

SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 18

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014

**The Kingdom
And The Church
Jim Hodges**

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God Sees Us
Kathy Gabler**

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**Gifts Of Healing
Lynn Burling**

**STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
EQUIP
CHURCH
MINISTRIES**

1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

**"God is my King from of old, Who works deeds of
deliverance in the midst of the earth " (Ps.74:12)**



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Prov.11:28

**Those who depend on their wealth
will fall like the leaves of autumn,
but the righteous will prosper like
the leaves of summer. (GNB)**

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Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

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Thank you for sowing into SEEC Ministries International.

SEEING US LIKE GOD SEES US



Kathy Gabler

John 8:32 "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." We need truth that sets us free to be, free to be what we were born to be so that our lives glorify our God. We must come to freedom that gets us past some old limitations, dead ends and road blocks and cycles in our lives.

Let's start with Prov. 23:7, *For as a man thinks in his heart, so [is] he.* Heart thinking includes more than just thoughts and brain activity. It is a conglomeration of our feelings, conclusions, opinions, concerns, beliefs and memories, to list a few; and all those things contribute to who we are. Most people wonder at some point: "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" I believe God wants us to know the answers to those things too. One place to start is a reality check on how we "think in our hearts" about ourselves. This is not about getting on a "ME" focus, but rather a healthy self-awareness. **That is important because our thinking needs to agree with God's thinking about us.**

There's power and protection in thinking like God thinks, and it will keep us from becoming prey for the thief when he comes to kill, steal and destroy. If we have mis-beliefs about who we are, conclusions contaminated by experiences or emotions or hurts, they can cause limitations that keep us from destiny and purpose. They can make us miss the life God intended us to live.

So Let's come to some insight on how to see ourselves as God does, starting with awareness of three basic needs common to all of us. These needs may adjust and morph as we mature, but they don't go away. The first is identity. We all need a sense of self. Identity is who you see when you look in the mirror. Identity includes the way you process and think, the way you react to life, the things that you hold important and how you express your feelings. Part of your identity is in your "wiring" or personality. We are born with some combination of the four basic personalities, which I will label as lion, eagle, man and ox (Lance Wallnau). A "lion" is fast paced and has a drive to get results. An "eagle" is slow paced and gets up in the morning to get their task list perfectly completed at their own pace. The "man" personality is a fast paced, people-person whose identity includes relating with others. The "ox" person is slow paced and finds identity in facilitating others. The way we view relationships and the way we invest in relationships are all part of our identity. Since our identity is one side of a coin and self-image is the other, a healthy sense of identity yields a healthy self-image.

The second basic need for all of us is the need for affirmation. Affirmation is someone else's agreement that there is value in you, in your potential, in your purpose and in your presence on earth. Affirmation comes thru relationship. If affirmation is one side of a coin, the other is self-worth.

The third basic need for all humans is boundaries. Boundaries give us an order to function within to insure our safety and well-being. Boundaries would be one side of a coin and the other is self-government.

None of us outgrow the need for identity, affirmation or boundaries. If they are met, they help us to be healthy mentally, emotionally, physically and relationally. If they are not met, they set us up for sabotage. Since none of us had a perfect family life growing up, we have all been sabotaged to some degree and had conflicts with self-image that left our self-worth in doubt, or vice versa. And we have all faced embarrassment or failure regarding our self-government. So, it is no private scar since everyone's mirror (self-image) gets whacked in life. Sometimes it is even our own doing; but how we respond after the fact is the crucial matter. If we continue to only look at a cracked reflection, a marred, fragmented person; that will keep us from agreeing with the way God sees us and keep us from lining up with God's intentions for our life and future.

Whether we are aware we function around this three-legged design of basic human needs or not, our adversary, the devil, is very aware. So when he comes to steal or kill or destroy, he will target either self-image

or self-worth or self-government. He knows any one of the three can undermine the other two. Why does he know this, because he's been practicing since the garden. When he seduced Eve and Adam and they failed in self-government, their self-image and self-worth crumbled also. We can see God addressing this in the three questions He asked Adam:

1> The first question was, "Adam where are you?" Where is the identity that had us as Father-to-son, face-to-face, yesterday, but today has you hiding? After Adam ate of the tree, when he looked at himself, his mirror was cracked. He was fragmented and his self-image was scarred. If you think that mess-ups in your life can de-daughter or de-son you, your identity is too fragile, and it is not rooted in relationship with your Heavenly Father. The first shot the devil took in the wilderness was at Jesus' identity when he said, "If you are God's Son." Jesus was so confident of His identity and unshakeable relationship with the Father that Satan couldn't tempt Him to even try to prove it by turning stones to bread. The key to sound identity is that it be rooted in relationship with God.

2> The second question God asked Adam was, "Who told you that you were naked?" In other words, who judged you and put your value on the line and undermined your affirmation? God had created Adam in His own image and put him on earth with undeniable, detailed daily purpose, so there was no lack of affirmation. I believe the "who" is what God was emphasizing in this question because "naked" was nothing new. If this was Friday, Adam had been naked on Thursday too. The real issue was "who" decided Adam was worth less in the last twenty-four hours? Mature sons shouldn't hide when they need to repent. Sowing fig leaves was an attempt to fix things without repentance. Repentance is going up to the "pent-house" (mind) to see from a higher, God perspective and change our thinking. No change in thinking means no *real* change. The question pointed out that it was Adam who believed his identity was damaged. It was not God that was doubting worth or abandoning. In fact, it never is God that decides worth is diminished.

The second thing Satan said to Jesus was, "Since you are God's Son, jump." That meant, prove your Father values You and values the purpose in You. However, God had publicly affirmed Jesus when He said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased." So, Satan couldn't make Jesus test His own affirmation and worth because Satan couldn't make Him doubt it. Many people grow up never being affirmed. No authority figure or nurturer or friend ever takes the time to declare their worth and affirm them. That is sad, but it does not have to be terminal. If you haven't had the affirmation needed to have a solid sense of self-worth, you can still decide to be a victim of that and never get where you were born to go, **or you can overcome it.**

[This entire article may be found at <http://martygabler.com> * Click on Articles tab]

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THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH



Jim Hodges



In Matthew Chapter 16, Jesus said He will build His Church or *ec-clesia* (Greek). Then He said the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church and He would give us the keys to the Kingdom. “*Ecclesia*” is made up of two words, the word *ek* means *out of* and *klesia* comes from the Greek word which means *to call*. So, we the Church are called out of the world system and out of sin. Not only are we called out, but we are also called to the Lord God, to worship and serve Him. So we are not just called out, but called in also. The full perspective is that we are called out from and called into, in order that we may govern on behalf of our exalted King. So, when Jesus says He will build His *ecclesia*, He introduces a governmental term. We are to apply all truth and principles of the Kingdom to all social and cultural spheres of life, i.e., the seven mountains of cultural influence.

