

# SEEC Magazine

Our 21st Year  
of Publication!

VOLUME 21

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

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Mk.9:1 "...until they see God's Kingdom come with power."

Kathy, Marty & Melissa Gabler, Jim Hodges, Simon Purvis, Larry Burden, Sam Brassfield



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**Mk.9:1 "...until they see God's Kingdom come with power."**



# SEEC Magazine

## A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

Volume 21

Issue 1

February/March 2017

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>2017 Declarations.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Marty Gabler	
<b>Investing in Relationships.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Kathy Gabler	
<b>Walking in Covenant Relationships.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Jim Hodges	
<b>Full Grown Sons.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Simon Purvis	
<b>Let Your Future Define Your Present.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Larry Burden	
<b>The Good and the Bad.....</b>	<b>20</b>
Dr. Lynn Burling	
<b>Knowing Christ.....</b>	<b>24</b>
Sam Brassfield	
<b>Week by Week.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Melissa Gabler	
<b>What if We.....</b>	<b>28</b>
Joe Bogue	

### ON THE COVER:

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**SEEC**  
**Ministries International**  
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SEEC Magazine is published by SEEC Ministries International. SEEC stands for Strengthen, Encourage, Equip Church Ministries—1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12. This is our mission statement and SEEC Ministries International is attempting to accomplish that mission through ministry in local churches, around the globe, in conferences, seminars, through publishing, audio and video. For a catalog listing of the CDs and books available by Marty and Kathy Gabler, send us an e-mail at: [mail@seecministries.org](mailto:mail@seecministries.org) or write us at our PO Box.

SEEC Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is for the purpose of presenting teaching on the subjects of the Kingdom of God, prophecy, five-fold ministry, dreams and visions, and intercession. Though each of these subjects may not be covered in each issue, they will be covered through the course of the year's publications.

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Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Thank you for sowing into SEEC Ministries International.



As you are able to agree with and own these declarations (1) you will be built up in your most holy faith (Jude 1:20) and (2) you will have a tool to war with that can defeat the enemy at key points in the coming year.

Each year I pray and ask the Lord for declarations to make **(1)** over people within my sphere of influence, for **(2)** those with whom I have some degree of influence and for **(3)** those who desire to claim them and come into agreement with them in prayer. I am making these declarations to those with whom I have a degree of influence (Paul said, “I stay in my metron (Gk.)”—2Cor.10:13-15).

These declarations are for (1) **prayer points** (points that we pray over regularly) and (2) **points of agreement** (points that we put agreement to in the atmosphere—agreeing with the purposes of God and with one another). If you desire to be a recipient of and a participant in these declarations, you should **(1) agree** and **(2) pray** them through and **(3) declare** them (cf. Paul in Acts 27—in face of impossibilities and opposing views). These will come by prayer (and perhaps fasting) and applying ourselves.

Each year individuals, churches and prayer groups join us in prayer and agreement throughout the year over the declarations believing God for His redemptive intervention in our lives, our churches and in our nation and for enablement for our Lord’s Kingdom purposes. Each year individuals contact us to tell us about the declarations coming to pass in their lives after they have claimed them and prayed them through the year.



## 2017 DECLARATIONS

I DECLARE THAT: 1. Things you have had to dig your way out of in the past, you will just step out of this year. (Kid's Declaration: 1. It will be easy to get unstuck.) "I have declared the former things [which happened to Israel] in times past; They went forth from My mouth and I proclaimed them; Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass." (Isa.48:3, Amp)

I DECLARE THAT: 2. You will be reminded of potential in people. (Kid's Declaration: 2. People are awesome and God will help us see that.) Looking beyond their faults, our eyes will be opened to their potential. We will be enabled to do that by Holy Spirit, by compassion of Christ; that means we will have to lean on Him for that. We will become aware of potential in them that we were not previously aware of. We will speak to that potential, we will have words of wisdom for them, words of release that will propel them into potential. "Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." (Eph.4:2, Living Bible)

I DECLARE THAT: 3. You will receive foresight at strategic times. (Kid's Declaration: 3. We can see the future and get ready for it.) It will be like your eyes got opened to things you are going to have to deal with. Some will be specific, some will not be detailed but will be enough knowledge so you can make necessary preparations for coming events. Sometimes you will receive it as a word of wisdom through something someone says to you or something you overhear. "Foresight will protect you. Understanding will guard you." (Prov.2:11, GW)

I DECLARE THAT: 4. You will live amazed at intervals throughout 2017. (Kid's Declaration: 4. We will see how amazing God is.) You will be amazed at the things God is doing by the working of His Spirit in people's lives and in your own circumstances. There will be times that it will be like we are a third person looking on while God works in lives and in situations. "Look among the nations and watch. Be amazed and astonished. I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if it were reported to you." (Hab.1:5, GW)

I DECLARE THAT: 5. We will begin to anticipate Red Sea interventions (Kid's Declaration: 5. We are ready to see God do impossible things.) When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we will begin to call upon the Lord and begin to anticipate Red Sea interventions, feeding the 5,000 interventions. Instead of desperately crying out, "What in the world will we do now?", we will cry out, "What is God doing that we have never seen before?" What do I need to do so I can participate?" Let's go through 2017 doing what we can to get doubt out of the way of progress; we will be doubt removers.

"I write this to you whose experience with God is as life-changing as ours,

all due to our God's straight dealing and the intervention of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (2Pe.1:1, Msg)

I DECLARE THAT: 6. People are getting back into alignment with Kingdom purpose. (Kid's Declaration: 6. We are getting back in line.) People who have gotten out of position in the KOG and have become ineffective or nonfunctional will be getting back into complete alignment with their Kingdom purpose. Whether because of (1) disappointment, (2.) physical or emotional trauma or (3.) the machinations or ignorance of people who interfered at some level. It will not take a long time. They will get back into their legislative seat and will have a marked effect in the Kingdom by the end of 2017. They will not leave anything behind as they get back into position but will bring additional resources and effectiveness to the Body of Christ. "From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him. God has taken charge; from now on He has the last word." (Ps.22:27-28, Msg)

I DECLARE THAT: 7. Worship will become lifestyle. (Kid's Declaration: 7. We will live to worship everywhere, everyday.) Worship, living for God and fear of God will become more than just a Sunday, church activity. It will become the lifestyle of families. (Take Communion together) Parents and children will not only attempt worship activity at church, acting righteously at church, fearing God in His presence at church but in the home, in family activities, conversations and celebrations. "...trying to learn [by experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [and letting your lifestyles be examples of what is most acceptable to Him—your behavior expressing gratitude to God for your salvation]." (Eph.5:10, Amp)

### **Blessing:**

May you not fling away your fearless confidence. May you find that it carries a great compensation of reward. May you have a steadfast patience and endurance and, with them, perform and fully accomplish the will of God. May you enjoy doing the will of God in 2017. May you receive what is promised. We are praying you discover daily that you are walking more and more in that for which you were born.

(Heb.10:35-36, Amp) "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised." We are praying you discover daily that you are walking more and more in that for which you were born. May you enjoy doing the will of God in 2017.

(Our Children's Ministers at Grace, Brian and Hannah Sherman, wrote the Kid's Declarations that they are teaching the kids each Sunday.)





God has made it plain that relationship is one of His primary concerns and always will be. Learning to live with others is part of the maturing process of our character and walking out our life purpose. Relationships should enhance our lifetime and future, but they can also undermine both. They are part of the challenge of everyday life and we will find some to be rewarding, some to be taxing, some to be for a season, some to be for a reason, some to be for a lifetime, some to be by choice and some to seemingly be the result of unforeseen circumstances. Each has its own set of distinctives and its own path, but all relationships require God's wisdom and our time and effort to be healthy.

