basically happened was, I was inundated by this Love. Well, first of all I felt the weight of all of my sins and all of the things that I had done. I felt the weight of those sins and immediately on the heels of that, I felt tremendous love and forgiveness. Just ecstatic love --- and I knew I was saved. That was a wonderful experience and that's the way He works. He loves us. He loves us. It's His love that brings us to repentance. We have nothing to fear from Him.

Now, to go on with the slandering, because I really, really, really want you to understand that it's important, really important to understand that the Devil is committed to slandering the character of God. Let me give you some examples of how he did that. In the New Testament Luke 6:7 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. What hypocrites. Oh my gosh, how could the Lord bear with that? Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus that He would heal on the Sabbath. Oh my goodness, that's amazing.

And then in Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar. He claims to be the Messiah, a king." Of course, that was something you didn't do in the Roman Empire. There was only one head of the Empire. And in Luke 11:53 When he left there, the scribes and Pharisees began to be very hostile and questioned him closely on many subjects. They were plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.

Didn't Jesus say, ***"Whenever he speaks a lie,"*** speaking of Satan, ***"Whenever he speaks a lie he speaks his native language. He's the father of liars."*** John 8:44 But Moses wrote, "God is not human that he should lie. Not a human being that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" God is not a liar. He is true to His word. That's in Numbers 23.

Why do the devils lie to us about the character of God? I mean, really. What is the most important reason? I believe is that he hates for us to be intimate with God. He hates love for sure. But he hates for us to be intimate with the Lord and to come to know His character. Because if we know how much He loves and if we're healed of the wounds that Satan has inflicted on us, or we've inflicted on ourselves, we'll be filled with His love, filled with healing and we'll bring other people into the Kingdom. So, he's terribly threatened by intimacy and he will do everything to stop you from having intimate time with the Lord. He will insinuate all kinds of things, I mean, I've had him say... you know, "your children are in danger, quickly call, you know, such and such." I mean, I've had him pull a lot of

things on me and I'm getting to the point now, thank the Lord, that I'm a little more aware of when I'm being toyed with. But he'll do anything he can to throw you out of prayer; bring people to the door, make the phone ring.

When you want to get into prayer with the Lord --- and this kind of prayer, really, it's essential that you get all of your duties done. Let everybody know: "Mom's going into prayer with the Lord. She will not be disturbed.

Dad's going into prayer, do not disturb him." We really need to do that. So if we know God as He truly is we'll tell others and Satan's lies won't work anymore.

Well, on to the Lord's true nature and how He really feels about you. This is my favorite part of this teaching for sure. It is written, Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God. Matthew 5:8 To have a pure heart, all you need to do is have a committed desire, "Lord, I want a pure heart. With all of my being I am committed to whatever it takes to have a pure heart." If you come before the Lord that way and you give Him your life and your commitment to work with Him on your heart, you already are going to enter into the benefits of a pure heart. God is going to take that is though it were a done deal. That means that you're going to see Him. He promised it. This is not me speaking. I'm talking about what the Lord promised. Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God. Matthew 5:8. Nowhere in the scriptures, in the Old Testament did anyone "see" God, and live. Supposedly.

Okay, so, we have a commitment to have a pure heart. Now, if your heart is divided or tied to worldly things -- been there, done that -- if you lose your temper with your brother and have judgments -- done that too, and not that long ago either. But you hate these things. I mean, you despise these things about yourself. You don't despise yourself. You despise these *attitudes*. Then you want to be perfect and you're committed to purity of heart. It's just a matter of time before you get there. He's going to work with you and He's going to take you through every attachment, every god, every idol, and you're going to have a pure heart. He's going to do it.

Now, He'll bring it to pass but I have to warn you, He's not going to bring it to pass unless you present yourself to Him. If you avoid Him, He will not be able to bring it to pass. You have to come to Him and allow Him to work with you and not run from Him. He promised, Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. John 14:21. He promises this. This is Scripture, He promises it. It's true. I've experienced it. My husband's experienced it. Millions of Christians have experienced it. So, if you're imperfect in obedience but sorrowful, He can work with that. He'll bring perfection in your obedience. He'll bring you around to the point where, "You know what? I'm going to obey. It's not what I want to do; I want to do something different. But I know the Lord wants this and I'm going to do it." That's what I'm talking about. He'll do that. He'll accomplish that in you.

Now, I think it's important here to take a look at how hard we try on our own to be holy. This is a big mistake. Because the harder you try, the more you're going to fail. This is a job for God, this is not a job for us, guys.

Consider that if you began today, by the end of your life do you think you could be perfect? Well, if you said "yes" to that, let me know how you're doing a year from now!

On the other hand, for the rest of us who answered "no," this is the good news: we can't change anything about our character. Not one thing without grace from God. And if we think we can, He'll

let us in for a little surprise because the Lord opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6 So if you come to Him wanting His grace, He's going to give it to you knowing that you're weak. But if you try to do it on your own, you're going to be in for a few hard knocks. Let's put it that way. And, you know, we're partners in this endeavor and He didn't come to call the healthy. He came to call the sick. I don't know about you but I've got some sickness in my soul. There are things I'm not – that are not holy. And I have things that I need to be redeemed, and need to be changed – habit patterns. But He didn't come to call the healthy. He came to call the sick.

Now, when the scribes and the Pharisees saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why is he eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous but sinners." Matthew 9:11--13. Okay so, He didn't come for the perfect, He came for the imperfect. So, if you can find imperfection in your nature, Jesus is calling you. He's coming for you. He's there for you.

Moving on, you know, what a paradox this is. "I'm not calling the perfect. I'm calling you who know you're not perfect." So, a lot of people are saying "Well, I'm not ready for God yet because I'm still bad." I don't think that's the case at all. I think they're not ready for God yet because they don't want to change. You don't have to be ready for God. All you have to be ready for is to stop sinning and to want to change. That's all you need to do. You're never going to be ready for God. That's one of those lies again from the enemy. "Well, you can't go to God in the condition you're in. You have to change your life. You have to change your ways. You're not right with God, could never go to God. Maybe in a few years when you get it down you can." Nope, go there right now. Go to God now. Don't wait, because He's already got the remedies for you. He's already got the answers.

But the demons would like you to think that you've got no hope and no recourse. No hope and no recourse because you're too dirty to go to God. What are they trying to do? They're trying to keep you from being

intimate with the Lord. That's their whole agenda. Jesus is the one who loves you tenderly and can answer all of your questions and heal all of your ills and set your feet on the right path and make your life right. He's the one who can do this. So, if you are trying to wait until you can do it yourself, you are wasting your time. You're not going to be able to do it without His grace.

Well, let's move on to the most intimate, revealing Scriptures in the Bible, the Love Letter to His Bride. The Lord's Love letter.

Now, the Song of Songs in the Old Testament is attributed to Solomon. It said that he was deeply in love and wrote them for his bride. But, all Bible scholars agree and the church fathers agree that this is a love letter. This is about His love for His Bride. Like so many other places in Scripture, there's a double meaning here. Not only was Solomon expressing his feelings, but the Lord was speaking through him about His feelings for us and they are tender and beautiful feelings. The language is almost embarrassing, it's so intimate. But when you realize that this is a *spiritual* love letter, there's nothing carnal about it. There's nothing carnal about the Lord. There's nothing carnal in Heaven. Everything is on a beautiful, sublime, spiritual level.

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth for your love is more delightful than wine. Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes and your name is like a perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you! Take me away with you – let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. Song of Solomon 1:2-4.

Yes, the king wants to bring you into His chambers and love you into perfection. Preparing you for eternal life in Heaven and make you the most fulfilled and complete person that you could ever not even possibly imagine for yourself.

Now, He does want to kiss you and dance with you and explore the beauties of Heaven with you. He loves to be kissed. The pure exchange of hearts that He longs for from His bride. He will kiss you in the spirit because you are so dear to Him. His Bride--to--be and there will be nothing carnal about it.

At this point, when I was writing this, I really did feel the Holy Spirit take over and I want to share with you what I journaled and I felt that this was from Him.

:These kisses from the Lord transform you from merely clay vessels to golden vessels of divine love soaking in, transforming love for you. I heal the woundedness, the scars, the empty places that were once filled with joy but betrayed and lost forever. Deep, painful fissures in your souls that I pour the oil of joy into and bring you to fulfillment and overflowing with living waters of life that every thirsty soul you encounter may drink deeply of. But this will never happen if you avoid Me and believe the excuses and lies that the enemy has attempted to sabotage our relationship with.

“Do you have friends that are devastated by divorce? Those fissures of pain can be healed once and for all by My love if you are willing to seek Me until you find me, to enter into My rest and allow the oil of joy and gladness to penetrate deeply into the wounds.

“Are you sorrowing over the loss of a loved one who died a painful death from cancer? This fissure also can be healed and filled with understanding and love, so you may pour out this balm on other hurting souls.