Nevertheless, some of us are feeling we have made too little progress in implementing Kingdom into every sphere, and sadly, the contemporary condition of our nation and the Church underscores that feeling. I don’t have all the answers, but I feel like part of the hindrance to our progress is an inadequate definition of “Church.” I’m not saying our definition is totally wrong, but I’m saying it is only a partial definition. For example, we could say the Church is a religious presence in the community and that would be correct, but that is not fully *ecclesia*. We could say the Church



is a meeting place where Christians worship, where they fellowship and teach one another, and that would be true, but still only partially so. We could say the Church is a gathering of Christians who help each other and minister to the poor. That would be true, commendable and exemplary behavior, but it is still a partial definition. We could say the Church is the evangelizer to win converts to Christ, and it is that, but it is more than that. The Church is the house of prayer for all nations, and though it is, that is not fully what it is. The Church is a place of educating people in the principles of Christianity, yes, but it is more than that. Lastly, the Church is a refuge in a cruel world, yes, but it is more than that.

The most important factor in defining the Church as it relates to the Kingdom is the fact that, in the same breath, Jesus said He would build the Church and that He would give the Church keys to the Kingdom. **If the Church does not embrace the Kingdom, it is keyless.** When Jesus spoke of the Church and Kingdom, He was connecting them like they are supposed to be connected. Historically, we have had some problems with this: 1) In the dark ages, Church and Kingdom were institutionally joined and that left the definition of each blurred. It was the Dark Ages because, if it is dark in the Church, it is dark in the world. 2) Another thing that happened since 1830 when a teenage girl in England had a dream, and that disconnected Church and Kingdom. That amounted to about 2000 years of disconnection between Church and Kingdom. That produced what is called *dispensationalism*, which teaches that God came to deal with the Jews and when they rejected the gospel, then the Lord brought forth the Church. Then 2000 years later, He will get back to His Kingdom agenda and deal with the Jews again. So, the first error improperly connects Kingdom and Church, and the second totally severs them. Isn't that amazing? Kingdom is not Church and Church is not Kingdom, but they are directly related and connected.

When Jesus introduced the word, *ecclesia*, there were no disciples so wowed by that word that they were falling out in the Holy Ghost or a trance. They knew biblically and culturally what He meant. Biblically, they knew that *ecclesia* was the Greek word that in the Old Testament Septuagint was the Hebrew word, *qahal*, which referred to Moses leading a Church in the desert. The Old Testament Church was God's people called out of Egypt, called through the desert, called into Canaan. So Moses had an *ecclesia*. Culturally, the word *ecclesia* was used in their day by Greeks and Romans. The Greeks used this term to describe representative legislators called out of the citizenry to declare policy and govern things in their city-states. The Romans used this term to mean colonizing in the empire and spreading their influence, not just by killing ene-



mies, but by sparing them and letting them be absorbed into Roman culture. For example, the city of Philippi was in Greece, but it was a Roman colony, with Roman garb, Roman diet, Roman culture. So, when Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi, he said their citizenship was in heaven, but they were called to that Roman colony to build a Kingdom colony. So, *ecclesia*, was not a foreign term and Jesus said He was going to build one that would not fail. The covenant with the Last Adam can't fail. We can delay God's progress in history, but nothing can defeat our King from total conquest. We can't lose if we just obey and go forward.

Where Jesus spoke in Ceasaria Philippi in Matt. 16:18, was across from a mountainside that was known as the Gates of Hell, because it was dedicated to the altar of the Roman god, Pan. There were ongoing rituals there, slaughtering goats and letting their carcasses go into a river that went underground. If the carcass flowed down they knew their god accepted it. If the goat carcass got stuck, they went into a panic. The word panic comes from the Roman god, Pan. Jesus' reference to the Gates of Hell was notice that His Church would be involved in aggressive spiritual warfare. God is a builder and battler.

Acts 19:32 *So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.* The word assembly there is *ecclesia*. The governing body of legislators in Ephesus is stirred up because Paul has come preaching the Kingdom and people are getting healed and delivered by handkerchiefs on their body. The Kingdom has shaken up the economy because the gospel is having impact and people are getting delivered from idolatry and worshiping Diana. The ripple effect of that was the silversmiths were no longer making money on statues, etc. Act 19:39 *"But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. 40 "For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering."* 41 *After saying this he dismissed the assembly.* They looked to the city *ecclesia* to deal with the confusion caused by Paul and the team who came in as God's mobile, traveling *ecclesia*. Let the sparks fly because there is a clash and confrontation of *ecclesias* going on now also.

[This entire article may be found at <http://martygabler.com> * Click on Articles tab]

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DIVIDED MAN Part 2



Simon Purvis

When we are born again, the old man, the old nature passes away so we don't have a sinful nature anymore. There are not two natures. It is not the nature of God fighting with the old man inside, but there are the flesh and the spirit. The old man had evil ambitions toward sin. The flesh (subconscious) is not evil, it is just weak, and that is because the flesh is self-serving. Romans Chapter Seven is about that war. When we are born again, God's divine nature comes in and there is something in our conscious mind that wants the will of God and we seek it and choose it. There is something down in the subconscious that has not yet surrendered to the government of God, even if we think we have surrendered. It is pretty easy to believe and vocalize that we want the will of God until the will of God touches one of the hidden drives within us. An example is when someone offends us and we get angry, the conscious part of us says to love them and pray for them. However, a war starts on the inside. Gal 5:17 calls this the war between the flesh and the Spirit. The spirit is the conscious part yielding to the Spirit, but the flesh is the subconscious that is not.

Romans Chapter Seven shows the war within man himself, acting out of conscious will but reacting out of subconscious. We can only suppress the subconscious for a while, but it will surface when the circumstances come together or the heat is on. Whatever you put down there in abundance will come out your mouth at some point, without a conscious thought first. The conscious will of man was not designed to carry the



burden of living holy. It will break down and the subconscious will pop up.

Rom 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing.* [Flesh is the subconscious part of us that is not surrendered to the government of God.] *For to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I do not find.* In my conscious soul I will to love God, but something down inside of me acts differently. Galatians Chapter Five tells us that if we walk in the flesh, we cannot do the will of the Spirit and that if we walk in the Spirit, we cannot fulfill the flesh. We can be doing fine and suddenly an outcropping of the flesh, like anger, will pop out of us. We didn't even realize it was there because it was not in the conscious but the subconscious. God can get us into unique circumstances to reveal and resolve subconscious issues.

Our walk is determined by the subconscious. We build habits in the subconscious and that is where and how our character forms. *As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.* (Prov.23:7) There is a teaching that tries to make the heart the spirit of man, the reborn part of man. That is not true. The heart is the very issue of your character, the 90% that is deep within the subconscious. The work of the Holy Spirit is to indwell who I really am within.