*Confess faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much. (Jam. 5:16, Msg)*

According to this scripture, if we have friends we can open up to and admit our faults and pray for one another, we are positioned for healing. When our faults or defects or failures or errors are acknowledged, the way to pray becomes obvious. However, if our faults are not admitted, perhaps because we can't confess what we don't even realize, they can block this path to healing. Emotional issues or selfishness or destructive paradigms or misbeliefs often stay under our own radar and keep confession from being the starting place for healing. So, if it is obvious that a friend is being unknowingly sabotaged by issues in their own heart-thinking, we can then act on Gal 6:1 (Msg), *"Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit should set him right and restore and reinstate him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness, saving your critical*



*comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.*" However, if timing is not right and even that would do more harm than good, we can still invest in a relationship by praying as Holy Spirit directs.

A friend I will call, Amy, shared her experience with me regarding her childhood friend, Sharon. Through the years, neither Amy nor Sharon had considered the other perfect, and imperfections were never a threat to their friendship. So, after many years, Amy was shocked to find herself in a dilemma over something that had always been there. She finally realized that Sharon's cycles of emotional dives into anguish, depression and anger, which had always been written off to moodiness, was not just her "personality." It became obvious that Sharon needed deliverance and healing. Yet Amy knew that if confronted, Sharon would be quick to explain and justify her behavior because she was a perfectionist-analyzer-thinker, or she might even more likely just get angry and consider Amy as petty and accusing. Amy had no confidence to approach her from Gal 6:1. Neither did she think Sharon would accept the scriptural "wound of a friend" as a good thing that could lead to healing, so instead she pursued God's direction for effectual prayer for her friend.

In the past, when Sharon was in "one of her moods," Amy either stayed away or tip-toed around until it was over or tried to coax her out of it. Sharon's family used the same methods of dealing with her mood swings. Amy had watched people in their church and social settings walk a big circle around her, never getting to know the real Sharon who was genuinely a source of wisdom and love. It grieved her to see Sharon and her family ruled by this despot of "MOODS".

Surprisingly, as Amy continued to pray and search for insights, she came to some revealing truths about her own soul. Amy realized that she had never acknowledged these patterns in her friend because moods were familiar, even expected in her own world. She had grown up in a home where irritable or despondent moods were a silent demand for someone to fix conditions or feelings, etc., and moods worked because someone in her family would "do something." The most frustrated or depressed family member or the one in the biggest soul-storm became the center of attention and dictated the agenda for the whole family any given day.

Beyond that, Amy made another discovery. As she considered the "destructives" in her own life that needed confession-unto-healing-release, not only did the Holy Spirit point out her emotional behavior patterns, but He further opened her understanding in how she had allowed and even fostered those same patterns in her young son. What we cannot

see in ourselves we often cannot see in our children either. (That's one reason destructive behavior patterns can continue for generations, and releasing generations to come is also a powerful motive to seek healing for our own souls.) It became clear that frustrated moods and manipulation through pouting were a pattern she dare not leave unchanged in her son's life lest it rob him of childhood joy as well as joy in the years to come. What started as concern for a friend led her to a realization and confession that began a healing for three generations in her own family. As Amy sought answers for Sharon, deliverance came to her own house. *Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.* (Ps 107:19-20). A paraphrase of that scripture is: *He directed His command to heal their hurts and distresses and delivered them from their pitfalls and sources of depression.*

The Holy Spirit can divide soul and spirit so that the issues of the heart-mind can become obvious (see Heb.4:12). Honest confrontation of one's own heart is the starting place for emotional healing and deliverance. Trials and tribulations are common to all and are ideally supposed to come to good results that bring us to maturity in the image of Christ. *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character.* (Rom 5:3,4) However, we can refuse to persevere, refuse to submit to change and refuse to mature in character by simply being offended by trouble. I believe this type of offense is common to many: either we are angry at inequity or injustice or disappointments, or we fear those things. We can choose to let go of the anger and fear and walk away trusting God with the big picture, knowing that today's circumstances are just one scene; or we can buy into the short-term blitz and use a mood as a force to try to change the conditions and the people around us.

Time and ravaged relationships will eventually prove that giving in to negative emotions or moods causes suffering as literal as falling under chemical warfare. Moods are like a poisonous fog that suffocates everyone within reach! It is dangerous to tolerate "moods" because the fog of "my anger" or "my fear" is blinding, and we lose sight of what our negative emotions are doing to others and our own physical bodies. We can even wander deeper into the fog and reach a pit of indifference. In that pit, isolation and cynicism become an anesthesia that numbs upsetting emotions while it blocks out rational thinking. The ripple effects can be lethal . . . loneliness, hopelessness and failure to fulfill purpose.

If we get lost in the fog of "moods," the most dangerous thing we can do is justify our fears and angers or justify our right to keep them. Choosing life requires that we walk the opposite direction so that we do not become emotionally crippled. The emotionally crippled person needs a crutch. Just as the alcoholic finds relief in alcohol and the addict finds release in drugs, the "moody" feed on feelings while their negative emotions and behavior patterns continue to draw more fire.

Do we overlook destructive behavior and negative emotional patterns that

may sabotage a loved one or confront them? There is no pat answer. The place to start is prayer. One prayer I have seen God answer many times is, "Lord, please change them or change me so your peace can cover this relationship." We can trust His wisdom and His faithfulness to address the problems in wise timing. What we cannot do with behavior or personality issues is fight fire with fire. Fighting negative behavior with negative behavior is using a carnal weapon that does not pull down strongholds. Nor will any good fruit come from confronting others out of frustration rather than love. While we should not presume to confront without God's instruction, neither should we be too cowardly to talk it out if He so directs. We can be confident that the place to start is prayer. Then we follow God's instructions and timing to a God-outcome of healthy and meaningful and fulfilling relationships.

**Kathy will be speaking at Kingdom Congress 2017. For more info call 936-856-2455 or go to [www.martygabler.com/kec2017/](http://www.martygabler.com/kec2017/)**



**Walking in Covenant Relationships**

**Jim Hodges**

**Apostle Hodges will be speaking at Kingdom Congress 2017.**

One of the greatest examples of covenant relationship in the Bible is the friendship of David and Jonathan. We can learn from the covenant they walked in and apply its practical components: *1Sa 20:1 -3, Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity? And what is my sin before your father, that he is seeking my life?" He said to him, "Far from it, you shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. So why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!" Yet David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your sight, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, or he will be grieved.' But truly as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is hardly a step between me and death."*

1) Loyalty - The first dimension of their relationship model that we need to emulate was loyalty. Loyalty may be the heart of covenant because in Malachi and Hosea God often called His people back out of disloyalty and unto faithfulness in covenant. Jonathan's loyalty was more to David than his own father because Jonathan also prioritized the purpose of God or mission. In the Kingdom we have to get beyond our natural bloodline. We honor parents and family but covenantal blood is thicker, *because there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother*, (Prov. 18:24). It is real joy when covenantal and natural blood join, but Jonathan had to prioritize his relationship over the father-son relationship, we too have to prioritize. I'm not saying we cut people off, but we do prioritize our loyalties and relationships.

David knew Jonathan was a loyal friend but he also knew Saul's jealousy of him as an emerging leader and knew Saul would not let Jonathan know it. So, David told Jonathan, *"There is hardly a step between me and death."* This is where David walked for a long time. "Between me and death," David had to fight a lion and a bear and a Goliath and Abner's army and Philistines and Jebusites. Some of us too have the testimony that we have been dodging death, *"with hardly a step between me and death."* As loyalty protected David, our friendships in covenant relationships can sometimes mean the difference between life and death, not just physical death, but moral death or financial or visionary death or relational death. Loyalty is a barrier that protects.

