

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2008

SPECIAL IN GOD'S EYES

THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND "Putting the Will of God on Display"

Recently, I was studying in the book of Judges and felt new life in an old scripture. Isn't it amazing how the Word can be dormant in our minds and spring to new life with one thought. The story was of Gideon when the Angel (later referred to as the Lord) appeared to him. Gideon was hiding while threshing wheat, because the enemy would come take food away from the Israelites. The salutation is what got my attention, "THOU MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR." Gideon had to have looked around to see who He was talking to, for he certainly didn't see himself as the one described. What God sees in us is not always what we feel or think. God's view of Gideon was based on two things—the lineage of his forefathers and who he was as an individual. Certainly God sees us as an individual with abilities beyond our own imagination, but most of all He sees us through our friend, Jesus Christ, Who lives in us. The Word states that I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. Just remember, God's hand is never shortened and His presence is always near.

Pastor George Ferrington

WE NEED EACH OTHER

God has made us dependent on each other. Even though He is with us, He does not want us to walk alone. We need each other to grow in grace, to be supported in prayer, to express the Father's love, to feel the Spirit's comfort and to know the Shepherd's care. We need each other to be formed in character, to be encouraged in our fight of faith and to persevere until that day when all our needs shall be overcome!

"UNFOLDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM"—The Bible tells us in Matthew chapter 13 of Jesus' disciples asking Him a very important question, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" Jesus answered in verses 10-11 and said, "**Because it have been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.**" These mysteries (revelations) of the kingdom of heaven are given to believers in order that they may develop "heaven's reality" on this earth. Heaven's reality is a mind set that enables us to use God's power to expand the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth.

Revelation is not something you can dig out of a theological book or study guide. The revelation of God is locked up in a realm the Bible calls "mystery." The natural man likes to think the revelation can be hunted down and trapped like an animal. In fact, it can't be discovered by persistent searching! It must be revealed to those who hunger for them. These mysteries are hidden on purpose by Jesus, and He offers them to those who will find them through revelation. It's like God putting gold in the rocks and saying, "If you want it, go find it and dig it out." The Proverbs writer said it this way in Proverbs 25:2, "**It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.**" God doesn't take His pearls of revelation and freely throw them out to anybody. Why? Because God knows that they can only be gleaned and the knowledge received through hardship, difficulty, conflict and irritation. Revelation is truly a "pearl" of great price!

"ENTERING INTO REVELATION"—We cannot enter into revelation without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who knows the mind of God, and His job is to communicate that mind to the believer's spirit person. It is the spirit person who then must communicate that word to their soul. This communication of the knowledge of God is then made alive by the revelation of the Spirit when it is brought to understanding by the same. Paul said it this way in 1 Corinthians 2:6,7,9; "**Yet when we are among the full grown (spiritually mature Christians who are ripe in understanding), we do impart a [higher] wisdom (the knowledge of the divine plan previously hidden); but it is indeed not a wisdom of this present age or of this world nor of the leaders and rulers of this age, who are being brought to nothing and are doomed to pass away. V7, But rather what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God — [that wisdom] which God devised and decreed before the ages for our glorification [to lift us into the glory of His presence]. V9, But, on the contrary, as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed.**" These verses tell us that God will assist the mature Christian by imparting His wisdom to him. This wisdom is the knowledge of God's divine plan that

DEAR CHURCH, BRIDE OF CHRIST,

Wow! What a statement! When I meditate on that, it awes me. Church, we are His fiancée. He is waiting on us, His precious Bride without spot or blemish, at the right hand of the Father with great expectation for the big day. We have to get a concept of that. We are the future bride of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A few weeks ago the Lord had me to prophecy what He wants from us. He said, “In one accord seeking Me.” He has kept this in my heart. In one accord, means in total agreement, every member agreeing together for one thing. In Acts 2:1, the Word says, “They were all with one accord in one place.” When this happened, the Holy Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind. Our Lord wants us to be in one accord, because we are one body, His Body, the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 says, “For just as the body is in unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form only one body, so it is with Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. For by means of the personal agency of one Holy Spirit we were all whether Jew or Greek, slaves or free, baptized into one body, and all made to drink of one Holy Spirit. For the body does not consist of one limb or organ but many.” The Word consistently speaks of unity and agreement. Matthew 18:19-20 says, “Again, I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony) about—anything and everything—whatever they ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in My name, there I am in the midst of them.”

Church, we each one have a place in the Body of Christ. No one can fill your spot nor can you fill any one else’s spot. When you have your heart right with your Father, your will is to please Him and not people. So therefore, you are not jealous of anyone else, you do not envy, nor do you have strife. You are content pleasing HIM and you walk in peace. Here, you can walk in unity because you are consistently pleasing the Lord and do not have the desire to walk in the flesh. You are walking in the Spirit and do not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

There is much power in unity and the devil knows it. He is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. One of his favorite tools is to sow strife and discord which leads to offense. Offense is bait the enemy uses to trap you. If you take the bait, you are trapped. Remember the rabbit trap that was made with the box, the string, the bait, and the stick. If the rabbit bit the bait, the stick fell, down came the box, and the rabbit was caught. Well Church, that is what happens when you get offended. Your heart gets caught in a trap. Remember what the Word says, God looks at your heart. He knows what is on the inside so you can not hide it from HIM. If you stay offended, this turns to bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness. Now this affects your prayers and your worship. You have moved into the acts of the flesh and are not walking in the Spirit.

Church, we have to recognize this for what it is, a ploy of the enemy. In Matthew 24:10-13 we read, “And then many will be offended and repelled and begin to distrust and desert [Him Whom they ought to trust and obey] and will stumble and fall away, and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred. And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead many into error. And the love of the great body of people will grow cold, because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” We must walk in the truth, God’s Word, and be aware of the tactics of the enemy. He does not want unity, he wants discord and division. He will do anything he can to separate and divide so he can conquer.

