

# first fruits — ingathering

50 BIBLE STUDIES  
TAKING US ON ANOTHER JOURNEY  
UP THE MOUNTAIN  
TO GATHER THE FRUIT OF THE VINE

Discipleship Studies

December 6, 2013 — January 23, 2014



# first fruits – ingathering

50 Bible Studies

Taking us on Another Journey up the Mountain  
To Gather the Fruit of the Vine

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*This Is Your*  
**S e a s o n** Ministries

This Is Your Season Ministries

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# first fruits – ingathering

50 Bible studies

Taking us on another journey up the mountain  
To gather the fruit of the vine

We are again privileged to have received these teaching from the Lord during a time of consecration and seeking the Lord, from December 6, 2013 – January 23, 2014. This is the third series of Bible Studies the Lord has given us in the last year. Each is to prepare us as the church to become the bride of Christ, ready for His return.

These studies are showing us more of the Lord's heart of Love for us and His desire to bring correction in the areas of our lives that keep us from the depth of the relationship the Lord wants to have with each one of us.

In the first series of studies, God shared with us that He was going to take the Christian world out of us. In the second series, He brought us closer up the mountain where there was an outpouring of rain that was to fill our sanctuaries with the living water of the Holy Spirit. Now He is taking us on another journey up the mountain to see the fruit of the vine.

These studies were given for us to be trained and equipped to take us closer into God's heart on the journey He has for each one of us. We are not sure what the next part of the journey will look like, but we want to be obedient to the Lord's leading.

The Lord has shared with us that this year is a year of change and growth, but also a year of completion and rest. Please get ready to get into the position God has chosen for you.

# first fruits – ingathering

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## First Fruits

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### Day 1 - December 6, 2013

For the next 50 days, the Lord has asked us to come up the mountain of God to hear from Him, and to **seek understanding in what He is saying in this hour**. We will again send out daily messages that He gives us. These messages will be from various people associated with This Is Your Season Ministries. In this season **the Lord is moving powerfully among His people and sharing His heart** with His people. We desire to share these with you, the first fruit remnant. Please set aside time to seek the Lord and ask how these messages need to be lived out in your lives. **Please keep us in prayer** as we endeavor to send out these daily messages.

**The title of these 50 days is First Fruits – Ingathering. You are the First Fruit Remnant who is being prepared and who is to prepare the Bride of Christ for His return.**

**First Fruits/Firstlings** were offered to the Lord from the very first of the crop, the very first animal, the first of all produced food products, etc.<sup>1</sup> First fruits were offered to the Lord, and were not to be personally consumed. This was a pleasing offering of trust in the Lord, because there was no guarantee that future produce/offspring would come. A storm could come and destroy the crops; or an animal could die before another offspring could come forth.

Offering First Fruits to the Lord is a **demonstration of extreme worship to the Lord**; giving of our first and not our leftover. Choice first fruits were to be given to the Lord! Several times each year God ordained special feast days to celebrate the giving of first fruits as a perpetual statute.

**Exodus 23:16** *"Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field."*

**Please read the account of Abel offending the Lord by not offering his first fruits in Genesis 4:2-5.**

**Abel offered the Lord the firstlings of his flock**, whereas Cain gave God an offering from the end of his harvest of grain. The Hebrew word for "in the course of time" means **after the harvest**. God had regard for Abel and his offering because it was a choice first fruit, but not for Cain because he gave God his leftovers. The word "regard" means to attend to with respect and estimation; to value; a matter of importance; to notice favorably or with acceptance.

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<sup>1</sup> Nehemiah 10:35-37

God looks favorably on those who give God what is due Him.

**Let's look at some New Testament uses of "First Fruits."**

**Please read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23.** Christ is called the first fruits. He was perfect (choice) and He gave His entire life for the Father and for us. The Father has such love for us and He desires us to come close. Jesus' death and resurrection made the way for us to draw close to the Father.

There was a family in Achaia (Greece) that Paul led to the Lord, and he called them first fruits in their city. They devoted themselves to the Lord and brought many to know the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

**James 1:18** *"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that **we would be a kind of first fruits** among His creatures."*

We are to be first fruits dedicated to the Lord. **Please read Revelation 14:3-5.**

**You, the remnant, are the first fruits in this age, forerunners of this generation;** the first to be awakened to what the Lord is speaking before He returns. The Lord has been speaking holiness, consecration, separation from the world, etc. to us over and over again. Out of our love and devotion for Him, we have willingly given our lives totally to the Lord. God is gathering His remnant to be the first of the harvest, and we must position ourselves to hear from God.

We are being prepared for the greater harvest to come, and we are to set a standard of holiness for the rest of the crops to follow. We must witness to the harvest what God has done and what He will do. The first fruits of the harvest will teach the good and the right ways to those who follow behind.

**The first fruits of the harvest will be blameless, they will fear God, and they will serve Him in truth with all of their heart.**

**During these next 50 days, we encourage you to:**

- Seek the Lord to know His heart as never before (Psalm 27:4, 8)
- Ask the Lord how to take this word and go higher and deeper with Him.
- Reflect on what has been said and seek to know what He is saying to you personally.
- Bear witness of what He is doing in this hour.

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 16:15

## Prophetic Message

I have come seeking fruit, but have found none.

Where are My first fruits?

Before every great harvest there are first fruits, the first part of the crop.

I am in the vineyard, seeking and searching for My first fruits.

Shall I leave and seek another? Is the vineyard barren? Shall I search elsewhere?

I have fertilized the ground; they say they receive it, but where is the fruit?

I ask again, shall I seek another?

I've sown the seed and prepped the ground, and now I'm waiting.

Ah, I see one! And look there's another!

My first fruits are in position and have begun to sprout.

While I was away the enemy came in My vineyard

and sowed bad seeds; there are tares among My crop.

But I will wait until the harvest to gather them and toss them out.

The good crop will be gathered together and taken to a safe place,

but the bad crop will be cast into the fire.

In this hour the church is the vineyard and they will be known by their fruit.

Some pretend to know Me and serve Me, but their fruit says otherwise.

They're not capable of producing first fruits, so imagine what their harvest will look like.

I will allow the tares to grow with the wheat, but only for a little while.

Wait until the harvest; I will then separate My chosen ones and gather them to Me.

In this hour, I will go from vineyard to vineyard looking for the first fruits of the crop; some will have them, but others won't.

I've done My part; I have prepared the ground to produce kingdom fruit.

Now I will wait and see which vineyard has received what I have poured out.

I know a good vineyard when I see one; I don't have to wait until the harvest to get fruit.

The first fruit comes before the harvest, not during.

What vineyard will produce fruit that I can use?

Many vineyards produce 'fruit' that the world can use,

but only a few vineyards will have the first fruits I'm looking for.

# Ingathering

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## Day 2 - December 7, 2013

**The second word in the title for this study is “Ingathering”.** Ingathering is the act of collecting and securing the fruits of the earth – harvest.

***Exodus 23:16** "Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field."*

We are all aware that the Lord is returning soon and that this is often referred to as the great harvest. The feast of Ingathering was at the turn of the year, corresponding to the end of the age.

***Exodus 34:22** "You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering (grape and olive harvest) at the turn of the year."*

There are two growing seasons in Israel, so there are two times of harvest. The first is the grain harvest in late spring or early summer. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the grape and olive harvest in early fall. The Lord sends rains to prepare for the crops to grow to maturity.

***Deuteronomy 11:14** "that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil."*

***James 5:7** "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains."*

The **later or spring rains** prepare the way for the spring crops to grow. The spring First fruits are offered at Passover (barley) and Pentecost (wheat); with the harvest of these happening after Pentecost. This represents the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Jews (barley) and Gentiles (wheat).

The **former or early rains** prepare the way for the fall crops to grow. The First fruits are offered at the Feast of Trumpets (grapes and olives - wine and oil). Grapes and Olives are harvested before the Feast of Tabernacles, which is why it is also called the **Feast of Ingathering**. **This points to a great celebration, the final ingathering of souls into the kingdom at Christ's return, when we rest in God.** This is the last day outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the worldwide harvest of souls.

Pentecost was the harvest of first fruits and the feast of Tabernacles is the harvest of the final fruits. **The end of the age will result in the greatest ingathering of souls. The prophetic significance of the Feast of Tabernacles relative to the harvest of ingathering in the end of the year points to that harvest ingathering of the church.**

I was awakened Sunday morning, November 10, with the audible voice of the Lord. **“You are headed into the wrong field.”**

I then had a vision of what He was talking about. I saw in front of me a grain field that was completely harvested, there was no fruit visible anywhere. The field was just stubble. Then I turned around and started walking towards the other field, which was a vineyard, a field of grapes. I had been harvesting the grain field for so long, I was used to going there, but the seasons have changed and I must go into another field to reap the coming harvest.

The grain field had already been harvested and gleaned; there was nothing in it but stubble. We are to go in to the vineyard and tend the vines to prepare them for the coming harvest.

**The grain field represented the remnant** that was planted, matured, and gathered for the end of the age.

**The grapes in this vineyard are the church and the lost<sup>3</sup>.**

**Please read Deuteronomy 16:13-15** noticing who is rejoicing in this time of Ingathering.

In this season, as we gather together, working together in unity to bring in the abundant harvest in the times before the return of the Lord, He will bless all the fruit and all the works of our hands so that we will all be joyful.

There will be 2 final harvests in the harvesting of mankind; the righteous and the unrighteous. The Lord desires none to perish, and that needs to be our passion also.

**Please read Revelation 14:14-20.** We see Jesus is the one who will do this harvesting of His righteous ones; and then the later harvest is for the unrighteous who have refused to accept Jesus as their Savior.

We must pray for the harvest, that all will come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you working in the right field? Spend time seeking the Lord to answer this question.

## **Prophetic Words**

**Please read Joel 2:23-24.** These are prophetic words from the Lord for us and we must wait patiently for the rains to come.

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 25:1-12

# Tend My Vineyard

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## Day 3 - December 8, 2013

We ended yesterday's message with the two end time harvests of the righteous and the unrighteous. **Did you notice who did the harvesting?** It was the Lord Jesus Christ and His angels. **Our job is not to harvest, but to cultivate**, to raise up believers to bear mature ripe fruit, so when the Lord returns, they will be ready to meet Him as His bride, pure and holy, prepared for Him.

God spoke yesterday that we need to **focus our attention on the vineyard** and not the grain field. We must know that **the vineyard will take much more of our attention** than the grain field.

**In a grain field**, the main labor is in the preparation of the soil. A farmer needs to prepare the soil by removing the weeds and growth on top of the soil, remove all large rocks, break up the hard ground by tilling it over and over to soften the ground, wait for the rains to come to further soften the ground, and then it is time to plant the seed. He then lets it grow. There is not even a need to weed the field until the harvest. Read **Matthew 13:24-30** and notice when the weeds were removed.

In the past (when we were tending the grain field) we spent a lot of time in prayer and worship preparing the ground of people's hearts to be soft to receive the love of God.

**But in a vineyard** the soil does not need to be prepared each year, the work involved is with the vine itself. **Let's look at what is involved in taking care of a vineyard.**

**It is best to plant a vineyard on a hill or on the side of a mountain.** Most grain fields are planted in the valley. **It is time for us to go up the mountain and tend God's vineyard!**

*Isaiah 5:1 "...My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill."*

Vineyards in biblical times are different than now. Let's look at what was in a vineyard.

*Matthew 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey."*

**The landowner planted a vineyard: New vines come from cuttings of shoots** from good vines that were strong and fruitful, about 12" in length. They are put in moist soil and after a few weeks roots will grow and buds will appear creating leaves and shoots. These cuttings are **the remnant, the first fruits.**

Vineyards were surrounded by a **hedge of thorn bushes** to keep out cattle and sheep, wild animals (foxes, boars, deer), and thieves. (You were allowed to eat some grapes in someone's vineyard if you are hungry, but not to take any with you.)

**Winepresses** were usually built in the midst of the vineyard so the grapes would not have to be transported very far, reducing bruising and spoiling of the fruit. This is a place of great pressing to extract the sweet juice.

A **Tower** was made from stones of the cleared ground. The vineyard manger would take his family to stay in the tower shortly before the grape harvest to protect the fruit from animal and human thieves. They would also build temporary booths (tents or leafy structures) throughout the vineyard to keep an eye on the vines.

**Vine-growers must be hired** because **constant attention to the maintenance of the vineyard** is necessary. If the weeds are not kept away with constant hoeing, the vines will yield sour or wild grapes. If people are left to their own reasoning they become wild and unfruitful. We as vine-growers must be diligent to disciple those the Lord gives us to disciple so that they will produce good fruit.

**The right amount of water is necessary for grapes to grow to maturity.**

*Isaiah 27:3 "I, the LORD, am the keeper of the vineyard; I water it every moment."*

Grapevines need abundant water during the winter so that the soil is thoroughly wet when the leaves appear and the shoots elongate in spring. If there is not enough water, serious damage will occur. Prolonged wilting may be irreversible, and if it goes on too long the growing portions will shrivel up and growth ceases.

We have been praying for the rain of the Holy Spirit to fall upon all of God's people. We have not seen much fruit in these prayers because it has been the winter season. The ground of the hearts of the body of Christ is receiving the rain; and when the right season comes, growth and fruit will occur. We must not get discouraged in our prayers, knowing that our prayers are necessary for what is to come in the body of Christ. God is the One who gives us the rains we need to bear fruit in the right season.

*Leviticus 26:3-5 "If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, **then I shall give you rains in their season**, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land."*

Vines need to be **pruned** at all times of the year. The most severe pruning is in the winter, to ensure the fruit the next season will be of good quality. During the growing season, unfruitful shoots or wild shoots must be pruned. If they are not, they will take away essential nutrients and energy from the productive branches. If there are too many

branches with too many leaves, this will also harm the production of fruit because too much energy is spent on shoot and leaf production, and not grape production.

We as Christians are constantly being pruned by the Lord. Sometimes it is very severe, but it is always for our good. We tend to get involved in too many good things without asking God if each thing is His will for our lives in each season of our lives.

**Vines need to be tied up off of the ground** to stay clean, to get the proper amounts of sunshine and air, and so the fruit does not rot. If the vines drag in the dirt, their leaves get caked with mud. When the leaves are dirty, they cannot perform photosynthesis and the entire plant will not get the nutrients it needs to produce fruit.

The same is true of Christians. Often we get caught up going our own way, and fall into the mire of sin. We must be lovingly sensitive to our fellow believers when we see them going astray. We must come alongside and pick them up, and wash them with the Word of God, and through discipleship train them to stay on the narrow path the Lord has for them (tied on the trellis)

**Grapes are full grown in July and August, but not ready for the harvest.** They are sour and need to come to full maturity to reach their sweetness. They are ripe and harvested in September. We must be careful thinking someone is mature because they look like they are. We must continue to tend to them until they are fully mature, so they will yield sweet fruit. Saul looked like a king to the people and they insisted he be their king; but he was not ready for that position.

Seasoned **Mature grapes (raisins)** have a rich supply of sugar, 70% of their weight. They give rapid energy to those who are weak, they are very sustaining. We must be willing to give a word of encouragement at all times to sustain those who are weak.

All mankind are grapes and there are vineyards all over the world. **The Lord is calling His remnant to tend His vineyard**, so His people will be prepared for His return. We are to be conduits of God's light to those in darkness, we need to provide the nutrients of God's Word to those who are weak, and we need to continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to rain down His presence upon mankind.

We saw in Revelation 14 there are 2 harvests. The fruits that are ripe will be reaped first and the ones that are not will be reaped later and will enter the winepress of the wrath of God. Jesus desires ALL to be in the first harvest.

**God will partner with us to take care of His precious vineyard and to bring the fruit to full maturity.** He will be the keeper of the vineyard; He will water it and see that no one damages it. He will guard it day and night. The fruit of the vine will blossom and sprout and fill the whole world with fruit.<sup>4</sup> This is God's desire for all of mankind.

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<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 27:2-6

**But if we do not rise up and take on the task of maintaining God's vineyard, and it will be overgrown and will produce worthless grapes.** God will remove the hedge of protection and the vineyard will be consumed by briars and thorns; and he will not send any rain.<sup>5</sup>

What will be our response?

**Joel 2:19** *"The LORD will answer and say to His people, 'Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied in full with them; and I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.'"*

**Three fields are special to God: grain fields, vineyards, and olive orchards.** Over and over in His Word the Lord mentions that **He desires to give us all new grain, new wine, new oil.** We have been in the grain field and it is harvested. This is the season to enter the vineyard, and tend His vines to bring the fruit to maturity. There will be one last field, the olive grove, and this will be God's chosen people, Israel!

## Prophetic Word

There are wicked vinedressers in My vineyard. They act as if they own these vineyards, but they really belong to Me. I leased the church to My people, but they try to take full ownership of it. I've leased My vineyards to the wrong vinedressers. They are only in it for selfish gain, but I will not share My glory with anyone. Vintage time is near and I am coming to collect My fruit, My first fruits.

But when I send for My fruit, they will mistreat My servants. They will beat them and cast them out of the vineyard. Do they not know I see them? They will cause Me to come down and deal with them personally. When I come, what will I do to these wicked vinedressers? Not only will I bring judgment, but I will take back what I so lovingly gave. The church has the wrong vinedressers: leaders who should not be in position. I will take their title away and give My vineyard to someone else, to sons and daughters who I can trust; the ones who will render their fruit in due season. The wicked vinedressers hold onto their fruit so they can keep it for themselves, but they don't know that they will miss their season. They mistreated My servants and cast them out of My vineyard.

Therefore, I will stretch My hand against them and bring judgment. The winepress of the righteous is in the vineyard, but the winepress of the wicked is outside of it. These wicked vinedressers will be cast out and crushed in the winepress. Their blood will be sprinkled upon My garments as it trickles out of the winepress. I will trodden them in My anger and trample them in My fury. Why is My robe red? Because the wicked did not want to bear kingdom fruit. Does not My Word say vengeance is Mine? Daughter, vengeance is on My heart and I will fulfill the desires of My heart. Judgment is upon these wicked vinedressers and they will be sent to the winepress of My fury and wrath.

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<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 5:1-6

# Sharing His Passion for the Harvest

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## Day 4 - December 8, 2013

This morning the Lord reminded me of the day I personally was gathered from the world and my sin, and brought into His vineyard. That day my life was saved literally and eternally. The Lord showed me in **Deuteronomy 16:3** that we are all saved from something.

**Our testimony and our love for God** is all we need to **guide someone out of the bondage of the world**. But as Christians we often forget our commission and get busy with our church responsibilities, our families day to day life, and our jobs. Political correctness has conditioned us to compartmentalize our lives and put witnessing to others on a timecard of when and where it is appropriate to talk about our relationship with Christ. We punch in and out of our commission to witness to others instead of it being something that we live and is priority every day. Or for their comfort some only seek to encourage and engage with other believers and eliminated the opportunity all together to introduce Jesus to someone who does not know Him.

**God has given us so much, our very lives, and we have the obligation and opportunity every day to share that with someone, believer and nonbeliever.** He asked us to be a part of increasing His harvest by tending His crops and according to our ability. He equips us with everything we need. In the parable of the talents, Jesus tells us He expects us to do our part.

**Please read Matthew 25:14-23.**

Jesus commissioned us to be a part of increasing the harvest and according to our ability, He equips us with everything we need. When we do our part we and others will enter into the joy of the Lord!

Are we multiplying through what we have been given or are we making excuses, keeping it buried out of fear of rejection or politics? His vineyard has the only vine that will sustain life. **It is our job to show others how to be grafted into His living vine.** Thus doing our part to multiply His harvest in the same way we were brought in.

**Please read Matthew 25:24-30.** This is God's reaction to us when we do not share with others what the Lord has done in our lives.

**The Lord has entrusted us with the vineyard** and serving Him in this way, as stewards of the manifold grace of God.<sup>6</sup> This brings us and the increased harvest into His Glory, His joy. **Jesus is asking us to faithfully serve just as He served the Father for us.** With His life Christ gave us the example of how to increase the harvest. In His prayer in **John 17**, Christ

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<sup>6</sup> 1 Peter 4:10

shows us His completed work and the compassion He had for us while doing it. After observing His last Passover, which celebrates also the first fruits of spring, Christ prayed for those He brought into the knowledge of Him.

**Please read John 17.**

Pray that we glorify God in everything. Jesus prayed for Himself first, asking to be glorified so that He might glorify God in the work He was given to do, all to the honor of God. And when He had finished the work, His only desire was to be **restored back into the oneness with the Father He had before He came to earth as Messiah.**

God has given us everything we need for the commission and He supplies the ability. **It is our job to become His Word and carry it as Christ did** so others can receive it and know that it is from God. He also gives us opportunity by putting people in our lives and in our path to bear witness of who He is. We must be aware of and obedient to minister to the ones He has called us to.

Christ's joy and desire was to be one again with the Father. He wants the same Joy for us. He came and died so we can have that opportunity. Like the in parable of the talents, multiplying what He gave us will bring others into **the Joy of our Lord.** He wants our lives to be a reflection of Him in every way so we can bring many into the awareness of this oneness also.

Jesus not only prayed for His disciples, but for the ones who would later hear His word and continue it. That prayer was for us and future generations. By sharing the Word of God we are continuing Christ's work and helping others grow in knowledge and truth. Preparing them to go out themselves and gather more into His vineyard. We are not called to play church, we are called to undefiled religion which is to keep ourselves spotless,<sup>7</sup> as He was, from the world and serve others.

Christ's passion is for us to be one with Him, for us to be with Him and continuing His work. Together, declaring the name of the Father who the world does not know. Together, declaring the love of the Father that is in us, can be in them also.

Without continuing this work with Christ, the alternative for the world is unbearable to think about. The end of the parable of the talents gives us a glimpse into an eternity without knowing God. **Please read Mathew 25:31-46.**

Christ loves each and every person on this earth, and has been preparing to accept them into His vineyard since the foundation of the world. **He takes it very personally how we serve or do not serve the ones He loves.** This commission is a continuation of His life's work, bringing people into truth now while they are still in the world so their lives can continue on and bring change. **We are called all over the world to come together as one body and bring light to the dark places and authority over the evil in this world.** We

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<sup>7</sup> James 1:27

are to become loving servants leading as an example of humility. Each one of us has been chosen for a part in that commission. We have been given a key that opens the door to life. Christ's prayer to the Father while still in the world showed His passion for the work He left for us because he knew what is waiting for the ones who are never given the key. **Christ wants us to share His passion.**

## Twelve Forty 12:40 Watchtower

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Day 5 - December 10, 2013

*Luke 12:40 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming!"*

**We are entering into perilous times**, characterized by danger, pain, hard and harsh times. Jesus is speaking to the church, His Bride, calling out for us to awaken; so we will begin to pray and **build watchtowers for the nations**.

Two days ago we saw that one of the **components of a vineyard was a tower**. This tower was built of stone, making it a very strong structure. **The vine grower and his family stayed night and day in the tower shortly before the harvest**. They stayed close to be watchful for anything that might come into the vineyard to ruin the harvest.

**We must now go to the next level of prayer and be on continual watch**. While I was in California I called upon the intercessors and they responded immediately to the call of prayer. The Lord spoke to all of them in a special and unique way, from the young children to the mature warriors. Even a 5 year old intercessor in our group had a word for me and it was right on it, and this child did not know what I was experiencing on the mission field. When they had finished praying, a couple of the intercessors looked at their clocks and noticed **their watch said 12:40**.

The Lord began to speak about raising up the next generation and understanding the 12:40 Watchtower is for the next Generation. **We will need to build a watchtower for the next generation because of the judgment and testing they will experience**. He will give this next generation authority and establish them as they walk through these perilous times.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5**, this is the great falling away we now see upon the earth and it will get even more intense for the next generation!!

**Please read Mark 13:32-37**. The instructions are clear when you read it for yourself.

**The number 12 (twelve) represents God's order and God's authority**. Jesus had 12 disciples, and there were 12 tribes of Israel. In Revelation there are 24 elders and 144,000 sealed bondservants from the 12 tribes; all are multiples of 12. In New Jerusalem, the city walls have 12 foundation stones and 12 gates with 12 angels. The tree of life will yield 12 kinds of fruit a year.

**The number 40 (forty) represents a generation and times of testing**. The number forty is used by God to represent a period of testing or judgment. The 40 days of rain in the days of the flood were the judgments of God. The 40 day periods of fasting, testing, and communing with God were faced by Moses and Jesus. The forty years that the Israelites

spent in the wilderness were periods of testing and also judgment.<sup>8</sup> Various leaders in Israel who reigned for 40 year periods were put there by God according to His will and judgments. Egypt was left desolate for 40 years because of God's judgments. I could go on and on, but I think these examples should suffice for now.

We can easily see that **God calls 40 years a generation.** This is important, as it will benefit us in studying the meaning of Jesus' words that were recorded 4 times in the gospel.

**Matthew 23:36** *"Assuredly, I say to you this generation will by no means pass away until all things take place."*

As we seek the Lord, **He is challenging us to establish and build Houses of Prayer as Watchtowers that will be placed all over our cities and nations.** We must begin to seek Jesus and pray with fervency and a focused heart.

**A Watchtower is a tower built to create an elevated observation point.** It is placed higher than the surrounding area so the people inside can carefully and attentively watch what is going on around the city.

**Watch** means to observe attentively over a period of time; to **keep vigil** as a devotional exercise; to be **awake** during the night; to **be attentive** or vigilant; to **keep guard**; to keep someone or something under close observation; to **be expectant** and to **wait**.

**Please read Luke 12:37-40 and John 11:9-10**

We will be blessed if we are found alert when the Lord returns. We have been called by the Lord to watch day and night; but we must have His burning light in us to do so.

**Where is your position in the hour of Watch?**

**Please pray and study these scriptures. We must take heed, watch, and pray**

**1 Corinthians 16:13, Mathew 24:36-44, Mathew 25:1-13, Mark 13:32-37, 1 Thessalonians 5:6, and Revelation 16:15**

## **Prophetic Word**

If you surrender to me in these 50 days, I will show you many things. I will give you Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, and a place of Rest.

I saw four men standing guard on the North, South, East and West gates; each had a remnant army behind them. These are the ones who did not lose Faith, they were Faithful. They are Watchman and they are ready for battle. They will surround this city and region.

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<sup>8</sup> Numbers 32:13

## Watchmen in the Watchtower

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### Day 6 - December 11, 2013

Today we will look at the **watchmen** who are to be positioned in the Watchtowers. Watchmen are the remnant who have been awakened to God's trumpet call in this hour before the Lord returns. They are to be purified for God's good pleasure. They must be disciplined to resist the distractions brought by their enemies, so they can **clearly hear the voice of the Lord to effectively prayer His heart and share His messages.**

The church today is like Solomon when he was young and innocent. **Please read 1 Kings 3:2-5.** He loved God, but he had mixture in his heart. The Temple was not yet built, so they placed the Tabernacle in Gibeon, on a pagan high hill to worship Almighty God. The Lord knew that **a change was coming** with the building of His Temple in Jerusalem, and **He would be worshipped purely; but until that time He was willing to meet them in a place that was not pleasing to Him.**

Today, God is building His temple in our hearts. He knows that **the church is not worshipping Him in Spirit and truth as they will one day.** He knows that His bride will one day be in a different place with Him than they are now. He is working on them from the inside out, and one day they will come out of one place (the flesh and the world) to enter into another (holiness). **The Lord Jesus knows our issues and He is preparing and getting us ready for the next place.** He will allow the mixture for a while until He changes our hearts. God desires a dwelling place that is dedicated solely for Him!

**Please read Joshua 9** for a history of the people of Gibeon.

The Gibeonites were a people who came to Joshua with deception in their hearts. They knew what had happened to other tribes in the Promised Land and did not want to be destroyed like them. The people of Gibeon pretended to be a people from a faraway country and not just a few miles away. They pleaded with Joshua to make a covenant of peace with them, saying they wanted to be servants of someone who was so powerful. **The people were deceptive and disguised themselves as allies.**

*The Lord gave me a vision of a bride that had on a wedding dress, but underneath was the enemy. **We must be very careful who we join with.*** If we make alliances with the enemy, then when it is time to go into battle, they will fight against us and not for us; and there will be many casualties.

**The enemy will seek to distract and ensnare us to seek the Lord with our flesh and not our hearts.** Our hearts must be totally for Him and not given over to our fleshly desires. We must have holiness and not a form of godliness that denying the power of God to move through us. **When we deny the power of God to be in our lives, we stop or hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit.**

**Please read Galatians 5:16-26.**

**We must walk in the Spirit so that we do not carry out the deeds of the flesh.** Remember the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, self-control, gentleness, goodness and faithfulness. The deeds of the flesh are just as evident: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like.

**Those who practice the deeds of the flesh will not inherit the Kingdom of God.<sup>9</sup>** The book of Galatians was written to believers, it is written to us. When we walk in the flesh, God's presence, His kingdom here on earth, will not come to us. He will not share His heart with us, He will not manifest in signs and wonders through us, and **our witness and our prayers will be non-effective!** As believers, we gather together to "worship" God, but often our hearts are far from the holiness He desires. **Until we deny the flesh and worship the Lord in the Spirit with a Spirit controlled life of holiness, then our prayers will be effective.**

Over and over the Word gives us lists of behaviors that are not pleasing to the Lord, **Colossians 3:2-16, 1 Corinthians 5:9-14, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Ephesians 5:3-17.** He wants us to learn what is pleasing to Him and to have no fellowship with these deeds of darkness. Most of the things on those lists we no longer participate in, but some we do. **Please seek the Lord during these 50 days to shine His light on the dark recesses of your heart to expose the deeds of darkness that have been hindering holiness.**

**Most churches have the love of God that draws people in, but they do not have the light of God to bring change to these people's lives.** They are in deep darkness because of the mixture they allow and condone. We must walk in brokenness and humility, opening our hearts to the Lord to wash and sanctify. Sanctification is necessary to set us apart for His glory. We become one with Him in sanctification, allowing our worship to be pure and lifted up to the Lord.<sup>10</sup> The Lord is coming back for His bride and she will not have a spot

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<sup>9</sup> Galatians 5:21

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 2:11-13

or a wrinkle; we will be pure and holy! We must allow the Holy Spirit to wash, sanctify, and justify our hearts.

### **Please read Isaiah 50:4-7**

This gives a description of a true disciple of the Lord. **We must seek Him each and every morning to receive a Word from the Lord to sustain us and to encourage those around us.** We are His watchmen, appointed to man His watchtowers. We will pay a price for this lifestyle, but it is so necessary. **This is a season of seeking God as never before. He has much to tell us to prepare the bride for Christ's return.**

### **Prophetic Word**

I see the remnant of God gathering on both sides of the river, they are waiting for the sound of a trumpet from heaven to receive instructions before getting into the water. Everyone is taking their place and it seems we all know everyone's positions as well. We all have one heart and one desire, to do His will.