2) Commitment - 1Sa 20:4 *Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."* Loyalty includes commitment in church, marriage, business and the marketplace. Jonathan was committed to the person of David and the purpose of God. That's what knit the commitment. You cannot commit to everybody, but you must commit to those who are committed to the purpose of God. That's how God enhances ministry relationships and maximizes His ministry through us. It is time we rediscover the dimension of commitment one to the other as Jonathan and David demonstrated that.

3) Protection - 1Sa 20:5-7 *So David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I ought to sit down to eat with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third evening. "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because it is the yearly sacrifice there for the whole family.' "If he says, 'It is good,' your servant will be safe; but if he is very angry, know that he has decided on evil."*

Jonathan did not deliver David up to Saul, his father, who sought to

eliminate him. He protected him and covered for David with a lie. Did Corrie ten Boom lie to the Nazis when they came looking for the Jews? Did Rahab lie when they came looking for the spies? We have to understand covenant to understand this. We have to learn how to protect one another. We are not to be blatant liars. We should be tactful and not say too much, but if it comes down to it, we must be more wise than religious. If someone comes into my house with a gun and asks if anyone else is in the house, I am not going to tell them my family is hiding in the closet. We dare not be too religious because when we are in covenant, we are in war.

The reason Jonathan knew he had to protect David against his father's wishes was not just because he had already recognized the anointing upon David but because, already in previous chapters, He protected David supernaturally. Jonathan decided he had better protect what God protected. Three sets of Saul's messengers had been sent to take David out and failed in their mission. God overwhelmed them with a prophetic anointing to the point that the words coming out of their mouths were opposite to their hearts' intention. Saul himself went after David but he also got among the prophets instead and a demonized king prophesied the Word of God for twenty-four hours. Jonathan decided he had better protect what God protected.

4) Serving one another in truth - 1Sa 20:8 *"Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?"* Here is David, knowing God has called him, having already been anointed by Samuel and knowing he has a destiny, telling his covenant brother to take him out if he is in the wrong. He was saying, "Tell me the truth, even about myself." Proverbs says, "better are the wounds of a friend than the kiss of an enemy". We all need this. We see and know in part so we need other eyes and ears around us to serve us the truth. Even though David was anointed to be king and had a destiny in God, he and Jonathan continued to serve one another in truth as covenant brothers. Neither got too high to serve. The Kingdom is built on faithful serving. A true covenant friend will serve us in truth, even regarding iniquity (which is twisted thinking and behavior).

5) Communication - 1Sa 20:12 -16, *Then Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if there is good feeling toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you?" "If it please my father to do you harm, may the LORD do so to*

*Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. "If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? "You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD require it at the hands of David's enemies."*

Jonathan said, "I make it known to you." Communication is making a matter known, not just uttering words and sounds. The word "communication" has the same root as the word "commitment", *koinonia*. So, the best communication flows out commitment and the best commitment flows out communication. Jonathan communicated to David that he would willingly die if he failed to warn David when Saul planned to attack him. Jonathan's words here show communication to be critical, sometimes a matter of life and death. David and Jonathan were communicating on such a level that they committed to each other's descendants. That vow to be concerned about the other's descendants was God-like for He commands His covenant to a thousand generations. Later on, Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was crippled and needing David's follow-through on this commitment. David searched him out to sit him at the king's table the rest of his life. David also had men work all the property of Saul and the proceeds supported Mephibosheth. Maybe without the scripture saying so, something of Jonathan's counsel was still coming to David through Mephibosheth, because sitting at a king's table was not just about eating. It was to consider counsel and strategize.

6) Exchange and giving - Both are part of covenantal relationship. *1Sa 18:1-4, Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt. 1Sa 20:23 "As for the agreement of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever."*

At this point, David does not have a lot to give. He is just one step ahead of death. Jonathan has all the paraphernalia of a king ascending the throne. It was his by blood rights. That was man's plan that he be the heir, but Jonathan knew God's plan was for David to be king. So Jonathan gives all of it to David: his robe, armor, sword, bow and belt. I love this. Here we see a spiritual covenant expressed culturally because in that ancient world,

that's how men made covenant. They got back to back in between the pieces of the slain animal, made a figure eight and then circled back to face each other and exchange gifts and mingle blood. There was reciprocity in that though David had little to give, being a man on the run. I believe God is saying in this that ministries in this hour should learn to give to each other, not give away anointings but share the perspectives of the five-fold. As we mutually give and exchange, we all become enhanced and ministry gets maximized and multiplied. That last verse, (1Sa 20:23) is probably the most classic covenant expression in all the word of God. Jonathan and David said, "*the LORD is between you and me forever.*" This shows us that it takes three to make a relationship rather than two. God is in that mediatorial roll between and brings together the two. When God made covenant with Abram back in Genesis. Abram had the animals slain and he was in a trance when God Himself walked through there and took care of the whole thing. Our exchange among ministries reflects the exchange God works with us in covenant. It is God in between to bring us together.

7) Sacrifice - Saul said in 1Sa 20:31 *"For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die."* Saul appeals to Jonathan's carnal side with emphasis on being king someday, but Jonathan made the sacrifice of his right to be king and deferred to David because of his revelation of the anointing on David. It was probably also a clue to Jonathan that his father was not concerned about doing things God's way when Saul threw a spear at him too and tried to kill his own son. Sacrifice is a part of relationship. In Hebrews it says to offer to God the sacrifice of praise. We can offer to one another the sacrifice of communication because communication can be a sacrifice sometimes. Something like taking time to write an email can be a sacrifice if you have 95 backed up and waiting, but it is about giving away your life. That is ministry flowing out of life.

8) Honor - 1Sa 20:41 *When the lad was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David wept the more.* There was honor in the way David bowed three times before his covenant brother and in their weeping together. There is something in honor that enhances relationships. If we honor one another, I believe we can overcome all the useless and negative stuff that is rampant in Christian publications and the news. The release of honor in the House of God will speak more powerfully than the dishonor in our world. Light can always do a better job than darkness.

It is a privilege to be called to walk in covenant with God and with one another. David was one step from death, but a covenant friend facilitated him to his awesome future. I pray those that have been betrayed in the house of their friends be healed and overcome every barricade to be able to risk again and find their covenant friends. Many look for ministry in assignments, but God would have us look for our alignments. Out of your alignments will come your best assignments. May God grace us with clarity to solidify covenant alignments for we secure our future by walking in covenant.

(Jim Hodges is the founder of the Federation of Ministers and Churches International, a relational, apostolic network of ministers, apostolic teams and local churches across the nation. Having ministered in over 40 nations, Apostle Hodges serves the Body of Christ internationally as a teaching apostle with a passion to see the Body of Christ fully established. Apostle Jim Hodges' new book *WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH TO DO?* This book and other materials may be found at his website: [fmci.org](http://fmci.org) or by calling the office 972-283-2262.) JIM HODGES WILL BE GIVING AN UPDATE ON ISRAEL March 2

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Usually, it is not the leaders but the congregation themselves that determine the level of word that can be ministered. There are congregations that cannot take beyond the milk of the word. *1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ. 3:2 I fed you with milk, not with meat; for ye were not yet able to bear it: nay, not even now are ye able.* Verse 4 tells us that a mark of being a babe is strife, envy and division. So being born again does not mean we cannot be a troublemaker. There is a clear distinction between *son of God* and *child of God* in scripture. Vine says that the Greek word for *sons of God* is *huios*, meaning a mature son in the father's likeness. Son here refers to likeness of the father's character. Child refers to an offspring. Rom 8:14 says, *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* That means they have some level of maturity. It is very difficult for those that are children to be led by the Spirit. Most things that we think and are being led by when we are young and zealous are out of our own heart and desires. Rom 8:16 says, *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.* Verse 14, concerning those that are led by the Spirit, refers to their nature as more ma-

ture while verse 16, refers to children as the offspring of God. In verse 19, all creation is waiting for sons of God, *huios* to be revealed. Not all children of God are *huios*, because not all that are born again are mature. You can be a born again child of God and still be a troublemaker who because of immaturity brings division and confusion. One of the problems in the House of God is that immature children divide the House, and of course a house divided cannot stand.