“Are you confused and disappointed over your failures? Your dreams unfulfilled? And facing a bleak future with no purpose? Sit with Me. Allow My love to restore your hope. Allow Me to penetrate these dark and lonely places with My love and I will bring you up and out of it. I will lead you into life pastures with crystal springs and show you the destination of your dreams where all your gifts and talents and dreams will be manifested by My powerful grace working through you.

“I tell you the truth: there is no wound too deep, no dream too impossible, no life unattainable. I will bring you into the fullness of your life, doing the very things you were created for...”

“...and fulfilling your life beyond your wildest dreams. And best of all, I will be your constant companion. You will never feel alone again. I will never abandon you! And at the end of your life, the fireworks will go off as you ascend in My arms, into the most perfect place that I’ve created --- just for you.”

Again, beyond your wildest dreams. So, this is really what the Lord has in mind for us, Christians. This is what He wants in this intimate relationship. This is nothing to run from. This is something to rejoice over and run to and to take every measure in your life to protect your time and space with Him. And be faithful to do that every single day --- whether you miss your time in the morning, do it in the evening. I mean, there are times that are unusual, where you’ll miss this time with the Lord. But if you miss it in the morning, do it in the evening; if you miss it in the evening, do it in the morning. Make a way to be faithful to this. Nothing is impossible with the Lord.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard and it hath not entered into the human mind the things that He has in store for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

So please, don’t waste any more time in prayer and study that has become barren and not bringing you into deep, intimate communion with Him. Something’s wrong with your methods if you’re not getting any deeper with the Lord. And you know, I had to let go of all my ideas of how to pray and enter into that place with Him and I asked Him to show me, because I wasn’t getting very far and I knew there was greater depth. So, I asked Him to do it through me --- and He did.

We have so many preconceived ideas about how to pray. And if our methods are not bringing us any closer to God, it’s time to lay it down before Him and say, “Lord, teach me how to pray and how to enter into Your presence, how to worship You.” I do this frequently. In fact, just about every morning. I confess to Him that I don’t know how to pray. “Lord, bring me into prayer and into intimate communion with You, the way You want me to come.”

Let me tell you a little story. We have a remote, wilderness retreat where I would go fasting and praying up in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains about 9500 feet, only accessible by an extremely rough road. Horseback in the wintertime, and sometimes in the summertime, you can make it up in a vehicle. You’re completely alone up there except for the bears and the cougars, the elk and the deer --- and we’ve seen all of them on the property up there.

We lived there for five years, but we still go there to pray. (We have a little chapel up there.) One weekend I really had some issues that I didn’t know; I just couldn’t resolve. I couldn’t get any peace about it, so I fasted and went up to the Mountain and I was worshiping and praying and doing everything I could think of to draw close to Him for about 12 hours. I thought, “Wow, the heavens are brass, what is going on here?” So finally, nothing was happening between the two of us and I thought to myself, “Maybe I’m being a little bit presumptuous thinking that just because I fast and come up to the Mountain, the Lord’s going to speak to me. Maybe I’m just a little bit prideful and presumptuous. Or a LOT prideful and presumptuous...”

So, I repented and I told Him “Lord, I’m sorry. Just because I fast and come up to the Mountain doesn’t mean that You have to speak to me. I’m really sorry. I don’t know where my head’s at. Please Lord, lead me into that sweet place with you.” Would you believe that within ten minutes I was sailing in His arms? That’s all He was waiting for, is my confession of weakness. “I’m too little. I don’t know how to do it, Lord, do it through me.” That’s all it took and we were engulfed in His love and His beauty.

So, no matter how good ----- how many people tell you they do this, they do that, how wonderful their prayers are --- it’s really up to the Lord how He wants to bring you to Him. It’s really up to Him. And I suggest that if your prayers are not fruitful and ending in the sweet, intimate union with Lord that you put aside the books and allow Him to lead you and enter into His rest where all things are possible.

If you have unresolved issues about the faith, He’ll answer you. He’ll lead you through the Scriptures and answer you. Do you have unresolved issues about your marriage? Or your children? He’ll put your mind at complete peace and explain to you what He’s doing. Do you desire a deeper knowledge of Him? He’ll reveal Himself in ever deepening circles and infuse knowledge into your mind that the scholars don’t have. Your bel

will burst forth with living waters John 7:38 and you'll be a virtual Eden going through this world bringing refreshment everywhere you go.

Didn't He say, Come to me all of you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28

So, enter into His rest. Drink deeply of the living waters and then go to this hurting and lost world and dispense what He's given to you to other hurting souls. This is the God of power and might but most of all He's the God of love and mercy. He will not condemn you for your sins and failures. The failures that have wounded you; the very things you can't forgive yourself for, He will pour His oil and wine upon your wounds and tenderly dress them with clean linens. Eventually all your ills will be brought to restoration.

This is the lover of our souls. He has nothing but good things to share with us. He will bring your insight into your failures and set the stage for new and wonderful learning experiences so that the delicate petals of your soul will unfold and spread the intoxicating presence of Christ; fragrance of Christ in your world. All He asks of you is that you seek Him until you find Him and that you turn your life over to Him and ask Him to change the things in you that are creating a barrier in union with Him. You'll be so inebriated in your relationship with Him that you'll be walking in Heaven more than you're walking on this Earth. Your life will be supernatural and filled with consolation.

He'll seek you out and He'll reveal His tender and vulnerable feelings for you, and His sorrows. You'll rejoice in being able to console Him. He will bring His sorrows to you. He will lay His head on your heart because it's a safe place for Him, because you love Him, because you're seeking to have a pure heart and you're cooperating with grace to have a pure heart. So many people don't care. He's so wounded by the indifference of man. So wounded that there's so much ungratefulness and when He finds a soul that loves Him with a pure love, He wants to spend time with that soul and when He's hurting, He wants to be with that soul. Just like our husbands want to be with us when they're hurting.

He loves you just the way you are. Unconditionally. He longs for one glance in His direction from you, even at the grocery store. He tells me, **"Look at me once in a while. Think of me. Thank me."** He looks forward to the day when you'll be united to Him forever. He looks forward to that and boy, the surprises He'll have for you!

Beloved, you have nothing to fear from divine intimacy and everything to look forward to. Don't lose another day. Ask Him to accomplish this in you and watch Him bring it forth without harsh measures, without impossible things that you can't do like fasting or maybe going up on a mountain somewhere. Without striving. Lay down the striving and enter into His rest. Without striving. Without effort. Allow Him to bring you into the Bridal Chamber.

Now, I'd be remiss with you if I didn't share some of the techniques that He's taught me. So, I'm going to do another short video on entering the Bridal Chamber and some of the things that He's shared with me to bring me into that close place.

God bless you.

Wounding Waters, Part 5: Fear of the Future

November 12, 2013



Well, I didn't expect this. I've been waiting on the Lord to disclose to me what it is exactly He wanted me to share with you and how to share it, which Scriptures and so on and He gave me a really good kick start one morning. I woke up to an electrical doorknob notice that says my electricity is going to be turned off in three days. We'd been waiting for a check that's normally on time; a donation and it was four days late. Well, I started to freak and He wanted me to share that with you because He wants you to understand how weak I am and in His own words if he can make

me strong in His word, He can do it for anyone. That's for sure.

So, I got hit really hard. My knees got weak -- blood sugar went down, I thought, "Give me the chocolate" and normal life stopped until the check came in. And after I'd reasoned through it... after a while and looked at the Lord's track record, I saw how foolish I was being. But you know, at the time these things happen, you don't always see that; you have to look at that in hindsight after you've gotten over the shock quality of whatever it is your dealing with.

Going on with this. Really guys, I'm just really weak and a coward at heart. That's the bottom line and my oldest daughter once said to me, she said, "Mom, you are so strong" and I told her in no uncertain terms, "Honey, I am not strong but the God who lives in me is strong and He's the One who keeps me on my feet."

Well, when we started out on this journey of a teaching ministry that the Lord has called me to, He cleared up some doubts that I had. I had some pretty serious doubts. I told Him, "Lord, I am not a good choice" and His reply to that was - I'll read it to you, *"On the contrary, you're just perfect for the job. If I can have the victory in your life, I can have it in anyone's and that's your mandate. Be honest, be transparent, so even the weakest person can relate to you."*

So, are you weak? Well, guess what, I'm weaker and if I can stand, I'm sure you can stand too. Now, let me share with you how the Lord has led me. I have to laugh because I really wasn't expecting this and it hit me like a bomb, right? And, I decided - and well - first thing, I really needed to go to the Lord and we needed to straighten some things out. The Lord called my husband into a prayer vigil for me. Well, as in all these things I have to put things in perspective. And when he goes into a prayer vigil for me it really helps. He is my entire - he's the power and the covering that keeps this going. So, the Lord called my husband into a prayer vigil and I knew immediately He was preparing me for this teaching on fear.

So I said to Him, "Lord, I don't feel like I have any business teaching on this topic. Look at me; my knees are week, my blood sugar is crashing and I'm not any example at all to be teaching this."

And He didn't hesitate for one moment. He said, *"Didn't I tell you this teaching was for you also?"*

Uhm... "Yes."