In receiving Jesus Christ, I get justified. In receiving the Holy Spirit, I get sanctified. God intends for us to live holy by our character, not by the choice of conscious will. That's why Jesus addressed the Pharisees as whited sepulchers and asked why they tried to say the right things when their hearts were evil. The reason Jesus could speak with such authority was not because of an anointing unique to Him but because He was unified in His heart. Both His conscious and subconscious were under the control of the Spirit. Saying we are filled with the Spirit means we are controlled by the Spirit.

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 2 But the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh....*

This shows us that the law of the Spirit works in the subconscious, not the conscious will of choice. We cannot be divided and live victorious. Most Christians break down where they do not have harmony within themselves. The Word says to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself (Matt.22:37-39), but if we are

not in harmony with self, we can't be with our neighbor. The outworkings of bad relationships are because something inside is out of order. We can either get that to resolve or stay dysfunctional and call it right. For example, if I am mad and want to be, I put pressure on my conscious mind to find a scripture and justify that for me.

Rom.8:3b*God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; 4 so that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.* When we walk according to the Spirit, it means we are governed by it. When we walk by the flesh, we are governed by the inward drives that are self-serving and not surrendered to God. The biblical emphasis on being filled with the Spirit is to purify the subconscious. Pentecostals, instead of touching that, made the emphasis speaking in tongues.

Mat 3:11 *I indeed baptize you with water to repentance. But He who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire;.... 16 And Jesus, when He had been baptized, went up immediately out of the water. And lo, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. Why did He come upon Jesus like a dove but the others like fire? There was nothing in Christ that needed purifying.*

....*and lighting upon Him.* Mat 3:17 *And lo, a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came as fire to those in the upper room. They had gone in there aggravated with one another, arguing over who was the greatest and who had the greatest ministry. Peter had put them all down saying he was the only faithful one that wouldn't betray Christ. James and John had wanted to call fire down on a city that would not receive the Lord. When that refiner's fire came and got down on the inside of them, something happened. Their subconscious was touched so deeply that they were no longer jealous and competitive.

Many Pentecostals think they are a little better Christian because they are baptized and speak in tongues. That contradicts the genuine humility that the Holy Spirit brings to refine in an infilling. Romans 5:5 tells us that this baptism sheds unselfish love in our hearts so that our subconscious and our motives and our drives become God-serving. After the upper room experience, Peter went down to a little town to preach and they had the same experience. Peter's account of that said the Holy Spirit came to purify. He didn't mention the gifts or speaking in tongues but just said it was a purifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* It was fire, not a dove. It came to refine. We don't know how to pray about what is going on inside of us, but the Holy Spirit does. The heart can be deceitful and we think we are right when we are wrong. The conscious mind does not know how to pray to fix that because it will be influenced by the inner drives.

In Peter's rooftop experience, God told him that what He had cleansed was not to be called common by Peter. In Acts 15, they had an apostolic, elder meeting about circumcision and rituals of the law. They were upset that Peter had gone to the Gentiles and had given the keys of the Kingdom. The arguing was because of what had been built down into the subconscious of these Jewish people about being the chosen people and that did not include Gentiles as far as they were concerned.

Act 15:7 *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men [and] brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as [he did] unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.* This passage does not mention speaking in tongues but the bottom line of purifying their hearts and the keys to the Kingdom here: faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. We cannot enter the Kingdom without receiving the Spirit. Jesus told Nicodemus that a man must be born again to *see* the Kingdom of God. He did not say *enter* the Kingdom. Then He said man must be born of water and the Spirit, water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. We don't receive the Holy Spirit just to be Charismatics. We receive Christ to get right with God and receive His divine nature in our conscious will, but the subconscious is still out of harmony until the Holy Spirit comes into man's subconscious and begins to refine it.

The day is coming when we will see Spirit-filled congregations. Ephesians 5:18 was not talking to individuals but to a congregation of people. This refiner's fire can come to a group as on the day of Pentecost. That fire took out the selfish ambitions and they shared with people according to their need. All my life I have been around people who call themselves Christians, but they all act differently. I'm now realizing it is because we have parts of us that have and parts that have not been purified, and that is different in each of us.

Jer 17:5 *Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.* We dare not put "me" instead of God as our priority in life. When He comes by the power



of the Holy Spirit, we come into harmony within and then we can enter into the rest Hebrews mentions. Harmony in our lives causes integrity which acts in authority and power. When we are in harmony, our words don't fall to the ground, they produce. A husband or father that is in harmony within himself can speak and there is power in his words.

Jer 17:9 *The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?* A heart that is not under the control of the government of God is deceitful. People say let your conscience be your guide, but if that conscience is not led by the Spirit of God, it is not safe. Radical Muslims follow their conscience. Are they safe? Every time Paul mentioned his own conscience, he would say that the Holy Spirit would bear witness to it.

Jer 17:10 *"I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind. [He brings the refiner's fire to it.] Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.*

Rom 8:14 *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* This verse is not talking simply about being directed where to go, what job to take, etc. It is talking about being led by God to be transformed into the character of Jesus Christ. If the character is right, we will make the right choices in life.

Rom 8:15 *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!"* 16 *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,....* 26 *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;* The Holy Spirit helps us pray about the issues of our own hearts. We may think we are being spiritual to pray in tongues but God is able then to deal with the issues of my heart and surface something that He wants to refine. No one else can transform you into the image of Christ.

Rom 8:27 *And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* And then 28 *all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,* —that purpose being to be conformed to the image of His son. That is our destiny. Creation is waiting for us to become sons in the image and nature of Christ and only the Spirit of God knows how to refine us to get that done.

Rom 8:29 *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the first-born among many brethren;* He loves us enough to not leave us unrefined and divided, full of offense and fear.

[This entire article may be found at <http://martygabler.com> * Click on Articles tab]

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. For CDs of Pastor Purvis' messages or to contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Church at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net)

Perspective Switch: A CONTRAST OF HOPE



Melissa Gabler

Being alive in 2014 We have a great advantage! We are in the THICK of KINGDOM INVASION! How can we be so sure?

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace THERE SHALL BE NO END**, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice **FROM HENCEFORTH EVEN FOR EVER. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS.**" (Isaiah 9:7)*

It says right there in black and white, *"Of the increase of his government and peace THERE SHALL BE NO END"*. His Kingdom is going to come with or without us. The great news is that we can be a part of it! It's never too late unless someone makes up their mind that it is. Our lives manifest what we agree with. If we agree with the idea that it's too late for us, unfortunately that idea, constantly rehearsed, will manifest an unfulfilled life. The opposite is true as well. If we agree with the fact that it is never too late then we can be a part of what God is doing in our lifetime. We can actually manifest quickening (Rom. 8:11) so that the job gets done and there is legacy left behind!

