

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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REMEMBERING PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY BROTHER VIC "The House of God Under the Open Heaven" THE HOUSE OF GOD

I woke up at two-forty the other morning, looked at the clock, and in a few minutes was back to sleep. An hour later the phone rang and it was the emergency room at the Minden Medical Center telling me that Bro. Vic was pronounced dead at two-forty. Call it what you will, but I believe a spiritual connection was made between my friend and me. Bro. Vic wasn't saved until he was in his sixties and was noted as a real character until that time. After receiving Christ as his Savior, He gave the remainder of his life for ministry. Upon receiving a license into the Gospel Ministry in 1990 from our church, he traveled to prisons in all the surrounding parishes sharing the Good News to everyone who would listen. He and I didn't agree on all issues, but he always showed respect toward me as his pastor. Bro. Vic logged almost 40,000 hours of air time as a pilot which is among the highest number of hours logged by any pilot in history. From a pilot's perspective, He was one of the best. His will stated that no service was to be held in honor of him, but an announcement could be made acknowledging that he loved God and had gone home to be in His presence. If you knew him, you can understand those statements. When his ashes are given to me in the future, I'm going to scatter them from an airplane upon his airport where he spent so many

When Jacob awoke from his night vision, he declared that the place was "... none other than the house of God." What did he mean? It could not have been a physical shelter because there was no building there. Jacob was not referring to a tribe or some religious group because there were no other people there. I believe that Jacob was as confused as anyone could be in understanding what the "House of God" was. It certainly was a prophetic mystery that would not be answered until hundreds of years later by Jesus Christ. The initial fulfillment of this prophesy is recorded in John 1:4, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The word "dwelt" in this verse means "to tabernacle" thus implying that Jesus tabernacled among us as the "House of God." Jesus was the "House of God" made flesh—the place where God lived! The "House of God" was not a building, or location, but a person. Support for this is found in 1 John 1:49-51, "Nathanael answered and said to Him, Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said to him, Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these. And He said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." It would seem to me that we should conclude from reading the above Scriptures that Jesus as the House of God operated under an "Open Heaven." This "Open Heaven" concept is supported in verse 51, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

John in the above verse is reiterating the Genesis' account of the "Open Heaven" found in chapter 28:12-13, "Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants . . ." It's important that we remember that an "Open Heaven" means that the demonic realm is broken off and there is clarity between the realm of God's dominion and what is happening on earth. In reviewing this truth, I again mention Psalms 104:3-4 AMP, "Who lays the beams of the upper room of His abode in the waters [above the firmament], Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, V4, Who makes winds His messengers, flames of fire His ministers." The idea concerning angels is also supported by Hebrews 1:7, "Referring to the angels He says, [God] Who makes His angels winds and His ministering servants flames of fire;" The wind here is described as an angelic presence, and indicates that God is ushered into a situation by riding on the wind of angels.

The fulfillment of the "House of God" and the "Open Heaven" began with Jesus. He was the "House of God" on earth under an "Open Heaven." But, please hear this, the concept did not stop with Him—far from it. He was the initial fulfillment of the "House of God" on earth, but not the ultimate fulfillment. THERE IS A BIG



DEAR CHURCH,

It is so good to be home. I missed my family and church family very much. I had such an awesome trip. We serve an awesome, loving heavenly Father. He proved His love to me over and over again on this trip. I want to share with you what our Lord showed me on a beach in Kuantan, Malaysia, but first I must clarify a few things. About three years ago after teaching Gene's class, I went to the prayer room to praise my Father. Lee was

with me. We praised and worshiped right into His presence. So close I could not stand and I saw something very awesome. I could see total darkness except for a table and a pitcher with blue in it. It was a beautiful blue, almost the color of blue on the ostrich egg I bought for the church. I thought it was the water of the Spirit until this trip. I was interceding for the church when I saw this. I have seen the pitcher and a glass four other times in the last three years. The second time I saw it, it was picked up off of the table, the third time it was pouring into a glass (just a small amount into the glass), the fourth time the glass was filling up, and the last time the glass was full. I was not sure what this meant but I knew it was for the church and it was from the Lord. I have seen many visions. Many I have seen manifested already and more to come. Every time I see one in reality, it builds my faith even more for the ones to come. I have truly learned it is in His time, not ours, but I wait in great expectation. One more thing you need to know is a dream I had two years ago. I saw myself on a beach squatted down by the fire. I was crying to the Lord, "Where are you? I can't hear you or see you." He came up behind me and put His hand on my shoulder. He was talking but I could not hear Him. About one year ago in the prayer room, I saw this dream in a vision. I never told anyone but I knew one day I would meet Him on the beach.