And He said, *“Do you know how many times a day fear interrupts us?”* Meaning the Lord and I in our communication -- our ability to communicate together. *“You are bound by fears; fear of displeasure, fear of dying, fear of disease, fear of losing your husband or your children, fear of me, even as kindly as I am gentle with you, you’re still afraid. Fear of uselessness, fear of failure. Don’t you see how controlled you are by fear? And this is universal to man.”* Well, that kind of opened my eyes when He said that and understood right away that He just wants me to be honest with you and share with you how I manage to get through these things.

We live in Taos, New Mexico and I have to say, it’s spiritually a very dark, dark place and there’s a lot of new age movement in this town. It’s tremendous actually, with the Taos Indian Pueblo and other things. And, it’s a dark place and it’s not easy to survive here. There has to be spiritual warfare on a constant basis.

“Lord, I didn’t want to hear this. I thought I was beyond those fears. Now I see, that was pride and ignorance on my part.”

And He answered, *“No, it’s precisely because you do struggle that I’m bringing you into confrontation with your fears. And do you know, everyone, and I do mean everyone, has fear. Yes, even that teacher that you like so well who - lady teacher - who is strong as a truck driver. She has fear too. She’s got her buttons just like you do.”*

And I said, “But she’s such a good teacher.”

“Well, everybody has a button, there’s a button somewhere.”

So I said, “Oh Lord, pass the ice cream.”

He said, *“I’m with you, I will hold your hand, but for now you need to be in touch with fear so you can minister peace to others.”*

“Peace? I don’t understand it. How and I supposed to minister peace when I’m fear struck like this? My belly is weak, my throat is dry, my heart is limp. Oh, please pass the ice cream.”

And he said – He laughed and he said, *“No, pass the Grace.”*

“Okay.”

“You have so many examples of My faithfulness in your life but there’s still persists this nagging feeling of vulnerability and that you’re going to be undone.”

And He went on, *“Even now, as we speak, you are still in the grips of it. It hits you like a blast of hot air.”*

I thought, what does He mean by that? And then I thought, ‘you know, I woke up feeling like a lily that was going to bloom and now I feel totally wilted.’

And so He said, *“You need to master this, Clare. If you don’t, you are vulnerable to being manipulated.”*

And that's the bottom line. We want to stay on course with the Lord. We don't want to go to the left or to the right and Satan so often uses fear tactics to cause us to either derail or go just a degree off. When we go a degree off on a long journey, we are way off by the time we get to our destination. So I said, "Lord, how do I master this?"

"You apply the Word," He said. "It's a poultice containing medicinal ingredients."

I don't know if you're aware of that word 'poultice' but back in the old days – still even now – people who work with herbs, they make a muslin sack with different herbs in it and apply it to a sprain or a break or something like that and it helps to ease the pain.

So, He said, *"You apply the Word. It's a poultice containing many medicinal ingredients. The Word. The Word. The Word."*

Okay, well, I thought I was applying the Word but obviously not soon enough or not well enough and this is a life-long challenge for us. I confess, I struggle with fear a lot. I feel like a dartboard that the enemy throws a dart at and it sticks. I have to work it out using God's Word as the forceps and my history with Him as the clamp because I can look back on our history and that holds me in place. I can hold that wound open while I use His Word to pull out that dart.

So, it makes total sense to me that this would be the final teaching after intimacy - on fear. Because without intimacy with the Lord, you're really, really susceptible to fear. So, when we don't meet fear head on, it can become an underlying, motivating force that colors all of our actions and our relationships and we don't even know sometimes how that's happening. We just respond a certain way because there's a memory back in there that causes fear and it hasn't been confronted. It hasn't been dealt with and it becomes a button, really.

So, we end up doing things automatically with not understanding, why did I do that? Why did I say that? Why did I react that way? And this is something that's basically universal to all men and women. So, fear of being ridiculed is a common one. Fear of loss and sickness. Fear of rejection and failure. Fear of helplessness. Fear of poverty. All of these are huge things that really impact people's lives.

For example, let's say you feel very strongly called. Or let's say I feel – because I'm going to give you an example from my own life – very strongly called to serve the Lord. I really feel there's a calling on my life and there's a lot of agreement in that area from peers and people around me. And so, I think to myself, 'okay, I'm called by the Lord. I'm going to finish college. I'm going to get my car and house paid off and then I'm going to look for ministry opportunities.' Now mind you, that's the world's prudence talking. Where the Lord may want you to get on the next plane to Africa to work under missionaries who are well established and to learn from them. That's more of His logic. I'm not saying that He's always impulsive like that but there's a great deal of prudence that comes from the world and colors our responses to the Lord and to His call. And let me share one – the world's priorities often have nothing in common with God and His priorities.

Now, when Peter left his nets to follow the Lord, he left a lucrative business. He had assets, he had a family, he had children, he had worked at this for many, many years. Decades. And all of a sudden he sees and hears the Lord and he drops everything and he follows the Lord. Nothing prudent about that.

Nor was Elisha prudent when he followed Elijah. He took a yoke of oxen, slaughtered them, boiled their flesh in the equipment – using the oxen’s equipment and gave it to the people to eat. Then he arose and followed Elijah and became his servant. 1 Kings 19

In my own life, when we were a family of five, my father-in-law bought us a brand new Ford station wagon. We were thrilled. My husband was going to school and he bought us this beautiful station wagon. He probably got tired of hearing the calls that the car had broken down again, but whatever. He bought us a station wagon. I’d never had a new car in my life so I was thrilled to have this car and to have that security for my family. Well, at the same time the Lord began tapping on my shoulder, tapping on my husband’s shoulder and calling us to the mission field. And that was through YWAM that he was calling us to go to Holland and there was a deadline for it and we tried to raise the \$5,000.00 that it would take to get us to Holland and to pay for our courses and what have you. And the only way that we could have done it was to sell the car. We could have gotten \$5,000.00 for the car easily. But we thought about it, we prayed about it and we decided to be prudent; not to destroy family relations by selling this car and taking off to Europe on a Christian missionary trip. And his parents were not Christian so that didn’t make it any easier. We were dealing with a couple really nice masons here and he was very good to us, he was very kind but he would not understand our motives and they’d be looked down upon. So we decided to do the prudent thing for the family. Well, prudent we were alright.

I had a dream not long after that. And in this dream I was on a ship somewhere and on this ship I was called to the lower deck by the captain. So I came down the stairs to see the captain; he was standing behind a table, he looked up at me, blue eyes, blond hair, very handsome, very sparkling presence and he said, “The Lord called but you missed Him. He’ll call again.” And then the dream ended and I woke up and immediately. I knew that was the Holy Spirit talking to me. That was the Holy Spirit in my dream and he was telling me that I had missed the Lord by making this choice for security and money and family rather than choosing for the Lord. This has been a life-long struggle with me. I’m going to share with you how I finally overcame a major part of it in a little while. But this has been a serious setback and drawback for me, having this affection for the world and this need for security.

You know, it seems like there’s no end to the fears that the father of lies can conjure up against us. And in my previous video, I have to say, if you don’t think there are things that cause a fear response in you, it might be a good idea, as I did in my previous video, to stop this video and take a few moments and think about it. Think about things that can cause you to go off the deep end with fear. You don’t have anything to lose by doing that and everything to gain because knowing yourself is what allows you to put the devils to flight. We’re our own worst enemies. That’s the sad truth.

Okay now, getting back to the Lord’s remedy for fear. The Word. I have to say that I don’t believe the Word will do you a great deal of good if you don’t know the Lord. People who don’t have a relationship with the Lord – the Word to an unbeliever is just empty, religious jargon or history, kind of obscure history of the Jewish nation. But the Word to a believer is a vital, living force that transforms and translates us from darkness into light on a daily basis. It’s so powerful.

So, I want to take a moment here and if you don’t have that relationship with Jesus, it is so easy to get. There’s nothing simpler than the intention of your heart and a few simple words. “Lord, I give you my heart and my life. I want to know you. Come into my heart. Lead me and teach me. Amen.” That’s an invitation He simply cannot resist and your life will change overnight from maybe dull, boring and confused and dark to brilliant light. Full of wonder. Full of challenges that you never thought you’d be able to overcome in your life. Beautiful things ahead for you when you give your life to the Lord. So, I

just wanted to take a moment to share that because without understanding your relationship with Him; the words of the Scripture meant nothing to me before I was converted. I'd fall asleep looking at them and I thought what so people get out of this, I don't get it. But then when the Holy Spirit came and transformed my life then I understood and I knew and it was like opening a book where 3-D pictures and history were going on right in front of me. And all of a sudden my understanding was expanded.

So, the Lord has done so many miracles in my life that there is no excuse for me having any kind of fear and if you feel that way too, don't feel bad because there is an explanation for that. I used to look down at the Israelites who contended and complained with God about being in the desert. They were full of discontent and ungratefulness and I thought, 'how can they be like that after all the things the Lord has done for them?' So I had my own, you know, my own take on the Israelites but now I recognize, I am not one whip better than they were. I'm just like them.