*And I, brethren, when I came unto you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.* In this particular church, because of their strife and immaturity, Paul was giving them the basic truth of Christ. The milk of the word deals with the objective truth about something that Christ has done for us, such as forgiving our sins and His crucifixion. The milk of the word does not require anything from us. Babes, *nepios*, are fed milk without any needed response from them. There is a season when we preach the finished works of Christ to young Christians without expecting response, but solid food or meat is for the more mature being trained in obedience to God. In verse 6, Paul said he preached a deeper wisdom to the mature. There are groups of people that cannot receive preaching beyond the finished works of Christ.

In Hebrews 5, the writer wanted to tell them about the Melchizedek order, which is beyond the finished works of Christ, but he could not because they were “dull of hearing . . . and have need of milk, and not of solid food.” *Heb 5:14 But solid food is for fullgrown men, those who by reason of use (practice & a life of obedience) have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.* We can only develop the senses regarding discerning what is God and what is not through a life of obedience connected to the Word. We cannot get the Word just by reading scriptures. There has to be an ongoing development of the Word of God in our life. That is revelation of the Word through a life of obedience. There are some things in the Word of God that we have to experience to understand. Out of life experience, scripture can come to revelation. Solid food was for those skilled in righteousness. Knowing how to use the Word is being skilled in righteousness. Babes are unskilled and have to be trained to use the Word. However, the problem is that when it is time for developing skill and maturity in babes, something sets in to cause them to be dull of hearing. That is the case if they are hearing only but not living a life of obedience. *Heb 5:12 For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of*

*solid food. Heb 5:13 For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. Heb 5:14 But solid food is for fullgrown men.* There comes a time all should be skilled in the Word to be able to teach it, not necessarily from a pulpit but through life and relationship. We all need spiritual fathers but we also should have a Timothy we are teaching or discipling. If the season comes to teach and you are not discipling, you go dumb. Smith Wigglesworth, Apostle of Faith, was asked by a lady why he was excited. He answered that he had laid hands on his wife and child and they were healed that morning. She said she wanted that excitement and received Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Then she asked, "How do I keep this?" Smith answered, "You had better go give it away."

We cannot sit and hear only. We have to be skilled enough in scripture to face whatever situation comes to us in life. We should be able to use it as a sharp sword to battle life challenges. *Heb 5:14 But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.* We don't develop muscle by sitting on the couch eating popcorn. The good and evil is not right and wrong but the doctrines that are of God and that are not of God. Jesus said in John 17, that if you will to do my Word and do it, you will know what is a doctrine of God or not, but people are confused and don't know when they don't live a life of obedience. This is why God gave the five-fold ministry of maturing the saints, so that we be no more tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. There are little winds of doctrine right now that are taking people away, which is a sign of immaturity. Ern Baxter said the thing that caused him great concern about the charismatic move was losing the solid foundation of the Word of God and moving to emotionalism. People do not know how to discern what is solid word and what is unhealthy. We cannot grow on the wrong doctrine. Look around, you will find that is evident.

Maturing is coming into a father's likeness. (In biblical culture, a *huioi* should come into his father's likeness and his inheritance at thirty years old.) Jesus did this and said when we have seen Him, we have seen the Father. Christlikeness is being like the Father. *Mat 5:48 Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* A tree may not be perfect but it can be mature. It does not say that we can totally mature in faith but we can in love. Perfect love casts out all fear. I can love you even when you shut me out. Love makes your world bigger than yourself. Unless you are maturing in love, your whole world is you. Unless we are maturing in love, we are not becoming a fullgrown *huioi*.

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. He is the lead teacher at the Word of Life Teaching Center in Lufkin, TX. Training is at 10:00am each Sunday. To contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Teaching Center at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net)

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## Let Your Future Define Your Present



Larry Burden

Larry will be speaking at Kingdom Congress 2017.

Like most ministers, I set aside time at the beginning of each new year to seek the Lord for directives and instructions to set the course for the coming year. More often than not, each of these times yields a download of a list of both. However, this year was different. There was no extensive list of deep revelations. There was a simple directive from the Lord, and it went like this: *Do not live in your past. Learn from it. Grow from it. Let go and move on from it. Do not let the past define your present. Let your present be defined by your future. A generation died in the wilderness because they could not get their past out of their present. A different generation determined to allow their future to define their present. That generation secured their future and seized their inheritance.*

That being said, The Lord directed me to **Hebrews 3** which is a synopsis of the failure of Israel to believe God while in the trial of the wilderness. Having been delivered from their slavery in Egypt and given the promise of a sure inheritance by God through Moses, a generation was unable to seize the moment, believe the promise of the Lord, and push forward to attain the future hope of living in a new and better place. Their **present** was defined by their **past**; so much so, that given the opportunity, many would have returned to the bondage of Egypt in a heartbeat. Their future was derailed because they allowed the **past** to define their **present** state. In their present state, they were blinded from their future because they were emotionally stuck in their past. Their past defined their present



and derailed them from their future. So, stalled out and filled with unbelief, they died in the desert, never experiencing the glorious future that God had prepared for them.

*Hebrews 3:7-8* clearly states, *Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, TODAY if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness (NASB)*. The Lord goes on to say that the children of Israel strayed from the Lord in their hearts and did not know His ways. As a result, the Lord was angered and swore that they would not enter His rest. *Rest* is *katapausis* in the original text and means, *the repose that comes from trusting God*. The *rest* of the Lord is the promised inheritance of a genuine relationship. Had these Israelites simply opened their hearts to receive the truth from the Father regarding their future, their present condition would have been much different and the attainment of their future promised inheritance a surety.

The word *harden* in Greek is *skleruno* and means *to make dry or hard*. The meaning implies this as a progressive process. The English equivalent is the word *sclerosis*, a word commonly used to describe the hardening of human arteries. Most know that atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, occurs over time primarily from neglect and improper attention to things such as diet, weight, exercise, and regular physical checkups. Heart disease can short-circuit your lifespan. The same is true with spiritual hardness. One becomes spiritually dry, hardened of heart, and stuck in the present with little to no hope of a secure future in God. Hardness of heart will bind your present to your past and blind your present from your future. An open heart to the Father will unlock your present to behold your future!

While one generation perished in the wilderness, another arose to seize their future and enter into the promised inheritance. Like Caleb and Joshua, this generation had a different spirit (*Numbers 14:23*), and they longed for the day when they would cross over and attain their future inheritance. During the forty years of wandering with others who were stuck in their past, Joshua and Caleb continually rehearsed their future. Their present condition was consumed with thoughts and conversation about what lay ahead, not behind. Because of their faith in the promise of God, they attained that promise. Their present was defined by their future!

Too many have come into agreement that their future will never be different from their present state. Largely because of past wounds, traumas, disappointments, and much more, many have become stuck in their

past and are hopeless in their present state that anything good is ever coming their way.