On this trip I was by the beach many times but never had the opportunity to go and seek the Lord. I would pray and still no chance to go. When I was in Kota Kinabatu, I received a prophecy from a prophet that I very much respect. He did not know of my dreams. He said, "I see you all alone, on a white sandy beach with blue, blue water. The Lord will meet you there and tell you things you need to know. I do not know if it will be on this trip or some other time." Needless to say that intensified my desire to go to the beach, but still to no avail.

We returned to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the tenth of April. This is our home away from home. Two of my sisters, Tony and Charissa, had two nights at a very plush resort in Kuantan and asked us to go with them before we came home. We went and guess what? There was the white sandy beach and the blue, blue water. I did not get to go when we first got there because we had a lunch engagement but as soon as we returned, I struck out for the beach. I wanted to hear from the Lord. I began to praise and worship Him and He spoke to me using the song, "The Anchor Holds." The third verse is what the Lord said to me. "You have been young but you are older now; There has been beauty these eyes have seen; But it was in the night, through the storms of your life, That's where I proved My love for you. The anchor holds, though the ship is battered; The anchor holds though the sails are torn." That is all He said at this time, but I saw the blue glass. I just cried thanking Him for that time and told Him I would meet Him again that night. We had a dinner engagement and I had to go. On the way back to the hotel, I fell asleep sitting up in the back seat. I had not slept the two nights prior. I told the Lord I could not come but I would see Him in the morning.

I woke up early the next morning and went straight to the beach. The Lord began to speak to me in reference to some scripture that He has been teaching me for the last fifteen years. He reminded me of the revelations He has given me on these scriptures and began to show me how they apply to the different stages of my life. The Lord told me He wants me to write a book about this. Many times people have told me that I need to write a book and I would say, "Lord, if you want me to write, you will have to tell me." Well, He told me, and also told me what to write about. We all know I cried to that note. Please pray for me. I told the Lord I am not a writer. He said, "I am." I am beginning to write a book under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We had a dinner engagement that night and returned to the hotel. We all went to the beach that night. It was nice but I still wanted one more encounter with the Lord. I had prayed and asked the Lord to give me something to bring back to my church. We were leaving the next morning to drive back to Kuala Lumpur. Tony asked if I wanted to go to the beach before I left and I told her I did.

The next morning, I got up and went straight to the beach. I sat down in a lounge chair and began to praise and worship. I saw the Lord standing in front of me, close to the water by a fire. He said, "Come to Me." I walked down to where He was. I could see all of the wood that was on the fire. It looked like it had been perfectly laid in a particular order. I knew the fire was a consuming bad blaze. I saw a very large, rough white stone above the fire. It looked like a diamond before it had been cut and polished. The Lord began to tell me what I was seeing. He said the fire was meant to destroy. Each piece of wood that was put on the fire was an occurrence that happened in my life. I have had many things to deal with in my life that really hurt and each of these were pieces of wood on the fire. Each piece of wood made the blaze larger and it would touch the stone at the top and I could see a cut and polished place come into the stone. Finally, I saw the stone as a beautiful, sparkling diamond. Next, I saw the blue glass. Jesus took the glass and began to pour it into the stone. I could feel it as if He were pouring it into my mouth. It felt like fire. I then saw the most amazing thing. The fire below the stone became the same color of blue as the glass. The Lord said this is My consuming fire. The fire that was meant for harm has been used to create a beautiful diamond and I have filled it with My consuming fire. He then showed me the body of Christian Fellowship. The wood on the fire was placed the same way. Each piece was a particular incident that has happened to different families in the body. I saw many individual instances that I will not name because I will not invade someones privacy but all were meant for harm and to take people out. The pieces of wood were deaths, divorces, sicknesses, bankruptcy, loss of jobs, drug abuse, broken hearts, and financial difficulty. But the stone was being cut and polished on every incident. The fire turned blue as the Lord poured the glass on the stone and the entire stone became consumed with the blue fire. It was the most beautiful blue diamond I have ever seen. The Lord then reminded me of a prophecy He had me to give several years ago to the body. He said just as His servant Job was given twice as much as what he had at the beginning of his trial, so would Christian Fellowship be given twice as much as what we had in the beginning. Church, this excited me. The blue is the fire of the Lord. The power of the Lord will be demonstrated twice as much as it was at the beginning. Get excited! Come with great expectation! Lets stir up the gifts! The Lord wants to see the beautiful diamond that has been created by fire, (that was meant to destroy) glisten with the consuming fire of the Lord. The Lord said in His Word that He would pour out His Spirit on His sons and His daughters. Glory to God! Lets receive all He wants to give us. It is there for us to have. I pray we are where we can "LET GOD'S POWER BE!" The Lord told me one day on my way to work. "My children are trying to make my power be and they can not, they have to let my power be." Be Blessed Church, Bride of Christ.