In hindsight it seems incredulous to me that after crossing the Red Sea, they could doubt that Moses would return from Mount Sinai. I can't understand that. How could they think that after the miracles that took place delivering them from Egypt? So, they doubted and they gave all their jewelry, their heirlooms, everything they collected from the Egyptians to Aaron to make a golden calf so they would have a god to worship. Oh my gosh, that's just amazing, just amazing. And this is in Exodus 4 we're beginning with.

So, and the Lord had given Moses three supernatural signs plus the name of God to convince the people of his mission. He had a staff that would turn into a snake and then come back into a staff. He had leprosy in his hand when he tucked it into his shirt and pulled it out, put it in again and leprosy left. And when he poured water out on the ground it turned to blood so he had these signs and wonders even before he was delivered from Egypt.

And now, the Israelites witnessed a lot of plagues and firsthand and they saw where the Egyptians would suffer loss but they were protected so they had that in addition to it all. The devastation of the flies, the livestock dying, the destructive hail, the darkness for three days and the death of the firstborn. They had seen all of this and walked away from it unscathed with people handing them gold and ornaments and silver just to get them out of their lives so they wouldn't have to deal with them anymore.

So even after of all this and the Red Sea opening and going across on dry land and the Lord glancing back at the Egyptian army chasing them and throwing them into total confusion and then the sea closing over them. They had all of these beautiful signs from God of His miraculous provision. So, even after that they still complained and doubted. "You brought us here to starve us to death. Moses is dead, let's make a calf. The waters are poison, we'll die of thirst. At least in Egypt we had meat and bread. The land is full of giants, we haven't got a chance against them." So those were some of the things that they objected to.

And I think that if we take a moment right now and we think of all the wonderful things that the Lord has done for us in our lives, we'll be able to spot some real miracles of things that He's done for us and looking back on those miracles, I think we can come away a little bit shame-faced and say there's no reason for me to doubt the Lord's provision. He's done this for so long for me, He's not going to stop now.

So, what do we do when we're threatened? Well, we do apply the Scriptures. Obviously though, it wasn't effective enough or persistent enough to please the Lord because He brought that up again. He said, "*The Word. You use the Word.*" And he was chiding me because He knows I use the Word.

We have a book called *The Bible Promise Book* and it's short, sweet and to the point. It's organized by different categories such as: Fear, Laziness, Holy Spirit, Lust, Money, Jealousy, Lying, Enemies and so on. And it's a very handy tool when something hits you that you need to apply a Word to. We really enjoy using it. We also use the *Psalms* a great deal. Well, sometimes the Holy Spirit opens this book for us when we pray and gives us a Scripture that we needed to hear and maybe wouldn't have found if we went looking for it ourselves. We do trust Him with that.

So, recently a woman died from the hanta virus here in New Mexico; Taos, New Mexico where we live. Now mind you the hanta virus in the Four Corners area -- Arizona and New Mexico, Utah -- well, the Four Corners area, that has happened before and we are aware of that but right here in Taos, New Mexico, that was a little bit threatening to me. So, I went to the Lord and went to the Scriptures, *The Bible Promise Book* and the Psalm that he gave me from the Scriptures was Psalm 91:3 Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your right side and ten thousand at your right hand but it will not come near you. Beautiful.

Now, sometimes we'll abbreviate that and we'll take it and put it on index cards and keep those index cards on the refrigerator or where we do the dishes or in the bathroom and we'll -- anytime we're struck with any kind of fear, we will repeat that Psalm. And I abbreviate it. It might read something like, Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the plague that destroys at midday. So, I may shorten it just to make it a little easier to remember but keep the basic feeling and promise there.

Now, there are times when an undefined, menacing feeling seems to be in the air and we don't quite understand what it is but it's something that is ruffling our peace. It could be a thought or a suggestion or something that we are aware of peripherally but not really understanding what it is. It could be a projection from a demon that we're not sure the content of it or what -- you know -- we're not able to quite recognize what it is and for those times I use my personal word of life box.

I'm sure you've seen the daily bread -- the little daily bread things that people put on their table and they're little strips -- you can pull them out randomly and they have Scriptures on them. And many times that really ministers to people; I know they've ministered to me. Well, what we do is a little bit different. We take all the encouraging words, the ones that are very important to us, and we write them down on an index card. So we have this little box and we write them down on an index card and we'll go to them from time to time just for some kind of a word of encouragement and we'll pull one up. This will be something that we've dealt with before and the Lord has given us a word of encouragement and when we pull it up, it reminds us of His faithfulness. So we have that little tool that we use also. I highly encourage you to begin one of these, you'll be amazed at the results. They're personalized so it's like tucking the Word away in your heart and saving it and the Holy Spirit will bring it to remembrance when you pray and ask for an encouragement and go to that little box and pull a card out. You'll be totally amazed how much He is on the same page with you.

Now, in my last teaching I talked about lying spirits and how they slander the Lord's character. Well, the same applies here. When they try to inspire fear in us, they use lies that denigrate His faithful character. The Lord is faithful and what the enemy would like you to believe is that He's not faithful, so he lies to you. So, I do rebuke lying spirits – rebuke and bind lying spirits as well as applying the Word. That's another tool that the Lord has given us and we need to use it, it's important.

Another very powerful medicine against fear is singing praises to the Lord. That accomplishes two things. It helps us to worship the Lord and to be in His presence. It also helps us to recall His faithfulness and it infuriates the demons and I love to infuriate them. I think they deserve to be infuriated as much as we can do it and just by singing praises to the Lord and thanksgiving. That just infuriates them and a lot of times that will break it. It will send them – they can't stand to be around that so they'll leave and whatever you're battling against, it will just vaporize.

Now, when my husband was in the hospital and he was suffering from a failed attempt in a procedure that was very uncomfortable, very painful and I went off to a quiet space because I was really worried about him and I began to sing the Lord's praises. When I came back, the doctor had finished the procedure and it had gone so well, he hadn't experienced any pain. That was a beautiful thing. It was the Lord's faithfulness and mercy. In that situation, not only was I calmed by the singing but the demons projecting the fear ran because they couldn't stand to hear it.

You know, the Word of God is a blazing sword of lightning that cauterizes the wounds of lying darts that try to provoke us. It's very powerful – very powerful. We cannot see in the spirit what goes on but it's tremendously powerful.

Now, during most trials the idea of praise does not appeal to me at all and maybe you're different but I have a hard time praising in difficult situations. But, I know it's the right thing to do and I ask for the Lord's help and I enter into praise and that always changes the situation or the environment around. It's difficult to pull away and praise sometimes when you're in a difficult situation where there are other people involved but you can go to the Scriptures and affirm over and over again God's faithfulness until peace is restored. I've seen that happen so many times. When my daughter-in-law was in labor and it was a very dangerous situation. She had to be airlifted and I went with her in the plane and I got deathly sick but I kept praying and singing the Lord's praises and she finally delivered the baby safely. But, I've seen this happen so many times. You can count on this, you can truly count on it.

Now, the more we invest in seeking God and getting to know the Lord, the more convinced we become of His absolute dependable providential nature. The more we realize how faithful He is and how intimately involved He is with every aspect of our life from the littlest things, from the very littlest things.

Now, in Matthew 10:29-31 the Lord said, *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* Beautiful Scripture to recall in times when you're being hit by fear. Like the little sparrows, it's comforting to visualize ourselves in the very palm of the hand of the All Mighty. To just visualize the Father holding us in the palm of His hand and protecting us.

Now, I want to share a little situation or a little incident that happened in my life. I was at Wendy's sitting in the parking lot eating a hamburger, right, and I saw this little sparrow on the ground looking for

something to eat and I thought, there aren't any crumbs out there. Well, I was going to pick off some parts of my burger and throw them out the window and when I looked back that little sparrow was on the bumper of a car picking off butterflies, moths, all kinds of insects and that little bird was having a feast. The Lord brought that car all the way from Texas to Taos with a grill filled with choice morsels for that little bird. How beautiful His providence is. How very beautiful that is.

For 30 years we've lived almost exclusively on the supernatural providence of the Lord. He gave me a lesson, too, to share with you two days ago and then today He pulls back another layer of fears that I have yet to conquer. That's so much like Him. He protects us when we're taking little steps and He encourages us because He knows that bigger challenges are going to come and we will be challenged by those things and rather than make us feel badly by saying, *"Okay well, you passed this little test but there's a big one coming,"* He cheers us on even as we cheer our children on as they take their first steps. We know that someday they'll have to walk two miles to school in the wintertime and cross that slippery parking lot to get to class but we understand that by then they'll have the skills necessary to make that trip and the Lord is the same way.

So, we'll never arrive at complete security. There's always going to be some situation that we're not quite up to and actually that's a good thing because then we don't become self-confident and presume and arrogant. It keeps us humble for sure. Here's my little shut-off notice (Clare holds up a notice card). When these things rage, I recall the Lord's faithfulness and how many times we've had those shut-off notices and how many times He's come through.