I heard this question asked recently, "What does the Kingdom of God



manifest on earth look like?" The answer: **YOU doing your part.** Hey, the Kingdom is advancing without an end in sight. We can either watch it pass by, or we can jump in the middle of the motion.

Now that we have discussed the major reason for having hope in such a desperate time, let's look at current issues with a different perspective. A quick reminder: sometimes it is easy to forget that the Bible is written FOR us not TO us. The Bible does specify who it is written to. Because it is written FOR us we can find life-giving principles and guidance throughout. In saying this, let's look at a different perspective of Luke 21. Luke 21 might sound like *Our END written in detail, a list of signs to look for the rapture (the exit of Christians from the earth). The similarities are eerie.* But let's look at Luke 21 from a different point of view: *it was Jerusalem's destruction written in detail (that actually already happened); a list of signs that point to the increase of His government and peace, the entrance of the Kingdom of God in the earth. The similarities are EXCITING!* The whole chapter is quite a parallel of what we are seeing in 2014 from deception and war to earthquakes, pestilence and fearful sights.

This all sounds very familiar. However, look at these following scriptures and let's get some hope from this historical event: Luke 21:11-15 *"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."* It will turn to a testimony?! Hey, we know what a testimony leads to in Revelation 12:11. It leads to OVERCOMING! That is awesome news. This doesn't say, "When your back is against the wall you better give up." This says, "When your back is against the wall God will fill your mouth with wisdom that your enemy cannot dispute." *"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."* (Lk. 21:17-19) Things look bad, but you won't die from it. Come on now! I'm getting excited here!! *"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."*

So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." (Lk. 21:26-28, 31-32) Sounds like we are ripe for our redemption drawing near! Not redemption to snatch us out of the hell on earth, but rather redemption of the earth itself (people included)!

A couple of years ago I heard the Lord say, "Darkness has an expiration date." My, my, my, what if the true perspective regarding the chaos of 2014 is that the King is exposing the enemy's hiding place? If so, It's time to *"know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand"* **BECAUSE, "Of the increase of his government and peace THERE SHALL BE NO END, FROM HENCEFORTH EVEN FOR EVER. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS."** We better know something! This Kingdom is advancing with or without us! What does the Kingdom of God manifest on earth look like? **YOU DOING YOUR PART!**

Here's a different perspective to sum this up: IT'S NOT OVER! It's about to get **DIVINELY EPIC!** Your best days are ahead of you. *"...when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."* (Lk. 21:31-32)

(Melissa is teaching each Wednesday night through December at Grace International Church * Sessions may be viewed live at www.graceic.org * Her teaching "If The Truth Sets You Free, Then A Lie Holds You Captive" is available on CD * 7.00 + 2.00 s/h * mail@seecministries.org * PO Box 298 Coldspring, TX 77331 * If you wish to order by credit card, you may go to our website: <http://seecministries.org> then click on the Donation tab, fill in your information and enter 9.00 as the amount.)

- **May the list of people who speak well of you grow. — "Outsiders must think well of him, or else the devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap." (1Tim.3:7, Msg)**
- **May you exert energy just because you want to delight yourself in the Lord Who is your wholeness and strength. May family and friends speak of your good health. — "Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!" (Prov.3:8, Msg)**
- **May the Lord open the eyes of His people that they be aware of chicanery and fraud before they become victim of it. May those who have fallen victim have their loss restored seven times, while those who cheat others learn the error of their ways. — "But even so, he is fined seven times as much as he stole, though it may mean selling everything in his house to pay it back." (Prov.6:31, Living Bible)**



The Gifts of Healing



Lynn Burling

To substantiate that all the gifts are for today, we refer to I Cor. 12:7-12, written about 54-55 AD, some twenty plus years after Jesus' Resurrection. When you read I Cor.:7-12, you get the simple impression that these gifts are given according to God's will to various people in the church. *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"*...and then he lists all of them. AT NO TIME reading these verses, is there any subliminal reference that the gifts of "healings" or the "working of miracles" are exclusive to only Jesus and the Apostles. As a matter of fact, it is even more unlikely in verse 28 where the gift of Apostle seems clearly distinct from the "gifts of healing" and "miracles"...Watch this progression... *"God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing."* This certainly looks to me that gifts of healings and miracles are different from and in addition to the gift of apostle and prophet and teacher.

When Paul writes to the Galatians and says, *"Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and work miracles among you do so by works of the law or by the hearing of faith?"* (Gal.3:5) He is showing that God is working miracles in their midst by the Holy Spirit. Note: He is doing this through



the ordinary believer not just through the apostles, i.e., the Spirit gives to some in the church “*gifts of healings*” and “*working of miracles*.” This means that the apostle’s uniqueness is not at all jeopardized when we say that gifts of healings and miracles were given to other Christians in the church at Corinth and in the churches of Galatia. If true then, it’s true today. You’ve come too late to tell me these “gifts” ceased, stopped, or faded away with the original apostles. Now that we got that out of the way, let’s continue. I Corinthians 14:1 (Amplified) picks up from the end of the “love chapter,” “*the greatest of these is love*,” and continues “*eagerly pursue and seek to acquire (this) love (make it your aim, your great quest); and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy... desiring the gifts are good and right but all things work by love*.” Having love and compassion for people is as good a reason to desire a gift as any I know. Once you set your heart to pursue love, you will be in a position to be zealous for spiritual gifts.

To really appreciate this gift and all the gifts, we must recognize that any spiritual gift must operate through a human vessel. I wonder if we realize that all gifts can operate “outside church” as well. Christ instructed the apostles, disciples and us to “heal” the sick. In my understanding, when Jesus asks you to do something outside the realm of possibilities or understanding, that He has first become an example and study on how to duplicate His own acts. First of all, that which is outside human realm or effort will be understood in the instruction or command that comes with delegated authority and the power to minister.

Of course, we all know the verses quoted that Jesus said, “*What I see my Father do and say that I do!*” John 5:17 (The Message) adds, “*The Father loves the Son and includes him in everything he is doing*.” Did you know a “gift” can be neglected or even “muted”? For instance, a person who believes in the gifts should avoid becoming a part of a congregation where “gifts” of any kind are discouraged and even rejected. Even Jesus could not do many mighty miracles because of unbelief.