APOSTLE

The Apostle and the Prophet are the movers and shakers in the body of Christ. They are the ones that right wrongs, set the body in order and set foundations for the Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher to build upon.

An Apostle is someone that has been set apart as a delegate and ambassador of Christ and commissioned with miraculous powers.

Each of the five-fold ministers are set apart and called by God. In Romans 1:1, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called to be an apostle**, separated unto the gospel of God . . ." 1 Corinthians 1:1, "Paul, called to be an **apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God . . .**" 2 Corinthians 1:1, "Paul, **an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God . . .**" 2 Corinthians 12:12, "Truly, the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, **in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.**" 1 Timothy 1:1, "Paul, **an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God** our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." 2 Peter 1:1, "**Simon Peter**, a servant and **an apostle of Jesus Christ . . .**"

The Apostle is a foundation builder; he is the one that starts or founds a work in a given area. Paul would go into an area, start a teaching ministry and the teaching would grow into a church. As Paul built the body of the church, he would be setting the gifts in order. Paul, as an Apostle, had the spiritual ability to discern which gifts were operating in the people. Before Paul would leave a church he had started, he would have set the leadership in order based on the gifts that operated in them.

The Apostle of today can be one that starts a work, or he can be the person God sends to rebuild a work. He can take a mess and bring God's order; he can set the foundation for someone else to build upon; he is not about himself, he is about what the Spirit of the Living God wants accomplished. You will never see an Apostle bring attention to himself or promote himself, he will wait on God to bring the circumstances to the correct point in time when he can accomplish that which he is being led to do.

Unlike most of the others, an Apostle is willing to take a hard stand and make the tough decisions to be sure the Church is in line with what God is looking for in a New Testament Church. It does not bother him to be unpopular, he answers to God and His Son, Jesus Christ; as long as he is confident he is doing what they desire he is content.

1 Corinthians 3:10, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.**"

Ephesians 2:20-22, "And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

ORDER: Each of the Five-Fold Ministries brings an order to the Body of Christ. The Apostle sets in order that which is **lacking, wanting, and coming behind** in the Body of Christ. He locates the gifts and sets them in order so they can function properly in the Body of Christ.

The Apostle has an inner driving to see order restored to the Church; he has a severe issue with people that claim to be something they are not, especially when they are harming a body of believers.

We have a need for the office of the Apostle in the Body of Christ today; there are many things that are lacking, wanting and coming behind. The Apostle is needed to bring order to the Body. There is much confusion in the religious world today; the Apostle is the minister God has set to correct this.

All five of the offices can and will operate through the Apostle. Pray that the Apostle's ministry will operate in the Universal Church and in the local Church, starting today.

Your Servant,
Ray Jennings

HOUSE OF GOD (Cont. from Pg. 1)

not God's ultimate intent for you. It was His initial intent that set you up for the ultimate fulfillment. God's plan for your ultimate fulfillment was that you be filled with His fullness, living a Christian life that is defined by heaven's reality. A Christian life that is defined by heaven's reality is a lifestyle defined by what takes

place in heaven and manifested on earth.

In next month's article we will look at the Gate of the House of God. Until then, may the Lord bless each of you as we serve Him under an "Open Heaven."

Gene Brown, Associate Pastor

PSALMS 23 (FOR THE WORKPLACE) The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want. He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me. He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining. He reminds me that He is my source and not my job. He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do. Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I still will not stop—for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me. He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go. His faithfulness and love is better than any



**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
994 WILLIE HILL ROAD
GILBERT, LA. 71336**



MATTHEW 19:14