As I watch our woodpile dwindle right now – November, it's November and we're at 8,000 feet in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains – and I know somehow He'll bring a donation of wood to our door. Every year somehow He sees to it that we have wood. Now, I could stop what I'm doing or my husband could stop what he's doing, although he has some health issues, and we could go out and collect our own wood. We have a chain saw – just go out and cut wood. We could do it. But then we wouldn't be obeying the Lord because this is our portion. This is what He's asked us to do, what we're doing now and we can't do both things. We don't have the strength and the energy for both and He doesn't want us to. That would be disobedient of us to do that so we wait on God's providence.

Now, of course we've gotten criticized for depending on the Lord and not working a secular job of some kind but the Lord over and over again has reassured us that He did not want us in the marketplace or in the world. He wanted us in prayer, in worship, studying the Scriptures, serving the poor. It was not His plan for us to get a job and we've been weak at times and my husband's gone out and looked for jobs and we both come from a fairly healthy career motivation before we were converted and he never gets a job. It's just not God's will so He blocks it and instead the Lord brings us what we need. And one day He said to my husband, *"Well, you have a choice here. You can go out and make your own living or you can continue to do what I've asked you to do and I will cover your expenses. Which do you choose?"* Well that's no contest. None. Unless you're afraid of what people think. Oh, they'll think that we're lazy, they'll think that we're not working, they'll think – whatever they think. There's that fear again and so if we were to bow to that fear and run out and get jobs. That would not be the Lord's will.

So, this is how important fear can be, guys. It's so important it can change the whole course of your life and if you're dedicated to serving the Lord, the last thing in the world that the enemy wants you to do is to continue to serve the Lord. He wants to pull you out of that and put you back in the secular world and make you too exhausted to serve the Lord. Now there are people who are called to make tents and

to teach and that's up to God. That's His servant. He makes the choices with His servants – what He wants them to do.

You know, going back to what the Lord told my husband. *"You can either believe me to cover your expenses or you can go out and make your own living."* The Lord brought something to mind here I want to share with you. In John 6:28 Then they asked him, *"What must we do to work the works God requires?"* And Jesus answered, *"The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent."* That's work. That is really hard work because you will get tempted. You get criticized for believing and not taking action yourself and providing for yourself. You will be criticized for that. So, it's work to cleave to the Lord and cleave to His Word and not allow those things to shift you into a different direction. That is hard, hard work. It can wear you out. It's a struggle sometimes. If you feel exhausted on some days when you're facing an undetermined outcome, understand you are contending for the faith and that is work, it's mental work but it can be very exhausting.

And then also, in Luke 12:22-26, Jesus said to His disciples, *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"* How beautiful. The Lord has given us a complete understanding of how he wants us to operate. He's left nothing unstated that needed to be stated so that we could take hold of the faith and contend for it, hold on to it and not be shifted by man or by the enemy or by our own flesh.

I love to make pesto for my family. Sometimes we just don't have the resources to go out and buy basil, sweet basil. So, I asked the Lord, just a couple days ago, *"Could you please send some fresh sweet basil in, please?"* The very next day we get this culled produce from the markets. We collect it, we distribute it to the poor and as I was going through things and taking out the fruit that was rotten, the vegetables that were rotten and sorting things out and cleaning them, there was a little bag of sweet basil on the very bottom and that night we had pesto! And it was wonderful. And He's done this for us over and over again so many times, so many times that again, there's no excuse for me fearing and falling into fear and crumbling up into an ice cream addict when things don't go right.

So, why do I get intimidated by this? (Clare holds up the disconnect notice) Why? When I look back on all the things the Lord has done. What's the deal there? Why? Well, I'm weak. I'm short-sighted. I have short-term memory loss and I'm very, very, very human and again, the Lord said, *"If I can do it in your life, I can do it in the weakest person's life."* And that's why I'm sharing this with you. He manages to keep us on our feet and moving in the right direction. Contending for the faith and contending for what He's given us to do and not allowing us to be thrown off.

Now, if the Lord for some reason should allow the electricity to be turned off – it's the wintertime so we'll get the food and we'll put it in an ice chest and we'll get the candles out and we'll pray, study the Scriptures and worship the Lord without electricity. Well, we've lived without electricity for five years on a mountain so we know how to do that. It's no big deal. But the point is, it's up to His discretion. If He wants us to have electricity, He's going to pay that bill. He's going to bring the finances in for the bill. If He wants us to have a period of seclusion and prayer, He may not pay that bill and we may have to make things work without it and that's okay. I mean, here we're talking about – now we're talking about personal preference and attachment. Secretly I don't believe He's going to do that because I know it's necessary for the work that He's mandating for us to do right now. But if – I've made up my

mind – if he does it, there’s a good reason for it. And that’s one of the secrets of keeping your heart in peace is knowing that He’s in control and He allows things to happen for a reason and we’ll go into that a little deeper here in a moment.

Attachment and the conviction of whatever He allows is to our benefit is so, so important. Eventually we’ll be able to look back on that time and see what He was doing. We may not understand it now and that’s – it helps to understand but if we don’t, we know by faith that it’s for our good and for the good of the Kingdom.

So, there’s another work here and that’s abandoning the course of our own opinion and a resolution to following whatever the Lord allows. And we’re far less a target for the enemy’s arrows when we’re that detached. It’s when we’re walking around with lots of opinions and expectations that we look like the broad side of a barn. You know, the enemy just, oh boy, nice target! But the less you have, the less of a target you are in that area of detachment.

I think much of my walk over thirty years has been about letting go and learning to receive the transforming wisdom of God without complaint. That has been the majority of my walk and having a grateful heart, being able to worship Him in all situations. I haven’t arrived yet; I’m in transit but, He’s worked with me so much. There’s a huge difference now between the way I was before.

Continuing in Luke 12:27-28 Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will He clothe you – oh you of little faith! Oh the Lord is so beautiful. And later on in Luke 12:29-31 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after these things and your Father knows what you need but seek His kingdom and these things will be given to you as well. Thank you Lord for the bag of sweet basil.

For thirty years we’ve even gone without health insurance and every time there’s been a need that’s been covered and there have been some pretty serious needs. It’s a wonder and a marvel to me that the early Christians were so focused on the Lord that they cared little for their lives or their possessions. Those are the main buttons for fear: our lives and our possessions.

I believe that the presence of God – this is what’s different – I believe the presence of God in their lives was so strong, so powerful, that those things lost their significance and they were able to sell their property and their investments and lay the proceeds at the feet of the Apostles. That’s in the book of Acts 4:35. How wonderful. That’s how much in love with the Lord they were and how sure of His providence for them. They had procured the Pearl of Great Price beside which the whole world has lost it’s luster. The Pearl of Great Price Matthew 13:45. Our Lord Jesus.

I really didn’t know how liberating it was to put myself totally at the mercy of God until my second call from the Lord. From two weeks we went from a three-story historic building in an historic district of Annapolis, with antiques and all the fineries – a beautiful, beautiful house – three different – four different kinds of wood in the kitchen, fireplace in the living room, fireplace in the kitchen, fireplaces all over the place. Beautiful, beautiful house overlooking the oldest estate in Annapolis. A gorgeous backyard, just beautiful. Just perfect. Well, and I of course had a matching wardrobe. Laura Ashley clothes, really nice clothing, you know, some of which I’d made but, we went in two weeks from that

beautiful living situation to a tarpaper shack on the side of a mountain in the Poconos in a hemlock forest. Two weeks, that's all it took.

Well, let me tell you, God exploded in our life. He absolutely exploded. The time we had with our children was so blessed. Before, we'd be rushing here, rushing there, you know, doing all these things that go with this middle-class lifestyle and we have so little time left for our children. We were exhausted by the end of the day.

We had running water, when it rained. In the wintertime the well froze so we had to haul water from town. I had just given birth to my fourth child. Our life was turned upside down and everything superfluous was gone. It was just the necessities, that's all we had. Just the necessities. We didn't even have enough wood to stay warm until someone loaned us a chainsaw and my husband went out and cut wood. Wow. That was quite a change. My prayer time went from, "Hi, God, bye, God" in the morning to two and three hours of substantial worship and prayer entering into a prayer life that I'd never dreamt was possible. Oh the Lord rewarded us mightily for this change and He was part of a major factor in us doing that. Some things conspired together but He was the choice that we made and when we did it was wonderful. It was just wonderful. So, I'm not afraid of losing anything anymore. What we have, He can take it if He wants it. I'd like to hang on to my equipment and the tools that I need but if I don't need them anymore, why would I hang on to them. I mean, He's totally in charge. That's His call. He gave us beauty for ashes Isaiah 61:3. Literally, the world's ashes and the beauty of God for that.

In Philippians 4 Paul said, Not that I speak from want, for I've learned to be content in whatever circumstances I'm in. I know how to get along with humble means and I also know how to live in prosperity. And in any and every circumstance, I've learned the secret of being filled and going hungry. Having pesto; not having pesto. Having ice cream; not having ice cream. Both having abundance, he continues, having an abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens us. And there's Paul's secret. The Lord strengthens us. He gives -- you know, you give up things in your material life and simplify and that makes more room for God. It's so beautiful. The dynamic is so beautiful, you can't lose. It's so beautiful. If He asks for a sacrifice, He gives us the grace to go through that sacrifice.