Back to our theme, the gifts of power are healing, miracles and faith. Healing is one of the most obvious beneficial gifts to man in this life. It is also the most widely accepted of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. I read a statistic recently that 90% of our Lord’s ministry on earth was spent healing the sick. His first instruction to His disciples was “Heal the sick”. (Matthew 10:8) Jesus gave us this promise in John 14:12, Message translation: “*The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater (works) things, because I, on my way to the Father am*

giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it." That is as plain as the nose on your face! This kind is for supernatural curing of injuries, handicaps or diseases without natural or human skills. These manifestations of the Holy Spirit work through us to the person in need. Listen closely, **A-N-Y** believer is qualified to pray for the sick. Scripture tells us that the signs follow those that believe. Sometime we think "the gift of healing" is relegated to only a selected few, when scripture clearly tells us to "*desire spiritual gifts*". Could it be that only a few desire this gift? The problem is, not many **DESIRE**, not many **BELIEVE**. Now having said that, before anyone throws tomatoes at me, yes, this gift is specifically available to anyone who desires it and as in any gift, the more it is used (accessed by faith) the more experience and confidence the believer gains in applications.

I truly believe that **A-N-Y** believer can pray for the sick but that doesn't address the fact that there are those who are gifted and "more proficient" in their gifting. I'm familiar with a story of a woman dying in the hospital. A believer was called and asked by a family member to go and pray for her. When he walked in, she said with a smile, "It's ok, I know it's God's will". He was taken back, because he's now faced with someone who has accepted "sickness" as God's will. He asked her, "If Jesus were to walk in here, what would He do?" She said, "Why He would heal me." Since you don't doubt that, let's believe it's His will to heal you! I cringe every time someone ends prayer with the statement, "If it be thy will." The most significant scripture which parrots Isaiah 53:5 is Matthew 8:16-17. "*They brought to Him many who were demon possessed and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, He himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.*" I am convinced that even though I don't "feel" like it, I can still pray in faith, believing strictly on the word of his completed work.

There is another aspect of the "gift" and that is where most believe the gifts come with "anointing". The anointing can come as a wave, as a supernatural impression of what God wants to do. The anointing is a sign that God is present in the situation and He wants to work and accomplish through us things to bring help to us and glory to Him. Sometimes, the anointing can follow a word of knowledge, where faith is increased to prepare the hearts and spirits of those to receive healings specifically. The anointing requires one with spiritual understanding to discern the pathway the spirit is leading. We must never assume God works by the same way each time. We are just vessels for "*God's will*" to heal people—this decision was made before the slaying of the lamb, before the foundation of the world. (Rev.13:8)

Please note—all gifts are given by the Spirit. Clearly healing is a gift given for the benefit of the church and for the glory of God. The gift of healing can be a spoken word, laying on of hands, anointing with oil (a symbol of the work of



the Holy Spirit); also through prayer, proclamation, speaking by faith but all in the name of Jesus. This can come by your faith, the faith of the one you're impressed to pray for or by the agreement of two or more believers. It truly goes without saying that no spiritual gifts will operate without faith in some measure. What we hear God saying at the moment is that faith comes by hearing, **RIGHT NOW!** We talk about getting an impression to speak or act or to know, when in reality we are acting on His Word at the moment or the Word that has been promised, either way it's **FAITH!** - having heard. Faith implies a **"NOW"** present-tense relationship with God. The disciples functioned under Jesus' authority. It's still the same. This next statement may surprise you, remember earlier I wrote that anointing requires one with spiritual understanding to discern the pathway the Spirit is leading. Let me explain: greater revelation has come to the body of Christ in the last twenty-five years and is continuing at the **"speed of truth"**. The gift carries a great responsibility and just like the previous example, other gifts can be present in the healing gift like words of knowledge and words of wisdom operating at the same time. God will always "prompt" the one with the gift of His intentions. It is up to us to be ready and prepared for the new wine.

In Ephesians 4:8, *"When He ascended He gave gifts to men or bestowed on them gifts."* Before that, His disciples operated under the umbrella of His power and authority. He delegated His authority to them and then they did what He could do even after He was gone. Today, everyone who receives Christ is given "authority"—*"But as many as received him, to them, He gave the right (privilege) to become the children of God, even to those who believe on His name."* (John 1:12) The word for "gave the right" is the word for "exousia" or authority—meant for all of us.

Remember, before any of the apostles became apostles, they were believers first. The power is not in the office, the power comes from the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit is in every believer and the power of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer. Just to be clear... If the giftings were meant for only the first apostles, then the so-called gifts would cease with them.

Haven't we been up against this thinking for hundreds of years? As previously remarked on, the gifts, any gifts and the use of them are not to be used as a carnival show or a way to fleece people desperate for God to heal them. We never see Jesus or His disciples make healing a spectator sport. The gifts of healings do not necessarily validate you but validate our Lord and Savior. The gifts of healings are meant to communicate the power and the love of God to believers and unbelievers. It is like all of the gifts given by the Holy Spirit as the Spirit wills. It is not our job to worry if they will work, it is our job to believe and to be obedient.

(Lynn Burling pastors Christian Faith Church in Bellville, TX. He is Texas Bishop for the Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies and President of From The Heart Ministries. His teaching CDs are available at CFC Church phone: 979-865-5464. Kathy and I have enjoyed staying at their lovely bed and breakfast: www.somewhereintimebb.com. Lynn & Linda are gracious hosts.)

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF PURPOSE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM



Tricia Miller

In the midst of so much uncertainty in the earth, what is the Lord saying? Which voice is the loudest? Is it the sound of the ocean's waves roaring and rising to new heights or the voice of the Lord speaking forth His word of a hope and a future? Which voice will we listen to and take confidence in, in this season of raging wars and rumors of wars?

The Lord has been speaking for about a year now on allowing our thoughts to be in line with His thoughts and about taking every thought captive to His obedience, to His will and purpose. Several months ago I heard the Lord say, "Don't lose sight of purpose in the midst of the storm." He took me to Matthew 8:23 where the disciples were told by Jesus to get into the boat and to go to the other side. Along the way a GREAT storm came up and began to toss the boat to and fro. Jesus was asleep. The bible tells us that the disciples woke Jesus up and asked Him, "Don't you care that we are perishing"? Jesus stood and rebuked the disciples asking them, "Why are you timid [showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened] you men of little faith"? Then He spoke to the storm, "Peace be still" and the storm was still.

When Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side, they obeyed. It was blind obedience not an obedience rooted in purpose. They had not yet come to realize that they had a purpose to fulfill in the earth. There was no understanding that there were two demon-controlled men that had need of what they had in their boat. So when the



storm arose, purpose was not there to push them forward.

Paul and Silas understood purpose. They knew and understood the greatness of God and the greatness of the call upon their lives. Purpose will be the wind in our sail in the midst of the storm. Paul and Silas understood this one thing, we don't leave our purpose because of the situations we find ourselves in. We in the body of Christ lose sight of this in the storms of life. We need a revelation that nothing happens, no forward steps are taken until a purpose is established. Without purpose individuals wander through life. They stumble along, never knowing where they are going, so they never seem to get anywhere.