### **Prophetic Song**

I am preparing a place for you. We are preparing our heart for You.  
Come and stay, we are ready for You. Come and rest here.  
We are expecting You Lord, we are expecting You.  
You are our Lord, come and stay here. We are anticipating You.  
Prepare, prepare, we are ready, we are expecting You.

Oh God, we are ready for You. the Spirit and the Bride says come.  
Our hearts are calling to You, come! Arise and look in front of You  
Come, come, come; we are preparing for You.  
We are ready, we are ready and waiting, waiting on You.  
We are longing for You. We are preparing for You. We are looking for You.  
We are preparing for You. We are expecting You.

Do what You have to do, we want to be ready,  
Found here waiting for You with hearts anticipating.  
We expect You.

# The Watch Hours of the Watchmen

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## Day 7 - December 12, 2013

**Acts 3:1** *"Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer."*

It was at the ninth hour that Peter and John entered the temple to pray. Perhaps you have never considered it, but there are specific hours of the day ordained of God which can be particularly meaningful to the Christian's prayer life.

**There were three times of public worship and prayer commonly appointed and observed among God's People:** the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour which is 9:00 in the morning; the 6<sup>th</sup> hour which is noon; and the 9<sup>th</sup> hour which is 3:00 in the afternoon. These were important prayer disciplines faithfully observed by the Old Testament saints, the New Testament Church and by our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Exodus 30:7-8.** *"Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations."*

The priests were commanded to come before God at least twice a day to pray and to worship God on the Altar of Incense. But King David<sup>11</sup> and Daniel<sup>12</sup> were two men that made a habit of coming before the Lord three times a day, every day.

**These men were both very serious about keeping their appointment with the Lord, even though they both had very busy and difficult lives.** Their consistency in good times kept them seeking the Lord steadfastly in their times of distress. They were able to boldly come before the Lord with confidence in their impossible situations because they had established such an intimate relationship with the Lord their entire lives. They knew that as they were faithful to come before Him; He would be faithful to hear and answer their prayers. Let us not be weary of praying often, for God is not weary of hearing.

The priests prayed at least twice at 9am and 3pm, King David, Daniel, and the Apostles in the New Testament prayed three times a day at 9am, noon, and 3pm. Yet, there are many other times mentioned in the Scriptures recording prayer during the night.

The Jews, like the Greeks and Romans, divided the **night** into **military watches instead of hours, each watch** representing the period for which watchmen and guards remained on duty. The Jews observed three watches: the first,<sup>13</sup> the middle,<sup>14</sup> and the watch.<sup>15</sup> After the

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<sup>11</sup> Psalm 55:16-17

<sup>12</sup> Daniel 6:10

<sup>13</sup> Lamentations 2:19

establishment of the Roman supremacy, the number of watches was increased to four: first watch or evening, second watch of midnight, third watch or cock-crowing,<sup>16</sup> and fourth watch or morning.<sup>17</sup> The starting time for the first watch is at nominal sunset, 6:00 PM, then the second watch at 9:00 PM, the third watch at 12:00 Midnight, and the 4th watch at 3:00 AM.

**The Lord is speaking to the Watchmen to gather in their watchtowers to pray and worship at His appointed hours, around His watches.** As we seek Him, we will be asked by Him to take the hour and the watch Jesus has chosen for us as a people.

When the New Testament commands us to "**watch**," it is usually the translation of one of two Greek words (*gregoreuo* and *agrupneo*), **which have similar meanings—to "stay awake" and to "be sleepless."** They are often meant in the spiritual sense of being vigilant and on guard, fully awake, aware, alert and intently focused.

In **Matthew 26:37-40**, the meaning of "**watch**" is primarily physical. Jesus was chiding the disciples for not remaining awake during the hour preceding His arrest. But what Jesus next said to Peter had a deeper, spiritual meaning.

***Matthew 26:41** "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

We have good intentions, we are willing to pray, but our flesh is weak and often hinders our commitment to pray. **It is spiritual watching coupled with prayer that gives one the strength to survive temptations and difficult situations.**

**1 Corinthians 15:34** "*Awake to righteousness, and do not sin*".

Being awake is equated with holiness and not sinning. Paul was writing to the church at Corinth, which shows that even true Christians can be spiritually asleep to varying degrees.

***Romans 13:11** "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."*

**The closer we draw to the second coming of Christ, the more urgent it is that we awake out of spiritual sleep!** We have entered the fearful end-time years that are the grand climax of human civilization. If ever there was a time to pay attention and get prepared, it is now!

**Awaken oh great army of the Lord, He is calling us to labor in His chosen vineyard!**

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<sup>14</sup> Judges 7:19

<sup>15</sup> Exodus 14:24

<sup>16</sup> Mark 13:35

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 14:25

I believe **watchtowers are supposed to be placed all over America and the Nations**. If you see yourselves establishing a Watchtower, or if you already have one, please send us the name of the ministry/church/prayer house, and your physical and email address, so we can register each Watchtower. We are praying and believing these next 50 days for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in every part of the world. I believe **He will give us all instructions as we join together as a Great Army**. If you know someone who has the heart of prayer for their city or nation, please pass this Word to the uprising Generals.

**God is moving and speaking mightily in this hour and we would like to share with each other what God is speaking and doing around the world**. We will send out prophetic words and prayer focuses on **thecomingmessenger.org**. We will have Prayer Summits that will help us stay informed and encouraged. The Lord has placed on our hearts to gather the next generation. We will start a prayer group for children and youth on Fridays to pray fire from heaven down, as they seek The Lord these next 50 days.

If the children's or youth group at your church would like more information on what God is speaking and doing in this hour with the next generation, please contact us at [thisisyourseason@yahoo.com](mailto:thisisyourseason@yahoo.com).

We are excited about our marching orders in this hour! **What is Your Watch?**

**TWELVE HOUR DAY-TIME OF PRAYER**

Third hour--**6am**-9am  
Sixth hour--**9am**-12pm  
Ninth hour--**12pm**-3pm  
Twelfth hour--**3pm**-6pm

**TWELVE HOUR NIGHT WATCH OF PRAYER**

First Watch--**6pm**-9pm  
Second Watch--**9pm**-12am  
Third Watch--**12am**-3am  
Fourth Watch--**3am**-6am

## **Prophetic Word**

We must know who we are in Christ; we must fight the lies of the enemy who is trying to bring confusion and to make us believe that we are "not there or ready yet" to do God's will. Are you ready? Please know this can be at times a lonely journey.

## Where there is Smoke, there is Fire

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**Day 8 - December 13, 2013**

**Joel 2:30** ...I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, **blood, fire and columns of smoke...**

A month ago I started smelling smoke in the atmosphere around me; outside, in my house and in church. After a lot of wrestling with God and trying to find the source of the smoke, I finally realized this was a manifestation of God in my midst.

**Please read Joel 2:28-31.**

As the time draws near for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, we need to know that **God is going to manifest to His people as never before in sign and wonders**; in dreams, visions, prophesies, and unusual manifestations.

As this happens we must understand that **God will manifest for a message, not for a show**. Sometimes the body of Christ publicizes the manifestation and people come to see the manifestation and not come to meet Jesus. When God manifests in our midst individually and corporately **we must seek wisdom from Him as to what He is saying to us**. Having **searched the scriptures for understanding**, God led us to several studies on fire and smoke.

**There were many instances when the Lord appeared in fire to His people.**

**Please read Exodus 3:1-15**

The Lord spoke to Moses in the midst of the **burning bush**. Often when Jesus would appear on earth in the Old Testament He would be called the angel of the Lord. We see right away that this person identifies Himself as God and He reveals His passion for His people to see them set free from bondage.

**Please read Exodus 13:21-22**

The Lord manifested before His people as He led them through the wilderness as a **pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire**. This pillar was with them always. Whenever the fire stopped, the people would make camp; and whenever it would move, they would move. The Lord desires this trust and obedience from us today.

**Please read Exodus 14:19-20, 24**

I loved the part where Jesus looked down (**leaned out to look at**) **on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud** and brought the army of the Egyptians

into confusion. Can't you just picture the horror on their faces when they saw a man looking out of a pillar of fire at them!

### **Please read Exodus 33:7- 11**

Before the Tabernacle was built, Moses would erect a **Tent of Meeting** outside the camp, a quiet place away from the distractions of all the people and animals. **This was a place where people could seek the Lord.** This was a place for justice, judgment, correction, direction, and especially relationship with God. **Every time Moses entered the tent the Lord would descend in the pillar of cloud or fire and speak to Moses.** The Lord longs for us to get away to a quiet place to seek Him, away from the distractions in our lives. There He will show up and speak to us as a friend.

### **Please read Exodus 40:34-38**

Once the tabernacle was build, the Holy Place with the lampstand, table of showbread, and the altar of incense became known as the Tent of Meeting. **Jesus manifested Himself in a pillar of cloud and smoke. We are to answer Him with the fragrant fire of our worship and prayers on the Altar of Incense.** We must position ourselves before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting, aware of His Presence, offering up the sacrifice of prayer and worship with an expectation that He will meet with us, and that He will share His heart with us for ourselves and for the people.

### **Please read Ezekiel 1:26-28**

When the Lord called Ezekiel to be a prophet to the rebellious Sons of Israel, He appeared in a vision as a **Man of Fire.** When the Lord spoke to His prophets and showed them astounding things, He would appear as a Man of Fire, often on His Throne in heaven. **This was to show the power and authority behind His words and the callings to these men of God.** When Isaiah<sup>18</sup>, Daniel<sup>19</sup>, and John<sup>20</sup> had these visions of the Lord on his throne, they were able to fully sense the Lord. Jesus took His closest disciples up a mountain and this was when His full glory was revealed to them.

*Matthew 17:2 "And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light."*

**Jesus appears so often as a Man of Fire because He desires to exhibit His burning love and passion for us.** We are called to host this Man of Fire in our temple, our hearts. When the Man of Fire is with us, our temple will fill with smoke, just as it did in **Isaiah 6.** Our response must be humility, repentance, and the fear of God. Then God will bring His refining fire to cleanse us and prepare us to go out and be His ambassadors for Him and His purposes.

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<sup>18</sup> Isaiah 6:1-9

<sup>19</sup> Daniel 7:9-10, Daniel 10:5-6

<sup>20</sup> Revelation 1:12-16

# Baptism of Fire

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## Day 9 - December 14, 2013

**Matthew 3:11-12** *"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"*

The New Testament word of **baptize** is baptizo, which means to make fully wet, to overwhelm; to cover wholly with a fluid. John said that Jesus was going to **baptize all believers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His followers that they were to **wait in Jerusalem to be baptized with the Holy Spirit**<sup>21</sup>. On the day of Pentecost, when they were all gathered in one place, the Holy Spirit came; and tongues of fire resting on their heads<sup>22</sup>. The word for **resting** here means to hover or sit upon. **With the baptism of the Holy Spirit they were greatly empowered to share the gospel with great boldness and authority.** They were baptized with the Holy Spirit and He came into them. **Christ Himself will come over us and baptize us with fire to anchor us in His love.**

**Ephesians 1:4** *"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."*

Jesus is coming back for a bride without a spot or wrinkle<sup>23</sup>; and even though we are not there yet, we will be on the day the Bridegroom appears.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15** *"Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*

Jesus is coming with fire to burn away the worthless things in our lives - to separate the wheat from the worthless chaff<sup>24</sup>, and to remove the impure dross in our lives<sup>25</sup>. It will take His fire to remove these things from our hearts and lives that hinder our relationship

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<sup>21</sup> Acts 1:4-5

<sup>22</sup> Acts 2:1-4

<sup>23</sup> Ephesians 5:26-27

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 3:12

<sup>25</sup> Malachi 3:2-3

with Him.

**Chaff** is the dry stubble left over after the harvest, the worthless part of a grain plant. It is separated from the grain by thrashing or winnowing. Chaff is much lighter than the heavier grain, so it is easily blown away by the wind.

**Dross** is scum or extraneous matter of metals thrown off in the process of melting metal. It is waste matter, and any worthless matter separated from the better part.

**The baptism of fire will come at the end of the age to burn up the dross and the chaff.** Jesus Christ will come over us and baptize us with fire and consume us with His love; and consume every bit of dross and chaff. **What is left is the pure revelation of who God is!**

A day is coming when God's fire of judgment is coming to the inhabitants of the earth, but those who have allowed His fire to refine them will joyously rise with healing.<sup>26</sup>

**God's fire comes to purify and to judge. Our response to the fire determines which it is.** The fire burns up everything not of Him. **We must hear His voice every time fire comes so we will respond out of obedience and understanding, and not ignorance and offense.** Many will fall away from the church because they will not understand the purpose of the fire of testing and purging; and they will be offended that He is not operating how they have always envisioned.

*John 9:39 "And Jesus said, for judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."*

Jesus is sending a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire (burning) to purge His bride of evil. This judgment is not to condemn us but to save and to set us free. **He longs to give us eyes to see Him and to blind us to carnal thinking and deeds.** Before the fall in the garden, there was no evil and **Jesus is longing to restore the Father's plan by blinding us to evil in our words, thoughts, and deeds.**

The fire of God is a transforming touch from God which causes us to hate sin and to pursue holiness with intense passion, resulting in a consuming love for God. **The Baptism of fire causes us to live lives of Holy Passion! This fire will add fuel to the anointing and empower us to even greater levels of holiness.** Jesus knows that if there is sin in even 1% of our hearts, it can eventually destroy every desire of devotion in our lives.

**We must PRAY for mercy.** Plead for ourselves, the remnant and all people for our hearts to be ready for His Fire. We must cry and pray His heart. We must stop and wait to hear from God for everything. We must have the fear of God in our minds and hearts.

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<sup>26</sup> Malachi 4:1-2

**We must be fully alert to the coming testing**, understanding what He is doing. We must be diligent to keep in the company of godly counsel; so we can be strengthened and encouraged to keep our hearts right before Him.

We must be careful not to judge others in the church, but to have a heart of compassion for all to know the Lord and stand before Him with pure hearts. **God is revealing the coming baptism of fire to us now so we will intercede** for it to come forth upon the remnant, then to the church, and then to the lost. **God will birth this Word through our intercession** as we fall on our faces before Him with fear and reverence.

## **Prophetic Word**

I love it

Drink from the river of love and faith.

The rain is pouring like a great water fall;

Drink, drink, drink.

Go to My temple; lay at the altar and drink.

It will strengthen you from distractions, darkness,

Defilement, distress, delusions and demonic attacks.

The river of love and faith is great!!!

Drink today, do not wait.

The river was given to strengthen us to be courageous.

## My Fire is Coming, Pick a Side

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### Day 10- December 15, 2013

**Joshua 24:14-15** *"Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."***

**Because of God's love for us, He gives us 2 choices**, even though His heart desires only one choice – that we fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth. If there was only one choice, we would be forced to love Him, and that is not the love He desires from us. **He wants us to be in love with Him as much as He is in love with us.** He wants us to long to be with him every moment of every day. He wants us to hunger and thirst for His presence. Out of our love, devotion, gratitude, and respect for Him, we should always choose to love Him with our whole heart and soul.

**Please read Deuteronomy 27 and 28.**

Before the sons of Israel crossed over the Jordan to enter the Promised Land, **God told Moses to have Joshua take all the people on a "field trip"**. There would be 2 mountains side by side with a valley between them, and they were to go to them. Half of the tribes were to go and stand on Mt. Gerizim and the others were to stand on Mt. Ebal. **The Priests and Levites were to stand between them in the valley, and read the Law to the people, stressing the two choices they had in regards to their relationship with God.**

**When the priest would talk about the blessings God would pour out on those who loved God and were obedient to him, they would point to Mt. Gerizim.** It was a lush green mountain that got plenty of sunshine and rain. **But when the priest would talk about the curses that come with disobedience they would point to Mt. Ebal.** This mountain was dark, dry, and barren. It was in the shadow of the other and did not receive much sunlight and it did not receive rain. **This was a profound visual for them to see the two choices they had with God and the results of their choices.**

**Please read Deuteronomy 30**, it concludes the words to be spoken on these two mountains.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** *"...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So **choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him...**"*

In the New Testament, Jesus explains we have a choice of the 2 paths we can take in our lives, and we enter them by either the narrow gate or the wide gate.<sup>27</sup> The narrow way is the one that leads to life, but unfortunately it is one few take because it is difficult. The wide way seems easier, but Jesus tells us it leads to destruction. The Greek word for **small gate means a place with obstacles surrounding it**. The Greek word for **narrow means trouble, affliction, and tribulation**. When we are walking in the narrow way through the small gate, we will face many obstacles and trials. Our flesh does not like the narrow path or the small gate. It fights against the Holy Spirit living in us.

**Please read Romans 8:4-14.**

Paul explains that **we have a choice to be led by our flesh or by the Holy Spirit**. But know, our flesh brings death and the Spirit brings life. This is because the flesh is hostile towards God.

**Galatians 5:16-17** *"But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh**. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for **these are in opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please."*

**This narrow way is difficult because of the constant battle** between the flesh we live in and the Spirit we desire to lead us. **Galatians 6:9** is a great encouragement in this battle to make the right choice. *"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."*

When the path was getting narrower for the followers of Jesus, many left Him. Jesus asked His closest disciples, are you going to choose to leave Me too? But Peter's response showed he knew **there was only one choice and it was Jesus**.

**John 6:68-69** *"Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. **We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God**.'"*

We all have the same choice to make. Hear the words of Elijah in **1 Kings 18:21**: *"**How long will you hesitate between two opinions?**"* Will our love be given to God with wholehearted abandon, or will it be wasted on the world and our flesh?

Our flesh is crafty and it is a lifelong struggle to not let it rule; but **Jesus is sending His fire** to destroy it, little by little, if we choose to let Him. **Jesus is waiting with the fire lit** to

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<sup>27</sup> Mathew 7:13-14

burn the tares, to burn the chaff, to burn the pruned and unfruitful branches in our lives, and to purify us as gold is refined.<sup>28</sup>

**Please read Acts 11:23.** When we see others struggling with their choices, we must share our testimonies along with the Word to **strengthen and encourage them to remain true to the Lord.**

## **Prophetic Word**

*My fire is coming and My people must be aware so they will embrace the fire and not be consumed by it. They must choose, they must pick a side.*

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<sup>28</sup> Malachi 3:2-3

## Fire from the Mouth of God and His Watchmen

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### Day 11 - December 16, 2013

**Amos was a watchmen and a prophet of his time.** The book of Amos is basically a message of judgment: judgment on the nations, oracles and visions of divine judgment on Israel and Judah. Israel and Judah had reached new political and military heights, but the religious situation was at an all-time low. **Just as we are today, idolatry and immorality were rampant, and the judicial system was corrupt.** The people interpreted their prosperity as a sign of God's blessing on them. **Amos' task was to deliver the message that God was displeased with the nations.** His patience was exhausted and punishment was inevitable. **The nation would be destroyed unless the people had a change of heart, and choose the living waters of God.** If they would choose His vineyard out of their obedience to His Word and trust in Him alone, He would prosper their harvest.

**This watchman was strong with his Words during his WATCH.** We all are burdened with a message to God's people as a company of prophets, but listen to the Burden Bearer as he speaks this message to the people of his time.

*Amos 5:21-24 "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offering and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream."*

God is speaking to us on how He despises our feasts, celebrations, conferences, offerings, worship, and how we think we are bringing justice to His people. These are all works that we think we are doing for God, and He is not pleased. His desire is for us to love Him and spend time with Him, not by being so busy doing "good things" that we forsake God.

The Hebrew word of **despised** is **ma'as**, which means to reject, refuse, despise, abhor, disregard, disdain, to regard as unimportant or worthless. **It represents the opposite of choosing something, thus rejecting, casting away, or having aversion (to hate or dislike) to something.** This word is used in various contexts in God's Word:

**Psalms 118:22** speaks of the stone that the builders threw away as unfit.

**1 Samuel 8:7** where the people rejected God.

**1 Samuel 16:1-2, Isaiah 5:24, Ezekiel 20:15-16, and Hosea 4:6** show our attitude when we reject the written instructions of God.

**Amos 2:4-5** *“Thus says the Lord: for three transgressions of Judah and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because **they have despised the law the Lord, and have not kept His commandments. Their lies lead them astray, lies which their fathers followed.** But I will send a fire upon Judah and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.”*

A palace is the official residence of a sovereign bishop, leader, or exalted person. What is God saying to us today? Because we have not kept His commandments, but followed after the traditions of man and followed the lies of those before us; **He will bring the judgment of fire first on those who have put themselves in high positions. He will deal with the leadership of the Church first.**

Jesus challenged the hearts of the leaders in **Matthew 15:8-20**.

**Matthew 15:8-9** *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*

We must be careful as leaders in our walk with God that we do not lead the people from the defilement of our hearts, and the old ways we have followed without searching out and separating the truth of God’s Word from the root of our church traditions.

We as leaders must know the truth according to the Word, but if we do not seek truth and chose His way, He says we are blind. Jesus says the leaders were blind because of where their hearts were; and a blind leader will lead blind people into confusion<sup>29</sup>. They are willing to follow them based on where their hearts are because of their own wounds. This will bring judgment on that leader and those who are following him.

**Please read Isaiah 9:14-18.**

The Lord says He will cut off head and tail from Israel, palm branch and bulrush in one day; bringing fire upon the leaders and the followers. They both have a responsibility to know Him, but judgment on the leader is greater in God’s sight. **Verse 16** says *“for the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.”*

This is very serious to the Lord our God. In **Jeremiah 17:27**, He speaks the same judgment (He will kindle a fire in the gates of Jerusalem – among the people, and devour the palaces – the leaders), but He is speaking about their neglect of the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath commandment is very serious to God and we think He has gotten rid of this day, but on the contrary. It is still for us today to understand. When we take that day of rest and trust only in God, it pleases Him. It causes us to repent and return with a heart that is refreshed and renewed in Him. He wants us to totally trust Him as we go up the mountain and abide in His vineyard, so we can bear fruit from His hands and not the enemies of the flesh, the world or the devil.

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<sup>29</sup> Matthew 15:14, Isaiah 9:16

The commandment to hallow the Sabbath Day<sup>30</sup> was the whole foundation of worship, because it instituted as part of His heart for His people in the beginning.

If you want to do a deeper study of Sabbath Rest please read the chapter on Sabbath rest in the [This is Your Season](#) Book. We can send that chapter to you by email upon request.

**We must see that God is serious about us living out His Word and keeping His commandments. Keeping the Sabbath is only one example, but every Word is important to Him.**

**Jeremiah 7:20** *“Therefore thus says The Lord God. Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched.”*

This prophesy was fulfilled in **2 Kings 25:9** when King Nebuchadnezzar *“burned the house of the Lord and the king's house, all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.”* The great watchmen blew the trumpet, but the leaders did not take heed. **We are the watchmen of this generation and we must blow the trumpet to warn God's people to return to the Lord. We must set up watchtowers so every person can hear the words of the Lord.**

**Lamentations 4:11** *“The Lord has fulfilled His fury, He has poured out His fierce anger. He kindled a fire in Zion, and it has devoured its foundations.”*

**Lamentations 4:12** says the leaders did not believe that the enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem. Many leaders today will not believe the watchmen (prophets) who are crying out to them. We need to pray so they may have a heart to hear the voice of the Lord. They would not believe then, and they do not believe today, that the adversary and the enemy will enter the gates of our churches and cities.

**Jeremiah 6:17** *“Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, listen to the sound of the trumpet! **But they said, we will not listen.**”*

Jeremiah was a great watchman of his time, but they would not listen to the Lord's words of judgment, because of their hearts. As we send out this cry and message, we are praying that they are reaching hearts who are hearing the same sound and trumpet.

Because they did not believe and continued in their sins, God continued to speak to Jeremiah. **Please read Jeremiah 5:10-17.**

**God will bring judgment, but we do not want to believe the Lord would bring such a judgment of fire. Verses 12-13** say, *“they have lied about the Lord, and said, It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine. And the prophets become*

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<sup>30</sup> Exodus 20:8-11

*wind, for the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."* We must be aware that **false prophets will rise up and contradict the messages from the true watchmen.**

**Now God will put fire in the mouth of the true watchmen and He will speak a hard word to them.** And He will let them know in **verse 17**, that their harvest, flocks, vines and trees will be devoured if the people do not take heed and turn from their wicked ways.

### **Prophetic Word** by David Wilkerson

"America is going to be destroyed by fire! Sudden destruction is coming and few will escape. Unexpectedly, and in one hour, a hydrogen holocaust will engulf America and this nation will be no more. God is going to judge America for its violence, its crimes, its backsliding, its murdering of millions of babies, its flaunting of homosexuality and sadomasochism, its corruption..."

He goes on with the list that is in Galatians 5 of the evidence of the flesh. We will not inherit the kingdom of God if we do not take heed to the voices of the last day watchmen. Where is your heart for real with God?

## Ashes for Defilement

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### Day 12 - December 17, 2013

**Numbers 19:9** *“Now a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and the congregation of the sons of Israel shall **keep it as water to remove impurity; it is purification from sin.**”*

This seems to be an obscure passage, but you will see it has profound relevance for us today. We all know we are living in unsettling times of growing gross darkness. America was founded as a Christian country, with its laws and morals based on the Word of God. So even if people were not believers, they still followed the moral laws of the country. **But over the last few decades, this moral code has been defiled by the enemies of the flesh, the world, and the devil.**

**When the flesh has no restraint, Galatians 5:19-21 lists the deeds that will come out of it:** immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. **The flesh is a very evil entity in our lives. We think it is our friend because it takes care of our desires and wants; but we must know that its path leads to death.**

**The world is all around us, enticing us to find pleasure for ourselves and to be unsatisfied with the Lord.** God desires to have us led by the pure desires of His heart through the Holy Spirit and not the impure desires of the world.

**James 4:4-5** *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility towards God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose; ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?’”*

The devil, the prince of the power of the air, controls those who have not given their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, and he influences those who are not walking closely with the Lord because of open doors of unconfessed sin or rebellion. The enemy comes with a spirit that he brings to work in the lives of the sons of disobedience, causing us to indulge in the desires of our flesh.<sup>31</sup>

In the end time the enemy will pour out a spirit upon men in the growing darkness; but we can be encouraged knowing that in this time there will also be **the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church, and that we will be walking in a greater level of purity and closeness with the Lord.**

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<sup>31</sup> Ephesians 2:1-3

**Please read Ephesians 4:17-24.** In this hour we are learning how to please the Lord by laying aside our old self and being renewed by the Holy Spirit. We are learning how to be vessels of sanctification and honor.<sup>32</sup> As the church is being purified and getting closer to the Lord, the world is becoming a foul place of gross uncleanness<sup>33</sup>.

**There is a great chasm and a great battle raging between the two sides.** As we reach across this chasm to bring the love of God and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to the world, we risk rejection, persecution, and even death; but we will certainly be dirtied and defiled.

The closer we get to God, we become increasingly repulsed by the foulness of the world. We have to shield our eyes, ears, and hearts from the impurity all around us; the impurity in the world and unfortunately also in the church. This brings us a dilemma: **How do we stay pure and holy when we are to go out into the deep darkness to share the love of God?**

We are the bride of Christ and He wants us to be dressed and waiting for His return. Our wedding clothes are to be pure white, without a spot. Imagine trying to walk through a filthy place full of filthy people who are reaching out to touch your white dress. Yet, we are to walk out among the world and share the love of God. Those in darkness will be drawn to the light of God within us and many will come close. We will be defiled, but God has given us instructions to remove these impurities.

In the Old Testament, God gave Moses clear teaching on the **things that defile a man**, especially coming in contact with a corpse. **Death is such a defiling thing because it was never God's intention for anything to die.** But through sin, death entered the world (Romans 5:12). Death is a curse; therefore the defilement of death signifies the defilement of sin. Under the law when a man came in contact with a dead person, he was made unclean and was not to come before the Lord. **But God, out of His great desire for us to come close, gave Moses instructions on how we can be purified from the defilements that will naturally come in our lifetimes.**

**Please read Numbers 19**

The priest was to take an unblemished red heifer (cow) outside the camp to be killed and then completely burned. Once the fire had completely died out, **the ashes were collected** in a container, and taken back to the camp.

**We have seen that the Lord is sending His fire to burn away the things in our lives that hinder our intimate relationship with Him. He deals with our hearts in our times of quietly seeking Him every day. We must continue to allow Him to burn away every bit of defilement that we have allowed to enter into our hearts.**

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<sup>32</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:4

<sup>33</sup> Isaiah 24:5

**We live, work, worship, and interact with people who are still walking in the impurities we once had.** Even though we are dead to those things (they have been burned and the ashes are cold), **these defilements offend us and stick to our souls, especially our minds and emotions.**

The word **defile** means to be foul, contaminated, polluted, utterly unclean, or impure. The Hebrew word for **impurity** comes from the root word **nadad** - which means to drive away. **When we have impurity in our hearts, it causes us to reject the Lord and separate from Him.**

Webster's defines **impure** as **foul** (covered with or containing extraneous matter which is injurious, hurtful, harmful, destructive, or offensive), filthy, polluted, obscene, unclean, defiled by sin, and unholy.

**If we are not cleansed daily from these defilements, they will build up on our souls and be very harmful to our relationship with the Lord and our effectiveness in the Kingdom.** Because the Lord wants nothing to defile us and separate us from Him, He gave Moses further instructions to bring purification to us when we are defiled.

***Numbers 19:17** "Then for the unclean person they shall take some of the **ashes** of the burnt purification from sin and **flowing water** shall be added to them in a vessel."*

**The priest would take some of the ashes and mix them with flowing water.** This mixture was called the **water of separation** because it was to be sprinkled on those who were separated or removed from the sanctuary by their uncleanness. **Flowing water is also translated as living water. (Jeremiah 2:13, John 4:10)** When we come into the presence of God in His sanctuary, He has rivers of living water that He wants to wash us with. When we sit in His presence and worship Him (living water) for the things He has burned out of our hearts (ashes), we are purified from all defilement!

***Numbers 19:20** "But the man who is unclean and **does not purify himself from uncleanness**, that person shall be cut off from the midst of the assembly, because **he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD**; the water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him, he is unclean."*

But if we ignore God's call to come to the rivers of living water and be washed clean of all impurities from our decisions or from the defilements of those around us, we defile His sanctuary, His temple. Look back at the definitions of the word defile. **We are the temple of Almighty God and if we do not come to Him and let Him cleanse our defilements, we are injuring ourselves and cutting ourselves out of fellowship with God.**

We do not need to burn a heifer and carry the ashes with us and mix them with living water; the blood of Jesus is much more powerful than the ashes of a heifer for the cleansing of our souls.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Hebrews 9:11-14

**Ezekiel 28:18** *"... Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you.*

I know this scripture is a commentary on the devil, but it also applicable to the fire the Lord is sending to mankind. Again the fire will come to all, but **our response to the fire determines if we will be purged and cleansed, or totally consumed!**

## **Prophetic Word**

I need you, My bride, to be dressed in your wedding clothes and ready for My return. I want you to be spotless and pure. I know you live in a filthy world and I have commissioned you to walk among the people who are in darkness, proclaiming My Gospel, shining My light, and demonstrating My love. My blood will wash you clean. Come, come, come to Me and I will wash you white as snow.