Now, I've found in times of extreme trial, and you've probably experienced this too, the Lord's grace is greatly magnified. It's like an anesthetic that just spreads over your heart and mind and allows you to walk through whatever situation. And the loss of loved ones, the threat of sickness and death, they still carry a terrible sting. It's such a difficult thing to deal with. But the Lord promises in Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you're able. But with the temptation can provide a way of escape so that you will be able to endure it. Oh, He's so compassionate and so faithful. And in 2 Peter He says, "The Lord knows how to rescue the Godly from trials." That was Peter. But I always keep this scripture in the back of my mind and we know that all things – Romans 8:28 In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and who have been called according to His purpose. We can trust that. That's His Word and that's His track record in my life and we can trust that. Romans 8:30 And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

You know, when God entered our lives and began guiding us to the degree that we were willing to let go, it was a supernatural event. He took us in tow. He took us under His wing. He made a commitment to us. And that commitment was a process of transformation in that very moment and will continue on

in our life until we are in the image of the Lord Himself. He's going to continue to transform us until we look just like Him. That's a very reassuring thought, so in anything that's going on, it's the work of God. It's all to transform us in one way or another. Maybe we don't see it at the time but later we'll be able to look back and understand what He was doing and we'll rejoice over it.

So, how can we justify fear? You know, the Lord is never lax on the job. He doesn't miss anything. If we truly get this concept into our hearts, the enemy will be frustrated in finding something to stimulate fear in us. And isn't that what we're talking about? Fear. Fear of the future. Fear of the unknown.

So, I want to share a little story with you. You may have heard it before, so just be patient if you have. A horse rancher bought a champion stud for his horses – a beautiful champion stud for his mares. And all the people in town said, "Oh, he's beautiful, that's really good!" Well, the next week the stallion ran off and all the people in town said, "Oh, that's too bad, that's not good." Well, the week following that, the stud came back with a whole herd of mares and everyone in town said, "Oh, that's great, that's good!" And then the rancher's son was riding a horse and he fell off and broke his leg and everyone said, "Oh, that's bad, that's really bad." Well, the following week, war was declared and all the men in town were drafted and so the people that were left said, "Oh, that was pretty lucky that your son broke his leg and now he's not drafted."

So, the Lord writes straight with crooked lines.

Our life is a patchwork puzzle. It's just, you know, all over the place. But, we can see what He's been doing in our lives. There's not exactly a rhyme and reason to it that most people would understand but, the outcome – the outcome is good in our lives. It's good fruit. So we never know exactly how the Lord is going to bring good on a situation but we do know one thing for sure, He's going to bring good out of it because He loves us and we're called according to His purpose.

So, when things start to go awry in our lives, I think it's time to stop and say, "Okay, Lord, what are you doing here? I want to understand." Take a step back and tuck in with Him and find out what He's doing and then cooperate with Him. Being this detached, well, it takes the power out of the demons guns because they love to jump on you with all kinds of condemnation and lies about the Lord and lies about you. But if you take a step back and say, "Okay, I'm here in this situation, it isn't going well by worldly terms but Lord, you're in charge. What are you doing? Help me to see it. Help me to receive it and help me to cooperate with it." Boy that just takes a lot of firepower away from the enemy.

So, in my very first YouTube, I did a YouTube called *Overcoming Fear* and one of the things I shared in that YouTube is that most of the time the enemy is not allowed to touch us but he is allowed to threaten us with a smokescreen filled with fear and fearful possibilities. He's allowed to do that. But he's not allowed to touch us. And so, people spend their entire lives being influenced by these smokescreens. He's allowed to threaten and to generate a smokescreen to cause fear, just like the movie *Monsters, Inc.* if you've seen that movie.

I've heard it said that demons feed on fear and fire feeds on fuel. Just like fire feeds on fuel, demons feed on fear. A lot of "F"s there. I don't claim to know the answer to that, if they do or not but I know that they certainly generate a lot of fear about things that will never happen or may happen but not in your lifetime. For instance, people spend their entire lives listening to the news, searching the net, fearfully surviving from moment to moment, preparing for the worst. Their whole lives are in tribulation and all mixed up in this fear thing going on and still the calamity that was supposed to happen has not happened yet, but all this energy and all this sickness has been generated by fear.

For years and years and I know what it feels like because I used to get on the internet and say, "Is it the end of the world yet? Is it the end of the world yet?" I did it and the Lord called me to task on it and said, *"I don't want you reading that. That's fear mongering. That's just fear. You don't want to have anything to do with that. You need to keep your eyes on me because I'm faithful and you don't need to know about those things. I'll take care of you. When things go down, I'm going to be there for you and take care of you because you've been serving me, you've been faithful and you have your eyes on me."* But don't get tricked into following all these fearful stories and rumors. Wars and rumors of wars, which the Lord said that was going to happen in this time. *"Don't get caught in that. Keep your eyes on me and keep your heart in peace and spread that peace."* So that's what I'm trying to do here.

But, I've been guilty of it and it becomes an addiction. You know, it's like, "What's new in the news today? Okay, is Israel going to get bombed today?" You know, if we're looking for those things to culminate because we're waiting for the Lord to come back but we get a little skewed with that and we end up getting into this Ferris wheel of fear that just keeps going round and round and round and round and round and round and we end up becoming compulsively addicted to the latest news. That's why the Lord says not to interest yourself in those things. Stay away from those things. Keep your eyes on me and on my trustworthy and faithful nature. Keep your hearts in peace.

Well, the thing about fear is it knocks us off course and it steals the witness of our peace. And our peace is one of the things that is to be a witness to the world of the power of God in our lives. So, if we're running around scared and tense and "Ooh is this going to happen? We need to take care of this and we need to take care – if we run around like that, we look just like the rest of the world. That doesn't point to Jesus. That doesn't point to Him at all. That points to our flesh and to the rest of the world, what everyone else is doing. So, He wants us to be a witness to the world by not getting involved in these things. Keeping our heart and mind steady on him. And even declaring the Lord's wisdom and providence to people who are in that state of nervousness and anxiety all the time. Encouraging them, "Calm down, you love God; He loves you more. You can't provide for yourself better than He can provide for you."

So, there's also another thing that we can get into trouble with. There's no end to fear that can be generated unless you deliberately observe a no negatives rule, forbidding talking about things that threaten, destroy and discourage. Keeping those things out of our lives and refusing to engage other people with them. And you know, being a mission, we have people who come here and they're fearful about the future and I have to say, "Not today, let's not talk about that." Now, I'm not saying ignore everything. There are things that you should take care of. But, this mindless gossip and going over and over and over again about how bad the environment is; how bad financial crisis is; how bad all these things – it doesn't serve any purpose at all and it takes our hearts and minds totally away from the Lord Jesus Christ. So, that's not a good thing. And we're the temple of the Holy Spirit and He doesn't want to see it or hear it. He really doesn't. That's what He's told me. He said, *"I live in your heart and I don't want to hear that and I don't want to see it. This is my temple. You need to protect it."* And the Lord has told me the very same thing.

So, we work pretty hard trying to protect it. We have a track record. In the past we've been very critical and one thing I've noticed is that couples, when they get together and they talk negatively about something, they end up getting into a fight between themselves and it's almost like what you put out, you get back. And so, we're very, very, very careful in our hearts first of all not to think negatively and not to talk negatively about people. We're not perfect but we try very, very hard. And I have to say that

if you have marital strife and you talk about other people with your spouse that very, very possibly could be the open door that is causing the demons to get in and cause strife in your marriage. When we closed that door, it made a huge, huge difference in the way we looked at each other and the way we spoke to each other.

So, it's really amazing. I think you probably experienced this. You'll go away for a retreat or you'll have an amazing day of prayer and your husband will come home from work and he'll be so angry and frustrated over what went on or your little one will come home and say, "Georgie pushed me off the slide" and you look at him and he's hurt and crying and you want to go throttle that kid, you know. Well, I'm working on that. I wouldn't want to throttle him but that's the first fleshly response that you have. You want to find that kid that hurt your child and make them pay, you know. That's the world; that's the flesh but also so much of the devil's character, when he sees that you're making progress with the Lord and that you've had a beautiful day and it happened to me today in prayer, the very same thing happened to me. I had an extraordinarily beautiful prayer time, I come out and there's anger going on, on the property and I had to deal with that and I got angry and I had to deal with that. And so then, after it was all said and done and we all made our apologies and got quiet and still, we took off for two hours into prayer and got our peace back. Got our peace back. Because we don't want to live our lives without that peace.

So, you probably experienced that before and be careful when you come out of prayer how a really beautiful thing going on and the enemy hates that so much that he foments trouble from every different direction to cause you to lose the graces that you got in prayer. We need to be smarter than the devils, folks. We really need to be smarter than the devils.