When we look at this story we see that everything around them was telling them they were going under but His word said they were going over. Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side. That was the Word of the Lord. His Word is true and faithful. When He speaks His Word, it is a guarantee we will arrive on the other side. It is a guarantee if we are obedient to do what He said do.

How many of us have heard the Lord speak a word to us, but because of fear and the tossing of the waves we have turned back to a place that was comfortable and familiar? The purpose of the disciples going to the other side was there were two demon-possessed men that needed deliverance.

The word for "storm" in the Greek is *seismos* (Strong #4578). It is the same word for earthquake. That brings to mind Paul and Silas in Acts 16:22 where they had been severally beaten and thrown in the deepest part of the prison, chains put on their feet and hands and the prison doors locked. Here are two powerful men consumed by their purpose in life: to preach and declare the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Beatings, chains, dungeons, and locked doors could not hold back their purpose.

The Word of God (Acts 16:25) says, "They were praying and singing hymns of praise to God and the prisoners were listening to them." Now look at the exciting report in v.26: "...and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken and immediately ALL the doors were opened and EVERYONE's chains were unfastened. THEY WORSHIPED! The Bible says that in the midst of all that uncertainty their chains began to fall off and the doors of the prison swung open. Not just for Paul and Silas but also for ALL those locked in a place of confinement. Deliverance came to ALL of them and salvation

came to the jailer's entire house.

The events in the lives of Paul and Silas in Acts 16 are amazing! Because Paul and Silas were secure in their purpose, kept their eyes and focus upon the Lord and worshiped, deliverance came to all that were in prison. May we be a people who worship in the midst of the waves roaring and tossing and worship while the earth is quaking and causing structures to fall all around us. May we be a people who will not lose sight of why we are here, and why we were created -- people who understand purpose.

Why are we here? What has God anointed us to do or fulfill? What are we called to be and do in the earth? Purpose is defined as the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to define the purpose of our existence. Let's discover our purpose in this season, and in the midst of the storms of life be a people who will stand and worship and declare deliverance to a people held in captivity. Let's move from fear, intimidation and insecurity to a place of faith. Let's maintain unwavering faith that we can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties. And at the same time, may we have the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of our current reality, whatever that might be. May we develop a culture of faith and discipline. There are seeds of Greatness in all of us. Let God water them in this season and allow them to spring forth to fulfill the purposes of God in our lifetime.

I declare over you today that the seeds of greatness that have been dormant in the seasons past will no longer be allowed to be dormant. For the Word of the Lord comes to them today and calls them forth to grow into mature trees that will produce fruit unto righteousness. The world is in need of a righteous people to arise and understand that they were placed on this earth to fulfill a GOD-given purpose. We are secure in Him and will arise; and His Word will arise in us and we will declare His will in all the earth.

Let the truth of a HOPE and a FUTURE be a revelation in your heart today. **DON'T LOOSE SIGHT OF PURPOSE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM.**

(With a vision for the nations, Tricia ministers salvation, healing and deliverance. She seeks to train and equip the Body of Christ for the work of the ministry. She desires that believers and nonbelievers alike are transformed and all pursue their calling and destiny in the Kingdom of God. Miller Ministries International * PO Box 9458 Tyler, Texas 75711 * 903-780-0377 fax 903-561-8542 email: millerintmin@aol.com)

From Great Dissatisfaction to Great Satisfaction



Luke 10:38-42 is the story of Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha's house. Jesus told Martha when she complained about her sister that Mary had chosen the good part. He told Martha that only one thing was needed and that was to sit at His feet.

We seem to be so busy doing what others expect of us or what looks good to us. Maybe I am the only one! When the reality is, if we want to do what the Father wants us to do, only one thing is needed. If we want to fulfill our assignment in God, that which we were created and destined for, sitting at His feet is what is needed.

In 2007, my wife Pat and I were in a meeting where Heidi Baker was ministering. She told of a vision she had. In this vision, the Lord showed her two garments. In one hand He held a dirty, old, burlap-looking thing, very ugly. In the other hand He held the most beautiful garment she had ever seen. The colors were brilliant, so much so that they seemed alive. The Lord asked her to choose one of them. She said, "I wanted the beautiful one but I knew I should take the ugly, dirty one. So she chose the ugly garment. The Lord said to her, "You have chosen the poor, and because you chose this garment the other one will be yours as well."

She then made an altar call for those who felt God calling them to the poor. Pat and I both felt strongly that we were to answer that call so we made our way up front with many other people. After all, we were pastoring a church in one of the poorest parts of our county. We found out later that God had much more in store for us than we realized when we too chose the not-so-attractive garment.

Our church was prospering, growing in numbers and maturity. We had a wonderful leadership team and an awesome worship team; it seemed things were

going very well. But inside of me was a growing dissatisfaction that I couldn't shake. I began to spend a lot of time at His feet. I figured since the church was doing well, something must be wrong with me! I had spent most of my prayer time before this praying for direction for the church, the message God wanted to bring, my congregation, my family, but this was very different. I was desperate to hear from Him, desperate for Him.

For two years before the answer came I spent hours every day worshipping, talking to God, listening to Him. He spoke clearly, "I want you out of here." It was just like that, in those words. Wow, that was not what I expected to hear since things were going well. I told Pat what I had heard. I think she was in bigger shock than I was. However after more prayer, this time together, and more sitting at His feet, we were in agreement. I resigned the ministry we were working with and set in another pastor. Pat and I stayed to help with the transition and then the Lord spoke to us to go to Grace International Church in Willis, TX.

Since that resignation in 2009, the Lord has used us to minister full time to the homeless, the hungry, prisoners and orphans. I have pastored for over 28 years, but I never have experienced such peace in ministry. We have seen people like Robert, who was addicted to crack, come to the Lord, take hold of a new life in Jesus Christ and be disciplined by us and other ministers. He is now married to an awesome woman of God, has a great job and still calls us Mom and Dad. Calvin was a man who was watching his life go down the toilet from drugs and bad company. We adopted him too. He is now working as Chef Cal at a seafood restaurant in Willis and loves the Lord with all his heart. Just this last week at our Thursday ministry at Conroe House of Prayer, a man named James came up to me at the end of the service as everyone was released to eat breakfast. He was new at CHOP, where most people come when they leave Salvation Army for the day. He had just stopped drinking and smoking pot the week before. He told us that a year ago, some preacher asked the group he was in, "Do you know that God loves you?" He said he knew that. But when the man asked if you love God back, he could not answer that because he didn't know how to love God or anyone. For a year, that question had been working on his heart. When he heard the message on Thursday and when Pat asked him where he was with the Lord, he said, "I am learning to love God back!" Hopefully, we can help disciple James as he presses in to know God and to love God. Pat and I believe that the broken people are some of the main ones who will be used to usher in the Kingdom of God as they get saved, healed and disciplined.