I am placing a mantle, a plain cloak, over your wedding garments; to protect you from the defilements of this world. Wear this cloak of humility, this cloak of protection. It is from Me to you, My bride.

## Review and Seek the Lord

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### Day 13- December 18, 2013

This is day 13th of the 50 days of seeking the Lord, and we must continue to press in and fast all of the distractions that are surrounding us. God gave us a strong word of correction that we need to SEEK HIM and stay focused on Him and His Word. As we asked Him for directions and walked away from all distractions, the Lord Jesus said to us, ***“I have given you much revelation and wisdom, now walk in it by faith.”*** He continued by saying, ***“REVIEW THE LAST 12 DAYS and I will show you what is on My heart to help you be encouraged in where I have allowed you to be tested on this Journey.”***

The Lord spoke to us today about taking territory and gaining grounds. He was so direct in His corrections to us to press in and grow up as He prunes us in this season of the vineyard. We must not make the same mistake Joshua did as he went about taking possession of the Promised Land. The Lord reminded us: **the closer we get to the Lord, the more distractions, deceptions, delusions, and darkness we will encounter.** Joshua was gaining grounds and then the Gibeonites came and deceived him. We must be careful; we cannot put our guards down in our distractions and weaknesses. **Please read Joshua 9.**

**The desires, weaknesses, and darkness of our hearts will deceive us when they agree with the voice of our flesh.** If our spirit is strong, it will agree with the Holy Spirit inside of us. **Who are we listening to and who are we feeding in this hour?**

We are constantly hearing voices from within, voices from without, voices from above, voices from beneath, voices from a group, voices that are single, voices that are loud, and voices that are quiet. **What voices are we listening to? Are these voices from the Lord?**

**Please take today as a day of reflecting on the last 12 days of messages, and let the Lord Jesus speak to your heart. Please take today to stop and rest in Him with quiet seeking and with sweet worship that will prepare your heart to hear the Lord.**

**In order to go up the mountain, we must be on the path (stay in His Word) and strengthened by the river (the leading of the Holy Spirit).** Have you asked God what is your appointed time and watch hour in this season?

Not only do we need to seek the Lord for wisdom in climbing the mountain; but we must see the importance of raising up disciples in this hour. We must disciple them in prayer, worship, and the word; with all wisdom and seeking, knowing that our actions are important for the Kingdom of God.

## Prophetic Words

I am raising up those who can see this mountain now. You are on that mountain. You are My chosen ones and you have great responsibility. You must see that I have chosen you to bring others up the mountain. **It is your responsibility to help them up. Many people shall come and say let's go up to the House of God. He will teach us His ways.**

**How will I teach them My ways? I have positioned them to see the door of truth and they shall be there waiting to bring the people up on every side.** Out of Zion, a place of Worship and Prayer, the law shall be established in their hearts; and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. The chosen place where we have been called to gather.

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I am waking up the prophets in this hour. My people will not lack knowledge. They will hear the voice of the messengers and obey.

I saw many people climbing a mountain, some were walking (hiking), some were crawling (already tired or older ones), others were experts on climbing and they used the right equipment to get to the top faster (it seems like they did it many times). Everyone knew we were about to meet with the Lord.

## Seeking Him from My Watchtower

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### Day 14 - December 19, 2013

The Lord is giving us **Watchtower Instructions** in these 50 Days of Seeking the Lord. We will find **restoration when we REST in His Vineyard; and we will gain understanding of God's heart for the coming Season of Battle.**

As we go up the Mountain to seek the Lord, He has made it very clear that **we need to follow the Shepherd on this journey.** God has told us over and over that these days are a time of SEEKING Him as never before. He desires to speak clearly and abundantly to all who have an ear to hear what He is saying in this season.

**Isaiah 55:6** *"Seek the LORD while He may be **found**; call upon Him while He is near.*

**Proverbs 7:15** *"Therefore I have come out to meet you, to **seek** your presence earnestly, and I have **found** you."*

In these scriptures, the Father is calling out to us to seek Him and promising us we will find Him. He delights in our response of taking the time to meet Him, to earnestly persevere in seeking His presence, and the joy we have when we find Him!

The Hebrew word for **seek** in Isaiah is **darash**, which means to frequently walk after or follow; to worship; to diligently inquire; to ask questions; to search out. The Hebrew word for **seek** in Proverbs is **shachar**, which means to earnestly be up early at a task; to painstakingly search for; to diligently enquire early in the morning.

This seeking is not a casual, *"I'll look around and see if I see Him."* No, **this is a diligent and planned set-apart time of rising early to share concerns and questions with Him each and every day.**

**Webster's dictionary** further defines **seek** as **going from place to place on a quest looking for something.** This is played out as we go from scripture to scripture in the Word of God seeking for wisdom and insight.

When we diligently seek the Lord's presence and His truths, He promises He will be found. The Hebrew word for **found** is **matsa**, which means to come forth; to appear; to be present with us. **Webster's defines found** as to meet with; to rush to meet something not seen or known before; to recover by searching; to supply or provide; obtain knowledge of what is hidden; to understand or comprehend; to bring to light.

On this journey with the Lord, we are travelling paths we have never seen before. It is comforting to know that **when we diligently seek Him for direction, He will run to meet us and supply us with the wisdom, direction, and encouragement we need.**

**Psalms 23:3** *"He restores my soul; he leads me in paths of righteousness for His namesake."*

**We must seek Him every day, so that when distractions and distress come, we will not be moved away from the lifeline to the directions and instructions we will need to make it through.** Let's seek Him together in the watchtower.

**John 10:14** *"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me."*

Jesus is our Good Shepherd and He will provide everything we need. **Please read Psalm 23.** This is a powerful and comforting scripture to meditate on during the difficult times in our lives. He makes it clear that He wants us to know who He is in our lives, and how He plans to take care for us.

***The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...*** The Lord is our Shepherd and Lord of our life. We will not have want for anything, because He knows what we need for what is coming around the next bend in our journey and He will provide everything we need.

***He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul...*** He will make us to lie down and give us rest for our soul. Sometimes we do not know we need to be still and lie down in His presence, because we are distracted by so many things. He will lead us into the peaceful place of His presence, where He can heal our soul. This restoration is a renewing of our mind; submitting our will and desires to Him, and then He will stabilize our emotions in His peace. It is His desire to restore everything the enemy has stolen from us.

***He leads me in the path of righteousness For His Name's sake...*** He will lead us by His wisdom, and show us how to walk according to His Word so we can glorify Him.

***Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil For You are with me...*** Even though we will go through some difficult days, when we abide in Him and rest in His perfect love, He will cast out all fear. We rest in His love by knowing that He is with us each and every step of the way. Remember that our valley experiences are only a shadow of the mountain we will soon climb with Him.

***Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me...*** He will comfort and strengthen us with words of encouragement that will surround our mind with absolute peace.

***You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...*** In our honor, He will lift us on high and prepare a feast of His love, joy, and peace before our enemies. Come to His table of love, feast on His Word, and let it feed and nourish us, providing the strength we need to bear fruit. Learn to abide in Jesus and His Word.

***You anoint my head with oil, My cups runs over...*** Our head will be anointed by the Almighty as we stand in the Presence of the King. All the while, He is pouring His Spirit inside our heart until it overflows with greatness. Now we are filled with His oil that lights us as a lamp, and burns and shines before all men. When our cup runs over, we are able to give out of what He has given us. We must run to that secret place to be filled with His love that overflows into others.

***Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...*** We can be assured that we will never walk alone, for God has sent His goodness and mercy to pursue after us every day for the rest of our lives. Think about it, goodness is on one side, and mercy is on the other. They will keep us in the difficult days.

***And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*** When we spend time with Him, our time of dwelling with our heavenly Father for eternity, begins now!

**Read through this wonderful Psalm again and let the Holy Spirit impart revelation to your life circumstances right now.** Get out a journal, your Bible, and a pen and seek the presence and wisdom of the Lord.

A journal is a wonderful way of capturing the precious moments we spent in the presence of the Lord. There are no rules about what to write in your journal. It is your personal conversation book with God. Write to Him about your pains, joys, frustrations, faults, dreams, hopes, and even your love for Him. Then, stop and seek Him for a minute, and **let Him write back to you.** He will speak to your heart in ways that you cannot imagine. **He delights in talking to us, but so often we do not sit still long enough to let Him speak.** Make sure that you have your Bible close by when journaling. Many times the Lord will lead us to pick up His word, and we will be amazed at the scriptures He leads us to. God is faithful to speak to our hearts through His Word.

**What is Your View from Your Watchtower?** Take some time to just talk to the Lord. Ask Him what direction He wants for your life.

## **Prophetic Word**

**Psalm 91:1** *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”*

## Watchtower Sabbath Rest

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### Day 15 - December 20, 2013

The **first 12 days** of these 50 days of seeking the Lord, **God poured out His heart** to us. He gave us instructions for what is coming and what He expects from us. He wants our lives to be transformed by His words. The **next 12 days** will be a time of **dealing with our hearts** as we seek God to understand what He is saying for our own lives, so we can be prepared and ready for the changes that are coming.

As we are in the midst of seeking the Lord and reclaiming the land of people's heart for Him, we are bombarded by many distractions, disillusion, defilement, demonic attacks.... These are very wearying to our physical bodies and our souls (mind, will, and emotions). God is longing to speak to us, but it is difficult to hear Him clearly when we are so tired and burned out. God in His sovereignty knew we would tend to get this way on a regular basis, and since He wants no distance between us, He gave us a command to rest.

**Exodus 20:8** *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."*

I think it is amazing that the very thing we need on a weekly basis, God had to give in the form of a command. Even though our bodies need and crave rest, we will tend to push them to the limit, and only rest when we have no other choice. **Keeping the commandment to take a Sabbath rest is vital to all watchmen who are manning the Watchtowers of the Lord.**

The word Sabbath means an intermission, a time of stopping from exertion to rest. This sounds great doesn't it? That is why we can *"call the Sabbath a delight"*<sup>35</sup> **The Sabbath Day was commanded for us, to cease from all the work we do during the week.** God set a day aside for us to **lie down and rest, so we can then rise up renewed.** It is important for us to not only acknowledge the Sabbath but to partake of it as well.

God set the Sabbath day apart and became our example as to how we should honor that time. We must know that God established a time of rest not just for Himself, but most especially for us. He is a God who lives and sets examples for His children.

**Genesis 2:2-3** *"By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*

Today, we are overwhelmed with duties and responsibilities, meeting expectations, and setting goals; that resting seems more like a pastime than a reality. Many Christians today

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<sup>35</sup> Isaiah 58:13

believe that the laws established in the Old Testament do not apply to them, including the law concerning the Sabbath. They have somehow disregarded the Old Testament and only consider the New Testament to be God's law for today. However, this was not Jesus' view of the Old Testament law. **Please read Matthew 5:17-19.** Jesus came to fulfill the commandments of God, and to show how to live them in the truest sense to please God.

**Keeping the Sabbath is one of the 10 commandments God gave Moses for His people to obey.** We teach the 10 Commandments to our children, telling them to honor God and their parents; and to not lie, steal, kill...; while we totally ignore the commandment to take a time of rest. God knows how important this weekly rest is in the health of our relationship with Him. **We fight the very commandment that comes to bless us.**

*Isaiah 58:13-14 "If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and **call the Sabbath a delight**, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and honor it, **desisting from your own ways**, from seeking your own pleasure and speaking your own word, then you will take delight in the LORD, And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; ..."*

When we want to please God, He in return wants to bless us. The Lord is asking us to set a day aside that will honor Him, a time that we can ask the Father what He wants to do on your day of rest, to tell Him that you have set it aside as a holy day before Him. He wants to hear your voice say, "Lord, this is your day; let me delight in it with a heart of love and passion for you."

*Psalms 37:4 "Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*

The word **delight** means a high degree of pleasure or enjoyment. The Lord called the Sabbath a delight, and when we have this same pleasure for His Sabbath, He will give us the desires of our hearts. When we take the time to set a day aside for a Sabbath and ask the Lord what is it that He wants to do on this day, I believe He looks into our eyes and asks us what we want to do. Because my desires become His desires, whatever pleases us in our day of rest pleases Him, since we have honored Him in this day.

We must stop and hear from the Holy Spirit about the day we set aside as our day of rest. This day is set apart to be holy. **What is it He wants us to do?** If He says it's okay to sleep, then sleep; if He has something He wants you to study in His word, then take the time for deep study. If He allows you to read, then read; garden, then garden... Our relationship with God is personal; that is why we must hear from God ourselves.

**Please read Psalm 103:1-3** When we bless Him with our soul, we are saying with our mind, will, and emotions, "Lord, I want to honor You with my obedience." When we bless the Lord, He in return blesses us and renews our strength, so we can handle the challenges in the upcoming week.

Like any other commandment in the Word of God, **we have the option to obey and receive God's blessings, or disobey and experience the consequences** that are sure to follow.<sup>36</sup> Since God delights in our willingness to obey Him more than our sacrifice of hard work,<sup>37</sup> He won't force us to take a day of rest. He will, however, allow situations and circumstances in our lives that will make resting an essential part of our recovery or healing process.

One of the main reasons we do not obey God in this commandment is because we often think it is better to do more good works for God and His people than to take a day for "ourselves" to rest. But we must understand, God does not look at our works, but our heart. He is looking for a heart that is yielded to Him and His Word. When we are exhausted and burned out from work and lack of rest, **if we stay too busy, we will not be as effective in our prayers, studying God's word, or even ministering to others.**

**In our tired and burned out condition, we can expect to lose some of our greatest battles both physically and spiritually.** Physically, we are more susceptible to sickness and disease. We lack patience with others and are easily angered. **Spiritually, we are unable to spend quiet, intimate time alone with God. Thus, our ability to hear Him is lessened, and in our hurriedness, we miss the warnings that God uses as signals to keep us from going the wrong way.**

**Matthew 11:28-30** *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Come to Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, and find rest and refuge in Him. Whatever needs we have can be found in Him. We have the liberty, as children of God, to come to Him and **rest, knowing that He will replenish us and restore our strength.**

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<sup>36</sup> Deuteronomy 30:11-20

<sup>37</sup> 1 Samuel 15:22

## Seeking Jesus in the Watchtower to know His Rest

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### Day 16 - December 21, 2013

**Matthew 12:2** *"But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."*

Each of the 4 gospels record conversations between Jesus and the Pharisees about the Sabbath.<sup>38</sup> Over the years the Pharisees had taken on the responsibility to police the Sabbath, by **adding hundreds of their rules** for what cannot be done on that day. **This was never God's intention.**

In each of these accounts we see how the Pharisees were irate with Jesus, the Son of God, for not following **their rules**. **They even used that for why they did not think He was the Messiah.** **John 9:16** *"This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."* **But once they saw the power of God displayed for all to see, they kept silent.**

**Luke 14:3-6** *And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But **they kept silent**. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away. And He said to them, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?" **And they could make no reply to this.***

Jesus understood the true meaning of Sabbath rest. **Mark 2:27** *"Jesus said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."* **The Sabbath day is a day set apart for God to restore us;** and to bring love, peace, and joy to our lives.

I have seen people who misunderstood the Sabbath by saying, "I have to leave the ministry," when it becomes overwhelming, or "I cannot deal with people right now," because God is dealing with them. There may be a time when we need to get away, but sometimes we do it with the wrong attitude and motivation of heart. We do not even realize it, but oftentimes we hurt others by ignoring them or pushing them aside. God wants us to show love towards one another. **We must be sensitive to others when we pull away to rest.** If not, we'll soon find that we are not engaging in a true Sabbath, which God has sanctified for Himself, but just simply pulling away. He does not want us to offend others. If we see that we have, we must stop, repent, and reconcile with our brother.

**Matthew 5:23-24** *"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. "*

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<sup>38</sup> Matthew 12:1-13, Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-11, John 9

The Lord wants us to be able to come to Him with a pure heart, dealing with unforgiveness and hurt. **We need to let Him deal with those areas that will keep us from our time of rest with Him. If we set order in our life, prioritizing our daily times with Him, and make the time to rest; then God can fill our cup.** When we are walking in His presence, we are able to walk in love towards others.

### **Tips on establishing your day of rest.**

**Ask the Lord for a rest day;** your personal day of rest. **Ask Him to help you set aside that time.** Start slowly, and work yourself up to a full day if you cannot fit an entire day in your weekly schedule immediately. You can start with a half of day if you work all week, and Saturday is filled with responsibilities for the family. You must start somewhere, because you need this rest.

It is very important that you **communicate what you are doing** and how you would like to have a day set aside for resting. Go to your family, roommate, and others, who live with you; and in love, share with them what you would like to do. Please pray first and ask the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts. If you are living with an unsaved spouse who does not understand the ways of God, he or she could be resistant to your plan. Pray for your spouse and give God time to work on their heart. Continue to serve them and love them through this season, until God opens up the door of heaven for you. It will come.

Do not make this a religious day with rules, feeling that you cannot rest. **Going to sleep is spiritual,** because God said He wanted you to be refreshed. Refreshed means to provide vigor: healthy physical and mental energy or power. **He wants you to rest for your health, so that you will have energy to be used by Him effectively.** Delight in Him, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Ask the Lord of your rest day what He wants to do. He is faithful to respond in love!

**We cannot be selfish on our day of rest.** I had to understand that once my husband and children came home on my day of rest, I had to cook and make sure I served them. Jesus wants to make sure we don't make the Sabbath a selfish, religious day like the Pharisees.

**Discipline yourself so that it becomes a lifestyle and second nature.** Remember that this is a process, it will take time. Make the effort and start working it into your weekly schedule. Be aware of your Sabbath day when making appointments for yourself and others; but know God will give you grace when this cannot be avoided.

**Spend time seeking the Lord on your Sabbath.** Without the pressures of many things to do on this day, **you will find yourself hearing more from God through worship, prayer, and His Word!**

*Lord, help me to understand that the Sabbath was made for man. I recognize that it is a holy day that You set apart for me to rest and be restored. Help me to plan my Sabbath so that I may enter into your rest. I want to please You in every way, and I will bless your holy name.*

## Watchmen, Hear and Understand

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### Day 17 - December 22, 2013

The Lord is challenging us to come into His vineyard, to prepare ourselves for the coming harvest. He has asked us to **build watchtowers in our vineyards** (communities) to pray and warn the people of what the Lord is saying in this hour to those who have an ear to hear. We have been bombarded by many distractions and distresses all intending to take our focus off the Lord and to muddle the words He is speaking.

The Lord told us yesterday that He is dealing with our hearts and we must seek Him for understanding on how to walk out the messages He has given us. **If we are going to see growth in the chosen field the Lord has placed us in, the seeds of God's messages must go deep into our hearts so we can reap a hundred fold.**

**Please read Matthew 15:7-20.**

The Lord keeps telling us that we must be careful to not follow the traditions of man but to seek the true ways of God. In verse 10 He calls us to **"hear and understand."**

We must understand that our hearts are desperately wicked.<sup>39</sup> We do not understand them, but God does. He tells us that the words we speak even though they come out of our mouths, they originate in our hearts. If we problems controlling the words coming out of our mouths, we really have a heart issue.<sup>40</sup> We say we want to come close, but in reality our hearts are far away. **He is here to cleanse our hearts so we can come close and hear His voice.**

**Matthew 15:13** *"But He answered and said, every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted."*

The time is coming and is here that we must choose which voice to listen to. If we don't let God deal with our hearts we will let the flesh and the wounds of our heart keep us from hearing Him; and we will not be obedient to His voice, but the voice of others, including all the voices inside of us. If we do not draw near to Jesus to hear and understand, we will follow others (blind guides) whose hearts are not right with God, and we will find ourselves in a place of being uprooted. **The Lord is giving us so much of His heart and hidden truths that will bring us close, but we must have a heart to hear and understand.**

**Please read Matthew 13:10-23**

Jesus knew some of the people would not hear and understand what He was saying because their hearts were dull (lacked interest, no excitement). If they had understood with

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<sup>39</sup> Jeremiah 17:9-10

<sup>40</sup> Luke 6:45

their hearts they would have let Him heal them so they could turn to Him with their whole hearts. That is why the Word of God must go deep into our hearts.

**Mathew 13:19** is key to understanding. *“When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”*

As we saw before, the enemy is crouching nearby waiting for an opportunity to quickly seize and take by force every word we hear (but do not understand) from God and His Word.

The Greek word for **understanding** is *sunesis*. It literally means putting two and two together, quickness of apprehension, assessing or evaluating a situation. We must take the time to read God’s Word, use it to evaluate every situation we are going through, and then act on it accordingly. This sounds like the right thing to do, yet it is such a hard discipline. **We must put two (situation) and two (Word of God) together so we can walk in understanding.** In order to do this, we must not be in a hurry to make decisions or even to speak. **We must stop before we move, slow down and rest in Him until we can discern His Voice and not ours.**

We must **slow down**, and then **stop to listen for His voice** so we can **hear Him alone**. If we do not do this every day, the enemy will suddenly take over our words. When this happens, we operate out of our flesh and not out of the Holy Spirit. We must learn to silence the fleshly parts of our heart so they will not influence our soul (our mind, will, and emotions) to cause our flesh to rise up in angry and hurtful words. This opens a door for the enemy to come in to devour, and to separate us from the voice of God. This leaves us blind and deaf; so that we cannot hear or see.

Blind people cannot open up other blind people’s eyes or can a deaf man open the ears of the deaf. We must be careful to not be blind guides leading the blind into a ditch. There is great spiritual blindness and deafness to the Lord in this hour. God is calling us to be His chosen ones, to walk in His Spirit to open blind eyes and bring the prisoners out of the darkness<sup>41</sup>.

God has great expectations for His chosen ones. We must separate ourselves from all the distractions of this world and open up our ears to hear and our eyes to see.

We must turn **Matthew 13:14 -15** around. **We must keep hearing and understanding. We must keep on seeing and perceiving. Our hearts must Not become dull, and our ears must hear. We must open up our eyes and our ears so we can understand with our hearts and return to you with all of our heart!**

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<sup>41</sup> Isaiah 42:7

## New Things Revealed to the Watchmen

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### Day 18 - December 22, 2013

**Colossians 3:1-2** *"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth."*

God's desire is for all mankind to have a change occur in our minds. As we have lived in the flesh on this earth, we have set our minds on earthly things. We have become accustomed to thinking and doing things the way our ancestors have done them in our homes and in our churches. We focus on the things of this world; all the while singing songs about this is not our home, we are heaven bound. Paul reminds us in Colossians to seek the things above and to set our minds on the things above, not the things of the earth.

**Please read Colossians 3:3-17.**

We desire to live our lives the way the Lord asks us to, but we still have a lot of earthly stuff going on in our bodies – flesh giving way to sin! We must put **"aside the old self and its evil practices and put on a new self who is being renewed"** into the image of Jesus. We must understand we are holy and beloved, God's chosen ones. Our attitudes and behaviors must exhibit who He is in our lives. **During this time of seeking the Lord, as we go up the mountain into His vineyard, may we allow Him and His Word to richly dwell in our hearts!**

**Please read Isaiah 42:6-13**

Isaiah 42 is a prophetic word to the last day's remnant. The Lord has called us in righteousness, and He promises that He will be with us every step of the way as we step out and bring His light to those who are in darkness. **Wherever we go and whatever we do must be preceded with prayer, so the atmosphere for His presence is set.**

**Isaiah 42: 9** *"Behold, the former things have come to pass, now **I declare new things**; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."*

God is **taking us away from the former things**, our former ways of doing things for Him, former way of worshipping Him... This is so hard for us because we are comfortable in the place we have been for so long. But in these last days, the Lord is bringing us **new things**, His prophetic word as never before. **If we stay in our old ways, we will become blind and deaf to the new thing the Lord is doing.** We must open up our eyes to see Him now as never before. **We will see Him and sing the new songs of heaven** because **God is bringing us into a place where we can see Him.** Now we can speak to those in the **wilderness** (those who are going through hard times), in the **mountains** (those who are actively engaged with God), and those on the **coastlines** (those who are on the edge of

receiving the Lord); and **show them the Glory of God**. All will see the Lord come forth as a mighty warrior to bring freedom to His people and to prevail against His enemies.

**Please read Amos 5:21-26.**

God hates our “church stuff”, the busy things we do, the former things. We must learn His way of **justice and righteousness, the new way**. As we are seeking Him today, ask God to search your heart for the former things that must be purged to make room for the new things He is wanting to do. Our hearts must be changed in this time of preparation so we can clearly hear what God is going to do. He will always tell His prophets what He will do beforehand.

**Please read Isaiah 42: 14-18.**

God has held back His wrath for a long time, but now the time has come for judgment to come to the earth, and He is coming after His enemy. But look at God’s heart in **verse 16**. *“I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains.”* His heart is for the lost and the backslidden to come to Him, so He can open up His heart to them.

**God is looking for leadership that will hear His voice and return to Him with pure hearts and minds; so they can clearly and purely hear what the Lord is saying.** God has given us His Word and with the new Covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ, He has written His word on our hearts. God will honor His leadership if we will walk in the ways of His Word and purely give it to His people.

**Please read Malachi 1:6-14.**

**Will we honor God in our hearts, words and actions with the respect He deserves as Almighty God?** If we honor Him, He will bless and honor us. But we must know, there are conditions to our relationship with God. Over and over again in His Word He explains the blessing that come with obedience, and the curses that come with disobedience. **God holds His leaders to a very high standard, because they are to lead the people.** If they are walking in unrighteousness, they cannot lead the people to righteousness. Men, if you as the head of your household are not walking in righteousness, how can you expect your family to walk right with the Lord? God is serious about the role of His leaders before the people.

**Please read Numbers 20:1-13.**

The people came to Moses, their leader, when they were in the wilderness. They complained once again that they were miserable and they needed to be taken care of. Moses had to do something to get them water. God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would come forth. Out of his frustration with the people, Moses disobeyed God and struck the rock with his staff. God was displeased with Moses because he disrespected God before the people.

**Deuteronomy 6:16** *"You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah."*

The Hebrew word for **tempted** is *nasah*, which means to put to a test, to prove. To test to see if He will respond. In the wilderness, Moses and the people grieved the Lord by limiting Him and testing His patience and His power.

Please take time to seek the Lord with a heart of repentance for the times you have led out of disobedience. Ask the Lord for His forgiveness and cleansing.

**Please read Malachi 2:1-7.**

God gave His leaders as a covenant to all people. Malachi speaks of the covenant He has made with His leaders. The law of truth is to be in their mouths and justice in their hearts, so many would turn away from iniquity. The priests (leaders) are to be the messengers of the Lord of Hosts and their lips should speak and honor knowledge as they speak to the people the truths of God.

**Isaiah 42:22** says that the people have been robbed and plundered, and **where is the leadership that will restore them?** Who is among you who will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?

We must come up the mountain to hear from God. When we are in the appointed place at His appointed time we will see and hear Him clearly for the new thing He is doing in this hour.

# Hope through the Deep Darkness

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## Day 19 - December 24, 2013

Deep darkness is coming and it is here. These are times of great testing of our faith, times of choosing who we truly will serve. As that chasm gets larger and larger between those who believe and those who do not, we will no longer be able to have one foot in the church and the other foot in the world. It will become impossible in the near future.

God told us in the beginning of these 50 days that distractions darkness, defilement, distress, delusions and demonic attacks were coming and we must not be caught unawares. We must go up the mountain and drink from the rivers of living water, the river of love and faith. The river of love and faith is great!!! It will strengthen us from the distractions, distresses, delusions, and demonic attacks. We must drink from this river every day. It was given to strengthen us to be courageous.

**There is territory the Lord wants us to regain**, just as in the days of Joshua. As the Lord had him and the children of Israel cross over the Jordan to take the Promised Land, He promised that He would be with them and commanded them to be strong and courageous.

*Joshua 1:5-7 "...I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, be careful to do accordingly all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn to the right or the left, so that you may have success wherever you go."*

They would face many obstacles, distractions, and deceptions along the way to walk out the promises of the Lord. We know what the Lord has promised for the times we are living in, and He will be with us every step of the way. Our responsibilities are to walk carefully with Him and to be strong and courageous.

**The Hebrew word for strong** used in Joshua is *chazaq* which means to fasten yourself to, to be helped, to conquer. When we fasten ourselves to the Lord He will help us conquer all our enemies.

**The Hebrew word for courageous is *amats*** which means to be alert and steadfast. As God strengthens us with His presence, He wants us to be alert to what is going on around us, and at the same time not moved by it all. We can be steadfast to God through all of the trials around us because He has been faithful throughout all time. Our hope is in Him!

*Romans 15:13 "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

**The Greek word for hope is confidence and expectation.** When we have confidence in God we can always have great expectation in our hearts that He is with us, and we can rely upon Him and trust Him that He will work all things out for our good and His glory! Sometimes how He works things out are not what we expect, but we can be confident that they are the best for us in the long run.

**Romans 5:1-5** *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and **we exult in hope of the glory of God.** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing **that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint,** because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

This is a glorious scripture to memorize when we are confronted by various tribulations; that we can exult (rejoice) in hope knowing that our character is being tested and approved by God. With His great pleasure, God’s love is poured out within our hearts like a great river.

When God’s love is abundantly in us, we are then able to pour out love to those around us, sharing the hope that is in us.

**Romans 12:10-12** *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in **diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.**”*

**Please read Hebrews 6:1-12.**

As we are growing in the Lord, and as the distractions grow, let us show diligence to the end secure in the full assurance of His hope!

## I am Here, Will you Come Near?

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### Day 20 - December 25, 2013

**Psalm 90:1-2** *“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”*

**God desires to dwell with us not only in heaven for all eternity, but here on earth.** He is here, but we must long for His presence. He wants to be with us every moment of every day. We must understand that we are His temple. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we must be very careful of everything we do, say, or think in His presence. He wants to come close; but **He is holy and must be treated as holy.**

**2 Corinthians 6:16-18** *“Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**; just as God said, **‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ‘Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,’ says the Lord. And **do not touch what is unclean**; and I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.”***

Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins, but when we sin **we must act quickly to repent.** If we do not, sin that is crouching at our door, will come in and fester in our soul. We must get in the habit of calling upon God in repentance every time we sin.

**Isaiah 59:1-2** *“Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that It cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”*

God is here with us, living inside of us. **Are we doing all that is necessary to live in a way to foster the presence of God at all times?**

**1 John 3:23-24** *“This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*

God desires to come near and abide in us. Please spend some time seeking the Lord, searching for answers to the following questions. Will we choose to come close to God every moment of every day? Will we slow down to wait for Him for every decision? **Do we cherish His presence, or do we take it for granted?**

**2 Timothy 1:14** *“Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”*

We don't have the cloud and the fire to physically show us God's presence like the sons of Israel had in the wilderness. We must take heed of the **casual attitude they had of God's presence** in their midst every moment of every day. If they could see Him and yet still complain and rebel against God, how much more might we who do not see with our physical eyes. This human trait of **not being steadfast in our attentions, is something we must fight against.**

We as believers in Jesus Christ have something greater dwelling in us, the Holy Spirit. We must always treasure God's presence and always have an attitude of great hope and confidence, rejoicing like King David when the Ark (the symbol of God's presence) was placed in Jerusalem.