The Lord promises us that we are more than conquerors. More than conquerors. In Romans 8:31-32 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? And later in verse 35, Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now, that's unless we consent to it. If we consent to being separated from this love, that's our choice. That's totally our choice and that's the whole motive behind fear. That's the devil's agenda. When he causes you fear of any kind, it's to separate you from God. The Scriptures say that liars separate close friends. I think that's in Proverbs. He's a liar and he will constantly try to alienate you or to separate you from God or to lie about the nature of God, as we covered before. But if we don't consent then he can't do it. You know, we have to be smarter than the devils. Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33. That's what the Lord promises. He's given us the tools to do it but we can do it too, with His help.

I'm convinced that in our culture, which is so technologically advanced here in America, we have a very idealistic, idyllic view of what life should be like. Everything becomes convenient, available, and achievable to anyone. And so we have Hollywood pictures of happily married couples, kids with all the latest electronic gadgets, two cars, an RV, motorcycles, college funds, a picture-perfect life, right?

Running smoothly and full of everything we need plus all the opportunities for advancement in the world. Frustrations yes, but you always overcome those because you have everything you need. I mean, this is so often portrayed in the movie industry.

So, we have Hollywood pictures of life to some degree. And because we've bought into this picture-perfect lifestyle with all these things, we're afraid to suffer loss or want. So you see, we're the broad-side-of-a-barn target for the enemy to stimulate us with fear because we've got so much stuff, all he's got to do is threaten this or threaten that and this fear wells up in us. Our affluent comfort zones become the norm and anything that threatens that stirs up fear.

Okay, and I have to say, I'm guilty as charged. What would I do without Cherry Garcia ice cream? Well, Smith's has a great brand so I found a way to get around that. And at half price it's just as good. Cherry Cordial. Anyway, what would I do without my ice cream? I'd probably lose weight, you know, for one.

And you look at that and you look at the different things, you know, our internet, if you watch television, our internet and our communications, our cell phones, all these things are such nice conveniences and any time they get threatened, fear, you know, comes up. Oh, we're going to lose our cell phones. Well, what if you do lose your cell phones? You'd be in communication anyway, somehow. But, we are attached to these things. They have become a part of our daily life and when we're threatened with losing those things we've become accustomed to, it can stimulate fear.

So, a man like Paul, his entire life was centered on the teachings of Jesus, was content with the most humble of surroundings because Christ was his entire possession. Nothing could dim or damage the brightness of his life because the presence of God was so powerful and strong.

So, it's really quite simple. The more we have, the more easily we can be stirred to fear, the more we're afraid to lose. The less we have, the less of a target we make for fear. You know, even with Paul looking forward to being beheaded, still, that didn't dim his view of Christ. So, if our treasure is Jesus, then death will be a blessing to us. It'll be the greatest gift anyone could give us. For those of us who have given our entire lives to Jesus and to His service, why do we worry about sickness and death? And, you know, for you to understand what I'm saying there you'd have to listen to my teaching on *Why Wasn't I Healed* to understand my viewpoint.

If He takes me out of public ministry, I'll be His hidden garden, praying and worshiping Him privately. If He takes the house we're living in, it's because He wants to move us on and the house is in the way. If I don't have money for ice cream, well, I just might lose weight. Look, I'm saying that for all of my sisters who are just as weak as I am. Just – we are sisters, we know about chocolate.

Anyway, I believe that you can't go wrong with less. Once Jesus makes the choice for you. The Lord revealed that to us in Florida. We had quite an experience there. One day He started dealing with me that the whole world is your mission field. And we had three children with us at the time. The whole world is your mission field. The same time He started speaking to my heart, He spoke to my husband's heart. And we laid a fleece out and we said, "Lord, if you want us to walk away from everything here" – we had an RV, we had a van, we had – it was a two story house that was furnished with simple things, you know, very simple things – "if you want us to walk away from it, we will." Well, the next day, a couple showed up at our church. They didn't have anything. She was nursing a baby. She didn't have a place to live. She didn't have clothes. She didn't have a car. She had nothing and we saw that as an answer to our fleece so we made preparations to walk away from everything, which we did. Sleeping

bags and backpacks and these little hammocks that you sleep in between the trees and we just disappeared into the Everglades. Started walking.

Well, through a series of events, we finally – we met a pastor from Columbia, South American and he invited us to come and share prophetically and to share also the choices that we'd made in our lives and to share that with the Columbian people. We didn't know quite at the time that the guerillas were killing missionaries over in Columbia when we went over there. We heard about it and it was a dangerous place to be but we knew the Lord was calling us and we knew He would protect us. That was a big step in faith. That was a big step in faith.

So, we ended up in Columbia and I remember one night in particular we lived in a finca, I think that's what they call it, a little farmhouse on the outskirts of town, about two walking miles from town. It was made from cement. There were no windows – there was no glass in the windows, only a few bars. No doors. It was totally open to the air. At night we could hear the fruit bats flying in, swooping down and eating the bugs that might come after us, you know. It was pretty primitive. We did have water. We did have electricity. But it was pretty primitive. I was homeschooling at the time so that was interesting. I brought the children's books with us.

There was one particular night when we heard the guerillas coming down from the mountains. Now, when they march and they're on the move, it stirs up the dogs in the neighborhood, all the dogs. So we could hear them progressively. The dogs were getting progressively closer in their barking so we knew they were coming down to where our little finca was. Well, we just had to pray and ask the Lord to be our confidence and trust that He would save us from being attacked by these guerillas. And sure enough, they just kept on walking and went into town. They had relatives there and were visiting them. So, the Lord did protect us while we were in South America.

My children still tell me all the wonderful things they learned and how grateful they were for that trip to Columbia but it was a little scary, I have to admit. But we knew the Lord was in it. We knew it was His will. We got a chance to talk on radio. We got a chance to talk in churches and it was really a good, rich time of ministry and well, we basically encouraged the Columbian people, do not run after the American dream. Do not run after that lifestyle. Keep your simple lifestyles where your family and your faith are your absolute priorities. And they listened. They really did. In fact, I'm sure the guerillas were listening in too when we were on the radio because they knew everything about us before we got very far, I mean they had spies everywhere. So, that was, you know, that was an interesting experience for us and there was fear but the Lord did strengthen us. And you know, if I die then my work here is done. I can be with the Lord.

We have a website, <http://www.heartdwellers.org> and on the website is our book of experiences. The Lord has taken us to Heaven and still does, many times and we share those experiences in the book *Chronicles of the Bride* which is a free download on the internet if you go to Heartdwellers.org. And we have music to go with that on the music page which is also free. So, I encourage you, if you have any fear of death, if you know anyone who's dying and has a fear of death, I encourage you to look into that book. And if you write to me I'll send you a hardcopy for no charge. But, I encourage you to share the experiences in that book with anyone who's afraid of death or afraid of what comes after death because it was totally amazing what the Lord opened up to us. And what we shared in that book is only the tip of the iceberg of what has actually transpired since that time. So, maybe we'll come out with a *Volume Two* pretty soon.

Okay, so, getting back to fear. If He takes my husband, He has a plan. He wants more of my time and He'll be my companion the way He was before I was married. Now, mind you, I'm reasoning to myself. I'm not to the point where that is totally without fear. I haven't arrived in that place at all. Don't get that false impression. But, I'm saying I've prepared my heart and my mind to be as detached as I can in my present state from the different eventualities or possibilities that the devil might use to steal my peace.

I want to summarize at this point. When threatened with fear, make God your refuge until the storm passes. Until it passes. And, you remember the Scripture which I have here somewhere but I'm not – I want to get this in proper order so I'm not going to go looking for it. But you remember when the Apostles were in the boat with Jesus, He was asleep in the back of the boat and they were threatened with being swamped by this tremendous storm, and I understand on Lake Galilee there can be some really vicious storms, and they were threatened with being capsized and them all dying and the Lord is sound asleep not worried about a thing. They go over and they wake Him up and He basically says, *"Peace, be still"* and all of a sudden, this huge storm with these, probably 20-foot waves, went wusshhhh, like that. The Lord just – He's Lord of the storm. And many times when there's a storm that hits us of some kind, of some kind of threat, He reminds me, *"I'm Lord of the storm"* and I have so much confidence in that because He's proven it so many times over. So, when you're threatened, make God your refuge and remember He's Lord of the storm. Tuck in and seek Him. And ladies, take your dark chocolate with you.

Be humble, okay. That's the next point. Be humble. Step back and ask the Lord, "What are you doing, Lord?" Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding Proverbs 3:5. Don't do it. Trust in the Lord. Find out what He's doing and trust in that. Trust that God is for you. This is summarizing for you. Trust that God is for you. Jeremiah 29 "For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Recall the good He has done in your life with an attitude of thanksgiving. He has a track record. Psalm 40:5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you have planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Think about the wonderful things He's done in your life, meditate on those things. Refuse to rely on your own wisdom and your own prudence. Refuse to do that. You're human. Your human prudence and wisdom is very shortsighted. Don't rely on that. Rely on the Lord, cooperate with Him. Cooperate with what He's doing.