My great dissatisfaction became great satisfaction, sitting at His feet. We hope this will inspire you and provoke you to reach out to the broken lives that are all around you. Some will take you up on the offer! So this is our story to this point.

(John and Pat Terry have pastored in Montgomery County for 30 years, including 3 years in Kerr County. They have a deep desire to see the down-and-outers become whole, healed and serving their God. They now serve as Elders at Grace International Church and head up East Gate Ministries. Email: eastgate1@hotmail.com * 936-520-6888)

Don't Stop Short



Marty Gabler

God has a plan and a path for each of us to walk out during the course of our life (Jer.29:11). Our Lord has put within each of us a personality, gifting and abilities that He has designed to use uniquely to His glory. They are expressive aspects of His image (Gen.1:26) and must, therefore, become very significant considerations in our growth and maturity development. Each of us are “wired” differently from the other (though from time to time we will come across others wired similarly to us). The “way we are wired” (personality, gifting, abilities) is the way He means for us to function effectively in that plan (Ps.139:13-18). It is possible for each of us to become disillusioned, discouraged or disappointed and stop short of walking that course in the manner He has “wired” us. It is possible for each of us to stop short of fulfilling that goal but we don’t have to... not at any point (Lam.3:23; Matt.24:13; 28:20; Jn.14:17; 2Tim.4:7).

UNDERSTANDING OUR MAKEUP

It *is* possible for an individual to fulfill God’s plan for his/her life (2Tim.4:7). There are some very basic factors about our makeup, and the makeup of others around us, that we can come to understand that will be of great value in continuing upon the path to that goal. Learning what that makeup looks like, accepting it and releasing ourselves to express it freely and fully, while recognizing and relating to others who have a different makeup, is key to success.** When we begin to take notice of how God

** Kathy and Melissa taught a seminar on this subject and their CDs are very helpful to that understanding: Kathy—“Free To Be” * Melissa—“If The Truth Sets You Free, Then A Lie Holds You Captive” * CDs are 7.00 each + 2.00 s/h—order both and shipping is free * mail@seecministries.org * PO Box 298 Coldspring, TX 77331 * If you wish to order by credit card, you may go to our website: <http://seecministries.org> then click on the Donation tab, fill in your information and enter the total amount.

has “wired” us (or, simply, how God has made us) we can stay quite close to the trajectory our Lord has for His expression in our life’s walk. Then, not only are we more efficiently and obviously bringing glory to God but we are more fulfilled and satisfied and at peace in our lives.

DON’T STOP SHORT OF THE GLORY

Almost every single believer in the Lord Jesus Christ would deny that they have “stopped short of the glory of God” simply because they have made a decision for Christ. The premiere scripture used in the Romans Road format for witnessing to unbelievers is Rom.3:23—*for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*. That plan is to show unbelievers proof from the Bible that they are sinners and need to repent and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. While the fact of “stopping short” is true for unbelievers, it is also true for many who count themselves as believers. The word “sinned” and the words “come short” each effect the other, i.e., are causational upon each other (as may be seen below in the definition of “miss the mark”). It is entirely possible for not only unbelievers to “stop short” of the glory of God but believers as well.

STOPPING SHORT? MISSING THE MARK?

Religion tends to view “sin” as acts that are really nasty or really noxiously rebellious or destructive to others, while readily justifying and excusing ourselves from stopping short of the fullness of the purpose and plan of God for our individual lives. An individual stopping short of the Lord’s design for his/her life does not bring forth the glory of God, as intended, in that person’s lifestyle in their lifetime. Accepting Jesus as Savior just to get the heaven-or-hell issue taken care of does not, altogether, necessarily solve the “stopping short” or “missing the mark” issue. Teachers typically give the definition of “sin” as “missing the mark”. Often, they will use a target and bow and arrow as a very good illustration. But not only is it possible to miss the bullseye by hitting to the right or left of it, it is also possible to “miss the mark” by not pulling back sufficiently on the bowstring to get the arrow to the target, thereby, causing the arrow to fall short. An inadequate or inappropriate attempt will “stop short”.

The definition of “sin” in Thayer’s Lexicon is “to be without a share in; to miss the mark”. But a good look at Jn.3:16, beyond the mere King James English, would show us what an all-wise, beneficent God has done and why He has done it. Inspired by Simon Purvis’ teaching on this verse I offer this take on it: “For God so loved His created order of people and things that He gave His only Begotten Son, so people might receive His loving government, so that He might bring them back into His order, to

preserve their life as it was originally meant to be before they gave themselves over to a lifestyle of disorder.” (Jn.3:16, my paraphrase) Considering Thayer’s definition and the context of Jn.3:16 this might be helpful in understanding what sin is: to live a lifestyle of decision-making and acts that disengage us from God’s very best, that would take us to the fulfillment which shows His purpose for us by what is lived out in our life.

PEOPLE PRODUCING FRUIT

Provision that is far above what might be called “adequate” has been made available to us to give ourselves over to a Person and His governmental order that we might glorify Him through a life which testifies to that order. In speaking to the Jews of His day, Jesus said, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.” (Matt.21:43, NASB) In *The Message* that verse reads quite plainly: “God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life.” Those Jews, to whom Jesus spoke, were most tedious at observing and keeping all the laws and feasts of Judaism, yet Jesus doesn’t seem to think that those observances are producing *any* fruit of the Kingdom. After all of their legalisms and religious effort, they have yet to produce the fruit of the Kingdom which, evidently, results in the need for the Kingdom (God’s redemptive governmental and legislative authority in the earth) to be given to a people who *will* produce said fruit. Some people, somewhere, at some time must (1) align with scripture, (2) contradict culture and (3) bring forth the fruit of the Kingdom by acting redemptively (enabled by Holy Spirit) to reverse the effects of darkness (Matt.13:33; 1Cor.2:4; Col.1:13; 1Jn.3:8 and Jn.20:21; Acts 1:8).

TREES AND GLORY

I was looking at the picture of a tree on the internet; it looked like a tall bush. I could not tell what kind of tree it was. There are 23,000 different kinds of trees on planet earth and it was hopeless attempting to decide which one it was. Looking at the tree, I wondered what kind it was and what good it was; was there any benefit in the tree existing; would it do anyone any good? I clicked to the next picture. It was the same tree a few weeks later. Bright-colored oranges were all over the tree. There was then no doubt in my mind what kind of tree it was, what it was good for and whether it was of any benefit to people because I could see “the glory” of that tree. Debates over size, leaf shape, trunk size, color and location were of no use until the appearance of fruit.