**1 John 4:15-16** *“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”*

We can see the dangers of taking God's presence for granted in the book of Joshua. God had specific strategies for each battle. When they asked of the Lord, they had amazing victories. But when they did not ask of Him or did not obey Him, they had tragic losses and consequences. **Please read Joshua 7** of their loss at Ai, **Joshua 8** with their victory at Ai, and **Joshua 9** with the covenant they made with people of Gibeon who deceived them.

**Joshua 8:8** *“...You shall do it (God's battle plan) according to the word of the Lord. See I have commanded you.”*

**Joshua 9: 14** *“So the men of Israel...did not ask for the counsel of the Lord.”*

After that, Joshua sought the Lord's presence and counsel. He followed all of God's battle plans and had great success.

**Joshua 11:9** *“and Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him...”*

**Our flesh is the enemy who gets in the way of abiding in God's presence.** It distracts us with many things to **take God's presence for granted**, not treating His presence as the precious gift that it is. Our flesh wants its way from time to time, causing **rebellion in our thoughts, words and actions.** Our flesh convinces us we have waited long enough in certain struggles and we must **take actions into our own hands;** instead of waiting on the Lord for His deliverance in His perfect time and in His perfect way. When we do not live our lives every moment in the full awareness of God's presence, it is so easy to lose ground, to back slide. This is a slippery slope that leads to a deterioration in our relationship with God.

Look at God's wonderful promises to those who dwell with the Lord.

**Ephesians 3:16-20** *“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit** in the inner man, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; and that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may **be filled up to all the fullness of God**. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,”*

We must come to fully understand and appreciate God's presence in our lives. It is God's greatest desire.

### **Prophetic Word**

*I am here, will you quiet yourselves? Will you inquire of Me?  
Will you wait for Me to answer you, so I can lead you to Green Pastures?  
This is My desire, will you not come near to Me?  
For I am here, so very near.  
Come, come to Me, and inquire in My temple.*

## Come Let us Adore Him

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### Day 21- December 26, 2013

This is a very busy season in our families and churches as we are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; along with all the distractions that have come as we have been seeking to get closer to the Lord. **The Lord has been working in our hearts to bring us closer to Him so we can clearly hear His voice in preparation for His return.** For some, this has been a difficult process as the Lord is revealing the remaining darkness in our hearts and the struggle of our flesh to let go. We have been wearied in the struggle between light and dark, added to the stress of celebrating Christmas. It is often hard to find the Joy and Peace we often sing about.

Over the last few weeks I am sure you have heard and sung the words of the Christmas carol, "Come let us adore Him". As I was singing this last night, I was struck that **we do not do enough adoring of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Let us today take a break from all that has been going on around us, and put all of our focus on the Lord and come and adore Him all day long.

**Adore** means to worship or honor as God, to regard with loving admiration and devotion.

He is magnificent in all His ways. He is worthy of all praise and glory and honor. He is Almighty God, our Redeemer, our Savior, and our friend.

**Please read the following verses and see how Moses, David, and Solomon have spoken adoration to the Lord; and then let Him know how much you adore Him as you reflect on His magnificence all throughout the day.**

**Exodus 15:1-18** (verse 11) *"Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"*

**Psalm 72:18-19** *"Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders. And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen."*

**Psalm 86:10 -12** *"For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God. Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever."*

**Psalm 136:1-9** (verse 4) *"To Him who alone does great wonders, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;"*

**1 Kings 8:23** *“He said, O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,”*

When the throne room of God is described, there are always many angelic beings showing their adoration of the Lord as they are singing praises to the Lord. **Please read Isaiah 6:1-4 and Revelation 4:1-11.**

**May we live to adore the Lord;** not just with our mouths, but with our entire being. **Lead us Lord to be vessels of adoration of You!**

# Will we Inherit the Kingdom of God?

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**Day 22 - December 27, 2013**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** tells us that in the last days, we will have difficult times because the behavior of mankind will be controlled by the flesh and it will manifest in unholy behaviors (lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, unholy, unloving, lovers of pleasure...). The eye opening aspect of these verses is that Paul was **speaking of believers, who “hold a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.”**

How can this be? **The enemy comes to distract and ensnare our flesh to rise up and cause ugly and unholy behaviors.** We hate when our flesh rises up and wish God would just kill that enemy outright. But our flesh is fighting hard to stay!

Our hearts must be totally for God and not for our fleshly desires. It is tragic when the enemy can come into the midst of a church that was established by God and make it into an **unholy place**. It can have the outer trappings of a place of God, but it will have **no power to affect the community** it is located in. The people gather together, but they are not holy.

We must have holiness and not a form of godliness that denies the power of God to move through us. **When we do not walk in holiness we are refusing to permit the power of God to operate in our lives and in our churches.** This will stop or hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit. A good check to see if we are walking in holiness is to see if the fruit of the Spirit is evident, plain for all to see, in our lives. **Can we sense and can those around us see in us love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, self-control, gentleness, goodness and faithfulness?**

Or are the deeds of the flesh evident? **Please read the deeds of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21,26; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-16; and Colossians 3:5-9.** Spend time in prayer seeking the Lord, to uncover and cleanse us of the deeds of the flesh that are still evident in your life. Little by little God will bring us to holiness; as He washes, sanctifies, and justifies us in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

**We must not be deceived, God’s wrath will come to all the sons of disobedience, those who allow the flesh to rule and reign.** He continues to **exhort us to Not Participate with the flesh and its unholy desires**, and to avoid those who do walk in the dark deeds of the flesh.<sup>42</sup>

We must be awakened and rise from the death of our flesh, and let the light of Christ shine in us. We must walk carefully, with wisdom, making the most of the time we are here on

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<sup>42</sup> Ephesians 5:6-7

earth. We must be wise so we can understand the will of God. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit and understand the power of worship that is from God.<sup>43</sup>

**Hear the heart of our loving Heavenly Father in Colossians 3:2-15.** He tells us to focus our minds on the things above (walk in the deeds of the Spirit) and not on things on the earth (deeds of the flesh). He does not want us to be subject to His coming wrath against the deep darkness. **The more we die to the flesh, the more our lives are hidden with Christ in God.** As we put on the new man, we will be renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created us. **We are the elect of God, holy and beloved,** so we must put on love, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. When we walk in the Spirit, the peace of Christ will rule in our heart!

One phrase sticks out in these lists of the deeds of the flesh, is that **“those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”** Through Jesus, we are to be heirs of the Spiritual riches of God. But when we do not walk in holiness as Jesus walked, we cannot receive or come into the possession of the Kingdom. Our conversations with God are one way. **We cannot hear His words of comfort or direction, and our prayers are not answered.**

**In order for us to inherit the Kingdom and to walk in the fullness of the Lord here on earth,** we must **repent of our fleshly deeds** and ask the Lord to cleanse us from all unholiness. In order to walk this out, **we will need the wisdom of God!** Let's be like the young man Solomon, who came before the Lord with a pure heart filled with the light of God and not his flesh<sup>44</sup>. He asked God for wisdom to be a good King, to honor God and the people; and not for riches and power.

*Colossians 3:16-17. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”*

**God's wisdom is what we need in this hour to overcome the enemy;** and it will be found in His Word and in worship, through the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our understanding comes when we walk out His Word.

He is longing to speak to His people; will we listen? **The Lord is also asking us to teach others what He has given us; in all the various forms He is speaking in this hour. We must not store up for ourselves the wisdom God reveals to us, we must share it; so the bride of Christ is prepared and ready for His return.**

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<sup>43</sup> Ephesians 5:14-20

<sup>44</sup> 1 Kings 3:5-10

## **Prophetic Word**

*I call you, beloved, to ignite a passion to live in My kingdom and to move in the flow of My Spirit without compromise. This will require a concentrated and fundamental effort to make that dedication a priority and to put everything else as secondary to My purposes. But, doing this is the only way to grow spiritually and experience personal, vital relationship with Me, says the Lord. Draw near!*

# The Law of Liberty

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## Day 23 - December 28, 2013

As we read in God's Word, we see that the "law of liberty" in Christ differs from the law God gave to Moses. **One of the main reasons God gave the law to Moses was out of love for His chosen people.** God knew that without His Holy Spirit giving them life that the people would be hopelessly in bondage to sin and the flesh. If left to their own devices they would drift away, as all other people had, into immorality and detestable practices that would not only keep them distant from God who is holy, but would also cause God in His righteousness to have to judge them. So, God gave them laws out of His love for them that would serve as boundary lines to keep them close to Him, and away from judgment.

**Romans 3: 19-20** *"Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."*

Unfortunately, we also see in the law the inability of man living by the power of the flesh to please God. Only Christ was able to follow the law in perfect obedience, and through faith in Christ we receive His perfect record of obedience. The Law of Moses was fulfilled perfectly in Him, and by being counted in His death, burial, and resurrection through faith, we too are counted as righteous. This is our justification—receiving Christ' righteousness through faith, apart from works. There is no longer fear of judgment, because Jesus has fulfilled the obligations of the law for us and removed our sins.

**Ephesians 2: 8-9** *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Now that we are no longer *"justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ"*<sup>45</sup>, God has given us a new law which James refers to as the "law of liberty."

### **Please read Hebrews 8.**

The author of Hebrews says that it is a "new and better covenant" and that it replaces the old covenant. **God shows us is that this law of liberty, like the first law, has to do with love.** Now that we are born again and have God's very Spirit dwelling within us, we are no longer bound to sin and unable to seek God. **By the Spirit's leading we can choose God and the things that He delights in every day and every moment.** It is no longer required

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<sup>45</sup> Galatians 2:16

that He give us a list of rules to keep us from drifting away, for our new hearts and spirits no longer desire those things.

**Song of Solomon 8:11-12** *"Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he entrusted the vineyard to caretakers. Each one was to bring a thousand shekels of silver for its fruit. My very own vineyard is at my disposal; the thousand shekels are for you, Solomon, and two hundred are for those who take care of its fruit."*

There was a time when we were like the tenants who rented Solomon's vineyard in Baal Hamon; we had a duty and responsibility to the King to bring Him what was owed (the Law of Moses). But in Solomon's bride we see one who shares in the King's dominion and royalty—she has her own vineyard and has the freedom (liberty) to do with it as she pleases. It is now out of love and not obligation that she gives the thousand shekels of silver to Solomon.

**This is what God desires of his bride. This is a higher form of love than obeying the written commands, because it is a love that comes freely from the heart.** It is the difference between having a child who has a list of rules and regulations from their parent that they follow, and a child who knows their parent's heart and does what they know will make their parent happy without being told. This is what God has always desired, but before Christ when we were ruled by our flesh we were incapable of loving God in this way.

**Now by the Spirit, we no longer give God sacrifices based on commands, but on love.** We pray, not because we have to but because we love God. We fast, not because we have to but because we want more of Him! We remove distractions, not because someone else makes us feel guilty, but because we love Him!! God wants us to be holy and set apart in many ways, but if it is without love it is useless. **Please read 1 Corinthians 13.** He wants a captivated heart! For this reason He has removed the restrictions of the Law, so that we can love Him more deeply and freely.

What this means is that we are no longer simply living by a list of "do's and don'ts," but now the law is "written on our hearts" meaning **we are now living by the day-to-day and moment-by-moment leading of the Holy Spirit.** We should not teach other believers that they are required to pray... as much as we do, or judge them according to the standards the Holy Spirit has led us to personally. We must be careful "not to go beyond what is written," for if we teach others to live exactly as we do and do not let the Holy Spirit lead them, we will run the risk of leading them into legalism and a righteousness built on works of the flesh and not on faith. Like the apostle Paul, we must encourage them to be "led by the Spirit so they will not give in to the desires of the flesh."<sup>46</sup>

**We must be aware that the flesh desires to lead us into sin, and does not want us walking in righteousness.** The *"flesh profits nothing"* so we must not teach others to obey

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<sup>46</sup> Galatians 5:16

regulations about "do not handle, do not taste, do not touch" for, "such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence."<sup>47</sup>

Rather, we must teach others to listen to the Spirit. This is why Paul says to some people one day is more holy than another, and to other people each day is alike, and each person should be convinced in their own mind.<sup>48</sup> God no longer gives explicit commands to every believer about which days to honor as He used to with the Jews, calling some days to be set apart for the Lord. Now, Paul says each believer should be convinced within their own heart whether God is telling them to set a certain day apart to honor God, or whether each day should be offered to God the same.

**Colossians 2:16-17, 23** *"Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ... These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence."*

The law of liberty is the law of love. It is no longer the command and the fear of judgment motivating our behavior, but love for God. **It has always been the heart that God judges and examines; the motive has always meant more to Him than the action itself.** This is why God so often hated the seeming obedience of the Israelites, because their heart was not in it. They actually desired sin and had evil thoughts, so their fasts, sacrifices, and temple service did not satisfy Him. *"These people serve Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me."*<sup>49</sup>

Because we are now free from most explicit commands, **it should be more obvious where our hearts are.** In our freedom from commands, rules, and regulations we choose to honor God because we love and desire Him, or are we using our freedom from commands to be lazy and do nothing, or even worse to sin?

**Galatians 5:13** *"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

## **Prophetic Word**

*There are things that still need to be brought into order before you can be ready for the next great spiritual season. You must fulfill the requirements of coming into order before you can yield to the rule of My Spirit. Prepare your heart for changes, whether easy or hard. I am preparing and positioning you now, says the Lord. Your flesh will resist, but in your overcoming, your spirit will yield.*

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<sup>47</sup> Colossians 2:21-23

<sup>48</sup> Romans 14:4-6

<sup>49</sup> Isaiah 29:13

## Walking in the Promise of Eternal Life

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### Day 24 - December 29, 2013

**Matthew 19:16** *"And someone came to Him and said, Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"*

**Have you ever asked, what good thing can I do to have eternal life?** This is a universal question that man has had throughout the ages. Jesus answered the young man who asked Him this question by first saying there is nothing in us that makes us good, nothing at all. **In order to have anything good in us, we have to have the Spirit of the Living God living inside of us,** bottom line. No works can be done on earth to earn or inherit the kingdom of God, nothing. Eternal life only comes with the grace that is offered to all in salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ.

**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.**"*

The Greek word for **eternal** is *aiōnios* which means perpetual, unchanging, of unlimited duration, unending, without beginning or end.

When we receive the promise of eternal life, it does not mean we are taken out of this world and all our trials and tribulations, or that we need to receive Jesus to fix our immediate problems. **Eternal life is a deep and abiding relationship with the entirety of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** They desire to intimately commune with us and us with them. They desire to flood our hearts with love, peace and joy immeasurable. Eternal life is something that begins now and goes on forevermore. Jesus explains that **there is a response that all believers must have to the gift of eternal life.** Jesus was not just speaking to the man who asked Him the question, but to the Church today, His own children. For the one who wants more of God, Jesus makes it very plain what we must do.

**Matthew 29:17** *"...If you wish to enter in to life, keep the commandments."*

Jesus says if you want to enter into eternal life with Me and leave death (all dead things), you must first keep God's commandments. In the Old Testament law it was a requirement to keep the commandments of God. But Jesus was bringing in a **New Covenant that was going to require something from us in this relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**Jeremiah 31:31-33** *"Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant...** I will put My law within them and **on their heart I will write it;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

With this New Covenant the Lord will **bind and seal His heart with the heart of the believer, to help us keep His commandments.** Now when we say we love Him, our

hearts are bound with His! We will be able to keep our vows to love Jesus with all of our heart when we allow the Holy Spirit to deal with our hearts.

**Please read Matthew 19:20-22.** The young man tells Jesus he has kept all these commandment since his youth. What was he saying to the Lord? He was speaking from his works and not his heart. **Jesus was challenging the young man's heart not to work for the love of the Father, but to simply Love God with all his heart!**

The young man asked a very relevant question that all believers who desire more in their relationship with God should ask, **"What do I lack? How have I come short or lagged behind in Your expectations for our relationship?"** He essentially tells Jesus, ok I have done all these works for Father God, what have I not done, what is missing, where have I failed? He is looking at his works for God and not his close relationship with the Lord. **That is why he senses an emptiness, a desire for more with God.**

Today we could be asking the same question, **what can we do to go beyond where we are now with God?** We say there has to be more than going to church and doing good works in the church? We feel moments of life, but then go back to the deadness. **How can we experience the love, joy, and peace of God that is promised with eternal life?** Remember, eternal life starts when we accept the free gift of salvation, and then it goes on forever and ever! **If we are waiting for eternal life to start after we die and go to heaven, we are missing out on what God has for us now!** Our eternal life is now and forever. **Eternal life is not a waiting; it is an action we are to walk out with Him daily.**

**Please read Matthew 19:21- 30.**

**Matthew 19:21** Jesus says, now if you want to be a mature believer, one who is complete in Him, *"Go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

Jesus further explains the heart attitude that is required for whole hearted devotion to Him, in **verse 29.** *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life."*

It is the Lords ultimate heart to help us fulfill our destiny with Him forever. Jesus knew we were going to worry about the cares of this world and all that it has to offer. Jesus knew that the riches of this world would consume and distract us because of what it has to offer our flesh. But He is offering us so much more that the world could ever give us, eternal life and glory.

**Luke 12:22-34** *"... do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing... But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to charity; make*

*yourselves money belts which do not wear out, **an unfailing treasure in heaven**, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**Eternal life in the Kingdom of God is an unfailing treasure that will satisfy us more than the things of this world; and best of all it will bring us closer and closer to Him!**

**Please read Luke 12:35-40.** This is where we get the instruction for 12:40 watchtowers, as we walk out the requirements for those who are willing to let go of everything in life to follow Him.

- Let your waist be girded – we must **be prepared and ready for action**
- Let your lamps be lit and brightly burning – We must be like the 5 wise virgins **waiting for their bridegroom**
- We must **know His voice** so we will have hearts to **immediately open our hearts to Him.**
- We must **be found waiting with open hearts.**

Jesus is preparing us for His Wedding Feast. Are we ready?

## Drink from the River of Life

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### Day 25 - December 30, 2013

**Isaiah 55:1** *"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, **come to the waters**; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy **wine and milk** without money and without cost."*

Everyone who comes to the Lord is offered water, wine and milk. **The wine represents the shed blood of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ which brings us great joy!**

**Mathew 26:28** *"for this is My blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."*

**1 Peter 1:8** *"and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory"*

Jesus shed His blood for us so we can draw close, which **fills us with unlimited joy.**

**The milk represents the Word of God, which provides the nutrition we need to grow in the Lord.** As we grow in the Lord through His Word we are at **peace**, just like a nursing baby.

**1 Peter 2:2** *"like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of the word**, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,*

**The Water represents the Living Water offered by the Holy Spirit to all believers.**

**John 7:38-39** *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*

We see the power in the unity of these three abounding in our lives.

**Romans 15:13** *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace** in believing, so that you will **abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**"*

Jesus offers all believers an invitation to come to the water and drink. We see the same invitation mentioned when He met the Samaritan woman at the well.

**Please read John 7:4-30**

**John 4:10** *“Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the **gift of God**, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**.”*

**John 4:13-14** *“Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a **well of water springing up to eternal life**.”*

Just as the physical body needs water to survive, **the spiritual body needs the living water every day to have eternal life**, which yesterday we saw was a **vibrant intimate relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. Jesus is inviting us to drink of Him every day in order to have this abundant life.

Did you notice how much water is offered to us? **John 7:38** says it is rivers of living water, and **John 4:14** calls it a well of water springing up (as in a fountain or geyser). These are both **unlimited quantities of water**. Whenever we feel spiritually dry it is not because the water dried up, but because we have strayed away from the living water. Do we see this **living water as the Gift of God** Jesus said it is?

**Revelation 22:1** *“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,”*

This river of living water **flows from the throne of God, from His heart**. The **water is clear as crystal, meaning it is pure and undefiled**. This pure water gives life, cleansing, and healing (completeness and wholeness) to all who drink of it.

**Revelation 21:6-7** *“... I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”*

When we come and drink of the Living water of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to overcome our enemies and have a change of heart - from defiled to pure.

**Matthew 5:8** *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”*

This water opens up our hearts for the Lord and for others, as it flows through us to cleanse and change our hearts for His Glory. On this everlasting journey, we need to drink from the living water so we can see Him clearly!

**Let's look at a natural river and how it flows** to understand the flow of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of drinking from the living water in our lives for the journey.

**A river starts in the mountains** and eventually it **flows downhill into a large body of water**, such as an ocean, bay, or sea. The transition between river and the larger body of water is known as a **delta**. This is an area where the river divides into many channels, and

the river water mixes with water in the sea or lake as it reaches the end of its journey. A famous example of a delta is where the Nile River meets the Mediterranean Sea in Egypt, called the Nile Delta.

From the mountains to the delta, a river does not just passively flow, it changes the surface of the earth. It cuts rocks, moves boulders, and deposits sediments (remains of matter, residues), constantly attempting to carve away all the terrain in its path. The goal of the river is to create a wide, flat valley where it can flow smoothly towards the ocean.

When we drink from the flow of this river **it comes to change our heart by cutting away the hard rocks of our life; to moves boulders (stones) of wounds and hurts; putting in our heart the remains of Himself as the water passes through us.** The living waters are constantly cutting away all the hard places of our heart that are hindrances to the smooth flow of the living waters. **It is creating a new path as it changes the old into the new.** Its goal is to clear our heart and make a path that will allow the smooth flow of living water to and from the throne of God. In the Revelation description of the Throne Room of God we see a pure body of water. This is where we have a constant flow that reaches the heart of God.

**Revelation 4:6** *“and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal...”*

**Please stop before you start your busy day, and drink from the milk, wine and water the Lord is inviting us to partake of.** Seek Him in the drinking. We must accept the invitation and begin to cry out with the Spirit in Oneness.

**Revelation 22:17** *“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come’. And let the one who hears say, ‘Come’. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”*

# The Invitation to Come to His Banquet Table

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## Day 26 - December 31, 2013

In yesterday's message, the Lord invited His bride to come and drink from the rivers of living water. Little by little God is removing the obstacles in our lives and hearts that impede the smooth flow of the living waters between His heart and ours! There is no monetary cost to the living water; it is freely given to all who by faith open up their hearts to Him and accept His invitation.

**Revelation 22:17** *"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."*

We must accept His invitation and begin to cry out with the Spirit in Oneness for Him to come. There is abundant, eternal life ready for us now if we will come close! These waters come to cleanse us and to fill us with His presence; so when the Bridegroom comes, we can sit with Him at His banquet table and dine. **An invitation has come forth from the Throne of God, to come and dine with Him as His bride.**

**Song of Solomon 2:4** *"He has brought me to his banquet hall, and his banner over me is love."*

Jesus traveled through the vineyards and orchards of Israel sharing His love for the people. Many responded to His invitation to come into the Kingdom of God and to drink from the living waters. **He formalized His Covenant with His Bride when He brought His disciples into a banqueting house to eat a final Passover meal with them.**

In the Jewish culture, **marriages were formalized or sealed during a meal called the betrothal feast.** The betrothal was divided into two distinct parts called kiddushin and nissuin. Kiddushin focused on the **legalities** (obeying of law) and **preparations** for marriage, while the nissuin was concerned with the actual **wedding ceremony** and the **consummation** (legal completion of marriage by intimate love making).

Looking at these two definition, we can say **the church was called to obedience and preparation** (to make themselves and others ready and equipped for the marriage), and **the Bride is called to intimacy** to complete the marriage covenant. This is a transition that all believes need to make to come into the banquet hall of the Lord.

**Revelation 3:20** *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."*

The Lord Jesus gives us an invitation to hear His voice and open up the door of our hearts to Him. Our Bridegroom has promised He would come into us and dine with us and us with Him. **There is beautiful oneness and communion at the Wedding Feast of His love.**

**Please read Song of Solomon 6:2-3.**

**Jesus has a special place in His garden (heart), where He feeds his flock (believers). He is inviting His beloved to join Him there.** He makes it very clear that we are His beloved and He is our beloved, and He is preparing us for the bridal chambers.

When Jews speak of going to the Holy City it is always said that one goes up to Jerusalem when entering the city, and one goes down when leaving it. Yet, Christ condescended to come down to mankind from the Heavenly Jerusalem because we could not go up to Him. How beautiful and awesome it is that our Bridegroom comes back down to us. This is why we must be ready when He comes for us.

**We now have the privilege to sit with Christ Jesus and dine with Him in our time of communion.** We not only eat from Him but He feeds us among the lilies. The lily is a metaphor for the Bride. **At the end of the age, Jesus will gather His Bride together into a sort of bridal bouquet, a company of lovesick lovers who want to be feed by Him alone.**

**Being the Bride is not a matter of simply believing certain things. It is defined by one thing only: the reality of an intimate relationship with Jesus.** The parable that Jesus told about the wise and foolish virgins is sobering indeed. **Five of the brides failed to be taken inside the wedding chamber because they never cultivated an intimated relationship with their Bridegroom.**<sup>50</sup> In essence, they talked the talk but never walked the walk. **This is the difference between the institutional church and the Bride.**

*Matthew 7:22-23 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness'."*

The word for **knew** denotes **intimacy**. We never sit at the table to get to know Him, because our relationship with Him is based on our works. When courting one whom you love, it is very intimate to share a candle light dinner together. **This invitation is one of love and intimacy to get to know one another in a special way.** We must see the invitation is very important to the Lord Jesus, if we just accept it with all our heart.

The infilling of our hearts by the Holy Spirit prepares us for the Bridegroom chambers. We must see Jesus is looking for one who will dwell with Him. **Someone who is a lover of God seeks to be with Him at all times to get to know Him more and more. A worker**

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<sup>50</sup> Matthew 25:1-13

**for Christ only sees what God can do to fulfill something in himself, and not to seek Christ in a Covenant relationship.**

That is why He tells us in **Revelation 3:18** to **take His advice** (guidance, direction, warning, and counsel), and **buy: refined gold** (pay the necessary price to go through His refining fire), **white garments** (allow Him to purify us), and **eye salve** (so we can have pure eyes to see Him and where He is leading us).

**We must stop spending our money, time and effort seeking on things that will not fulfill us or give us eternal life.** We must let the Lord guide us in the right direction, and He will freely give us the love that will feed us and fill us up for eternity.

The gold that Jesus speaks of is our faith to trust Him in our waiting for Him in every area of our life. He takes us through the fire to test our heart to change it for His glory. We must see it is our faith that causes us to drink and eat. We become thirsty and hungry for His everlasting love.

**Come and accept the invitation of His love that will fill us up and prepare us for His return.**

**The church was established to gather believers in unity for fellowship, discipleship, and accountability; so we would become His bride, rooted and grounded in His love.** Then His bride could be prepared to be the last day army, to be watchmen in His watchtower. Jesus is gathering His bride like lilies in His garden, purified and prepared for Himself, because He is returning as the King for His queen. **Get ready to buy from Him.**

## Bridal Love Covenant

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### Day 27 - January 1, 2014

Do you know that the New Covenant that Jesus, our Bridegroom, inaugurated through His blood is a Bridal Covenant? The Hebrew word for **covenant** is *berith* which primarily means "a cutting", with reference to the custom of cutting or dividing animals in two and passing between the parts in ratifying a covenant. Jesus paid the ultimate price for us in His death and now **He is asking us to pay the price of separation from the world and the desires of our fleshly nature.**

**Genesis 6:18** *"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."*

God had Noah **prepare** for 100 years for the coming flood that would **separate** him and his family from the evil world that was all around them. God **separated** Moses from the Egyptian world for 40 years to **prepare** him for the coming exodus out of Egypt and the journey into the Promised Land. **God desires to separate us from the world and our flesh so we can set our hearts on Him alone.** We need to have the same single-mindedness for God that these men had.

Jesus tells us, His Bride, over and over in His Word that we must be **prepared** for His Return. **The preparation that is required of the bride of Christ will require intimacy with Him!**

**Please read Esther 2:12-17.**

The preparation of Esther to be the bride of King Ahasuerus took 12 months of preparation. In those 12 months, she was **to separate herself from her old life and then learn all she could to please the King in her new life.** She relied on the wisdom of those given charge over her and "*Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.*" We must be like Esther and lay aside our old lives and desires, and seek to find out what pleases the King. Too long we have been pleasing the enemies of our flesh and the world.

In the messages from the last two days, we saw that our King has asked us to prepare for His return by buying wine and milk (Isaiah 55:1), and refined gold, white garments, and eye salve (Revelation 3:8).

**Matthew 25: 1-13** is a parable of the 10 virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom to return. **Five were wise and had bought sufficient oil for their lamps so they were prepared and ready.** Their lamps and their oil containers were always full. This signifies that they allowed the Word of God to saturate their souls as they sought Him daily. Their desire to always have enough oil showed the burning fire of Love in their hearts that sustained them while they waited on Him.

We see that those who do not buy from Christ, will not be ready. They will not buy what is eternal, but that which is temporary. They will not spend intimate time with Jesus, so He again will say the very sad words, "I do not know you."

In order to be known by Jesus, our Bridegroom, we must seek Him in His love chambers. **In our quest for oneness with Him, we must separate ourselves from the distractions of the world and seek Him.**

**Ezra 9:1-2** *"...The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, according to their abominations... Indeed, the hands of the leaders and rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness."*

We must hear the voice of the Bridegroom, as He tells us we must separate ourselves and dwell with the world no longer! Listen to the cry of His heart as He tells us **how much His covenant means to Him**, and how special we are to Him.

**Exodus 19:5-6** *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then **you shall be a special treasure to Me** above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation..."*

**1 Peter 2:9-10** *"But you a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*

**Please read Ezra 9: 3-10:5.** The leaders and the people wept for their sins and repented before their God; and they made a covenant with God to separate from the world.

**Ezra 10:1** *"Now while **Ezra was praying and making confession**, weeping and prostrating himself before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for **the people wept bitterly...***

**Ezra 10:3** *"So now **let us make a covenant with our God** to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law."*

When our hearts are moved by His Covenant love, we will take full responsibility to separate ourselves from the influence of the world and our fleshly nature. Ezra knew that his generation had to arise and do something to return back to the first love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the relationship of Ruth and Naomi, we see a picture of determination to separate from the world we know and seek the One who has made covenant with us.

**Ruth 1:16-18** *“But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.’ When she saw that **she was determined** to go with her, she said no more to her.”*

Ruth displays a determination to give up all and follow the one she has come to trust and love. This is a loyal and faithful dying love. Where is our heart? Are we ready to go follow Him when He returns?

**Please read Luke 12:35-48.**

In this parable of waiting for the master to return for the wedding feast, all who are found waiting and ready to open the door for the bridegroom when He returns are called blessed. Will we be the faithful steward that is found doing the Master’s will?