We have all had wounded pasts, and as long as we continue to play the reruns of those events, we will never be able to let our future define our present. Many will say, *Well, you have no idea what happened to me.* You would be correct. None of us knows your past traumas and disappointments. However, we do know that as long as you continue to pitch your tent in the emotional quagmire of your past, you will die in that place and never see that there was a brighter and more glorious future ahead for you. Your present condition will forever be stalled out by the circumstance that you have allowed to bind you to the past wounds and blind you from a hopeful future.

Look for a moment at Jesus' interaction with Peter in *John 21:15-17*. Everyone knows about Peter. He had a big heart, a big mouth, and a big foot. His intentions were always good, but his ability to follow through with those intentions were a bit lacking at times. One such time came on the night of the Passover before Jesus was betrayed and subsequently arrested and condemned to die on the cross. Jesus shared with his disciples that night that He would soon be going away and could not be followed by his disciples. Peter boldly declared, *Lord, why cannot I follow you right now? I will lay down my life for you (John 13:37 NASB)*. Jesus must have smiled at His precious follower when He responded to Peter that not only would he not lay down his life for Him, but would also, in fact, deny three times that he even knew Jesus. Of course, we all know that Peter indeed denied the Lord three times before the rooster crowed. Peter fled for his life and most certainly felt like a complete coward and total failure. He returned to Galilee where he once again began to fish. He returned to his past.

Jesus appeared on the shores of Galilee soon after His resurrection. Jesus saw Peter fishing and summoned him to shore. This was the third manifestation of Jesus' appearing to His disciples following the resurrection. It was also the appointed time that He would address Peter's denials. In the present moment, the "today-moment", Jesus asked Peter three times, "*Do you love me?*" With each question Peter answered, "*Yes Lord; You know that I love you.*" Jesus then directed Peter to *Feed my sheep*. For each betrayal, Peter released a renewed affirmation and declaration of his fidelity to Christ. More importantly, Jesus was clearly releasing Peter from his past and into his future. He was untethering Peter from the emotional wounds that were binding him to his past, and in his present, renewed emotional state was releasing Peter to pursue his future. Love would not allow Peter's present condition to keep him stuck in his past. Love compelled the Lord to release Peter in the NOW-moment to pursue his future inheritance.

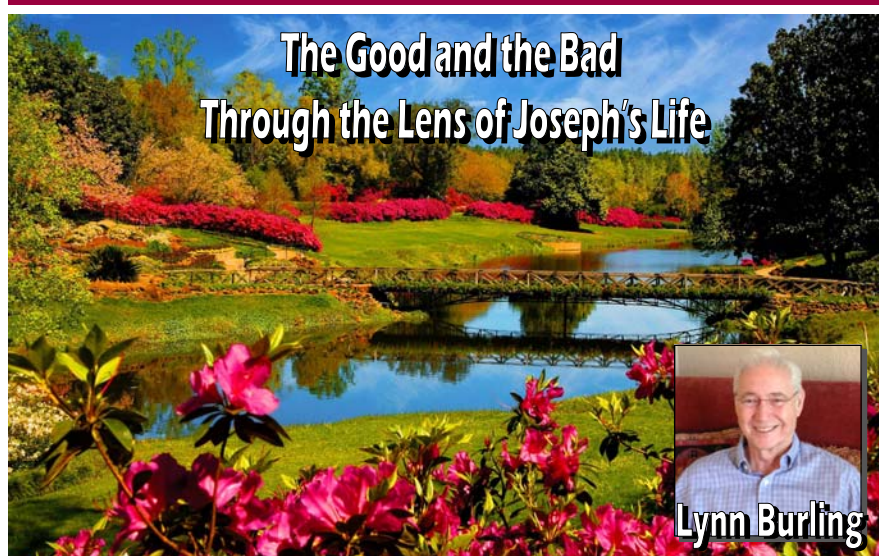
Jesus was not willing for Peter's past failures to hold him in the captivity of past mistakes, sins, wounds, or any other thing. He met Peter in the present moment, delivered him from his past failures, and introduced him to his future. He sealed it with the blessing of His love and grace.

Today, your Lord and Savior, Jesus, is not willing for you to remain stuck in

your past successes or failures. To do so is to relegate you to an unfruitful life. He desires to enter your *present* and to release you into your *future*! Let His future define your present. Step out, run your race, and never look back. The Holy Spirit is ready to liberate you from whatever is enslaving you to your past.

As a prophetic act, simply take a piece of paper, write on that paper what is holding you captive to your past, and then burn that paper. As it burns, declare that the Lord, as a consuming fire, is forever removing that past thing from your soul. Let the Holy Spirit release into your soul His beauty for those ashes. Let Him give you a fresh view of your future inheritance. He loves you and has given you a hope-filled future. Let your future define your present!

Larry and Kathy Burden are the founders of KingdomLife. Larry's newest book is *The Orphan Heart*. He is also the author of *Kingdom Life—Finding Life Beyond Church*. In that book you will discover why current church models are failing in America, why your church experience often leaves you empty inside and the true freedom and blessing that is found in the Kingdom of God. Contact info: [www.kingdomlife.org](http://www.kingdomlife.org))



It's interesting that one of the first mentions of Joseph is at 17 years old and he's feeding sheep with his brothers. Gen. 37:2 (NIV) continues with "*and Joseph brought his father a BAD report about them!*" This is where it STARTS...he brought a BAD report. Well that's BAD, NO THAT'S GOOD because Vs. 3 says, "*Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his sons and made him a coat of many colors.*" That's GOOD, no, that's BAD because vs. 3 says they hated him and could never speak a kind word to him. Well that's BAD, well no that's GOOD because God gave Joseph a dream and he told it to his brothers. Yes that's GOOD, no, that's BAD because vs. 5 says, "*They hated him EVEN MORE.*" That's

BAD, no that's GOOD because his dream showed him that all of his brothers were to bow down to him. Well that's sort of GOOD. No that's BAD, because when he told them these specific details (v. 8 says), "*They hated him more than ever.*"

That's BAD, no that's GOOD because Joseph dreamed another dream and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars (whole family) bowed down to him. Well that's GOOD, no, that's BAD because this provoked "jealousy" in them about him. Well that's not GOOD, it's BAD! (So Jacob made a coat of many colors for Joseph as a sign of transferred position and authority to Joseph as well) "*...and Jacob sent his son to check on his brothers, to check on their well being and his flocks, and as he searched hard for them he finally found them, not in Shechem as was supposed but in Dothan.*"

Well ok, then that's GOOD...no that's BAD because v. 18, "*When they saw him in the distance, (hard to miss that confounded COAT— that made them jealous) they plotted to kill him.*" (Well now that's BAD.) "*so they plotted to kill him and throw this dreamer in a pit.*" Really, really, BAD, no that's GOOD because Rueben the firstborn, heard this and tried to rescue him. "*Don't shed his blood.*" He says this because he wanted to rescue Joseph and take him to his father. Well, way to go Rueben. (We'll name a sandwich after you.) Well that's GOOD. Not really because when Reuben was out of sight, they stripped him of his robe, his special coat, the one and only coat that drove them to jealousy, hatred and even murder.

Well that's BAD—no that's GOOD because a caravan of Ishmaelite's (P.S. Remember his great-grand father's "other son" Ishmael, hmmm, could it be this was planned for such a time as this), meanwhile, this is definitely GOOD because they sold him instead of killing him. Well here we go again. This is really BAD and it's about to break Jacob, his father's heart. Can you believe they contrived a lie about his favorite son? Telling him that Joseph, his son, was attacked and killed by a ferocious animal. And Jacob, his father, was inconsolable and wept for him.