Jesus had made wise observations about trees and fruit in His time on earth. From His statements to the very religious Jews, it was apparently His observation that fruit was not hung on trees by angels nor did it come by the blessing of laying on of hands, but fruit came when the *trees* produced it: “...given to a people

producing the fruit of it” (Matt.21:43). It seems the lesson learned here is that there must be people who will be “planted” in relationship with the Lord and His people (Ps.92:13) in such a way that they receive the “nutrients” that will enhance and mature a tree in such a manner that fruit grows on the limbs. The concept of “planting” is one of staying and permanence (Isa.60:21; 61:3). A tree (1) stays planted, (2) takes moisture, (3) takes nutrients from the ground it is planted in, then (4) brings forth fruit. Fruit is brought forth by the tree that has been planted and enabled (Ps.1:3; Jn.10:38; Js.2:17-24; cf.Mk.11:13). “Bring forth”: make, produce, bear, shoot forth. The tree does not stand alone or produce alone. Jesus even said of Himself, “At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father...” (Jn.14:20) Then He informed His disciples how they were to glorify God—Jn.15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...” The bringing forth is redemptive. Jn.3:16 is redemptive; it is about Something that is beneficial to mankind. Prov.11:30a “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life...” Jesus is “THE Tree Of Life”. Jn.14:6a “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life...” Trees bring forth fruit and it is (1) glory to the Father, (2) life and (3) redemptive.

THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

Jesus was a Tree who brought forth fruit (Jn.12:28; 17:1). Jesus was the Kingdom exposed to mankind. In Jesus, the Kingdom was observed; in His life-style, His character, His actions (Matt.12:28). The fact that He brought forth fruit is the fact that He was the glory of His Father in the earth. “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jn.1:14, NASB) In his new book, *The Orphan Heart*, Larry Burden gives an interesting definition of “glory” from the Greek word “doxa”: “the appearance, form or aspect of a person which catches our attention and commands our recognition”. *The Message* puts it like this: “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.” (Jn.1:14, Msg) Though the Father was sitting upon a throne in heaven, He could be seen in the earth in Jesus as He interacted with His environment.

The Person, Jesus, has “caught our attention” and “commands our recognition”. He has truly caught our attention and commanded our recognition when we begin to emulate Him. Jesus told His disciples, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...” (Jn.15:8). So, we are to follow in the same pattern as THE SON and live in such a manner and to such a degree of fulfillment that the Father, through us, is “catching the attention” of people wherever we go. Jesus told Philip, “...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...” (Jn.14:9). May it be said of us also.

The oranges on the orange tree are the “glory” of that tree. Birds are “wired” to fly, i.e., they are meant to fly. Fish are “wired” to swim, i.e., they are meant to swim. Horses are “wired” to run, i.e., they are meant to run. Every time a bird flies, it glorifies God because it is doing what God created it for. Every time a

fish swims, it glorifies God. Every time a horse runs, it glorifies God. Those three animals are showing the purpose for which they were created and reflect their Creator when they fly, swim and run.

Every time a person does or says the things God specifically “wired” them to do, at whatever level they do it, they glorify God. Eagles have been clocked at 75 mph. They have been observed flying at 10,000 feet altitude. They are glorifying God as they fly at that altitude and at that speed. Sparrows have been clocked at 40 mph and have been observed flying at 300 feet altitude. But the sparrow is glorifying God just as much as the eagle. We Americans love “eagles” and put them on TV at great cost and we make sure they are able to rent huge auditoriums and stadiums but they are not glorifying God any more than the “sparrows” that speak and act redemptively at home, on the job, on the campus, in the hospital, in the downtown mission or jail, in the nursing home, in the store or restaurant. Jesus spent a great deal more time with three than He did with 5,000. Eagles *and* sparrows equally glorify God in the respective spheres He created them for.

BLOW DRYERS AND DRILLS

A blow dryer is not wired like a drill even though there are some similarities in shape and size. If you put a blow dryer to work drying and styling hair, you will get great results and the dryer will likely last a long time. But if you try to force it to operate like a drill and force drill bits down inside it and press it up against a piece of wood or metal and turn it all the way up, the blow dryer will be damaged beyond repair and the one forcing the dryer will be injured, if not fatally injured. People are “wired” the way our Lord has in mind for them to operate in the Kingdom of God (1Cor.12:18). If they are coerced through immediate need that demands “the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets the grease” or through guilt or through an unscriptural ministry paradigm, they and their environment will both be damaged and may never function again. Not only do we need to understand our own makeup but the makeup of others so that we may work together efficiently and bring forth the glory of the Father and not that of religious demands or mere sentiment (1Cor.12:14-27).

The glory of God through us, His creation, is not our putting forth effort to hit an ideal or to align with a creed or even getting to heaven. It’s accomplishing things that show His character, His Name in this earth in spite of the influence of culture. That which is in heaven comes to earth through an earthen vessel (Jer.18:4-6; Matt.6:10) and continually points back to its Source in heaven (Matt.5:16). That is why Jesus could say, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father” because He never misrepresented the Father, no matter how hard people (and the devil) tried to get Him to adjust to *their* expectations. “Glory” can be translated “excellence”. If we stop short of the excellent purpose and use of God’s power in our life, we have stopped short of His glory. The glory of God through us is purpose revealed and realized. Thayer says that “glory” means “splendor, brightness of the moon”. We only speak of the beauty of the moon because it is reflecting the sun, and the only reason there is reflection is because of the power of the sun. We can only show forth the glory of Him who sits on the throne in heaven. Let us ask, “What of my life points back to heaven?” We are not come-shorters; we are go-forthers whose lives bring attention and recognition to the redemptive God of the ages.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.
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PLEASE PRAY FOR US

Our calendar has been filling up after the magazine goes out. Please check our website and our blog page for dates. We also serve on presbyteries, councils and prayer groups during the week that we don't post. Thank you for your prayers as we travel.

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Grace International Church
Pastors: Joe & Virgie Bogue
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Melissa leading worship
Marty is on the Prophetic Team
www.fmci.org
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Nov. 14-16 * Bellville, TX
Women's Meetings
Christian Faith Church
Kathy & Melissa Gabler
979-865-5464
cfcbv@swbell.net

Nov. 23 & 30 * Tomball, TX
Western Apostolic Church
Ministries
The 4:12 Center * 9:30a.m.
Pastor Shawn O'Hearn
Website: westernacm.org
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*I will not allow any person nor any
adverse circumstance to determine
the lifespan of the hope God
originally put in me.*

Oct.-Dec. * Willis, TX

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Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.

May the Lord grant you peace and the salvation of your home. May the Lord's Word prosper in you and may you bring forth fruit to His glory.

God is my King from of old, Who works deeds of
deliverance in the midst of the earth (Ps.74:12)



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