**Luke 12:48** *“... From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.”*

Let’s keep our eyes on the One we love, our Beloved bridegroom, watching and waiting in faithfulness for His return.

## **Prophetic Word**

Because of the love that I have for you, I will make you walk in freedom, because I know the desires in your heart, says the Lord. You have been chosen to bless the next generation while you are on this earth.

I am preparing you to dissociate from this world because of your love for My Word. Be willing and let Me work in your heart.

The Lord is about to do a quick transformation in those who are eager to follow Him. It is something totally new. He will erase our past and cut it out, so we will enter this new season with no doubts or fears of any kind.

# Eat and Drink, Your Journey is Long

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Day 28 - January 2, 2014

**This year is the year we are to plant vineyards and eat of their fruit.**

*Isaiah 55:2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance."*

**We are to come up the mountain into the vineyard of the Master**, where He will provide for us and give us the abundance of eternal life here on earth as it is in heaven. We can come freely to Him, if we would stop and buy from Him and not from the enemy.

We saw that we who have no money are to come, buy, and eat.<sup>51</sup> We are to buy wine and milk. We will not have to use money because it has no price. Jesus paid the price and now He wants us to see it is not with earthly riches that we will inherit the Kingdom of God. This comes without a price from man, but a price that has been already paid. He gave up His life so we can have life. All we have to do is give up the life of this world to follow Him. **Jesus has already paid the price, so we will have the opportunity to walk in the fruit of His vineyard.**

From His table, we are to eat the Bread of life; and from His vineyard, the fruit of the Spirit. When the men of old were in trouble, they called upon the Lord and He answered them. God is the One who protected and kept the faithful remnant. Let's look at the lives of three men who were faithful to cry to out to the Lord and He answered: **Hezekiah, Jeremiah and Elijah.**

**Please read 2 Kings 19:15-31.** This is the prayer **King Hezekiah** prayed when the King of Assyria threatened God's people. God heard his prayer and answered him.

*2 Kings 19:29 "Then this shall be the sign for you: you will eat this year what grows of itself, in the second year what springs from the same, and in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit."*

The Lord gives Hezekiah a sign in the midst of his trouble, "*you shall eat this year what grows of itself*". In other words, **God will supernaturally take care of their needs**, they will not have to cultivate anything with the works of their hands. And He will not just do this for one year, but for two! But in the third year, He told them it was time to arise and go into the fields to sow and reap. This would be the year to plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

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<sup>51</sup> Isaiah 55:1

**Because of God's love for His people, He will take care of us.** There is no labor nor striving we need to do. Those who partake in God's rest (letting Him fight their battles and trust Him to take care of their needs) will grow and bear fruit because they will escape the ensnarement of the enemy. We must see **when we are faithful to position ourselves to pray and allow the Lord to speak to us, He is faithful to those who are faithful in prayer to Him.**

Let's look at another faithful servant that ate and drank from the Lord in a time of trouble. **Please read Jeremiah 15:15-21.**

**Jeremiah** talked to God about his struggles being God's messenger; suffering much persecution, reproach, and loneliness. But then he shared the secret to his inner strength, to faithfully persevere in what the Lord had called Him to do.

**Jeremiah 15:16** *"Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts."*

The Lord will deliver us from the hands of the wicked, and He will redeem us from the grip of the terrible. **We must eat the Word of God daily and abide closely with Him, and He will answer us in our time of need.** His bread of life gives us strength to continue on the journey. The fruit of our labor is to **eat and drink from Him alone and let Him receive all the glory.**

**Elijah** was another faithful servant God answered and fed in a time of trouble. He had just participated in a great triumph over the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel.<sup>52</sup> Elijah was tired and overwhelmed by how powerfully God had moved through him, that afterwards, when his life was threatened by Jezebel, he became afraid and ran for his life. He cried out to God and God answered him.

**1Kings 19:5-8** *"He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, 'Arise, eat.' Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came again a **second time** and touched him and said, 'Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you'. So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God."*

This is surely a prophetic word for us today. **We are about to go up the mountain into the vineyard of the Lord, and we cannot go into this next place without first eating and drinking from the table of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

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<sup>52</sup> 1 Kings 18:18-40

Please don't miss this opportunity as some of Jesus' followers did in John 6. He encouraged those who walked with Him to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood.

**John 6:60-61, 66** *"Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, 'This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?' But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, 'Does this cause you to stumble?' ... As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore."*

They did not have understanding of who Jesus really was because they sought His signs and wonders for their own selfishness and their own gain. But when **He began to change the course of the ministry to challenge His followers to be loyal and faithful to Him and not to use Him for a miracle and a sign, many left.** Jesus was preparing His followers for the time when He would not be with them and they would face great hardships and persecutions to get the gospel to all the earth.

God will give His faithful remnant, His bride, a sign as He did with Hezekiah, if we call out to Him in selfless prayers according to the will of His heart. He will feed and strengthen us to do His will, not to feed our selfish desires!

**John 6:26-27** *"Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal'."*

**We must eat and drink from the Bread of life that does not perishes in this hour. Troubling times are coming, now is the time to arise and eat!!**

# Everlasting Covenant of Peace

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## Day 29 - January 3, 2014

In this time of seeking the Lord, Jesus is drawing us to come close to Him, to sit and hear His heart.

**Isaiah 55:3** *"Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David."*

**We must position ourselves to drink the living waters, then follow the path up the mountain to eat from His table.** The Lord will draw many to the mountain to be fed, but will we know how to lead them to where Jesus is sitting and dining?

**Isaiah 2:2-3** *"Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And **many peoples will come** and say, '**Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.**' For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

As we come up the mountain there are many promises in God's everlasting covenant that we must come to know and understand. The prince of Peace has made a covenant with us.

**Ezekiel 44:3** *"As for the prince, he shall sit in it (eastern gate) as prince to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate and shall go out by the same way."*

Even though the eastern gate is now sealed shut, one day our Prince will sit at the eastern gate and He will sit and dine with Father God daily. Let's look and see who this prince is.

**Ezekiel 34:23-25** *"Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and **My servant David will be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken. "I will make a covenant of peace with them ..."***

**"My servant David" is a messianic ruler from the line of David** who will have a heart that is one with God. Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the covenant God made with David.

**Psalms 89:3-4** *"I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations."*

This Covenant was fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ, as our King today. Now as a prince, He is able to sit before the Father daily and eat bread with Him as He waits until He is released to open the Eastern Gate when He returns.

**What is a prince? The Latin word for prince is the one who takes the first place and position.** He lawfully rules and has authority over certain territories. Today, no principality, ruler or power has the right or position as the Prince of Peace over this territory, which is the eastern gate. Jesus, our Messiah, alone mandates this position at the table of the eastern gate. We can join Him, as an heir, to eat and drink in His covenant promise until He returns.

God's people are referred to as sheep that have become prey for all the beasts of the field (demonic realm) because they lack a shepherd.<sup>53</sup> God promises that one day He will place One Shepherd, His Son Jesus, over His flock, and the sheep who come to Him to eat will be strengthened, healed, and delivered.

**Please read Ezekiel 34:22-31. Look at the wonderful promises when we will let Jesus be our shepherd:**

- **He shall feed us.** When we do not daily come to His table to eat from His Word, we become malnourished and spiritually weak.
- He will **be our God** and we will know that He is the Lord.
- **He will make a covenant of peace** with us that will get rid of the harmful beasts (spiritual darkness that influences our hearts), and cause us to live securely in His sovereignty and love.
- He will make us and His Mountain a blessing, and He will send **showers of blessing** in their seasons. He will cause the trees and the fields to have **abundant harvests**. He will give His remnant an abundance of His Word to feed the nations.
- He will **break the yoke of oppression and slavery**, so we no longer live in fear, but in **security**.
- He will raise up a **garden of renown**. Could this be the restoration of the Garden of Eden, where we will spend our days walking with the Lord to get to know Him in an intimate way?

**There are two places God has called us to position ourselves as we eat and drink from Him.** One of the places is at the **river**, to drink from the living waters; and the second place is the **mountain** where he has prepared a banquet table for us. Listen for His voice, He is inviting us to come up the mountain and eat with Him.

**Genesis 31:54** *“Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.”*

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<sup>53</sup> Ezekiel 34:8

When Jacob wanted to make peace and reconcile with Laban, he invited him to come up the mountain, to make a covenant of peace, and to share a meal. We must understand the importance in these last days of the intimate fellowship of eating from the Word and drinking the living water with the Lord daily. We are called to position ourselves on the mountain to rule and reign with Him; and to take territory for the kingdom as we lead others up the mountain of God.

**Isaiah 52:7** *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD brings back Zion.”*

We are called to sit and eat with the King, and then take His Word to the nations to feed them with the joy of the Lord. We are called to the ministry of reconciliation, but we must first abundantly eat and drink with the Lord in this season.

We must see it is our faith that causes us to drink and eat. We become thirsty and hungry for His everlasting love. **Come accept His invitation of love that will fill us up and prepare us for His return. Jesus is calling us to a beautiful time of fellowship that will bring unity to His Bride.**

# Seek the Lord While He May be Found

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## Day 30 - January 4, 2014

**Isaiah 55:6** *“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.”*

- The Lord is in our midst, but do we know that He is with us?
- Why would He say, seek Me while I may be found?
- Why does He leave us?

We are like the children of Israel; they could not see God’s heart for them in the wilderness; even though there was a physical manifestation of His presence in the cloud by day and the fire by night.

**Numbers 10:12** *“and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the **cloud settled down** in the wilderness of Paran.”*

The Hebrew word for **settle down** is *shakan*, which means to dwell, reside, abide, remain, or stay. The Hebrew word for **tabernacle, God’s place of dwelling**, is *mishkan*, derived from *shakan*. Another derivative from *shakan* is *shekinah*, the **abiding presence of Almighty God**. Sometimes the Shekinah appears in a visible way. Moses had a relationship with the Lord in whenever the ark was setting out for a journey; the cloud of the Lord would rise up and lead the people to the next resting place. The cloud rose up and led them, and then the cloud would settle back down when they were to remain in a place for a while.

**Psalms 78:10-11,14** *“They did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law; they forgot His deeds and His miracles that He had shown them...(even though) He led them with the cloud by day and all the night with a light of fire.”*

While leading His people through the wilderness and doing mighty deeds and miracles, and even manifesting His presence every day with the cloud and fire; they still broke the covenant of God and walked in their own ways and not the ways of the Lord. The Lord warned them over and over of the blessings that would come to them with obedience and the consequences of disobedience. **But they still gave into their flesh and the lure of the world and sinned against God and put their trust in the gods of the nations around them (world).**

Over the generations there were cycles of obedience and disobedience. But finally the time came for one last warning to turn the hearts of God’s people wholly to the Lord, before He let Babylon totally destroy Jerusalem and take most of the people out of the land and into slavery. **God sent His messengers, the prophets to speak to the people to put away**

**their sins and repent.** Jeremiah tried to warn them again as well, but they would not listen.

**Please read Jeremiah 13:1-11.**

The sash God told Jeremiah to wear was a representation of us abiding with the Lord. **We are to bind God's Word around us, to remain very close to the Lord.** But when we live in rebellion, we are not able to hear God's voice because we are buried in a place of captivity. God desires us to come close to Him and seek His face. As we cling to Him, we will get to know His heart. **This is the time when we can hear from God clearly, because we have drawn near to God and He has drawn near to us.**

*Jeremiah 13:10 "This wicked people, who refuse to listen to My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts and have gone after other gods to serve them and to bow down to them, let them be just like this sash which is totally worthless."*

**God calls us wicked and evil when we refuse to hear His words,** when we follow the dictates of our sinful and self-centered hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them. **When we do this, we shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.** When we refuse to hear God's words and follow the dictates (rule, control or govern) of our evil hearts, this causes us to walk after the distractions of the things we put before God; and we then become unprofitable to God. We cannot hear from God, we are deaf and blind because of our sins.

*John 9:31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him."*

**The Lord is separating His people from sin and all which is unclean.** We must be holy as He is holy. Don't you hear His cry to come close and hear Him? We can only come close and seek Him when we come to Him with a pure heart and give Him our whole heart.

God is zealous for His people and He desires that none will miss Him. He desires that we will all seek Him while He can be found! **There are many reasons why we miss Him,** and we will look at a few of them.

Let's again look at the parable of the ten virgins and see how half of them **missed the coming of the Bridegroom because they were not ready.**

*Matthew 25:10 "And while they were going away to make a purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut."*

When He comes and we are not ready, He will leave; and we will not be able to find Him. We must be ready on our watch, filled with Holy Spirit. Once the door is shut it will be shut. We will go looking for Him and He will say to us, *"I do not know You"*.

**Matthew 24:42** *"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."*

God is repeatedly warning us to be alert and ready for His return. **He does not want anyone to miss it.** We must be careful to be on our watch to seek Him. We must seek Him now and be assured we will find Him because Jesus sees our heart and not our works.

**John 8:21,24** *"Then Jesus said to them again, I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come... Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

The people **did not understand** what He was saying. If we do not understand salvation and sanctification, and seek His forgiveness, we will not find Him; because finding Him is a matter of the heart. **We cannot find Him when we seek Him without salvation, deliverance and healing.** We will find ourselves out of the will of God in a backslidden state, keeping us from the presence of God.

**Isaiah 49:8** *"...In an acceptable time I have heard You..."*

The word **acceptable** means **to be received with pleasure.** **When we take the time to seriously seek the Lord and hear His heart and pray, He receives all our words with great pleasure!** Do we know when we are in these seasons of intercession? Or are we too busy with works, distracted by our lives, and burdened by our sins? We must know that we are in a season of grace, an acceptable time; what will we do with this understanding?

**2 Corinthians 6:2** *"At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation."*

**There is a season and time where the heart of God is here with salvation for His people. We must position ourselves while He still can be found.** We are to reconcile God's people back to Him with the ministry of reconciliation. This is the acceptable time of the Lord.

**Psalm 50:23** *"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."*

Please let these verses resound in your mind today as you seek the Lord while He can be found

**Psalm 32:6** *"For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found."*

## **Prophetic Word**

Prepare yourself and I will lead you.  
Do not struggle, do not strive.  
I am with you, I will lead.  
Patience; slow and steady we will go.  
Not a race for the swift,  
But a journey of endurance, faithful to the end.

## Incline your Ear, and Come to Me

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Day 31 - January 5, 2014

**Isaiah 55:3-4** *"Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you (your soul) may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David. Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples."*

**The Lord is calling us to have an ear to hear, especially in the times leading up to His return.** Seven times He repeated the same phrase when addressing each of the seven churches in His Letters to them in Revelation.

**Revelation 2:7,11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

**We must place our ears close to His heart,** and hear Him as He reveals Himself to His people. Father God promises us that Jesus is a leader, commander and a covenant promise to us, who will deliver us from the hands of our enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil. Why is He telling us in so many passages to stop and listen carefully to Him and eat what is good from Him? **He desires us to listen carefully to His words and walk them out in obedience, so our soul will have rest and live.**

**In this season we must take heed of the voice of God and listen to Him.** Jesus has told us to seek Him while He may be found.<sup>54</sup> **We are in a river of revelation in this season,** and He is looking for His bride that will have an ear to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is speaking to us with clarity.

He told us prophetically, *"In this season I will not speak in parables, but I will speak plain and clear; so you can walk in wisdom and understanding."* **He will be faithful to speak to us, as we are faithful to position ourselves to seek Him.**

**Isaiah 42:18-21** *"Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of the LORD? You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; **your ears are open, but none hears.**"*

We are the Lord's servants and messengers. **We can no longer have a deaf ear to what the Lord is saying, we must hear and understand.** This means we must walk out the words the Lord is speaking to us.

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<sup>54</sup> Isaiah 55:6

**Please read Isaiah 42:6-7**

**God has appointed us as a covenant to His people**, as a light to the darkness in the world. He has commissioned us to open blind eyes and to bring prisoners out from the darkness of the dungeon. How can we lead people out of their places of captivity if we are not listening and hearing God's voice?

**Isaiah 42:22** *"But this is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; they are for prey, and no one delivers; for plunder, and no one says RESTORE!"*

**We are called to cry out for the restoration** of all that the enemy has taken from mankind.

**Please read Isaiah 49:1-8.**

These prophetic scriptures speak of **Jesus and His position as the one who will restore and bring salvation to all mankind.**

The lost and those who are confused do not know the position Jesus desires to have in their lives. **He was born for us, so we would be delivered, saved, and set free.** Now we can understand **Isaiah 49:8.** In the acceptable time He cried out for us and the day of salvation came when Father God helped Him bring us into His marvelous light. He became a covenant to us, to reconcile and restore us to the Father. He promises us that He who has compassion on us will lead and guide us to the springs of living water.<sup>55</sup>

**We were born again to follow the Lord Jesus in this same commission,** but we must have an ear to hear what He is saying!

## **Prophetic Word**

I am preparing My city on My Holy Mountain, I am preparing My Bride. This New Jerusalem is only for those who are willing to come up the mountain. No defilement will be allowed inside these gates, only those who are pure and holy.

I am doing a great gathering in this hour. The gathering consists of many nations who will come together and walk in unity up the mountain to Zion. It is no longer focused on one group or person. I am using a company of those set apart for Me to set a standard. Only those who know My voice will know about the New Jerusalem.

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<sup>55</sup> Isaiah 49:10

## Positioned to Hear and Act

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### Day 32 - January 6, 2014

**Isaiah 49:1** *"Listen to Me, O islands (coastlands), and pay attention, you peoples from afar..."*

We need to understand that God is speaking to us, the Gentile remnant, who have ears to listen to what He is saying. **Very often (18 times) Isaiah uses the word *coastlands* to prophetically speak of the Gentiles, who God will powerfully use in the end times to bring His message to the world.** To the Jews, **coastlands** were all lands separated from Israel by the sea; which would be all lands to the west of Israel, especially the continent of Europe; essentially the Gentiles.

**Isaiah 41:1** *"Coastlands, listen to Me in silence, and let the peoples gain new strength; Let them come forward, then let them speak; let us come together for judgment."*

**Father God is on His throne and He is speaking; crying out to the coastlands to be silent and listen, and come near to Him** so He can strengthen and help us to accomplish the things we were chosen to do. Take some time with the Lord seeking answers to these questions He is asking us?

**Where Are You?**

**What are You Doing?**

**Where is the harvest and discipleship necessary in this season?**

**Are you listening and understanding what I am speaking?**

**Isaiah 51:1** *"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug."*

We are the latter day remnant of the Lord who are seeking the Lord and pursuing righteousness. **But if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that we are not doing things for the Lord to the degree we should.** We must look to the Rock, Jesus Christ, as our example and our help. He is the one who dug us out of the pit of despair and brought us into His marvelous kingdom. Do we not see where we came from and where God is trying to lead us as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ?

**Isaiah 51:4-5** *"Pay attention to Me, O My people, and give ear to Me, O My nation; for a law will go forth from Me, and I will set My justice for a light of the peoples. My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly."*

**God is speaking, are we positioning ourselves to listen?** He is desiring to place His law in our hearts; to bring His justice, His light, and His righteousness to all mankind. He is returning for His bride and to judge the nations; yet Jesus wants none to perish, but all to know Him as Lord and Savior. He needs us to step up and go out to bring about the great commission.

God is speaking strongly in this season and telling us to wake up. **We are called to be a watchtower for the nations, to pray, share the gospel, and disciple the nations. We must awake and put on His strength.**<sup>56</sup> He knows we have only a little strength and we need to be strengthened in these last days as we seek Him by listening for His voice and walking out His words in obedience.

*Isaiah 52:7-8 "How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, they shout joyfully together; for they will see with their own eyes when the Lord restores Zion."*

We have all read this verse many times, but with all we have been studying lately, it takes on a much richer meaning. **We are the ones who are to go up the mountain to meet with the Lord and hear His messages. He is strengthening and equipping us to go back down the mountain to bring the good news of peace with God, salvation through Jesus Christ, and the messages direct from His heart to the nations. We are to set up watchtowers to pray and to worship.** We will have the joy of the Lord when we see the great harvest and participate with Jesus as a covenant to His people. We who are on watch will shout! We who have an ear will hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying!

**Please read Revelation 21:2-8.**

God is preparing us for our Bridegroom to return for us, and we are to help prepare the Bride to also be ready. He gives us exciting promises for that time. The church is called to overcome and be transformed here on earth to become His Bride. **It is our responsibility to overcome, so we can lead others to inherit all things of the Kingdom and walk in complete covenant with the Master.**

He gives us a list of those who will not make it into the Kingdom. These people break God's heart because He desires none to perish. **He wants us to make sure we are a light in the darkness and a loving witness to them also.**

**We must go up the mountain like John did, and see the beauty of the bride shining in the glory of the Lord;** so we will get strengthened and excited for the work to come. Let us praise God for the revelation of His Bride, and may we see He is waiting on us to position ourselves for the task ahead. Will we be overcomers following after His heart?

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<sup>56</sup> Isaiah 51:9

**Revelation 3:12** *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”*

## **Prophetic Word**

I am unifying the body of Christ all over the world; no more division, no more discord. Only a oneness that will allow these nations to flow as one to Me. Judah and Israel shall walk together as one in the New Jerusalem.

I am preparing My Bride; I am preparing My holy City for those unified nations to come as one to worship Me and hear My heart. No more division, no more discord. Nothing unclean will enter these gates. My New Jerusalem, My Holy City are only for those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

Before every great gathering there is a great preparation. I am preparing for this great gathering in Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem, My Holy City.

## The Purpose for More of God

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### Day 33 - January 7, 2014

**Isaiah 48: 3** *"I declared the former things long ago, and they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass."*

God has declared who we are in the kingdom of God from the beginning. He has spoken it over us, and we have heard it. In this season He is suddenly changing our minds and hearts, so that what He has spoken over our lives will come to pass. He will set us on course to our God-given destiny. **But the question is, are we willing?** The things that we have gone through to get this far with the Lord are just the beginning of the necessary preparation for the actual journey we are to walk in what God has called us to.

**We have been asking and singing for MORE and MORE of God;** and He has answered our cries. We are allowing Him to purge the flesh and world out of our hearts, so there is less of us and more of Him. **But in this receiving more, have we lost sight of the purpose for the MORE?** The MORE is to be for Kingdom purposes, final harvest purposes, preparation for His return purposes! Not just so we can be more holy in His sight. Although that is necessary, it is not the end goal.

The body of Christ to varying degrees has sat back and waited for the Lord to come closer; while all the time, God has been beckoning us to come closer to Him. We are the ones who need to move from where we are, to where He wants us to be. **What has the Lord been saying to us during these 50 days of Ingathering/First Fruits?**

- **Turn around** and **walk** into the right field, the vineyard. **Work** in that field to bring an abundant harvest.
- **Climb** up the mountain to come close to Me and to hear from Me.
- Stop talking and complaining about the lack of maturity and discipleship in the church today, and do something about it. **"Go and make disciples** of all the nations."
- Stop planning how to gather the nations to pray 24/7 and establish your watchtower. Dedicate more of your time to pray and **pray focused prayers** from My heart.

**Isaiah 48:6** *"You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known."*

God is speaking much to His bride in this season about what we need to do in preparation for His return, corporately and personally. These are but the beginnings of the plans He has for us to do with Him. We have seen the hand of God move in our lives, maybe not the way we wanted it to be, but He has moved. We have heard and received many hidden

treasures from His heart, but we must not keep them for ourselves. As God reveals these hidden things to us, we must declare them to others. There will be challenges in doing this; hindrances from the people, and hindrances from within.

**Isaiah 48:7-8** *"They are created now and not long ago; and before today you have not heard them, so that you will not say, 'Behold, I knew them.' You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; and you have been called a rebel from birth."*

In the messages these 50 days, God has been dealing with us (His bride) about the old way, the traditions of men, we follow in our churches. We haven't been worshipping God His way; we have been doing it the **church way**, ever since we were born. We violated God's law doing the **church world** ever since we were born again. That is why we were called rebels from the beginning.

**Now we are doing things differently, leaving the church way and the church world behind.** We must not become prideful in the new thing we are doing, because it isn't new to God. He is bringing correction to us in how it was supposed to have been done from the beginning. God knew it was not our fault that we were worshipping in an unpleasing way; He knew we only did what we were taught to do by our ancestors. Praise God He has mercy on us, and is showing us the right way. **Because we are obedient, He will begin to reveal new things to us that** will challenge the people around us. When they are challenged, they are going to challenge us. This must not stop us from walking out everything the Lord asks us to say and do.

We must stop talking about the times we are living in and put our words into action. All too often we talk and talk about what we should be doing for the kingdom, but we **procrastinate** and end up doing nothing? We love to make New Year's resolutions, but rarely do we walk them out. There are varying reasons for why we break them, and not walk out what the Lord is asking us to do; but most boil down to a **reluctance** to change our lives, to change our actions. We might talk excitedly about what is coming, but we are really **complacent** where we are.

**Procrastinate:** to put off from day to day, to defer to a future time.

**Reluctance:** straining or striving against; unwillingness; great opposition of mind.

**Complacent:** self-satisfaction marked by unawareness of actual deficiencies.

God has let us experience the thrill of His presence, the healing and comfort of His love, the exciting discoveries of His Word, and the passion of His heart in prophetic psalms and worship. **Yet we have let procrastination, reluctance, and complacency hinder us from going to the next place with Him!** We know in part what we are to do, but our resolve crumbles under the weight of all the excuses of why we are not doing what we should. This must not be! We must not stay there. We must move on with God, we must continue to grow up in the things He has for us to do.

**We are the last day's remnant, the coastlands, who are called to awaken the church from her slumber, the Jews from their blindness to the Messiah, and to lead the lost out of darkness and into the marvelous light of Jesus Christ.** We are to provoke these people to jealousy by our intimate relationship with the entirety of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), exhibited by His love being demonstrated in our lives.

God is speaking prophetically as never before in songs and messages, in dreams and visions, audibly and in our heart, in our prayers, and in our teachings. These are words intended to encourage the Bride, but also they are to go to the church so she can be prepared for the great harvest to come and then for the return of the Lord Jesus for His Bride! **How can a great harvest be accomplished without the tillers, planters, laborers, and harvesters?**

God is calling us to **partner with Him in His preparations** for His Son's return for His bride. There is much to do, we are to be His hands and feet... He has prepared us, He has the plan; now we must come up the mountain each day and hear clearly from Him what we are to do each and every day for the Kingdom. When we minister to those around us we must partner with Him to clearly hear every word we are to speak, pray and sing.

**We must purpose to arise every day to accomplish His will, to walk each step He leads us to walk, to speak and pray every word He puts in our hearts to encourage and demonstrate His love for mankind!**

**We must ask the Lord to strengthen, lead, and fill us with more of Him; so we can walk out His purposes for our lives in these end times; letting go of all fear by trusting Him and His sovereign power.**

## Daily Partake of Living Waters

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### Day 34 - January 8, 2014

It is recommended that we drink 8 to 10 glasses of water a day. If we neglect our bodies we become chronically dehydrated, lack energy and have all kinds of physical problems, and in severe cases even death. **What happens if we neglect to drink from the Lord and are not replenished spiritually?** By this I mean we must be set aside time to **be cleansed, refreshed and empowered** by God's Spirit, who will guide us in everything we do, shield us with Spiritual armor, counsel and comfort for us in this world that is not our true home. Our minds are taking in information all day long, our ears are receiving sound, and our eyes are seeing. If we are not guarded by our spiritual senses, we are open to being influenced by the world. Without partaking of the Living Water we tend to operate in our own power causing us to be influenced by an evil power. Either way, we partake of bitter waters that bring death.

**When God's people are operating in their own wisdom or guidance, we are saying we don't trust God or we can do just fine without Him.** If we guide our own lives and rely on our own resources we will find ourselves cursed, thirsty and alone in the wilderness. But when **we are well rooted by His River and continuously drinking from Living waters, the Holy Spirit becomes our daily guide.** We are blessed because our hope is not in what we can produce, but what He continuously yields in us.

**Jeremiah 17:5-8** *"Thus says the Lord: **Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.** For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited. **Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.** For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."*

**The way we think is not the way the Lord thinks, so we will fail every time we choose a way that is contrary to the Lord.** We must position ourselves every day to hear from God by the rivers of living water, and trust in what He is saying so we can bear fruit each day. Joshua gave a blessing to the people he was leading and challenged them to **be very careful to observe all the words of God.**

**Joshua 22:5** *"Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."*

Those who do not walk in the ways of the Lord will incur God's wrath; especially those who are leaders. When they walk in their own power and influence others apart from God, they are acting like their own god. They will incur judgment, bring bitterness and death upon themselves, and contaminate everything around them.

**Please read Ezekiel 29: 1-16.**

This is a prophecy against Pharaoh Hophrah. This Egyptian ruler set himself up as god and creator of his kingdom; yet The God of all creation called him **a great monster that lies in the midst of the river**. He felt he produced his own river for the people to drink from, but he only caused judgment and spiritual death for them. Because the people continued to put their trust in the fragile power of the Pharaoh, God brought them low. Egypt and its Pharaoh failed to be a staff for the people to lean upon. When stress was laid upon the people, Egypt broke apart and the people were scattered. After the time of judgment expired in God's mercy, the people and the land were restored, but no longer as a significant kingdom.

God was harsh on Egypt because all too often when His people were experiencing a famine, they would run down to the waters of Egypt for help, and not to the Lord. **He broke and humbled Egypt so His people would have confidence in Him, and not in the waters of the world**. He is always desiring us to know that He is the Lord God!

**The only way to know God as the source and power in our lives and to ensure we do not drink from the waters of the world, is to invest the time needed for our relationship with Him to thrive.** We can't do that by turning him off and on like a faucet. We must learn to lean on God in every decision, trust His provision and find our security in His love and protection; so that when the world seems to fall apart around us, we will not fall with it.

In **Ezekiel 27 and 28** the prince of Tyre was another influential man. He was a shrewd man who gained great wealth through trade. He built himself a beautiful island and thinking he was self-sufficient and invincible. The people of Tyre incurred God's judgment because they followed suit and put their security in their wealth and surroundings. The Lord compared the ruler of Tyre to satan, as his pride and vanity mirrored that of satan in the Garden of Eden. The counterfeit waters of wealth and world power led the ruler into believing he was above God. He never acknowledged God as the source of everything he had, or the One who could take it away.

Does our pride and self-sufficiency look like this to God? **God must be the source of the water we drink, His Living Water.** Let Him wash you clean today.