But v.36 in the NIV begins with the word "meanwhile:" meaning in the intervening period of time. Joseph was sold in Egypt to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh. Well that's GOOD, because chapter 39:2 opens with "*the Lord was with Joseph and he prospered...and Potiphar entrusted everything to Joseph, personal and business.*" Things are VERY GOOD but in v.7 Potiphar's wife propositions Joseph, "*Sleep with Me.*" That's BAD, no that's GOOD because v.8 records he refused because he could not do such a wicked thing and sin against God. She continues her

temptress ways in v.12, “*She caught him by his cloak to seduce him to her bed.*” OOH, that’s BAD, nope that’s GOOD cause he just let her have his coat and ran out of the house. Ok that’s GOOD, way to go Joseph! No, that’s BAD because...she started screaming, “Rape! He tried to force me” and oh, no joke that’s BAD because Potiphar upon hearing the story burned with anger and threw him in prison. That’s BAD!...Really? Well did you think that might in some way be GOOD because it was the prison where the King’s prisoners were confined and v.20 says, “*But while Joseph was in prison, the Lord was with him and showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.*” So Joseph was put in charge of those in the prison and he was successful in everything that he had his hand on. Now that’s what I call a GOOD report.

As the years waned in prison for Joseph, two men were imprisoned by the Pharaoh, where Joseph was and the captain assigned those two to Joseph. It seems all is going well, even in incarceration. In chapter 40, we see the dreamer Joseph (remember that particular anointing and gifting at 17 years old?) is listening to the two men, one a cupbearer and the other the baker to the King of Egypt. Incredible, they both had dreams on the same night and the next morning they both looked dejected, but Joseph, intuitive as he was, asked them, “Why are you dejected?”. So they told their dreams to Joseph and Joseph interpreted their dreams, one GOOD and one not so GOOD.

It just so happened that in three days was the Pharaoh's birthday. So Joseph had reminded them to speak to Pharaoh on his behalf. GOOD, no cause when the baker has his head removed, he couldn't and when the cupbearer was restored, he did not remember Joseph to Pharaoh. He forgot Him. Well that’s BAD, no that’s GOOD because after two more years in prison, one day the Pharaoh dreamed two dreams and had no interpretation. But chapter 41:9-13, the butler (AHA! ...the butler), who was restored to his former position, gave a blow by blow description on how a Hebrew in prison had interpreted his dream and the baker's dream and that their fates were exactly as Joseph had interpreted. So the Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph. YEA, that’s GOOD because Joseph interpreted his dreams and through it 7 years of harsh famine was averted by godly planning through Joseph and Joseph was elevated to second in command next to Pharaoh. This is GOOD, GOOD for Egypt, GOOD for Joseph and as far-reaching as GOOD for Jacob!

Chapter 42 begins with Jacob sending out sons to seek corn in Egypt. From here we fast forward all the trips Jacob's sons made to Egypt to get corn and all the strange encounters they had with a man who was over all

the store houses. Joseph finally demands that the two sons go to bring their younger brother Benjamin, Joseph's only natural born brother. Listen, we see something very revealing because Judah goes home to plead with Israel for allowing the son, Benjamin to return to Egypt with him. Our Saviour from the lineage of Judah also pled our case and became surety for us and Judah promised to Israel about the lad. (44:32) *"If I do not bring him back then I will BEAR the blame."* Did not our Lord bear our blame? So finally in Gen. 45:2, Joseph declares himself to his brothers, *"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."* Watch v. 5 (Msg), *"Don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives."* As he further explains in v.7-8, *"God sent me to pave the way and make sure there be a remnant—to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance."* SO YOU SEE IT WASN'T YOU WHO SENT ME HERE BUT GOD.

As we wrap this up, the GOOD and the BAD seesaw through Joseph's life with the primary intention to preserve a nation, even a generation by God. Final thoughts: When Jacob died, those who sold Joseph and planned evil for him, the ten brothers, sent a messenger saying, "Our father told us to tell you to forgive us, for this sin and great evil." Joseph wept when he heard this, as his brothers went and fell down before him (remember Joseph's dreams) saying, "We are thy servants." I can see the spirit of Christ and His anointing in Joseph as he replies in v.19-20, *"Am I in the place of God? But as for you, you thought it evil, [BAD]....against me. But God meant it for GOOD to save much people."*

Now we can see the correlation of Joseph's life AND OUR LIVES, in the light of (Rom. 8:28 Amp.) *"And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose."* (v. 31) *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Saints of God, this could be us, family rejection and hatred, jealousy, false accusations, even incarceration. If we look close enough at the GOOD and the BAD, we can see God's hand and God's plan for our lives.

(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](http://www.somewhereintimebb.com). Lynn & Linda are gracious hosts.)

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The apostle Paul states it very precisely when he says:

*Yes, furthermore, I count everything a loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One). Philippians 3:8*

This is what I am speaking of as truly knowing Christ. But to do so, we must also follow Paul's prayer for this to occur that he recorded in Ephesians 1:17-19. That we be granted "a spirit of wisdom and revelation, [insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him."

This to me is the gold standard of our life's ambition: progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him. This can only happen by the spirit of wisdom and revelation which is prophetic in nature. Yes, I said it! We should be prophetic in nature, seeing this is the very nature of God! God is a God who desires to reveal His plans, will, and desires to His people.

Do we realize that the New Testament books written by the apostle Paul were based upon this statement about his knowledge of Christ, that were formed into doctrines (teachings) about Christ? Galatians 1:12 says, "For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah)."

Paul was speaking about the gospel he preached, which was not a human invention or according to human standards. He also stated that if anyone, including angels, preaches another gospel than the one he preached, let him be accursed. That means doomed to eternal destruction and punishment! Yes, this is the same gospel that we must preach and teach today, or should be.

When Paul checked in with the original apostles after several years of active ministry, he compared his gospel with the gospel they had received from Christ, and sure enough, it was the same one. They received theirs from Christ Himself, and Paul received his by direct revelation from Christ Himself.

My point is we must have direct revelation as to who Christ is by the same Holy Spirit that the original apostles and those like Paul who were secondary apostles and were involved in writing the gospel and doctrines of Christ. Yes, we now have the written Word of God, but we also need the spirit of wisdom and revelation to understand Christ and all His wonders. Therefore, we need the spirit of prophecy and the prophetic anointing when we preach or teach the gospel of Christ and His kingdom. We must be anointed with the spirit of prophecy when we preach, teach, or witness of the testimony of Christ. For only by the spirit of wisdom and revelation will anyone really know who Christ Jesus is!

When we read of those in past centuries whose knowledge and experience in their day was far greater than what we generally are experiencing today, quite frankly something is very, very wrong! They fulfilled their days, ministries, and destinies in their generation, but what about this new generation? Do we, in general, have the same revelation, knowledge, and experiences as past generations had? I dare say that most don't! Most just read about those who had such personal knowledge and intimacy with Christ. It's wonderful to read about what they had, but how much more meaningful if we can experience the same things and even grasp far more than they had! Actually, this is why this study is so vital to all of us. There is the story about a Brother Andrew, who lived hundreds of years ago as a monk in a monastery whose lifestyle was very simple, but his intimate relationship with Christ was such that it was written down in history as one of the greatest stories ever told!

If we are to impact our generation and future ones, we too must gain new, fresh revelation of our Lord, lest we fail in our efforts to pass on the truth about Christ and our need of His great love and sacrifice. In doing so, we will return to God's original purpose and plan for man. God's original purpose and plan will have absolutely no meaning at all for us if we do not have a revelation of Christ as the Messiah, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and God's Only Begotten Son.