If we walk in the Spirit we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh. The works of the flesh must die. When something is dead, it does not produce fruit. Some of the fruits of the flesh are easy to kill, such as immorality, idolatry, indecency, drunkenness, impurity to name a few but then there are others that just do not seem so bad—jealousy, envy, strife, selfishness, divisions, sects with peculiar opinions, gossiping, and such. They are all listed in the same scripture. When you do not feed something, it will die. Stop feeding your flesh so its fruits will die and feed your spirit. Walk in the fruit of the Spirit, the characteristics of God—love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. And those who belong to Christ Jesus, the Messiah, have crucified the flesh—the Godless human nature—with its passions and appetites and desires. If we live by the Holy Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit. Let us not become vainglorious and self-conceited, competitive and challenging and provoking and irritating to one another, envying and being jealous of one another. Galatians 5:19-26.

Church, it is easy to look at yourself through rose colored glasses and everyone else through a magnifying glass but this will not help you at all. You can not change anyone else, but you can let God’s love change you. In so doing, your life takes on a new perspective; you see things as God does. Several years ago, I went out on my carport and was talking to the Lord. I asked Him what He wanted me to do about Jack. He told me He wanted me to give Jack to Him because I could not change him anyhow. He said, “What I want you to do, is give Me YOU!” That was the beginning of a new day for me. I began to look at myself through the magnifying glass. I got on the Potter’s wheel as the clay and let the Master Potter mold me. I became a broken vessel that He put back together with His love and then filled to running over with that love. Let’s see! What is LOVE? Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never envies, nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited-arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude, and does not act unbecomingly. Love [God’s love in us] does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of evil

DEAR CHURCH (Cont. from Pg 2)

Love never fails—never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. When you walk in the Spirit, this is the love you will have flowing from you. When people see this love, they see something real.

When you walk in the Spirit, you will walk in peace. This peace is not the peace of this world but of the Spirit. In the midst of trouble, you are in peace. If you have anger, strife, jealousy, any work of the flesh, you are not in peace. There will never be a time in this world where everything will be at peace, quite the contrary as the end of time draws closer. We must learn to rise above the discord by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. Strife, discord, offense are all like spiritual cancers eating away at your life, your church, your family, and your finances which are all the enemy's plans.

Psalms 133 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment poured on the head, that ran down on the beard, even the beard of Aaron (the high priest), that came down upon the collar and shirts of his garments [consecrating the whole body]. Like the dew of Mount Hermon, and the dew that comes on the hills of Zion; for THERE the Lord has commanded the blessing, even life forevermore. In this verse, THERE, is pertaining to unity. In unity, the blessings come and the anointing which breaks the yokes.

Each one of us has a position in the Body of Christ. No one can take the place of someone else. When you have your heart right with God and are fulfilling your position with contentment, you will not judge and criticize but you will love and lift up. Stop and think, with your own body, do you want to cause pain and harm to any part of your body? Then you have to realize, we are all a part of the same body, the Church, the Bride of Christ. Stop letting the enemy pull you into the works of the flesh, walk in the Spirit.

One more thing, why do you come to church? Is it because you feel like you need to, or you want people to see you going to church, because you think it is the right thing to do or do you come to worship and honor the Lord? So many people come and have a time frame already in mind of how long this service should last. They come with these thoughts; we do not need to sing too many songs, or to have too long of a prayer and certainly not a long sermon because it gets in my way of doing what I want to do today, it interferes with my plans if church is too long. You know what that is called—RELIGION. You see, God thinks church is all about Him. He does not even show up when we have the plan and expect Him to follow it. His Word says for us to follow Him, not lead Him and He does not have a time clock. So many times the Holy Spirit is quenched because of our plans. He does not come where He is not welcome. I will end up with where I started. In Acts 2, they were gathered in the upper room in one accord, waiting on the Holy Spirit. Church, let's come together in one accord as He told us, to honor, love, worship and seek Him. Church is not about you, but all about HIM!

Much love to you all,

Your Missionary Sister, Bess Graham

THE WILL OF GOD (Continued from Page One)

"But rather what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God—[that wisdom] which God devised and decreed before the ages for our glorification [to lift

us into the glory of His presence]." Yes, the primary reason for the revealing of this hidden wisdom is to lift us into the glory of His presence. Why? In order that we as sons and daughters of God, after we entered His presence, might come to behold and receive the wonders of God into our lives. This is confirmed in verse 9: **"... What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed."**

Unfortunately, hidden mysteries are not something that most people in the Western world appreciate. It seems that we have the idea that God knows our address and if He wants us to have insight or experience, He will send it to us. Western Christianity does not hunger for "revelation" much less work for it. It is my firm belief that the Church has come to accept the spirit of self-pity which derives from self-life, and this type of life does not attract a visitation from God. Faith does! Faith moves the Kingdom of Heaven.

The revelation of God's mysteries should be a continual part of our Christian life. The simple truth is, you should always have more questions than answers. If your spiritual encounter with God doesn't leave you with more questions than when you started, then you have had an inferior encounter. Another way of saying this is: A relationship with God that does not stir up the mysteries and wonders of God is an inferior relationship. I firmly believe that it would help us all to walk out of a few more church services, scratching our heads, wondering what just took place. The truth that we must never forget is that our God is a God of



BACK TO SCHOOL... BACK TO SCHOOL... BACK TO SCHOOL... BACK TO SCHOOL



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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“FOR I AM WITH YOU
TO RESCUE
AND SAVE YOU,”
DECLARES THE LORD.

JEREMIAH 15:20, NIV