**Galatians 6:14** *"But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."*

## **Prophetic Word**

*Oh the cross is where I must stay; to see the love you shed for me  
For if I go too far away from Thee; my heart, my heart could go astray  
Oh the cross is where I must stay, to see the love you shed for me  
For every drop is like the sea; engulfing all my depravity  
Oh the cross is where I must stay, to see the love you shed for me  
Wash over me crimson flow, for I desire to be as white as snow  
Oh the cross is where I must stay, to see the love you shed for me  
Oh the cross! My victory!*

## The Rivers of Eden

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Day 35 - January 9, 2014

**God created man to be one with Him;** not to be placed in the world and left to our own devices, as He watches to see how we make out. He is the source of true life, and **life was not meant to be lived apart from Him.** When sin entered the man's heart, God's creation was distorted; and what was once "one", became separate. God still wants to be our source of life. Through the power of His grace, He wants to be our "all", so that we may be made whole again in Him. **Sin separated us from the living waters flowing from His heart.** In order to get back to them, **we have to repent of our sins and diligently and faithfully seek Him with a pure heart.**

**Psalms 24:3-5** *"Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation."*

The true river of living water is in God.<sup>57</sup> We must seek the Lord and ask Him for it. In the telling of the story of Adam and Eve<sup>58</sup>, we see what sin cost them and all mankind: face to face intimacy with God. Their sin and the sins of all men, separate us from the Lord and the life-giving waters He has for us.

Jesus is returning for His bride, and He wants all to be ready for His return. He is desiring to return man and all creation to its original state of perfection and intimate fellowship with Him. **We must all repent of our wicked ways and run to Him with unashamed passion. As we seek Him, we will find Him; and He will lead us besides His waters of Life.**

**Proverbs 8:17** *"I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me."*

**Please read Genesis 1-2, looking with fresh eyes at the scenery and majesty of God's creation.**

Jesus created Eden for mankind, as a place for them to fellowship with Him. As He placed the first man and woman in the Garden, Jesus supplied everything they would need to tend it and keep it. Everything He had created was good, and their relationship was perfect. God provided perfect land filled with every kind of fruit and vegetable, ripe and ready to be eaten. The Garden of Eden was well-watered by a river that started in Eden and then divided and became four rivers.

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<sup>57</sup> Revelation 22:1

<sup>58</sup> Genesis 3:23-24

**Genesis 2:10** *“Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.”*

It is very doubtful whether or not these rivers exist today, because the earth went through an extreme “remodel” during the Great Flood, and the subsequent years afterwards when the Lord separated the lands of the entire earth from one another.<sup>59</sup> Even though these may or may not be physical rivers today, there is significance in them because the Lord gave us the names of these four branches of the River of Life flowing from Eden.

**Please read Genesis 2:10-14.**

The first river was named **Pishon** which means a **great diffusion, or to spread out and over**. It surrounded the land of **Havilah** which means **to twist in pain or bring fourth pain**. This land of pain and sorrow was outside of the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve were sent because of their sin. **But this river, which came out of the Garden, was there to provide for them as they spread out over the land**. Havilah was known for its pure gold nuggets; as well as Bdelium, a substance used in incense; and precious stones like onyx. Havilah had these things the world would come to crave, but Eden was the true treasure. **As the time comes for the Lord’s return, we must purge our hearts of the desires for the riches of this world, and seek the true treasure of the Lord and His Presence!**

The second river was named **Gihon**, whose name means **gushing fountain**. This river flowed southwest around the entire land of **Cush**, whose name means **blackness**. This river of God is to be a **gushing fountain over the darkness our sins and the enemy bring over the souls of men**.

The third river is the **Hiddekel**, sometimes translated Tigris, and it flowed east of the Garden. Hiddekel means a **sharp voice or sound**. The fourth river is named the **Euphrates**, which means **to make fruitful**. Two rivers by these names flow in the area most Biblical scholars believe to be the location of the Garden of Eden; but again, with all the rearranging the Lord did during and after the flood, this may or may not be true.

God might have left these two rivers to remind us of the rivers of living water that flowed out of His Garden and will one day again flow from His throne in New Jerusalem. They are reminders of the covenant He made with His people. He is speaking and asking us to hear the sound He is making in the earth. **He is calling out to His people to remain and be faithful, as He is faithful. He desires to raise up a fruitful remnant who will share the gospel with the lost and disciple the church. We must go up the mountain to meet with the Lord, and to drink abundantly of these two rivers of living water.**

The waters of the first two rivers were surrounded and covered with pain and darkness. **When we find ourselves in this place, we must diligently seek the Lord knowing that**

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<sup>59</sup> Genesis 10:25

**He has provided rivers of living water for us even in this dry and hard land.** We must seek Him, and ask for these waters, and drink!

**Isaiah 44:3** *“For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;”*

The world and its false securities can't produce these rivers. Rulers and kings have set themselves up to be our god and savior, but they cannot produce these rivers. Nor can we produce these rivers for ourselves through our own wisdom and the wealth of nonsense we gain from it. Man's wisdom and wealth cannot protect us and guide us through the pain and darkness of this world. Only a true and sovereign God can produce these rivers. We must have a humble and repentant heart that seeks to drink from God daily. As we can drink freely, we will be covered and protected from the darkness and pain of a world manipulated by evil.

**Hebrews 10:22-23** *“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;”*

## **Prophetic Word**

*Come my children, come this day.  
Come my children, come this way, Come my children, seek My face.  
Gather them all over the place, gather them now and they will be found.  
Found by the My Father who will let them see clearly.*

*Come my children, come this day. Come my children, seek My face.  
I am gathering them everywhere from north and south and east and west.  
The winds are blowing strong, you can't go wrong.*

*Come my children, come this day. Come my children, seek my face.  
Gather them now so they can hear the sound. The sound is in heaven, can you not hear?*

*Come My children, come this day. Come My children, come this way.  
Strong winds are blowing, do you not feel? The wind I am showing, It is great and fearless.  
Call my children this day; these winds are blowing in every way.  
I am coming now. Can you hear the sound?  
The trumpet has sounded, the sound is all around.  
The wind will blow and I will show My people My heart and show them I will never depart.  
I will do that this day, if they seek My face.*

## Christ's Bride: A Warning to the Church

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Day 36 - January 10, 2014

Scholars refer to the type of marriage Samson had with his Philistine wife as *Sadiqa*. Such a marriage involves a husband from a different clan than his wife, and permits the woman to remain (live) with her family apart from her husband and bear children for her clan.

**This type of marriage is somewhat similar to what Christ did by leaving His church in the earth to produce spiritual babies for God through salvation and discipleship.** Every Christ inspired effort we employ that wins souls for the Kingdom of God and to disciple produces spiritual babies for Him. This is why we can't afford to cease preaching the gospel, taking the Good News to the nations, living a consecrated life of no mixture apart from this world, or following the many other instructions written in the Word of God. The examples and the commands of Christ to love, forgive, have mercy and compassion are not for our sakes alone; but also for those whom He desires to come into the knowledge of Him.

As we allow God to open our eyes and hearts to the message He's hidden in the following verses in Judges 15, we will be challenged to change (renew) our minds and required to put into action what He has commanded us to do without any further compromise or procrastination.

**Judges 15:1** *"After a while, in the time of the wheat harvest, it happened that Sampson visited his wife with a young goat..."*

**When Samson came to visit his wife, he did not come empty-handed, but he came bearing a gift:** a young goat. The specific gift chosen and the reason for the gift undoubtedly had great significance in that time; however, there is another indication that the gift could have represented: Bridging the gap. **This goat was Samson's free will offering to remove the barrier that had distanced him from his bride during the time of the marriage feast.** As you read further into the passage of Scripture, you'll see that it had been quite some time since Samson had been there with his wife.

Just as Samson was not empty-handed, **God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all bore gifts for each of us who are being transformed by His love.** God's gift for us is the sacrificial Lamb (Christ), Jesus' gift is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit's gift is the endowed power to overcome every sin and obstacle in our Christian life. **Each of these gifts is given to bridge the gap in our relationship with God.** All who have accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and live their lives in reflection of God's word are a part of His church, the ever transforming glorious Bride.

**Judges 15:1** *"...And he said, 'Let me go into my wife, into her room.' But her father would not permit him to go in."*

When Samson visited his wife, he desired to go into her chambers, but her father refused him. Even though she legally belonged to him, he was not given access to his own bride. If the church that Christ builds is His<sup>60</sup> and the Bride that He has chosen is His<sup>61</sup>, why has Christ been denied access to her? **Why can't the Holy Spirit move the way He delights? Because we neither understand the relationship between the bridegroom and His bride, nor do we understand our individual as well as our corporate roles and responsibilities in this union.**

**Presuming that we *know* what the church is supposed to look like** without even inquiring of God, and establishing it based on what we, mere men, think and not on what God requires, **is sin. If the mandates, requirements, or by-laws of churches we have implemented are not God breathed and Bible based, the church is in trouble.** What we are building with unclean hands and professing with our unclean lips, "Lord, this is all for you" is really all for us. We must heed the Spirit of God and stop before we go beyond the borders of God's longsuffering. The time to Selah, pause and consider, is now! Are we so blind to see or unwilling to admit that we have veered from the original blueprint for the design of the church and have used the inferior products of pride and arrogance to build the church we have dreamed up in our fleshly hearts? Such a church is not God's sacred temple or an acceptable church to Christ.

**Matthew 21:12-13** *"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the **money changers** and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, 'It is written, **My house shall be called a house of prayer**, but you have made it a den of thieves.'"*

In this present day, with all of the evil that surrounds us, infiltrates us and influences us, God still gives His people hope; and praise God, while we yet live there is still time to get back on course.

**If the children of God, who are called by His name will "*humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*" Then we will experience the Presence of God in the church,** "*Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.*"<sup>62</sup>

**Judges 15:2** *"Her father said, I really thought that you thoroughly hated her..."*

Because Samson was delayed in his return to his wife, her father assumed that he hated her. **Many people presume that Christ, for various reasons, is not coming back for His**

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<sup>60</sup> Matthew 16:18

<sup>61</sup> Revelation 21:19

<sup>62</sup> 2 Chronicles 7:14-16

**Bride.** After all, we've been hearing about His second return for more than two thousand years, but He has yet to make an appearance. During this time, we, the church, ought to be watchful and on guard. Instead, many are like the Israelites who grew weary in waiting for Moses to return from the mountain with God.

**Exodus 32:1** *"Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'"*

In other words, **God** has been replaced with **gods** that pleased the flesh of man. Before you disagree, **consider the things the church has accepted, embraced, and winked at that are sin before the Living God based on His Word.** Did not Jesus warn us?

**Matthew 24:42-44** *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Just because we've lost interest in church, it doesn't mean Jesus has. **He knows the transformed church will become His Bride. He died for her because His love for her is great!**

## **Prophetic Word**

*I will come with a thunder; a voice that will rumble.  
I am God, you see. I created thee for My own.  
If I had not shown you who you are, you would be dead in your sins.  
Why do you do what you do, I am with you?*

*I have chosen you to gather My children in a special way.  
You won't be distracted if you draw near and choose this day.  
Which way will you go?  
I will show you My Glory dwelling in Me.  
Without Me there is nothing in thee. I am here.  
I've blown the winds. I am near.  
I have come off My throne to be with you, face to face.  
Arise church. Do not doubt.  
Doubt is sin; it will offend.  
Don't doubt what I do this day; don't let the enemy cause you to stray.*

## Transformation of the Bride

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### Day 37 - January 11, 2014

We looked yesterday at the comparisons of the marriage Sampson had with his wife to the one the church has with Jesus. The entirety of God gives all believers marvelous gifts when we say “yes” to His proposal: God gave us the sacrificial Lamb (Christ), Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome every sin and obstacle in our Christian life. But we have denied the Holy Spirit full access to move in our lives; and have played church according to our comforts and dictates, and not the desires of God. We will continue this study in today’s message.

**Judges 15:2** *“... therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.”*

Did you notice that her father does his best at selling Samson on the idea that he should take the younger sister? He said of her, “Is she not better than the bride you originally chose? Take this substitute instead.” Listen, **we cannot change the dynamics of the Bride that Christ wants.** He knows whom He has betrothed, and **He only has eyes for her**; she alone will please Him well because she has been selected for Him by His Father. **He will not accept a substitute bride.** And in many ways this is what we are presenting to Him, a substitute bride that we falsely believe would be best for Him and the Kingdom. Ask Peter what happened to him when he thought he knew what was best for Christ.

**Matthew 16:23** *“But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

Yes, this is the same Peter of whom Jesus said, *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*<sup>63</sup> In this verse we understand that Jesus wasn’t building His church on Peter or his name. Just as the center focus of the church was never to be about a man then, it is not to be about a man now. **The church was and is to be focused on Jesus Christ and His infallible, uncompromising Word.** What a grave error we made when we replaced Christ’s name with our name, as if we have any ability apart from Christ to do anything. Let’s go back to the Word to see the hierarchy that Christ Himself gives us.

**John 15:1, 5-6** *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser... I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.”*

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<sup>63</sup> Matthew 16:18

**If at any point in time, we have taken God's glory for ourselves, allowed the praises of man to put us on a pedestal, or thought in our own hearts how great we are, then we have taken our eyes off of Christ and put the attention and focus on ourselves.** We are not the highly exalted one. Christ is! Oh, pray that God will search our wicked hearts and the Holy Spirit will bring conviction that produces repentance. Pray that it will not be said of you or me as it was prophesied by Ezekiel to the prince of Tyre.

**Ezekiel 28:1-2** *"Because your heart is lifted up, and you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god."*

Pray that we will recall the words of Queen Esther, **"If it pleases the king"**, as we examine our religious institutions, as well as our personal lives to see **if what we are doing and have done and if how we are living has Christ at the center.**

**Judges 15:3-5** *"And Samson said to them, 'This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!' Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves."*

Samson's response to his bride being given to another was not something he took lightly. Likewise, **Christ will not take the matter lightly when He returns to find that His Church has been influenced by and given over to the Christian world!** Samson's obvious disapproval of the matter was made evident through fire, and **a greater, unquenchable fire will be sent upon this earth when our Lord, Jesus Christ returns.** Although Samson's attack on the Philistines fields sent a strong message, there is an even stronger message to be explored. First, let's look at the obvious message the fire represented.

Why merely attack their fields? Granted this was a great loss since it was harvest time, perhaps his strategy was to "hit them where it would hurt" them the most. Maybe he knew this act of retaliation would challenge them to a showdown. Hence, he prefaced his action with these words, "This time I shall be blameless if I harm them."

Now let's **look at the message through the eyes of God's mercy.** Did you notice that Samson spared their lives? Why didn't Samson go after the Philistines? You see, **God will strip us from things to get our attention and convict our hearts to cause us to repent and return in an attempt to spare us from the fire of judgment in the last days.** God is giving His people an opportunity to consider and repent for their sins. But because we value our earthly possessions more than Him, we become angry with God for our worldly losses, instead of seeing that God has spared our lives through His mercy. Oh, the mercy of God that He still demonstrates today! **The continuous attempt of a loving Father to save**

**His children from the impending wrath of His soon coming judgment should be welcomed and no longer be ignored.**

When Samson posed a riddle the Philistines could not solve, they threatened his wife to get the answer from Samson.

**Judges 14:15** *“But it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson’s wife, ‘Entice your husband, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else we will burn you and your father’s house with fire.’”*

**After escaping fire by getting the answer to the riddle, Samson’s wife returned to a usual life without him.** It was while she was living her life as usual that she did not escape the fire the second time!

**Judges 15:6** *“Then the Philistines said, ‘Who has done this?’ And they answered, ‘Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.’ So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.”*

We must be mindful **when God extends His grace to us and pardons our sins, it is not so we can return to a life as usual without Him.** We are not spared to continue the life we were living when that life is contrary to the Word of God.

**John 5:14** *“Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, ‘See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.’”*

We are spared to turn from the life we are living, to the life we were called to live; thereby, escaping the fire of judgment in the last days.

**Judges 15:7-8** *“Samson said to them, ‘Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease.’ So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.”*

The church may appear beautiful with all of the bells and whistles, but does this make her desirable to the Bridegroom? If we are willing to let Jesus do with her what He wants, *“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”*<sup>64</sup>, then she can be the very church He gave Himself for.<sup>65</sup>

The church, like the Garden of Eden, has been given to us to steward. **As modern day Levites and priests, we are to tend to, care for her and guard her from unholiness.**

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<sup>64</sup> Ephesians 5:26-27

<sup>65</sup> Ephesians 5:25

Unfortunately, and to our shame, we have in so many ways given her over to the world. We have permitted “whoever” to do “whatever” and then expect God to accept it simply because we have. But God does not lower His standards for any man!

No, dear one, when it comes to the state of the church, the Bride-to-be must be completely transformed. We must take action like Nehemiah did against the enemy, Tobiah.

**Nehemiah 13:7-9** *“I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me bitterly; therefore I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room. Then I commanded them to cleanse the rooms; and I brought back into them the articles of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.”*

I fear rather than hear “well done”, we may hear the very words that Samson spoke against those who destroyed his bride: *“Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease.”*

## **Prophetic Word**

*Will they not choose Me?  
Choose Me this day and I will come with a great array.  
I speak to you this morning, you must understand,  
This day, this season has changed, it's not the same.  
Tell them to get rid of shame.  
Where will I bring them? In My bosom with Me.  
You are the chosen ones to cry. I've already done it.  
Why are you weary? Why are you tired?  
Do you not see? Do you not trust?  
You can walk in joy and peace.  
Do you not believe I am here?  
Do you not see? Do you not have a great cheer?*

*Rejoice in the trials this day.  
I bring you to a close place in My heart.  
Do not judge, don't think or wink.  
Why? It is I who am strong, so rejoice in Me.  
It is done for thee. Rejoice.  
Let me see your joy. Rise up and sing with a great voice.  
I'm walking and talking.  
Now stand up and worship Me.  
Stand up and see what I am doing this day.*

## Leave and Cleave

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### Day 38 - January 12, 2014

Leave and Cleave is a phrase usually used of people who get married; they are to leave their parents and cleave to each other. **Cleave** means to **adhere firmly, closely, loyally, and unwaveringly to another**. We are the bride of Christ, and we must leave the things of our childhood past and our traditional ways of serving God (church world), and **firmly fix our hearts and desires on the Lord Jesus Christ**.

**1 Chronicles 29:18** *“O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.”*

In Rick Joyner’s book The Path, he describes two very distinct groups of Christians. They have both come to the Lord Jesus Christ in Salvation, they both love the Lord, they both gather together with other Christians to worship the Lord, and they have separated themselves from the world. **The first group** was living on a very luxurious ocean liner, living apart from the world of sinners. **They are very content to worship God and serve each other, as long as it does not interfere with their comfort.**

**The second group** came from the first. They were either the offspring of the first, or had recently come to know the Lord and live on the luxury liner. **They were hearing the call of the Lord, and they had a desire deep in their soul for more of God.** They desired to have a relationship with Him, to know the depths of His Word, and they had a strong conviction to live holy lives. They experienced much criticism from the first group, causing them to become a close group, set on knowing the Lord more and more. They gathered together to encourage each other in seeking the truth of God. They were encouraged by the Holy Spirit to **leave** the luxury and extreme comforts of the ocean liner, **to find the guide the Lord had chosen to lead and disciple them in the truth**, and to **enter into the wilderness** to begin a journey up **to the Mountain of God to cleave to Him.**

The Holy Spirit is calling His remnant to come up the mountain, and we must be found in the second group. We must leave the comforts of the “Christian World” in order to go up the mountain to be with the Lord.

**Psalm 78: 6-8** *“That the generation to come might know them (God’s Word), the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; and may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.”*

The Lord has been speaking prophetically all over the world about **this generation**. The children, youth, and young adults of our time are very special to the Lord. **They are a chosen generation, who are to be His messengers of light in the coming darkness.** God is putting forth a sound that they are responding to. **We must be in intercession for this generation**, because the enemy knows the impact they are to have in the end times; and he is coming against them as he has never come against a group of people before. They are in the greatest darkness that has ever been, and they must come out of it, into the marvelous light of the Lord.

**1 Peter 2:9** *“But you are a **chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*

**Those who are older and have responded to the call of the Lord are to come alongside this generation, to disciple and encourage those the Lord is rising up.** All the wilderness experiences, all the trials and testings, all the revealed Word from the Lord, all the prophetic utterances we have heard from the Holy Spirit are not just for us for, but also **for this rising generation to help them on the path the Lord has set before them.** **The Lord is calling His remnant, the older and the younger generations, to walk together on this journey up the mountain.**

**Song of Solomon 8:6** *“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame.”*

The Lord is setting the seal of His love upon the hearts of those whom He knew would respond to His call, marking us as a special people. **His love is burning within the hearts of His remnant.** Love for God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and for each other is vital on this journey.

**A word for the older generation, do you hear the call of the Lord to disciple the younger generation** who will be on the front lines in battles before the Lord returns? We must get our lives in order so we can turn the focus off of our problems and issues, and focus on what the Lord is asking for us to do for Him in these last days. We are to go up the mountain, but we are not to go alone. **We must help others come up the mountain.** The Lord has been preparing us our whole lives for this time. Now is the time we must arise and lead the way on the right path of the Lord. It is vital that we fight against complacency, prejudice, and judgment of the youth. These the enemy will use to bring separation between the generations and therefore loose the effectiveness of the work we are to do. **We must work in harmony with one another.** The meaning of the word **harmony** is when different parts are placed together in a way that they fit together very well, like a seam, producing a pleasing arrangement. We must raise up spiritual sons and daughters for the kingdom of God! **Will you led them?**

**Psalms 133:1** *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”*

**A word for the younger generation, do you hear the call of the Lord to know Him more, to live a pure and holy life before Him?** Arise and let the Holy Spirit lead you on this pilgrimage. Accept the discipleship of the teachers the Lord puts in your life, they are there to prepare and lead you on the journey in these last days. Do not be wise in your own eyes, but drink from the wisdom God has placed in your leaders, teachers, and mentors. Those God has placed in your life to lead you have been on this journey and will lead you on the right path. The time is short and we must not waste our time on the wrong paths. **Will you follow?**

**Psalm 84:5** *"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage."*

## **Prophetic Word**

The right path may never actually get easier, but it seems to become easier as we grow stronger and wiser. The right path has one thing the other paths do not. When you are on the right path you will get continually closer to the Lord and His living water will always be available. There is no greater peace and joy that we can know than being close to him. Our closeness to Him can be so wonderful that we will begin to delight in this wilderness.

The right path gets brighter and brighter until we are walking in the fullness of the light. The wrong path gets darker and leads you away from him. The joy and peace of the Lord will be replaced by confusion, leading to depression and despair.

Taken from **The Path**, by Rick Joyner

## Bless the Lord, O my Soul

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### Day 39 - January 13, 2014

**Psalm 103:1** *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”*

**Please read Psalm 103** in its entirety before you read this message.

On this day that many leaders take as a Sabbath rest, let us stop and reflect on our Lord, Almighty God. May we truly say with our entire soul, “I bless You, My Lord and Savior”.

The Old Testament word for **ble**ss is *barak* – **to kneel in adoration**.

The New Testament word for **ble**ss is *eulogeo* - **to speak well of, to celebrate with praises**.

**Our soul is our mind, our will, and our emotions.** Think back to the past week.

- **What did our mind dwell on?** What troubled it with worry and anxiety? What distracted it with temptation and sin?
- **What was your will doing?** Was it lined up with the Lord, or was it allied with your flesh and/or the world?
- **What was your emotional state this week?** Were your emotions at peace because you were trusting the Lord in all things, no matter what trials and storms came your way? Were you filled with wonder and adoration of Almighty God? Or were your emotions filled with anger and rage, tears and frustrations, guilt and condemnation?

Let’s lay all of this down at the altar of repentance. Then let us bow down to our Lord, kneeling in adoration and thanksgiving before Him, acknowledging who He truly is. **Speak to Him of His goodness, mercy, lovingkindness, righteousness, justice, compassion, grace, forgiveness, faithfulness ...** Celebrate Him with the praises of our lips and your heart!

Still having trouble speaking these words to Him? Then let’s look more closely at Psalm 103.

**Psalm 103:2** *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;”*

**When we have trouble with our mind, will, and emotions,** it is because we forget or do not understand truly who God can be in our lives; **we do not understand the benefits of being His beloved friend. He has come to love us, to redeem us** from the clutches of the enemy that lead us into unrighteousness, and **to draw us close to His heart.** He desires us to have an intimate relationship with Him that we hear His voice all throughout the day as He leads us in all righteousness, and the desires of His heart.

We must know His Word. It is a wonderful compilation of the tales of His love for mankind and the struggles of man to walk in the commands and statutes of God. David struggled with hardships and sin in his life, but God called him a man after His heart. This is obvious in his adoration of the Lord all throughout Psalms.

David acknowledged to God that He is the One who has pardoned all of his sins, and healed all his diseases. He is the One who redeemed his life from the pit. God literally and more importantly spiritually, crowned him with lovingkindness and compassion. God is with us when we are young and when we are old. He is always close to fill us with His Holy Spirit and His love so we will be satisfied; and when we are weary, He is there to renew us. He is the one who brings us justice when we are wronged, and blesses us when we are right. He is always with us to lead us on the right path, the one He uniquely designed for us. Whenever we take the wrong path, He is slow to anger; always welcoming us back into His loving arms with compassion and His forgiving grace when we repent. When we ask Him to lead us back to the right path, He is always abounding in lovingkindness.

**Psalm 103:11-13** *“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear (revere) Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear (revere) Him.”*

**David is using unmeasurable distances to convey the unlimitedness of God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion on those who revere His name.** So let’s take this day and bless the Lord with our soul. This will take great effort for some whose souls are in turmoil; but fight through the noise of your mind, will, and emotions to position yourself at the feet of the Lord, extolling His benefits and compassions.

God has done so much for us, and He is always working all things together for our good, for those who love the Lord. Let’s give back to Him this day. One thing that really blesses the Lord is when we read His scripture back to Him in the form of a prayer or praise. Here are a few suggestions, although almost every scripture can be used in this way.

**Ephesians 2:1-13**

**Isaiah 63: 7-9**

**Psalm 96**

**Psalm 104**

**Hebrews 12:28-29** *“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”*

## Are You Going up the Right Mountain?

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### Day 40 - January 14, 2014

During these 50 days of Ingathering/First Fruits, **the Lord has been encouraging us to seek Him and go up the Mountain of God, to receive His living water and fellowship with Him.** We have all thought this was a great thing to do, but we have struggled in this journey in one way or another. The Lord has been encouraging us to walk on the right path, the path that everyday leads us closer to Him. **But somewhere along the way, we get distracted and make a turn that puts us on the wrong path, a path that leads us away from the Lord.**

If you have ever hiked in the mountains, sometimes it is hard to see where one mountain ends and another one starts. **If you do not know the way, you will begin walking up one mountain and end up on another one.** This is also true in our Christian life. We are walking with the Lord and then one day we realize we haven't spent time with Him in a while and plan to the next day. That turns into a few more, and over time the peace and joy we once had are gone, and we feel confused and hopeless. We have strayed onto a false mountain.

Two days ago we saw the characteristics of the right and wrong path. When we are on the right path we are getting closer and closer to the Lord, and to His Light; and we are filled with His peace and joy. But when we are on the wrong path, we are getting further away from the Lord, and our path gets darker and darker; leading to confusion, depression, and despair.

**When the Lord returns there will only be one mountain,** and that will be the mountain of the house of the Lord.<sup>66</sup> Every other mountain will be brought low. There will only be one path to the Lord.

*Isaiah 40:3-5 "A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"*

We all know it will be a glorious eternity with the Lord; all darkness, confusion, and despair will be gone. There will only be one mountain, and it will be the Lord. Everyone will come to it and Jesus will teach us all about His ways.<sup>67</sup> **Praise God we do not have to wait to go**

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<sup>66</sup> Micah 4:1

<sup>67</sup> Micah 4:2

**up the mountain of the Lord. Out of His incredible love for us, He is beckoning us to come up now.**

**But we must recognize there are false mountains in our life that are hindering our relationship with the Lord and each other. We must ask the Lord to bring them down now.** Let's look at these false mountains.

**Zechariah 4:7** *"What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"*

The Hebrew word for **great** is *gadol* which means **older, insolent, proud, loud**. These mountains have been around for a long time; usually iniquities that have been passed down for generations. They are insolent, which means they are overbearing and proud. They tend to speak very loud to our soul (mind will, and emotions) demanding our attention and actions for what they want.

Zerubbabel was the ruler of God's people when they had returned from captivity in Babylon, and he was placed in charge of rebuilding the temple of God. Remember, we are now the temple of the Lord, and our King, Jesus, is wanting to rebuild His temple in us. In order to do that, He must tear down the false mountains in our life, and make them into plains. The Hebrew word for **plains** is *miyshor* which means **level ground, straight, righteous**. When He tears down these mountains, He will lead us on the straight path to righteousness.

**Psalms 23:3** *"He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."*

The next part of **Zechariah 4:7** is *"he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"* A top stone is defined as the main building stone. This should bring all kinds of scriptures to your mind about Jesus being the chief corner stone, the foundation of the temple He is building in our lives.

**Isaiah 28:16** *"Therefore thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.'"*

**Acts 4:11** *"He (Jesus) is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone."*

We must know that when we accepted Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior, He laid a solid foundation in our lives, and **He will complete the work of building the temple**; just like Zerubbabel.

**Zechariah 4:9** *"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts"*

*has sent me to you."*

The Lord will shout blessings of grace over us, as He tells us how precious we are to Him and demonstrates His love towards us in His kindness and favor.

The false mountains in our lives, the false ways we have walked, the church traditions of man we have followed, the iniquities of our fathers and mothers... at times look to be unmovable mountains; but we must know that nothing is impossible with the Lord. Take time to **contemplate on these verses as you are seeking the Lord to tear down the false mountains** in your life.

**Habakkuk 3:6** *"He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations. Yes, **the perpetual mountains were shattered, the ancient hills collapsed.** His ways are everlasting."*

God is the only One who is everlasting, not the mountains in our lives; no matter how invincible they look. He hates these destructive mountains in our lives, and He will bring them down and destroy them completely

**Jeremiah 51:25-26** *"Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys the whole earth, declares the Lord, and I will stretch out My hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and I will make you a burnt out mountain. They will not take from you even a stone for a corner nor a stone for foundations, but you will be desolate forever, declares the Lord."*

God is powerful enough to tear down every mountain in our life. We must have the faith in Him to believe this and then to ask.

**Matthew 21:21-22** *"And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you **say to this mountain, be taken up and cast into the sea,** it will happen. And all things you ask in prayer, **believing,** you will receive.'"*

Let us shout to the Lord with joy and gladness, because of the grace that He has poured on us at Calvary. Rejoice with great faith knowing that He desires the false mountains to be torn down, so there are no hindrances to us becoming His precious bride!

**Jeremiah 33:11** *"the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, 'Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, For the Lord is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting'; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of the Lord. 'For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' says the Lord."*

# The destroyer Comes to Ensnare us

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## Day 41- January 15, 2014

In yesterday's message we looked at the mountain of God that the Lord desires all His people to go up. He desires us to come up to be with Him, to hear His heart clearly, so we can intercede for others. He warned us to be careful coming up the mountain, because if we get distracted, we will find ourselves walking on the wrong mountain, a false mountain of the enemy. The enemy is always counterfeiting what God, the Creator, has established for His people. It started in the garden and will continue until he is bound and thrown into the Lake of Fire! The enemy brings the false, the counterfeit, to deceive us little by little into sin. The enemy has many false mountains to counterfeit the Mountain of God; and he is bringing them into the church! These are huge obstacles to God's people having a relationship with Him.