Do not allow gossip or negative reports; they magnify the situation. Keep the temple of the Holy Spirit peaceful for the Holy Spirit to dwell within. Free of offensive criticism and news. And protect yourself from every occasion of fear. And I shared that dynamic with you before that if you talk back and forth, husband and wife, criticizing people, you're probably going to pull in some backlash where you end up being at odds with each other. So, avoid that. Avoid doing that. It is a sin anyway to judge other people but avoid doing that for the health of your marriage especially.

Waste no time in combating the fears with an antidote from Scripture. Waste no time going to the Scriptures and getting a word that you can stand on and you can repeat and that you can really set your heart on. That'll protect you from things going downhill. Cleave to his Word and remember, He's the God of the storm.

Now, in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the

knowledge of God and we take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ and to the Word that He's given us. Take those thoughts captive. Don't let them take you captive. Take them captive.

And in Luke 10:19 the Lord said I've give you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Then have confidence that God is in control and that the enemy is on a short chain. The Lord is totally in control of what the enemy can do and what the enemy cannot do. And remember, we're more than conquerors.

In Romans 8:31 God is for us, who can be against us? And in all these things we are more than conquerors. And in John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. And not only has He overcome the world but He's given us the tools to overcome the world as well.

And remember, when things get really rough, 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to all mankind. And god is faithful; He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. That's for sure. He'll do that.

Discipline yourself to live with a holy perspective. What I mean by that is that life is short. Nothing material is of any value except perhaps as a tool for the kingdom and as God wills. The frills and the nice things can be distracting and become necessities in your mind, in my mind. Oh, that's a necessity. I've got to have that. And when you do that and it becomes a necessity, the more you deem things necessary, the bigger target you're going to be and the more the devil can attack and steal your peace. The more complicated your life is, the less time you have for the Lord. Remember that example I gave you when we went from that house in Annapolis to a tarpaper cabin. Oh, it was so beautiful. I'm totally convinced that whatever He removes from our lives, He's going to fill us with so much more of Him in return for that.

When all your plans or possessions are threatened, fear can steer you in unwise directions. It's happened to me many times. I should have known better but I took off on this tangent because I was afraid. It was the wrong thing.

Hug the Pearl. The Pearl of Great Price, our Lord, close to your heart and let all else be stripped away if necessary. We're living in turbulent times right now. We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, next month or next year. But we do know one thing. The Lord is timeless and He is the Pearl of Great Price. Hug Him to your heart and don't let anything compromise that relationship. Don't let any fear come in and pry you away from that Pearl.

And finally, the Scripture I wanted to share with you, 1 Timothy 6:7-9 For we have brought nothing into the world so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and coverings with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation's snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. So much of the world is out for money and things and the more money and things you have, the more people are out for you too.

So, the two things that I want to sum this up with is half of the battle in overcoming fear is detachment and setting priorities according to God's will. That's half the battle. The other half of the battle is to trust in the Lord. That He has complete charge of your life, of what comes and of what goes. So, those

are the two things. Half of the battle is detachment and the other half is trusting in the Lord and that He is in control.

Right now in America we're undergoing one financial crisis after another and the Lord has spoken to me about why He is allowing this. That's going to be my next video. Stay tuned, I think you'll be shocked at what He has to say.

God bless you all and thanks for tuning in.

The Straight Jacket of Poverty

November 23, 2013



Welcome back.

Well, today I want to share with you the message that the Lord gave me about the financial condition of America. And basically of the world, but especially for American Christians. The Lord had a message for you, and He asked me to share it with you.

Very briefly, because I've already spent a great deal of time on Wounded Waters, the 5 part series on the Worldly Church. In it are a lot of Scriptures and answers to questions as to why we're going through what we're going through right now.

So, the first thing He told me was that the title of the message was to be "The Straight Jacket of Poverty." Not a real popular subject! Don't run away, I think it's still worth listening to... I thought to myself "straight jacket. Oh boy, this is not good!" What is a straight jacket used for? Well, when someone is out of control, they're hurting themselves and a danger to others, they put a straight jacket on them and four point them on a gurney. So, these are protective measures that are taken to ensure the safety of the person and the staff or personnel that is helping them.

I thought about that for a moment, and kind of got the idea, but still I was kinda dumbfounded and I thought, 'Lord, I just spent all this time on the Love of Money and all the other things You gave me to teach on. I probably said everything in those teachings along with all the Scriptures...so. What do you want me to say?' I was confused about what to say.

He began speaking to me, and this is what He said:

"What is a straight jacket used for? For someone out of control. American Christians are out of control. They have made superfluous things essential. And as a result, are tied in knots financially and chasing their tails looking for the latest improvement to the version they now have, both in clothing, cars, gadgets and what I call 'cell phone madness'. All of this very superficial stuff is making them into cardboard cutouts. Their spiritual lives are starved by distractions. I am coming soon. I will make this promise to all reading or listening to this: If you will spend as much time with Me as you do window shopping, net surfing and going to the malls, you and I will have a profoundly deep espousal relationship. Think about it. Log your hours traveling to and from shopping trips, surfing on the net, eating out at stores and paying for everything. Add up all the hours and give them to Me as a Christmas present, and watch out relationship grow to everything you ever wanted from your life."

I can testify to that. NOTHING that I've given up to the Lord – Nothing – do I regret giving up for Him. Every time I give Him more of my time, more of my attention, I am so blessed to the point where I really don't want to come out of prayer.

He continued: *“And for you gentlemen, count your hours watching sports, along with the ladies' shopping trips, and your shopping trips as well.”*

One particular Christmas, when my children were still at home, they were young. I had a little money to spend and I went to Walmart. Normally I would get them Christian things: books and Bibles and so on. This time I went to Walmart to get a few things. I didn't spend too much time there, and I kept it down – kept the total cost down, because I didn't feel that was something we needed to be spending a lot of money on. Just little tokens. Well, I came back with a cart full of things. My husband was standing there. He looked at me, he looked at the cart and all the things in the cart, and he said, “Honey, this isn't what the Lord wants.” Now, my husband has very keen discernment on these things, and I honor what he has to say, for sure, because he's the other leg that I stand on. And my covering, as well. And he said, “This is not honoring to the Lord, this is not what He wants.” Well, I kinda swallowed – gulped – my pride down, and I took everything back, put it back on the shelves, and we left Walmart without spending any money.

It turned out that particular Christmas, people showed up at the door with presents for our children, so that was very sweet. But what we did is, we made a little crèche, a little adobe, (we have a lot of adobe here in the southwest) a little town of Bethlehem, with a cave in the background. The children made little adobe houses, and when we celebrated Christmas that night, Christmas Eve, it was just so sweet, so beautiful and so pure. The spirit of the Lord was truly, truly present in that time together.

“Now you have the secret – I'm clamping down on American Christians because they pray to Me to save their country. That salvation starts one at a time, with each individual. You see, when one person devotes this kind of time and attention to prayer, there will be an outflow of love that will move others. Soon it will happen exponentially and your country will be on fire with love for Me. Then, I shall move on your behalf and restore the foundations. But as long as you lead shallow lives centered on the dollar and all the things it can do for you, you and your country will suffer. America is out of control with spending. She needs a straight jacket to help restore her sanity.”

Folks, the things that really matter, (that's the end of the message) the condition of our souls before God. We don't know when the Lord is going to take us. We could die on one of those shopping trips and be totally unprepared to face Him. For the things that are coming upon our country, the things that are going on in churches, the apostasy that's being taught – there's so much that we truly... we need discernment to understand what's going on, and to know which way to go. If we don't spend that time with Him, really deep quality time with Him – the more you devote to the Lord, the more intimacy and the more beauty is in your relationship with Him. We just have no idea sometimes of the things that are going on. A lot of times people use judgment and social norms, and what have you, rather than using discernment, spiritual discernment. That's not easy to come by. That's a fruit of a deep relationship with the Lord, with knowing the mind of Christ. Feeling the Holy Spirit quickening you. That's not gained by a superficial prayer life.

The Lord once told me, *“Some people swim in the shallows, romp and play. Other people swim and play in the water in deeper levels. Some go boating in the water. But the ones that dives for pearls – that's*

what I want you to be. I want you to be a pearl diver. Not someone who sits on the beach and wiggles their toes in the water. Not someone who plays in the shallows or swims on the surface. But someone who goes DEEP to find the Pearl of Great Price.”

And that takes time. It takes time to rest our minds, and allow the Lord to stop all the business that’s in our heads.

I ask Him all the time, “Lord – help me pray.” Because I can’t always stop my own mind. I want to enter into that place with Him, but I can’t accomplish that on my own. So, I confess it. I’m too little, I’m too weak – I need YOUR strength. Lord, help me – do it through me.

And He’s told me time and time again – you can either do it yourself, or let Me do it through you...and I much prefer Christ living in me, doing the doing – because when I try to do it on my own, it doesn’t work.

So, the Lord bless you and keep you. I’ll be coming back soon with another video. It will be music this time, because He’s’ asked me to take a season away from teaching and finish some songs that are written and record them and share with you.

I’ll be back soon – God bless you. Thanks for listening.