*God has planned for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate in Christ, both things in heaven and things on the earth. So we of necessity better know Him more than we did in the past. It's all about Christ! God the Father is going to reveal His Son in the heavens and earth as the central figure of the universe, and display Him before all creation as the Supreme Head of the church, which is His body. Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him. [He planned] for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth. Ephesians 1:9-10*

Paul is saying that what was once a hidden mystery (still a secret) has been revealed in his day, giving him and the church greater revelation of God's original purpose for Christ. Past generations didn't have such revelation. Christ was some unknown figure who was symbolized in religious forms and ceremonies, but now revealed as the Messiah, whose name is Jesus Christ! Christ had now appeared in human form as the Son of Man, died for the sin of the world, was raised from the dead after three days, appeared to many after his resurrection, and after forty days returned to His Father and ours. What is next on God's timetable? **To head up everything in heaven and earth and unify all things and consummate them in Christ.** He is scheduled to return to earth and set up His earthly kingdom that was the hidden mystery in the book of Daniel. Prophets had declared this, now it was made clear for all to see.

### THE MESSAGE OF HOPE IS WHAT IS NEEDED

With this in mind, we can readily see the utmost importance of the prophetic ministry in our generation, and join the apostle Paul in his prayer in **Ephesians 1: 16-19** that a greater revelation by the spirit of wisdom and revelation will be upon us in this hour of great history.

*[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, by having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), and [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, . . .*

For us to fulfill what Paul has stated here, we must of necessity have the eyes of our heart flooded with "**light.**" That light is nothing less than the "**revelation, insight, and understanding**" of the hope of a future in Christ that awaits us. This is what the prophetic ministry is all about. We face a generation who are filled with **hopelessness**. Christ is our only hope. Therefore, we must **prophecy** to this generation of His goodness and greatness, giving them a hope for the future.

(This article is an excerpt from Samuel L. Brassfield's teaching manual *God's Full Redemptive Plan—The Purpose of the Prophetic Ministry*. Sam is president and co-founder of Harvest International Ministries, Inc. [HIM], which is a mission, evangelistic and teaching outreach with an apostolic and prophetic foundation, to advance the Kingdom of God. He has authored two books and is in the process of writing others at this time. Sam and Nancy travel as prophetic conference speakers and teachers in local churches and conferences each year. They have recently started a school of ministry in which they take the teaching and training to local churches. 512-525-1001 \* sbrassfield1@live.com.)



Ahhhh, change is in the air! Here we come 2017! We're just a wee bit into the new year and there is already something different. On January 1st I was getting ready for church when I heard the Lord say, "Take this year week by week." I kept trying to make it "day by day", simply because that is a familiar mantra, but that's not what He said. As the day progressed I found much comfort in that instruction. Day by day is entirely too much pressure to see something done, accomplished, change in a 24 hour period. And the year as a whole is completely overwhelming! So, week by week is actually doable.

Doing this year week by week, so far, has been a joy. For one thing, it says to me that change is definitely coming. It reminds me to stop thought patterns like, "this is just life", "this is how it will be from here on out." Just because this week turned out this way does not mean next week will. 2017 is the year of the pieces coming together. This is the year the picture is getting clearer. So, get ready for revealing week by week. That's one thing that has been undeniable. Things have not all snapped into place and life hasn't completely changed, but there has been confirmation every week regarding this being a year of major change.

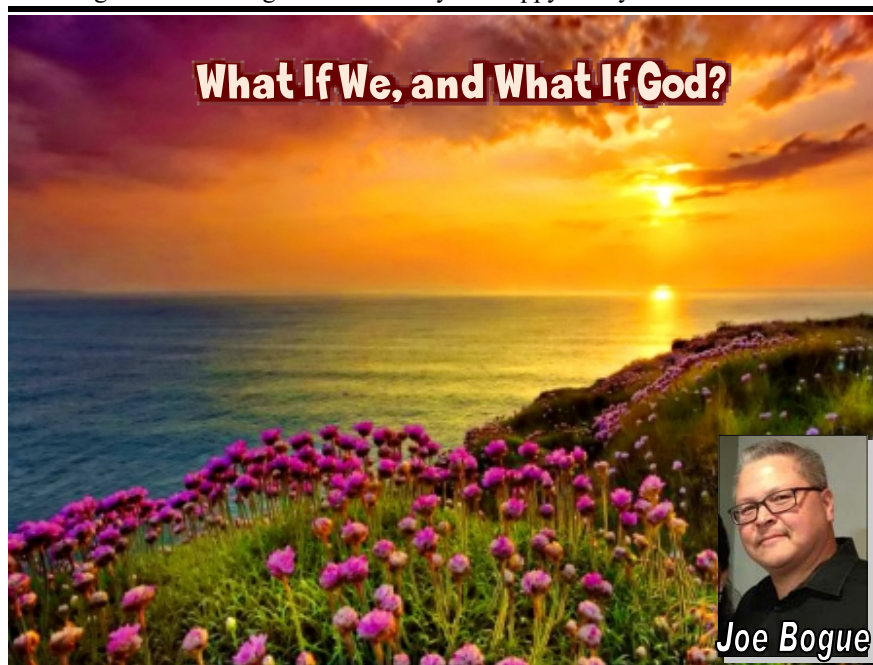
Three days after getting this instruction for 2017 I heard, "You are tiptoeing into something big." First let me say, I am sharing all of this because I know it wasn't a personal word. It is for all that can hear. I found the word "tiptoeing" an interesting word choice. So, I looked it up to see if there was anything I was missing. The definition mentioned "caution" and "stealth". Well, wow. In both of those cases your entrance is not announced. You are carefully put into position before your



presence is known. This tells me we need to get ready to be revealed this year. God has purposefully taken the time to get us ready for what's ahead.

Even though the sky is clearing there may be a storm or two that pops up as we head into the God ordained days ahead. No worries though, the storms have to "be still" and bow to the intention of God. In prayer the other night I heard this after it came out of my mouth, "Your Kingdom is over this nation and you are releasing another increment upon us." What if we are that increment?! What if we are the stealth measures He is putting in place to release a deeper increment of His Kingdom on this earth? Me thinks we are!

"You crown the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow." (Ps. 65:11 AMP) Crown here is the Hebrew word "atar". It means to encircle for protection. So, we really are tiptoeing into something big this year and we are protected as we approach our reveal. And let's just top it off, "Your paths overflow" says this year is marked with abundance. The biggest fight we have at this point is truly believing our God is as good as He really is! Happy new year.



I recently was talking to 3 young men in our church that had started a podcast a year and half ago. I was just amazed at what it had become in such a short time. They have nearly 30,000 listeners a month and they have had the opportunity to interview incredible people in the Kingdom whether they are in the church or marketplace. As we spoke, something amazing stirred in me. They were telling the story of how the Uncommon Legacy Podcast was conceived and started.

Brian and Jeremy had come to a SEEC Ministry Congress at Grace International during their lunch hour to hear Simon Purvis speak. They were blown away at the incredible revelation and insight that was released. If you have heard Brother Simon Purvis, you would understand the feeling of drinking from a fire hydrant. As they returned back to work that day, they were talking of how awesome it was, but how few people were able to receive that insight. An hour in the middle of the day in a small church in a small town was such a limiting format to bless the Kingdom of God with such an incredible word. As they spoke of it, these two phrases came out, "What if we, and what if God." What if we started a podcast to expose more people to this great revelation and what if God opens doors for us to interview people in the Kingdom that may not have a platform that can reach more people. That phrase hit me right between the eyes, I don't think I heard much for a minute as that traversed around in my gray matter. I realized how freeing those words were and how small I've made God in my mind.