### Seven of the main false mountains the enemy brings to God's people are:

- **Division- discord** in families and in the church, causing **divorce** to break up families and Christians to break covenant, going from church to church when things are not "right". **1 Corinthians 3:3**
- **Divination**- entertaining demons, witchcraft. **1 Samuel 15:23**
- **Dogs** - false leaders who are wolves in sheep's clothing. They look the part, but they are leading the people up the false mountain. If we do not know the Word of God, we will be deceived! **Isaiah 56:10-11**
- **Dirty Dolls** - There is so much false emphasis on a woman's (and little girl's) beauty, swinging from vanity to lust. This leads both men and women into sexual immorality and pornography. Sexual immorality is the number one killer to the soul of man. **Hosea 2:2**
- **Dollars** - We become seduced with wealth in this country. We envy those who have money and always are unsatisfied with what we do not have, always wanting more and more. The church is full of greed and covetousness. **1 Timothy 6:9**
- **Drugs** - Christians are using drugs, alcohol, and addictions of all kinds to numb the pain of all the false mountains they have been on or have been forced onto by others. **Ephesians 4:26-31**
- **Danger** - This false mountain is constantly yelling into the ears of God's tormented people to kill themselves, telling them that suicide is the only answer to their pain. The enemy also has some commit horrific acts of violence. **Psalms 72:14**

**1 Timothy 6:9** *"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction."*

**The deep darkness is here in the church, and we have been asleep to the ensnarements the enemy has brought.** The enemy is especially targeting the young

generation because he knows the potential they have for bringing radical change to the church, preparing her to be the bride of Christ!

**A snare is a device that is secretly but strategically set up to capture a targeted subject.** It is set up in such a way that we cannot see it, or it is in the form of something we desire. The enemy is crafty and he is constantly trying to trip us up.

**1 Peter 5:8** *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

A snare does not kill you outright, the enemy does not have that power over believers; but a snare limits your movements and leaves you at the mercy of the one who entrapped you. The devil is interested in capturing believers to make them believe they are his slave, keeping them from intimacy with God and not fulfilling the purposes of God for their life.

**There are certain patterns in our life that give the indication that we are in the snare of the enemy.** Please read these with spiritual discernment and an open heart to let God expose the snares hidden there in the darkness.

- **Finding yourself constantly falling into a sin you do not wish to commit, but are still clinging to you.** Each time you fall into it, you will weep and feel so bad, but after a while you see yourself in the same mess again.
- **You appear to be making progress but find yourself reverting back to the starting point.**
- **You are stagnant and unable to move forward in one area of your life or the other.** If your life is characterized with delay and stagnancy; or you have no success even though you have put continuous serious effort in it to succeed; then the enemy is holding your life bound.
- **You always see yourself in a lower position than you are in real life.**
- **You cannot get commensurate result or profit for the labor you put in.** You are really working hard and doing all that is necessary to achieve great results in some areas of your life, yet only little or no good results are coming out for you.
- **Facing regular oppositions and absence of favor in any step they take to try to move forward in life.**
- **Experiencing the activities of devourer in your finances, by experiencing frequent damages, lose or waste.**
- **Your dreams are frequently about dead people, dying, or sexual immorality.**

First of all, we need to know as believers that the enemy, the devil, has NO POWER to control us, unless we let him! Jesus Christ, with His death and resurrection, paid the price for our sins and defeated satan! But when we open the door for him to come in (because of our sins), he jumps in with all his snares. He finds the snares that work on each one of us, and traps us time and time again.

**These snares can be broken, our souls can be set free from his torment, and we can be brought back into the freedom of fellowship with Almighty God!** For a snare to be destroyed and for our soul to escape, certain steps need to be taken, some of which are discussed below:

**We must confess all known sins and ask the Lord to reveal the hidden sins we have long ago buried in a dark recess of our heart.**

**Colossians 1:13-14** *"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

**Pray seriously with fasting and ask a mature believer to pray and fast with you for deliverance.**

**Matthew 17:21** *"But this kind (demonic oppression) does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

**James 5:16** *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."*

**Break all ties with false prophets and occultists.** Anything they gave you or anything with the symbols of false religions must be destroyed. Many of these are found in decorations all over our homes and wardrobes.

**Numbers 33:52** *"Then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high places."*

**Plead the blood of Jesus for yourself** as you renounce and separate yourself from any covenant you might have entered into with the devil and those entered into on your behalf by someone else.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** *"knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your **futile way of life inherited from your forefathers**, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."*

**Maintain a good relationship with God with a lifestyle of holiness.** Sin separates us from God and thus gives the devil a way to come in and ensnare us. In order for us to enjoy total freedom from these snares, we must die to our fleshly nature, and dedicate our lives to pleasing God. This desire to live holy lives is strengthened by spending time every day with the Lord in prayer and the study of His Word, and by fellowshiping with other believers to be encouraged.

**1 Peter 1:14-15** *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;”*

**Bind the strongman behind the snare.** There is a strong man in charge of every snare the devil uses to hold us captive, and he must be rendered powerless by binding him with the chains of the Holy Spirit. **The strong man may be stubborn if we have something in common with it – disobedience and sin.** To bind the strong man, we must do it with the righteousness of God which can only come through the cleansing blood of the Blood of Jesus.

**Mathew 12:29** *“Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”*

**We must engage in spiritual warfare when we pray against the snares of the devil, depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to break the snares.** We can fall into delusion when we don't quickly see success in the spiritual battles we are waging. The enemy will make us feel like a failure, and cause our trust in the Lord to waver. We will lose our way on the good path that has been chosen for us to walk in faith when we allow the distractions and deceptions of the enemy to erode our faith. Watch out for self-pity, negative thinking, or voices that do not encourage, but only see the bad and not the good. We need to see what the Lord is doing, and keep our eyes upon Him. He is faithful to move upon the hearts of His children.

**Psalm 91:1-3** *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!’ For it is **He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper** and from the deadly pestilence.*

**We must stay on the right mountain, seeking the shelter of the Most High God! When we do, He will deliver us from the snare of the enemy! Our help is in Him alone!**

**Psalm 124:7-8** *“Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper; The snare is broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.”*

## **Prophetic Word**

In a vision I saw a path in a forest. Part of the path was lit by the sun shining through the tree branches, but most of it was shrouded in darkness and obscured as it meandered through dense vegetation. And, I heard the Lord say: This path represents where you are going both naturally and spiritually. You will not be able to look very far ahead, but as you

stay present with Me the path will be clear enough, and I will take you every step of the way in safety. Trust Me to lead you with clarity.

***Proverbs 3:6*** *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”*

## Raising up a Nahum

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### Day 42 - January 16, 2014

**Ezekiel 22:29** *"The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice."*

**Where is Justice? The Lord has cried out for justice all throughout the Bible, and if we listen to His heart today, it is ever more so.** We know that the hearts of mankind have grown exceedingly cold when we watch the news, and even more so when we talk to those spiritually, physically, and emotionally devastated by the injustices perpetrated against them! We saw in yesterday's message that the destroyer comes to bring destruction to God's children, especially this generation of children and youth.

**Isaiah 59: 14-16** *"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the Lord saw, and **it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.** And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought salvation to Him, and His righteousness upheld Him."*

**God sees the power the evil one is wielding upon this earth, and the depth of the coming darkness; but He loves His children and He will not let evil overpower us!** Judgment is coming to the earth, and it will start first with the church to get us to repent and turn whole-heartedly to Him!

**Nahum 1:2-3** *"A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; the Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet."*

**Nahum, whose name means comforter, was called by God to be a prophet to Nineveh,** once the capitol of the Assyrian Empire. God allowed the Assyrians to conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel because of their idolatry and sin. Most of the people of Israel were taken from their land and moved to other Assyrian cities, primarily Nineveh. The Assyrian king sets his sights on the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and conquering Jerusalem; so that he could prove that His god was the strongest in the world. **This is when God stepped in and sent Nahum to speak His words of encouragement to His people who were held captive; that peace was coming with the destruction of Assyria. These were incredible words, because Assyria was at the height of its power.**

**Nahum 1:15** *“Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For **never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely.**”*

Even though Israel had continued to sin while in captivity in Nineveh, God was still merciful towards them, and He sent Nahum to bring them comfort. **God is calling His remnant to be the prophetic voice in this age to the people who have lost hope, who are fearful of the enemy that is tormenting them...** We are to offer words of encouragement against the brutal attacks of the enemy.

**Nahum 1:7** *“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.”*

Israel had been under Assyrian domination for almost a century. The Assyrians dominated the lives of everyone they conquered. **They were violently abusive, raping and plundering the weak.** This is also the strategy of the enemy, the devil. Assyria was at the height of their power, and they seemed invincible, until God said – ENOUGH! Just as Nahum prophesied of the coming destruction of Assyria, so too He is speaking to the prophets of today that destruction is coming to a great tyrant that brings forth fear, abuse and torture in the lives of mankind today.

There is a spirit operating in Christians today, **the Assyrian spirit, which is keeping God's people ensnared and separated from Him.** As we go up the mountain to seek the Lord, and He shares His heart with us; we must come back down and **share His words to all who need to hear His message of judgment for our tormenter and comfort for our souls!**

**The Assyrian spirit comes to rape and plunder God's people.** Rape -forced to have sex and **Plunder**-forced to give up everything in a time of war. People who are devastated by this spirit have been **forced against their will** to do something or to lose something.

**John 10:10** *“The thief (satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*

Many Christians suffer from the rape and stealing of their minds by the enemy. His strategy is to **control our minds and abuse our bodies with all kinds of addictions.** **Hate ensnares our minds causing us to lash out in anger and violence, inflicting mental and physical abuse on those around us.** Abuse of all kinds robs Christians of their identity in Christ and their ability to see the Father's love. Oh so often, this spirit convinces our minds that we should kill ourselves.

**The enemy has torn apart families and churches,** causing the children to walk in confusion and all kind of lies; all to keep them from knowing the Father's love. The enemy's strategy is to separate and divide those who have authority by targeting husbands, fathers, pastors, and leaders. **The enemy hates God's people, and he is doing all in his power to capture and destroy their hearts.**

**Sexual immorality has become the number one killer of the souls of God's children.** Rape, pornography, and molestation are hate sins. These are accompanied with feelings of intense hostility, intense aggression or anger, and sudden attacks. When sex has been forced on children, or a woman is raped, they did not ask for it. **The enemy uses the person filled with hate to destroy the victim; who becomes filled with shame, condemnation, and hate, keeping them from seeing the love of God!**

**The enemy wants to kill anything that has life, and abortion is one of his most successful ways of killing.** The child is murdered, along with his/her bloodline, and the woman who made the "choice" to kill her child is tormented. This is a violent attack fueled by the hate of the enemy towards mankind!

**The Assyrian spirit also manifests itself in covetousness, which opens the doors of our mind, body, and spirit to all kinds of violence and idolatry!** We become consumed with the riches of this world; and when we do not have enough (and we never will with this spirit), we will be filled with hate, jealousy, murder, bitter envy, self-consumption and robbery.

**1 Timothy 6:10** *"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

**These are ensnarements, traps of the enemy, to keeps us from getting close to God.** This spirit targets Christians and it is out to gain the territory of their minds in a vicious way.

Those who were bound in the Assyrian spirit seek to escape from it, but all too often they end up going back to their old ways. **We must rise up with compassion in our hearts for our brothers and sisters who are bound by this spirit. We must love them and hate the spirit that is controlling and tormenting them.** We must pray and fast for them, we must seek the Lord on His mountain to hear clearly what we must pray for them.

**God sent two prophets to Nineveh: Jonah and Nahum.** One Hundred years separated their lives, but the people of Nineveh were on God's heart. Even though they were a people filled with hate and evilness, God desired to give them an opportunity to repent of their wicked ways and turn to Him. **Jonah found it difficult to accept the fact that God would offer mercy to Nineveh, when they deserved severe judgment.**

**God desires to show mercy to the people, but only judgment to the spirit that controls them.** We must differentiate between the people and the spirit! God loves all His people, and Jesus is waiting to return until all nations are given a chance to know Him as their Savior; so He can share His forgiveness and mercy with them.

**God is calling His prophets now to speak of God's love and His open invitation for all to come to Him in repentance, to receive His love. God is also raising up a new**

**generation of prophets who will be like Nahum and speak of the judgment to come.** They will have a hard word to speak, but they must speak every word the Lord gives them.

This is why it is very vital we come up the mountain in this season. As the remnant, we are being called to be a company of prophets. **We are to speak of God's love which will come in repentance and judgment.** We must not be moved by our feelings, by what we see going on in the lives of the people we are sent to. We must only be moved by the words God speaks to us on the mountain!

We have a responsibility to God to love and show mercy to all who are bound with the Assyrian spirit; no matter how vile it manifests. It bears repeating, we must separate the person from the spirit. **As God's prophet, we must show all people love, mercy, and forgiveness; with no partiality. We must hear from God to give them a chance.**

## Strategy of the enemy and his evilness

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Day 43 - January 17, 2014

**1 Peter 5:8** *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour.**"*

**The enemy hates God and he hates man!** We must truly understand this truth and stop ignoring his intrusions into our souls and entertaining him in our sins. Yesterday we talked about **the Assyrian spirit that has been forced onto many believers from the evil actions that others have thrust upon them.** This forced spirit is fueled by the enemy's hatred of God, and it comes up against the Church and its people, by setting traps and snares that keep us in depression, despair, addictions, and separation from God. **There is also a Babylonian spirit operating in believers that seduces us into sin. They work together and are deadly to believers.**

**Genesis 4:7** *"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door**; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."*

Sin is personified as a wild beast, crouched at the door of the human heart; eagerly desiring to leap upon us and devour our souls. **As believers, we are not helpless to this devourer; for in order for it to attack us, we must first sin and not repent.** But until we sin, it is kept away from us by a strong chain (the power of the cross). **Demons wait to ambush believers** when we allow hurts, misunderstood words, wounds, desires, and lust to open the door; seducing us to get angry and demand our way.

In these days before the Lord Jesus returns for His bride, we will experience times of the greatest darkness mankind has ever seen. The enemy, the devil, will come down with all the power he has been granted to try to destroy God's people. **God is allowing this; it is part of the coming judgment from God, for the purposes of getting believers to awaken from their religious slumber and turn to the Lord with all their hearts, as a bride passionate for her bridegroom!** The enemy is a vessel used to bring judgment by God's hand. **The enemy thinks he is strong and in charge because of his pride, and all the success he has had up till now with believers and the world.**

**Nahum 1:9** *"Whatever you devise (conspire) against the Lord, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice."*

**We know the enemy is conspiring against the Lord, and when we fall prey to his spirits, we too conspire against the Lord.**

**Nahum 1:11** *"From you has gone forth one who plotted evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor."*

Remember, Nahum is prophesying against Assyria, and the Assyrian spirit. It had plotted evil against God and His people. It had great influence over the people and **they took their counsel from it and not the Lord, the true Counselor! God knows the nature of man is to trust in man, but we must seek the wisdom and follow the instruction of God.** That is why He advises us to come to Him and buy the things we need to live holy lives before Him.

**Revelation 3:18-19** *“I advise you to buy from Me **gold** refined by fire so that you may become rich, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and **eye salve** to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore **be zealous and repent.**”*

The enemy counsels us to buy what He is selling – death. He is wicked beyond wicked; even more so than Assyria. **Please read Nahum 3:1-4.** This describes some of the wickedness of the Assyrians. They came with the **strength and power of horses and chariots** to conquer and overtake. **They preyed on the weak: children, the elderly, the poor, the lame, and the outcast; just like a vicious wild animal hunting for food.** The Assyrians were liars, thieves, murderers, harlots, and sorcerers. **They separated Israel from their land and introduced them to all the gods of Assyria and all the foreign gods of the nations they conquered. Israel was taught to be more of a harlot than she was before, going after foreign gods to serve them and their sorceries.**

**Sorcery** is the use of black magic, evil magic, given to man by the enemy. **People seduced by sorcery are counseled to sell their bloodlines to the enemy; inflicting pain and torment on innocent generations to come.** The New Testament word for sorcery is *parmakeia*, which means the use of **medicine, drugs, spells, or poisoning**, generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers.

**When the Assyrian spirit is over a believer, they will often uses drugs, alcohol, and food to self-medicate themselves to numb the pain.** The enemy counsels those under this spirit that it is good to stay under the spell of this sorcery, because it helps you cope with the pain. But if we were thinking clearly, we would realize we do not feel better! We are miserable. **The only answer is to get before God and REPENT! This is the only thing that will break the spell of the enemy in their lives!**

**Revelation 9 tells us of the judgment God will bring to mankind with the intent of getting them to repent!** But unfortunately, they were too far gone in their sorceries and immorality.

**Revelation 9:21** *“and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.”*

We are entering the last hour, when the enemy will deceive most of the people on earth, even some of the elect. One of the ways he will do this is to keep us bound to the Assyrian

and Babylonian spirit; to keep us in all kinds of evils, sexual immorality, thefts, murders, and sorcery. **Sexual immorality is a key killer in the church.** We commit fornication with the spirit Babylon by being seduced to eat and drink from her. We are seduced by this spirit to enter into fornication through lust. The New Testament word for **fornication** is *porneuo*, where we get the words pornographic and pornography. **This immorality is both physical and spiritual; both having the effect of breaking covenant with God and God's plan covenant plan for marriage.**

The last hour will bring many distractions and deceptions that will cause us to rebel against God and not receive His Words. **Men will reject God's Word because it speaks against the very thing that drives them: lust, rebellion and stubbornness. God's Word says that rebellion is like witchcraft.<sup>68</sup> When we rebel and refuse to be led by God or the leaders He has put over us, we are put under the spell of the enemy,** resulting in rebellion, iniquity, and idolatry. **This keeps us from repenting and turning from our sins.** Saul had a distressed (evil) spirit overwhelm him; and it troubled him, but not enough to repent and obey God.

**The judgments of Revelation are real and we must know the truth of God** and the lies of the enemy. We will be commanded to take the mark of the beast by the antichrist; but **the Lord is commanding us not to bow to him and to never take the mark of the beast! Whose counsel will we follow?** It will be hard, because it will mean physical death for many believers; but if we are seduced to take the mark, that will mean spiritual death for us for all eternity! The enemy has watered down this time of judgment in many church teachings, so that many believers will be taken unawares.

**Mark 13:20,22** *"Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days... for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray(deceive), if possible, the elect. "*

With almost every judgment in the book of Revelation, there is a sobering phrase, **"they did not repent"**.

**Please read 1 Corinthians 10:1-22.** This recounts God's dealings with His people in the wilderness, to **show us what we should NOT do!** The Old Testament was written for our instruction and we need to heed it, lest we be destroyed by the destroyer.<sup>69</sup> **God encourages us with His promise to help us when we are tempted to sin.** We are not helpless puppets in the hand of the enemy. **The Lord has given all believers the authority and power to resist temptation and flee immorality.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13-14** *"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of*

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<sup>68</sup> 1 Samuel 15:23

<sup>69</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:10

*escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."*

**We, as the remnant, must live righteous lives before the Lord,** because we have been awakened and called to preach the truths of God's Word and His return to those who are unaware or unprepared. We must die to the flesh and to the world, and live so close to the Lord that the enemy has no foot hold into our minds, hearts, or bodies. Let's be like Paul, and discipline our lives so we will not be disqualified from announcing His return.

**1 Corinthians 9: 27** *"but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."*

We must be strong in the remaining time we have before the Lord returns. We must share the truth of God's Word to all, so that they will repent now and turn wholeheartedly to God. It will be much harder, although not impossible, to repent and turn later from our immoralities. As God's messengers, we are to clear the way for the people to come to the Lord. The enemy has done all he can to demolish and ruin the path the Lord has laid out for His people. We are to build the road back up and remove the boulders, the huge obstacles like the Assyrian and Babylonian spirits. We must lift of a standard of righteousness for God's people to follow.

**Isaiah 62:10-11** *"Go through, go through the gates, clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, 'Lo, your salvation comes; Behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.'"*

## **Prophetic Word**

*What is in Your heart Father?*

*Unending love for My people.*

*But they cannot receive My love because they don't know Me.*

*My people run after this world, thinking that they may find Me there.*

*I am closer, they just need to be still and let Me show My love for them.*

*My love heals, My love restores, My love is all they need.*

*Come and sit with Me.*

# Why the enemy Comes Upon God's Children

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## Day 44 - January 18, 2014

The Northern kingdom of Israel **was founded out of rebellion**, when all of the tribes of Israel, except Judah in Jerusalem, broke off from King Rehoboam, the son of King Solomon, to form their own kingdom. The king they selected, King Jeroboam, **moved by self-preservation and fear, set up an idolatrous system of worship** for the people to follow, so they would not have to leave and go to Jerusalem to worship God in the temple during the Lord's prescribed times of gathering.

**1 Kings 12:27-28** *"If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt."*

**He had two golden calves made to be their new god, and placed them in two different cities to make it more convenient for them to worship their new god.** It is interesting the names of the cities he chose to place these gods: Bethel – the House of God, and Dan – God judges. Just because worship sounds like God, doesn't mean it is the true worship of God. **King Jeroboam devised in his own heart to erect shrines on high places for idol worship all over the land.** He appointed men who were not Levites to be priests, and set his own appointed times of gathering the people for his own feasts.

**God sent a prophet to speak to Jeroboam about how displeased God was with idolatry and Jeroboam's counterfeit (false) worship he was imposing upon the people.** He said that a king would arise named Josiah (300 years later) who would tear down this false worship.<sup>70</sup>

God had exalted Jeroboam to lead God's people Israel, as King David had led, by keeping the commandments of the Lord and following Him with his whole heart. But **Jeroboam did more evil than all who had gone before him and provoked the Lord to anger because he "cast God behind his back"**. God spoke through another prophet that He would bring calamity on the family of Jeroboam, and every male person would be swept away.<sup>71</sup> The prophet went on to say that the Lord would raise up a king (Assyria) to rule over Israel, who will uproot them from their land and be scattered beyond the Euphrates River.<sup>72</sup>

**Five incredibly wicked and violent kings later, Omri became king over Israel.** He built the city of Samaria to be the capital of Israel. It was built on a high hill, and the kings who

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<sup>70</sup> 1 Kings 13:1-5

<sup>71</sup> 1 Kings 14:7-10

<sup>72</sup> 1 Kings 14:14-16

lived there believed that they were safe from all invaders because of their own strength and power in this high place. **Omri acted even more wickedly than all who were before him;** walking in the ways of Jeroboam, provoking the Lord God with idolatry.<sup>73</sup>

The king after Omri was **Ahab, who did even more evil than the previous kings.**<sup>74</sup> On and on the story goes until it was time for the Word of the Lord to be fulfilled. The land was invaded and the people carried away into slavery because of their sins. **Jeroboam forced idolatry onto the people and they accepted it; along with the accompanying idolatrous spirit, which then seduced them to live lives of great sin and immorality.**

**What idolatry was forced onto you in your life, and has it seduced you into immorality?** Please take some time to have the Lord search your heart for the answer to these questions.

Jeroboam built a false religion centered on false gods, and Omri built his capital city Samaria, on a false mountain. They did not worship according to God's way. Even though the people knew of God from their forefathers, they chose to worship idols. You can see why the Jews in Jerusalem had such disdain for the Samaritans. But Jesus took the time to travel out of His way to speak to the Samaritans to bring mercy to them, and invite them back in to the family of God! We too must have compassion for all who are bound by the enemy in their lives and pray for them and help to lead them back to the purity of the Lord.

God brought judgment on His children, the Samaritans, when they disobeyed and walked in stubbornness and rebellion. **Please read 2 Kings 17.**

God allowed the Assyrians to come and besiege the land of Israel for many years. I am sure God let it go on this long, hoping that the people would listen to the prophets who warned the people to repent and turn back to the Lord. **But 200 years of idolatry had removed almost all fear and reverence of the true God from the people.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14** *"Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, 'Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.' However, **they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God.**"*

When Assyria finally defeated the land of Israel, the Assyrians carried the people of Israel away and placed them in their cities beyond the Euphrates River. **They were placed in physical captivity, but their spiritual captivity was much more devastating!** They were now surrounded with every false god that mankind worshipped in the world at that time. Every occult spirit was presented to them, and since they were open to the enemy, they became overrun. Their spiritual bondage led them deeper into sin! **This is a**

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<sup>73</sup> 1 Kings 16:21-26

<sup>74</sup> 1 Kings 16:29-34

strategy of the enemy to oppress us in our sin and send us among those who are of the world and full of evilness. We must not entertain the spirits of this world.

**Ephesians 6:12** *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

**1 Corinthians 10:20** *“... I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”*

As this was not bad enough, the Assyrians then **placed other conquered peoples in the land of Israel, further polluting the Promised Land.** They were from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and from Sephar-vaim.<sup>75</sup> Even if we did not know about the false gods of these nations, just looking at the meanings of their names, the demonic influence over them is obvious: **Babylon** - confusion and mixture, **Cuthah** - crushing and those who will break, **Avva** - ruin, **Hamath** - fortress, and **Sephar-vaim** - burning of our children .

Assyria built shrines to all of the false gods of these people. In order to keep down rebellion of one conquered people, they separated and **mixed all the conquered people together.** Most wars are fought over religion, and if they are all mixed together, there will be less rebellion against the leaders. Don't you see that in today's "politically correct" society? We are told we must coexist, we must all come together and get along. The enemy brings this confusion to shut out the truth and highlight the false.

**When we do not have the true foundation of God, we are influenced by the wickedness around us.** When we do not know the Lord intimately and do not walk in obedience to His Word, we will walk in error before the Lord. **When we walk in error, we teach these ways to our children, leaving them ill-equipped to stand firm against the demonic assaults they will face in school and in the world.** They then teach their children and the cycle goes on and on.

**2 Kings 17:41** *“So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.”*

The Samaritans had a form of godliness that is prevalent among believers today. **We have been taught mixture for generations and generations. But this is not God's plan for His Bride. He is returning for a people who are faithful to Him alone, who love Him above all else.** That is why God is raising up a righteous group of prophets and intercessors, to speak His truth and pray against the demonic spirits that are influencing the people of God. We must speak His Words with the passionate love He has for all mankind. **If we will repent of our false ways, if we will turn from our idols, and seek to know the Lord and love Him with all of our heart; then He will deliver us from all of our enemies!** All of them!<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> 2 Kings 17:24

<sup>76</sup> 2 Kings 17:39

## The Hope of The Comforter

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### Day 45 - January 19, 2014

**Nahum 1:15** *“Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely.”*

Because of the idolatry of the people of Israel, the Lord allowed Assyria to invade and conquer them. They were taken as slaves to the Assyrian city of Nineveh, where they were treated with violence and cruelty. After 200 years, **God sent Nahum, His prophet, to give His people words of comfort that their captivity was at an end.**

The brutal treatment of the Assyrians led Israel to be even more bound spiritually in sin and idolatry; but **God out of His Covenant Love for His people was merciful and was coming to bring them comfort.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3 - 5** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”*

It has been beneficial to learn about the schemes of the enemy against the church, but **it is more important for all believers to understand the Comforter, whom the Lord has given to all believers.** We need His comfort as we go through our testings and trials; along with the struggles we face with the spirits we have studied the last few days. **The Holy Spirit is here to come along side to give us hope that we will be set free from the spirits that mock and torment us.** He is the One who will walk with us as we climb the mountain to get closer to the Lord.

Take comfort in the definition of **comfort** the Holy Spirit offers us:

- To strengthen; to enliven; to encourage.
- Relief from pain or distress.
- To gain new strength; to give new vigor to the soul.
- Relief from distress of the mind; or relieve from depression, or trouble.
- Support; consolation under calamity, distress, or danger.

God sees us when we are afflicted and in sin. He knows when we are weary and need help. His heart of love goes out to us to bring us relief and comfort. That is why **He sent His Son to set us free from our sins,** so we will no longer be under the bondage of the devil. When

Jesus ascended to heaven to be with His Father, **He sent the third part of the Trinity to dwell in the hearts of all believers. The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Comforter.**

**Let's look at some of the ways the Holy Spirit will comfort us.**

**He testifies to our spirit that we are children of God.**

**Romans 8:14-16** *"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,"*

**Through Him we have access to God the Father.**

**Ephesians 2:18-19** *"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,"*

**We can have the fellowship with Him.**

**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,*

**He is our helper**, the Spirit of Truth, who will teach us the deep things of God's heart.

**John 15:26-27** *"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning."*

The Greek word for **helper** is *parakletos*. It means to come beside, to call to one's side; a strengthening presence, one who upholds those appealing for assistance. **The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, and counselor.** He was given to help and guide us, and to give us strength to endure the hostility of the world we live in.

When we question God why He has not answered our prayers, or why He has allowed certain things to happen to us; the enemy keeps us from the truth, and we begin to question the love God has for us. We must call on the Holy Spirit to help us see and receive the love of God. He can come along side to counsel and comfort us on God's love!

**He is our teacher**, to teach us the things of God and to help us remember all that He has said to us in His Word.

**Luke 12:11-12** *"When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your*

*defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*

### **He helps us live righteous lives**

**Galatians 5:16** *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."*

**The Comforter brings peace and love!** The Holy Spirit comes to Comfort us with Christ's love, and all the attributes that come with it - joy, peace...

**Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

### **He equips us to serve the Lord – Spiritual gifts**

**Joel 2:28** *"It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions."*

### **He gives us hope.**

**Romans 5:5** *"and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

**There is Hope coming up the mountain and the Lord Jesus wants us to know the truth according to His Word.** Yes, the destroyer of this age came to steal, kill, and destroy; but Christ came with life, and He gives it to all believers in abundance. We must know that we are conquerors and overcomers because of His everlasting covenant love.

Father God in His love and mercy knew that for us to be with Him, His Son would suffer for us and be raised up so we could be raised up the same way. There is no way the enemy could keep Him down, He is the risen King sitting in majesty; and because of Christ in our lives, the enemy cannot keep us down either. We must understand that he has no hold on us as believers. **Let us now position ourselves in the power of our Comforter, walking with Him every day to learn from Him.** He will teach us how to live in the freedom and victory Christ gave us through the cross!

**Colossians 3:1-3** *"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Let us walk this way and not give the devil any place in our lives. We must put to death the deeds of darkness that are still in us, so we can walk in the light and see the manifested glory of God through the Holy Spirit.

Now 2000 years after Jesus' resurrection broke the chains of the devil from the lives of all who believe in Jesus Christ; **the Lord is sending His prophets to comfort us that our captivity to our enemies is coming to an end.** Let us rejoice with repentance; allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us to live righteous lives, holy and acceptable to the Lord.

## You are Fighting the enemy, not Your Parents

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Day 46 - January 20, 2013

**Many Christians have a false image of the Father, and are not able to see the truths of His love for us. All too often this is because of the hurts we experienced growing up with our earthly parents.** We remember something wrong we did that our parents still hold against us, so we cannot believe in God's forgiveness. We remember being abandoned or rejected by our parents, and cannot believe that God loves us and wants to always be with us. We remember opening up our hearts to our parents, only to have them trampled on; so we built walls to protect ourselves from further hurt, not even being willing to lower them for God. **Any memory from our distorted childhood skews the way we see the love our Heavenly Father has for us.**

**Ephesians 6:2** *"Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: is the first commandment with promise; so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."*

The word **honor** means to **greatly esteem or have high respect for someone**. It is a feeling of deep admiration of someone because they are impressive or worthy.

Many times we have had a hard time respecting our parents because of the behaviors we have seen in their lives. Often we were hurt or embarrassed by them, so we were not able to admire them. They were not worthy in our eyes, so we did not respect them. We rebelled because of the hurt we felt growing up with them. **Only until we are healed of our childhood wounds, can start to see the root of our parent's issues; and the spirits that were forcing or seducing them into their behaviors.** Once we can start to separate their good qualities from their bad actions, we can finally start to honor them.

When we were young, we could easily justify our feelings of disgust over our parents because we did not understand how to do honor them. We heard the command in church to "honor our parents"; but could not walk it, out because of our wounds. We had leaned pain from our parents, not love.

Our rebellion and dishonoring of our parents opened the door for the enemy to devalue our parents before us and expose their weaknesses. **When a parent does not meet the mark of living holy before God and raise their children according to the scriptures, this is an open invitation for the enemy to come in and mold the hearts of their children to not trust them, or to devalue who they are in their lives.**

**John 10:10** *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

From the very beginning, the enemy comes to steal from us the relationship God has desired for children and their parents. The commandment to honor our parent comes with a promise: *“that it will go well with you.”* **The enemy comes so hard after children and their parents because this is where love is to be learned.** Children are to see the love of their parents, and then be readily accepting of God’s love for them. We are to be filled with a love like Jesus had for His Father. **The last thing the enemy wants us to do is to exhibit His love to our children and parents. The enemy does not want to see God fulfill His promise for things to go well in our lives!**

**The heart of a child is precious and innocent; but what they see and feel in their homes distorts and molds their personality, behavior, and their image of their parents.** Children love their parents, even when they are abusive, because God gave us all this innocent love as a child. But over time, a spirit is open to torment them because of sin. The love they have for their parents is warped, because at the same time they also feel hate for them. This hate is forced on them by the enemy because of an open door in their parents’ lives and theirs. **He wounds our hearts through the open doors of our parents, and we dishonor our parents by not respecting them with feeling of deep regards of worth and admiration.** By the time we are 10-12, our love/hate relationship with our parents gets so warped we question everything they do as wrong. We rebel against them because we have no respect for them.

We blame our parents for all our problems (things are not going well with us), and not see the consequences of our hurt, rebellion, anger, and unforgiveness. **Our behavior and our parent’s behaviors were influenced by the enemy.** We have seen these spirits in last week’s messages. We must separate our parents from the enemy spirit that influenced their behavior, so we can learn to love and honor them the way God has commanded us to.

When this spirit is forced upon us as children, the enemy’s plan is to kill us. We see no change and no hope, so we give into the enemy. We die spiritually because of our sins, and the separation from God and His voice adds to our pain. The enemy puts into our minds the desire to kill ourselves physically to stop the pain. **These are all impressions the enemy puts in our minds.**

An **impression** is an idea, feeling or opinion about someone especially when it is formed without conscious (being aware of) thoughts or on the basis of little evidence.

**The enemy takes these impressions we have seen in our parents and then adds his impressions to mold our negative feeling and opinions.** We have no awareness that these thoughts are being formed by the enemy and the open doors in our lives. These are also childish impressions, not made with the full truth of why our parents behaved the way they did. **These false impressions give us a false image of love, which keep us from honoring our parents, and also honoring God!** We are following after the impressions of the enemy, and not the truth of God.

Jesus comes to take back what the enemy has stolen in our relationships with our families. He does this by giving us a new impression of true love, the Love of God.

**John 14:6-7** *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.'"*

**The Lord Jesus came so we can have a true impression of who the Father is**, so we can get rid of the old impression of disrespect and dishonor. When we see Jesus, we see the Father's complete image. Jesus came to restore that image that was stolen from us by the father of lies, the devil.

**John 8:44** *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

**We must stop giving the devil a place in our heart because of the impressions and memories the enemy has given us of our parents; things we saw, or did things we didn't see.** We must look into the perfect eyes of Jesus and see the truth and turn to Him, so we can be completely delivered from the false path that was placed before us. Our parents did not ask for the abuse and hurt of their lives accumulated through generations of being hurt. **We must not let this spirit steal from us any longer! We must be the generation who will stand in the gap and cut off the spirit from our bloodlines. Now is time to take back what the enemy has stolen.**

Remember the enemy is a thief and he stole from us before our birth, and he waits for his next victim. But praise be to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we do not have to be victims any longer, but be victors because of the Love of Christ.

# God is Bringing Us to His Holy Mountain

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Day 47 - January 21, 2014

**Isaiah 56:6-7** *"Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath and holds fast My covenant; even those **I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."*

**During these 50 days of Ingathering/First fruits, we have spoken much about going up the mountain to be with the Lord.** When Christians speak in metaphors (using a word to represent something else), it is sometimes hard for us to get our minds around what is really being said. The person is comparing a spiritual concept to something physical we have all seen. We wrestle with the full meaning of going up the mountain; sometimes getting it and at other times it gets lost in the fog of our minds.

Basically, **going up the mountain is seeking the Lord and His presence.** He is Holy and separate from the world; so we need to get away from all the distractions of our lives and seek Him, so we can clearly hear His voice. **We have been called to be His watchmen** (His intercessors) **and His messengers** (prophetic voice to speak what He is saying) for this season before His returns.

Let's look more closely at our passage from **Isaiah 56.** These verses are addressed to **foreigners**, anyone who is not of Jewish descent. Jesus came for all mankind to be drawn close to Him, and this Old Testament passage foreshadows what He did.

**Ephesians 2:11-12** *"Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles... were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**"*

**All mankind is invited to join themselves with Jesus,** to be one with Him as He is one with Almighty God.<sup>77</sup> We were once separated from Him by our sins; but Jesus came to draw all men to Himself, and He has washed all who call upon His name to be washed with His redeeming blood. As we join ourselves to Him, we become one with Him, our Father God, and the Holy Spirit.

As we join ourselves with the entirety of God, let's look at what we are to do with this oneness. First of all we are to **minister to God.** **We minister to God by loving His name**

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<sup>77</sup> John 17:22

**and by being His servants.** The Hebrew word for **minister** is *sharat*, which means to serve the King in His household, to wait upon the Lord and to worship Him. As we come to know and trust His love, we will draw closer to Him to hear His voice so we can carry out the desires of His heart.

A name is very important to God. When we see a different name of God in His Word, it **shows a different aspect of His character**; as in Elohim – creator, El Elyon – sovereign ruler, Adonai – Lord... **The name of God carries with it honor and authority.** As we come to know and love His name, we will learn to trust and honor Him in the way He deserves to be loved.

Another aspect of being in oneness with God is to **keep ourselves from profaning the Sabbath.** The Hebrew word for **profane** is *chahal*, which means to pollute or defile. We profane God and His Sabbath when we treat this command with disrespect or contempt. Our lives are very busy, and we pack them full of all kinds of things. But the Lord has set aside a Sabbath rest for His people; not just to give us the rest our minds and bodies need, but for us to **show the Lord we trust Him enough to help us get done the necessary things during the other six days of the week.**

When we **hold fast His covenant**, we truly are coming into oneness with God. What is His covenant? The Bible speaks of two main covenants God has made with man. The first was the Ten Commandments and the sacrificial system of the Tabernacle and later the temple. When Christ came, He became the perfect Sacrifice and a new covenant was given to man through the blood of Jesus.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant ... not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke... But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people ... I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

The new covenant can be summed up in Jesus' words to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."*<sup>78</sup> **In order to come up the mountain to be closer to God, we must truly love God with every part of us.** That means there is to be no mixture in our hearts. **This is a process**, and He is cleansing us little by little, so we can get closer and closer to Him.

When we are on His Holy Mountain, **He will make us joyful!** Oh how our souls long to have joy! Let us rejoice in this scripture from Jude, visualizing ourselves when we will one day stand before the Lord in all of His glory, and the incredible joy that will fill us for evermore!

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<sup>78</sup> Mark 12:29-30

**Jude 1:24-25** *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

While we are still here on earth, **our joy can be made complete** by joining with God to share the same mind, to maintain the same love, to be united in spirit, and intent on one purpose.<sup>79</sup> One of the purposes of us coming up the mountain is to hear the voice of God more clearly, without the mixture of our lives and issues; so that we can intercede for the people who are on His heart. **This is why His Holy Mountain, the mountain He is beckoning us to climb, is called His House of Prayer!**

Will you come and climb, will you sit in His presence to hear His voice, and then intercede for all who are on His heart each and every day? Come let us offer up prayers as a sweet offering to the Lord!

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<sup>79</sup> Philippians 2:2

## Preparing to go up Zion

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Day 48 - January 21, 2014

**Jesus is preparing His Army to go up the Holy Hill of Zion.**

**Psalm 3:4** *"I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill."*

The holy hill refers to the location of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies in the Temple of God. **This was where the Presence of God rested.** The holy hill was an **elevated** place in the city of Jerusalem, higher than the surrounding areas of the city.

As we are calling out to the Lord, **He hears us from His Holy Hill**, where He has chosen to position Himself. A hill is a naturally raised area of land, **not as high as a mountain. Can we just come up the hill? He will lead us up the rest of the way to the mountain.**

This journey up the mountain is accomplished one step at a time. It is not a sprint, with us gasping for each breath. We must be able to dialog with the Lord every step of the way. In order to do this, **we must slow down to hear His voice as He speaks to us.**

**Psalm 2:6** *"Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."*

**This is Father God speaking to us that we do not have to worry about the enemy and his ensnarements when we are climbing up to seek Him; because He has positioned His Son, the King of kings, on this Hill of Zion for us.** It is the hill of His holiness. He is inviting us to come to the same place where Jesus' Presence dwells. We should never worry about our enemies; **if we come up and dwell with the Lord, He will protect us.** All through the Psalms, King David was crying out to God because he was weak and troubled by the enemies coming against him on all sides.

**Psalm 34:4-6** *"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."*

When we seek Jesus we will see the **radiant** (beams of light or glowing) face of God shining His light on our situations, exposing the enemy who must flee in the presence of the Light! When we call upon Him, He will not let the enemy put us to shame. We will know that the Lord has heard our prayer!!!

**Psalm 34:7** *"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."*

**He is calling us to go up to the elevated place; we must go up to Mt. Zion, where He dwells.**

**Psalm 43:1-3** *“Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! For You are the God of my strength; why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; **let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.**”*

The tabernacle is the dwelling place of the Lord. There is power when we gather together for corporate worship in the Presence of Almighty God. This is vital in the hour we are living in. It will be a place to hear from God, and to receive encouragement and instructions from Him. **We must come out of our dwelling places and come to His dwelling place.**

As we near the end of these 50 days of seeking the Lord, we are at a transition point. He has given us warnings, encouragement, and prophetic insights; **now He wants to give us directions so we will be on the right path. This is our turning point!**

**Please read Numbers 10:11-36.**

The Israelites were poised at the base of Mount Sinai where God had spoken powerfully to Moses. The Lord gave him detailed instructions and commandments for the people to follow, in order to worship Him in a way that would honor God. They were at a transition point in their journey; leaving one wilderness and heading to another. They followed the cloud of the Lord from the wilderness of Sinai to the wilderness of Paran. **When the cloud settled down, the people stopped and erected their tents.**

The Hebrew word for **settled down** is *shachan*, which means to dwell, abide, remain, stay, to tabernacle. God’s manifest presence stopped and abided with the people. A derivation of *shachan* is *shekinah*, which means **the abiding presence of Almighty God.**

**Isaiah 8:18** tells us that God dwells in Mt. Zion.

We have the Shekinah Glory of God abiding with us, and He wants us to know in this season **nothing is going to stop us from going forward on this new journey.** We have a new path, and He is changing our hearts. **As we go up the mountain, the Lord is giving us directions and pointing out the traps the enemy will try to use on us on this journey.**

**Please read Numbers 10:33-36.**

The Lord is sending His presence with us on this journey so we can find the resting place He has for us on the mountain. **We must say to the Lord with every step we take, “Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You.”**

## Prophetic Word

Last year towards the end of our 52 Days, God gave us a special Psalm. It and others are written in a special book called ***Psalms From God's Heart***. If you have a copy of the book, please read ***Come Up with Me*** from January 20. **This prophetic psalm will encourage you as we all go up the Holy Mountain of God.** If you do not have the book, the Psalms are written below.

*Go up the stage, go up the stage, there are many stairs. I have set a stage, go up the stage. This platform that I have set, in the foundation of Me. So do not stay down there, come up, I am inviting you into the chambers, but you must walk up those stairs. Come up, I have set a stage, a platform, a place that I am setting you. A platform, go up the stairs, I am taking you up, all the way up there, those stairs. I have sent you on a course, don't go back or turn around, go up the stairs. Every step I will show you another way, it is My way. Every step, go up the stage, go up the stage, go up the stage.*

*Now do you not see where I have placed thee? You are now in a position that you can see many things that I have set before you. You will not be blind in your mind. You are not going to be blind. I have positioned you to see beyond thee, a place, a place in Me. Don't stop, come up the stairs, there is much to see. From this place, you see, there is much to see. You can look down in thee, the valley is low, many are crying, many are lying, they do not know which way to go. Go up the stairs, position yourself to see, to see beyond thee, go up the stairs for Me. It will take you some time, come, don't stop. Come, it is the position I have given thee. Why do you take the low place, when I have given you the high place? I have positioned you in the high place for this very reason, But you stay in the low.*

*I have put you in a new season, can you not see? **The mountaintop is for thee, a place where you can look down and you can see those who are on the ground, who are hurting you see, that do not know Me.** Why do you take the low place? **You have been chosen for the high place, you have been chosen, do you not see?** In the Valley many things will grow and I will choose you from here to there, the valley is the place you must go. But I have chosen you. Can you not see to position yourself to see Me? This is the place, oh is not pride. Come, do not let him lie, it is not pride. It is Me that has chosen this place for thee, it is not pride. Have I not humbled thee? Do you not suffer for Me? Have you not walked through many trials, you see? You have come, and you have cried, and you have mourned, you have died, you have done these for Me. It is not pride, do not let him lie.*

*Come to Thee, I shall keep you in the high place, it is for a season. he (the enemy) will not be able to find a trace of thee because of where I have chosen thee to be. In this place completely away from the enemy I have chosen for you to stand on the stage, Ready and engaged, engaged for battle, So that you will see I have chosen thee for Me.*

*I have done this for you to come, oh chosen ones. Come, come up the stairs, the stage is for Me. You are fully aware, you will not take My glory. I am changing thee, I am changing thee to see Me. And now you want Me to shine bright, come with this great light to shine upon thee. Will*

*I not give it to you to see? The light is yours, and it is My glory. I have come to trust you, you see, I have come to trust you in this hour, with much power in Me.*

*Come up closer, do not flee, Come to this place and see Me. I stand from the throne that is very high. I look down upon you and I cry and I cry, because I see your burdens for Me. But come up I say, come up and stay until I release thee to go down for Me. It is not pride, it is high. Do not let him lie. I will keep thee so you can see it is Me, It is Me. I have built the stairs, I have set the stage. Many have gone to war and engaged for this very place that I have chosen for thee. **I have conquered this mountain, so you may see. Your enemies must flee, they cannot touch thee. Stay and remain, stay here.***

*Why do you come down? Why, when I have chosen you?*

*Oh, oh, how I love thee, sweet, sweet aroma, oh, oh how I love thee. There is a sweet smelling aroma, so sweet. Don't leave Me, don't leave Me, don't leave Me. I like you here, I feel so near. Come up, come up and dine with Me. Come up, a bed of roses I have that lies with you there, the finest roses I have chosen for thee. Come up, come up, Lie here and rest in Me.*

## Comfort of His Love

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### Day 49 - January 23, 2013

**Romans 8:35-37** *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”*

The Lord knows the trials and troubles we are currently going through, and the tribulations and distresses we are yet to face; many of which are to purge us of our sinful flesh and to bring us closer to Him. **We must know in the midst of our troubles, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ!** Jesus is by our side through everything we are going through; and **as He takes us up the mountain, together we will overwhelmingly conquer our enemies.** God knows us so well and He has great compassion for us. He knows the trials and tribulations we go through are hard on our bodies, minds, and emotions; so **He gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort us in His love.** As we fellowship with the Holy Spirit in our quiet times, He will come along side us to strengthen us in the battle. **Let’s ask Him to help us on our journey of coming up the mountain towards the glory of the Lord.**

But many of us are still trying to fight our battles within our own strength. We must understand that **we cannot stand against the enemies of our lives by our might or our own power, but only with the abiding presence and strength of the Holy Spirit.**<sup>80</sup> We also must understand this cannot be done alone, we need each other to fight the battles that are here and are yet to come. **When we fellowship with the Holy Spirit and when we work together with our brothers and sisters, we bring great joy to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

In order to fulfill the joy in His heart, we must read the **instructions** found in this scripture.

**Philippians 2:1-2** *“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any comfort 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 word **if** is used often in this passage, and even though it is a tiny word, it has powerful implications. It means a **prevailing** condition – something that proves to be more powerful than an opposing force. **A situation that influences the performance** of carrying out or accomplishing an action, task or function. Think about it, Christ is saying the conditions we face will affect the way we will be able to respond to the task or function He has given us.

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<sup>80</sup> Zechariah 4:6

**We need Christ's encouragement, comforting love, affection, compassion, and the ongoing fellowship of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the tasks He has for us to do and to withstand all opposing forces in these last days before He returns.**

**Philippians 1:29** *"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."*

We all know that the life of a Christian is characterized by suffering for the sake of Christ. Suffering is difficult, and **how can we persevere in these times of testing when we are down and weak, without the abiding love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit?** Go back to the message on Day 45 and reread the message on the Comforter; it gives us the definition of our Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is showing us today we need the affection He has for all believers, but few embrace. The word **affection** is an emotion of a gentle feeling of fondness, a liking of someone, a feeling of love towards another, knowing someone cares about you, a passion.

**We must feel the passionate love and caring Jesus has for us, or we will not prevail and stand against the forces that come up against us.** We must be united in all things with the Lord. Go back to **Philippians 2:2**. We are to be of one mind with the Lord, knowing and receiving His affection for us, united with the Holy Spirit intent on His purpose. We grow weary when we try to live our lives without the constant affection and comfort of the Lord. **Let's purpose in our hearts and minds to let Him lead us on our journey through the wilderness.** The Glory of Lord must be with us to give us rest for our souls.

**How can we receive this affection in the midst of the battle and issues in our lives?** How will we stand when judgment comes and we are still trying to hold on to our own life? As we abide in the presence of the Lord and gather together for encouragement, **the Lord will give us the instructions we need to produce the fruit needed for our journey of climbing the mountain.**

- **Prayer** – We must cry out to the Lord at all times, and with all kinds of prayers. We must be still to hear His voice expressing His heart, so we can pray effective prayers.
- **Patience** is endurance and accepting the need to wait in the delay. We must be patient with God for not changing us fast enough. We must be patient with ourselves for not being what we think we should be. We must be patient with others not complaining "if only they would..."
- **Perseverance** - staying steadfast in difficult times, not being moved by the storms that come to knock us off our feet.
- **Persistence** - determined to stay steadfast in the delay of promises and answered prayer. Continuing on the course God laid before us, in spite of difficult opposition.

**Colossians 3:2-3** *“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

**We must set our minds to be focused on the Lord and what He is doing, and not be moved by the circumstances around us.** This is training for the harder times to come. In the midst of coming judgment, we must be able to hear from God the comforting words we need to hear to stand firm. We must ask Him to give us a different outlook of the disasters that come our way; to see them from God’s perspective and not our own.

**Please read Colossians 3:12-17**

These verses give us instructions for our journey. As the Lord has removed our filthy garments, He is desiring for us to put on garments of righteousness. Jesus is compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love; and we must put Him on daily, as we put on our clothes each day. **But the most important item to put on is love.** Love is the perfect glue to bind the body of Christ together! **We must let the Love of God bring covenant maturity to our hearts!**

**We must let the peace of God rule in our hearts.** This is something we must pursue, or chase after. So much comes against us to rob us of our peace. When a situation happens and our peace evaporates, we must ask God to give us His eyes so we can look at it differently. When we have His understanding that God works all things together for our good and His glory, we can be thankful and His peace returns to our hearts.

**The Word of Christ must dwell within us.** That means we must read the Bible, study it, and know it. It is full of wisdom and instructions for all believers. One of the reasons why the **Holy Spirit was given to us is to help us in our understanding, study, and remembrance of the Word of God.** We must rely upon Him to strengthen us with the Word. We must persevere in our secret time with the Lord, not being in a hurry until we have heard from Him. He will have instructions and answers for us each day. Not only are we to be students of His Word, but **we are to be teachers. Sharing and admonishing each other with the truths and treasures found in this precious book.**

**John 14:1** *“Let not your **heart be troubled**; you believed in God, believe also in Me.”*

**We must believe in Christ and be anchored in His love.** His love is the key that causes us to be established, rooted and grounded. He wants to know we have a Helper who will comfort us, teach us, and abide with us forever.

**Roman 8:38-39** *“For I am **convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**Are you convinced that nothing can separate us from the love God has for us? Are you firmly secure in it so you can pray with patience, perseverance, and persistence?** In order to be overcomers in the coming age, we must be securely fastened to His Love. Only His love will get us up the mountain!

### **Prophetic Word**

Below is an excerpt from ***Psalms From God's Heart***, entitled ***Come, Fly Away with Me***.

*Flying high in the sky, flying with no cares in this world. Flying, let Me take you up to a place, flying, from this place to another place. Flying, let Me take you up to a place. It is a different place, a place you have never been before. A place with an open door. Not many are willing to come, not willing to pay. But if you say yes to Me, I'll take you to this place today. It is not a place where you walk, it is not a place where you can talk. It's a place that is hidden, it is a place that is forbidden. Not many are willing to pay. But if you come, I will take you there today.*

*If you come, just to hear My voice. If you come to this place, a place chosen just for you. Open your heart, nothing else will do, fly with me today. Let your spirit have freedom in this way, clear your heart and clear your mind, come, come don't be left behind. Not many are willing to go, not many are willing to flow, to come into this secret place, a hidden place just for Me. To open up doors that only you will see, come with Me, let your spirit have freedom to see. You say, "How can I fly this way?" It is your heart that remains and stays, it is your mind that draws the line, that draws the line to say I will only listen to One who speaks. No one else can come in, because I go to seek the One who speaks. I know His voice, very distinctly I know Him. I will not follow other voices, I will follow One voice that speaks. That is how you fly away with Me, give me your heart, settle your soul.*

*Come fly with me, stand tall and bold. Come, come, come fly with Me, come into the place where eagles only see. Because they soar so high above the sky, you can do the same and remain. No one has ever taken you to this place before, no one else can go, but the chosen ones. Do you not see that I have chosen thee, to go to hidden places that no one else sees?*

## Come Close to the River of Love

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### Day 50 - January 24, 2014

This week we have been talking about the Helper and the Comforter and how we can do nothing without abiding with Christ and being close to the Holy Spirit. **Today, the Lord is giving us a warning for our journey, as we close out this season of 50 days of Ingathering/First Fruits.** This has been a time of climbing up His holy mountain; where we have been seeking the Lord for wisdom and instructions. Now we must transition into the next season He has for us. There is always another season with the Lord, and **we must take what we have learned these 50 days and begin to walk them out fully.** We must walk very closely with the Lord, listening for the instructions He is speaking to us. We must also be on the alert for the snares of the enemy. During these last 50 days, we have seen God's hand on us, it has been amazing, even with all the distractions that we have faced. God is so faithful. **Now is not the time to sit down and rest.** He comes to us today to give us wisdom and **warning not to commit two evils Jeremiah spoke of. God's people forsook the fountain of living waters and made their own cisterns. We must take heed to this warning on the journey.**

**Jeremiah 2:13** *"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."*

All along this journey, we have been drinking from the living waters every day. We must not stop drinking. Many believers fast at the beginning of each year, and now that the fast is at an end, we must not go back to our lives as they were before and forsake the living water we have grown accustomed to.

The word **forsake** means to **abandon or leave, to renounce or give up something of value. We must not take the living waters for granted.** Before these last 50 days, we maybe did not partake of the living waters every day, maybe only on Sunday's when we went to church; but in this new season, the living waters are very important for us to survive the journey. We have been chosen to go up the path of the mountains. **We must know where to find the water and stay close.** Father God is the only one that can supply us the living waters necessary for our life.

**John 7:38** *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

We must believe that God is with us every step of this new journey. **As we abide with Him, His living waters will flow from His heart to ours, to keep us revived, refreshed, and restored.** But if we abandon our close relationship with the Holy Spirit and go back to our old normal routine, and not stay close to the living waters (the Holy Spirit) we will

become complacent, and compromise our positions. Please be encouraged by these scriptures in Isaiah.

**Isaiah 12:2-3** *"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation."*

**Isaiah 43:20** *"... I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people."*

God is faithful to His people and He will not forsake, replace or leave us! Even when we are in a wilderness or desert season, He will supply the living waters to us. Where is our heart? Are we thirsty for His water?

**Isaiah 43:2** *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you..."*

Oh, His promises are true and trustworthy. The river of God is filled with promises and blessing, we must remember to stay steadfast and not be moved away from them in this season.

**The Hebrew word of waters** is *mayim*, and it is always plural. ***Mayim* speaks of life, sustenance, fertility, blessing, and refreshing.** Oh, may we have eyes to truly see the riches of the blessings we have in the promises of God who loves us so much.

- **Sustenance** - food and drink, regarded as a source of strength and nourishment.
- **Fertility** - fertile, as in good soil - capable of producing an abundant crop, much fruit. Becoming a new person. Producing godly seed.
- **Blessing** - God's divine favor, protection, provision and divine guidance.
- **Refresh** - When God refreshes us we are revived with strength and energy, we are rejuvenated, actually looking and feeling younger. This word also means to pour more drink for someone or refill a container with water.

Oh, how quickly do we abandon this place of the living waters of God's sustenance, fertility, blessing, and refreshing; and go back to our old ways of trying to provide these things for ourselves. It is futility and it will not last.

**Isaiah 44:3-4** *"For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants; and they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water."*

If we stay by the living waters and drink; not only will we be blessed, but so will our families and children. These scriptures are so exciting to hear His passion and love for us to stay close to the river.

**Isaiah 55:1** *"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat..."*

**The river of living waters is free, yet we forsake it for what will cost us dearly** in the long run, because we satisfy our souls with the things of the world; and the things of the world will profit us absolutely nothing. Our foolish choices will put us to shame.

**Jeremiah 17:13** *"O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the Lord."*

The Lord warns us not to get excited about demons subjecting themselves to us, but to rejoice in the fact that our name is in the Book of Life.<sup>81</sup> **We will live for eternity in the great river if we would just believe God and His Word, and allow it to change our lives.**

**Our first evil is forsaking the living water of God and going after our own water; and then we commit a second evil, we make our own cistern (water storage tanks).**

**Jeremiah 2:13** *"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."*

The word **hew** means to cut, chop, or hack with an axe. **Cisterns** are tanks of storing water. The water would collect from whatever rainfall might fall, and then sit in these tanks. You can only imagine how dangerous this water would be to drink! To make this evil worse, the cisterns were broken and could never hold water. They were useless.

We are to be the cistern for the Holy Spirit; but when we go back to our old ways and begin to do things in our own strength, we start to leak and then we are empty! We will always leak when we replace the source of the Living Water, Father God, by thinking we know what is best for ourselves. Every time we make our own plans, and go our own way, we pick up the axe and chop big holes in our lives!

When we forsake God we don't walk in the abundance of life. Let's look at the consequences of forsaking His Holy Mountain and river.

**Please read Isaiah 65:11-16.**

**Isaiah 65:11** *"But you are those who forsake the Lord, who forget My holy mountain, who prepare a table for god, and who furnish a drink offering for meni."*

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<sup>81</sup> Luke 10:20

When God's people forsook the Lord and forgot His holy mountain, they followed after the false gods, gad and meni. Gad was the pagan god of good fortune. This idol caused **delusion** to its followers, promising good fortune, but not able to produce a thing. When we fall into delusion, we entertain spirits that brings falseness to our minds, opinions or ideas. The second false god was meni, the god of **destiny**, which drove men to seek to fulfill their own destiny and not seek the Lord.

When we serve the Lord and drink from Him, our hearts will sing with joy. But when we try to eat and drink from idols, we will never be satisfied.

**Isaiah 65: 13-14** *"Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed; behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and wail for grief of spirit.'"*

This is a great verse to write out and place in a location where you are tempted to partake from idols. **The blessings of partaking of the Lord are pure delight, while the truth of the emptiness of idols is misery!** He has given us hope and life if we do not forsake and replace Him!

During these 50 days, we have come to know God in a more intimate way. He has led us by the river of living water and refreshed our souls, leading us up the mountain into His presence. We have come to know His voice, and we can no longer trust in any other voice, but His!

## **Prophetic Word**

This is another excerpt from ***Psalms From God's Heart***, written a year ago. This one is entitled ***Send Forth the River***. God spoke prophetically to us a year ago, and now as we read back thought these psalms, we are amazed to see us already walking in them! Enjoy the river!

*This love is flowing like a stream, a stream that is coming from a place. From the river coming from the depths of the deepness of that river, it is here. Now send forth that river, send it, Send it out to My people, send it. Let it ring in their ears, let them hear those things that is so dear, that is so near to My heart, to My heart.*

*Send, send the streams of the river. Send it down deep into the depths and the souls of My people who are hungry and thirsty, lonely, oppressed, distressed, who do not know which way to go.*

*You have the flow of My heart, worship that will go, worship that will go deep. Can you not worship Me? It is your worship, it is your worship to Me. It is your worship to Me, you see. It is the worship, your worship that produces the river, because you have not given up.*

*You have not stopped coming to this place and now I am asking you to send the river, the streams. Do you not see them going to the east, west and south and to the north? You have cultivated the grounds. Now release, release, release.*

Wow what a word from God to end this season of seeking and fasting. He is pleading with us to **stay close and drink from the river of prayer and worship** by fellowshiping daily and every moment with the Holy Spirit. **We must continue to meet Him up on the mountain.**



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