I believe this is the year the Lord wants us to repent of small thinking and unleash imagination. Small is not a bad thing in and of itself. The Bible tells us not to "despise small beginnings." God has, throughout history, used individuals and small groups to accomplish amazing and miraculous things. But you will find that those individuals and groups may have been small in numbers, but not small in thinking. Small and incremental change are good things. They help us move to a new place and grow in maturity moment by moment, but every good and incremental victory should be a part of a larger vision and plan. The problem comes when we let small thinking or incremental change limit ourselves or limit what we think God is able or willing to do.

Many times small thinking comes from hard experiences that have boxed our minds into a corner that both lacks expectation and anticipation. Because of hardships, trauma, or difficulty we align ourselves with the little bit life chooses to give us. The Lord spoke to me last year when we set our church on a 21 day fast and prayer journey. He said, "You have been satisfied with gleaning instead of harvesting." My expectation was to pick up the leftovers of others instead of accepting that acres are here for us to harvest and tend to. We have let ourselves believe that our spirituality was directly related to our lack of numbers instead of identifying and admitting that it was a "settled heart" that was at the core of the issue. Being comfortable and settled in our hearts might bring temporary contentment, but will never bring the lasting satisfactions that the John 10:10 abundant life offers.

A key to overcoming the enemy of small thinking is to let the God-given gift of imagination be used again for Kingdom purpose. Imagination is defined as "the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses." Another definition is the "faculty of the mind that is able to create and manipulate images." God has given us the ability to create beyond what our senses are experiencing at any moment or in other words "call those things that be not as if they were." (Rom 4:17). We have the ability with our imagination to set the perimeter (boundaries) of our thought life as well as the parameters (functions) of thought patterns. For too long we have allowed

our life experience and five senses to dictate the reality of who God is and what He can accomplish in us. I'm not talking about losing touch with reality, but to use the God given capacity to think outside the box into the supernatural ability of the Spirit of God in my life and what He can accomplish if I just believe a few principles: He loves me, there is nothing impossible for Him, and He is able and willing to bring the miraculous into my present situation. If we can go there in our mind and heart, we position ourselves in alignment with the character and purpose of God. This is where faith comes in. Faith is believing in something that is not seen. If it were seen then it would be called proof. God calls us to faith, not proof.

The first place imagination is used in the Bible is Gen 6:5, "every imagination of his thoughts were on evil continually." Man's imagination was constantly in an evil state. Which means if a man's thoughts can continually be evil, the converse may be true also, that his imagination can be continually good. We can make an active choice to keep our imagination, the ability to create thoughts beyond our senses, on good and life-giving things. The same Hebrew word is used in Ps 103:14, "For He knoweth our frame [or imagination], He remembers that we are dust." Also, in Isaiah 26:3, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind [or imagination] is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee." Perfect peace will come from our ability to train our imagination to create a proper view of God and this world. This is why we are to cast down "vain imaginations and every thought that exalts itself." Vain imagination is like the kryptonite of the believer. It causes him to quit in the midst of battle, surrender before the battle, and settle for less than God intended. Rom 1:21 speaks of those who, knowing God, didn't glorify Him nor were they thankful, thus becoming vain in their imaginations.

I believe there is a direct correlation between thankfulness and imagination. What do I mean by this? If someone is thankful, their imagination tends to be positive and optimistic. People who are not thankful tend to have an imagination full of disappointment, hardship, and pessimism. Thankfulness is the key to create an imagination that will help propel us into the life that God wants for us. The reason the universe is so diverse and awesome with galaxies, black holes, quasars, planets, stars, supernovas, orbits, magnetic fields, nebulae, suns, comets and the like is because of the imagination of the Creator. If we are created in His image with the capacity to creatively imagine things that our senses aren't feeling right now, the only limit to this is our failure of imagination. Don't allow past experience to shut down that faculty in you. Take a risk and dare to believe and dream again beyond the pain, the resentment, hurt, the lack, or disappointment. I believe that in 2017 God is asking us to use that gift He put in each one of us that came directly from His mind...Imagination. WHAT IF WE, WHAT IF GOD...

(Joe Bogue is senior pastor at Grace International Church in Willis, TX. He is a pastor, teacher, counselor and spiritual father. He has written a manual for parents and teens on courtship and marriage. He has also headed up missions trips and annual EYC Youth Camp. His email is: PJoeB87@gmail.com \* Website: [www.graceic.org](http://www.graceic.org) \* Services at Grace are livestreamed each week. Just go to website and click on the Grace TV Tab on the right side of the home page.)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.  
Check Marty's FaceBook page for updates or our blog page: [martygabler.com](http://martygabler.com)  
PLEASE PRAY FOR US

We have been putting dates on the Calendar after the magazine goes out. Please check Marty's FaceBook page and [martygabler.com](http://martygabler.com) 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.— Marty & Kathy

Jan. 28 \* Atoka, OK  
The Family Church \*\* 6pm  
[www.thefamilyok.com](http://www.thefamilyok.com)

Jan. 29 \* Atoka, OK  
The Family Church \*\* 10am

Feb. 5 \* Houston, TX  
Global Advance Church  
Bi-lingual Service \*\* 2pm

Feb. 19 \* Buffalo, TX  
Celebration Church \*\* 10am  
[www.celebrationch.org](http://www.celebrationch.org)

Mar. 1 \* Willis, TX  
KINGDOM CONGRESS 2017  
Grace International  
[www.graceic.org](http://www.graceic.org) \* 936-856-2455  
7PM—PROPHET SAM BRASSFIELD  
SPECIAL MINISTRY AND MARKETPLACE  
EMPHASIS AND IMPARTATION SERVICE  
WITH SAM BRASSFIELD

Mar. 2 \* Willis, TX  
KINGDOM CONGRESS 2017  
9:30am-1:00pm; 7:00pm-10:00pm  
Info: [martygabler.com/kec2017/](http://martygabler.com/kec2017/)

Mar. 3 \* Willis, TX  
KINGDOM CONGRESS 2017

9:30am-1:00pm; 7:00pm-10:00pm

Mar. 10 \* Louisa, KY  
Louisa Community Fellowship Church  
And ARC  
With Jim and Jean Hodges  
Mar. 11 \* Louisa, KY  
Louisa Community Fellowship Church  
Mar. 12 \* Louisa, KY  
Louisa Community Fellowship Church

Mar. 16-19 \* Columbus, TX  
Next Level Kingdom Conference  
[www.nextlevelcc.org](http://www.nextlevelcc.org)

Mar. 23-24 \* Granbury, TX  
Brazos Covenant Ministries  
FMCI RRI Conference \* [fmci.org](http://fmci.org)

Mar. 26 \* Bellville, TX  
Christian Faith Church \*\* 10am  
Pastors Lynn & Linda Burling  
979-865-5464  
[cfcbv@swbell.net](mailto:cfcbv@swbell.net)

Website: [seecministries.org](http://seecministries.org)  
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10th Annual Kingdom Congress

# Kingdom Congress 2017

\* Prayerfully Consider Attending \*

## SPEAKERS:

**NO FEE**



Kathy, Marty, Melissa Gabler Jim Hodges



Simon Purvis



Larry Burden Sam Brassfield



Sam Brassfield

Mk.9:1 "...UNTIL THEY SEE GOD'S KINGDOM COME WITH POWER."

## March 1-3, 2017

World Events, Israel Update by Jim Hodges

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"...until they see God's Kingdom come with power" (Mk.9:1)

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Wed. March 1: 7pm  
Thur. March 2: 9:30am-1:00pm: 7pm-10pm  
Fri. March 3: 9:30am-1:00pm: 7pm-10pm

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## PLAN TO ATTEND