

# SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 22

ISSUE 2

APRIL/MAY 2018

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain" (Rev.5:12)

Restoring  
Prophetic Hope  
Jim Hodges

Kingdom Distinctives  
Simon Purvis

Consider Dreams  
Kathy Gabler

Covenant  
of Sonship  
Larry Burden

New Era  
Marty Gabler

**S**TRENGTHEN  
**E**NCOURAGE  
**E**QUIP  
**C**HURCH  
**M**INISTRIES

1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

OUR 22nd YEAR  
OF PUBLICATION



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## A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

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### ON THE COVER:

**"saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." (Rev.5:12, NKJV)**



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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.

\*

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A background image of pink flowers, likely azaleas, with green leaves. The flowers are in focus in the foreground and blurred in the background.

## Continuing to Consider Dreams and Visions



**Kathy Gabler**

**1. When considering a dream or vision,** always ask God for wisdom. You can be confident He will give it abundantly (James 1:5). The biggest challenge can be to be ready to hear and receive His input because there are times this isn't a quick process. Sometimes, you have to leave a dream on the burner until you are able to hear His wisdom. One reason for that is because fear or uneasiness or apprehension or atmosphere from a dream can lock us down and lock His input out. Lock-down can happen also if we are too intense and keep rehearsing the details and coming to the same dead end or if we are in any type of "shock and awe" because of what we experienced. Constantine was so locked in awe of his vision of a cross in the sky that he evidently thought it was a spiritual experience that affirmed his spirituality and made him a spiritual guru. He then presumed to take his nation to church but instead, he took them into the Dark Ages. After asking for wisdom, wait until God gives it so that misinterpretation does not make you miss the point of the dream or vision. Remember your safety net for dreams and visions is relationship with God so you know His voice, His nature and His character, and relationship with the Body of Christ so that you can get perspective on your dreams and visions beyond your own.

**2. When considering a dream or vision,** note your behavior and reactions during the experience. It is helpful to remember how you felt and reacted during a dream or vision because when you wake up, your Emotions and logic can change everything. For example, if you dreamed you are at a funeral of a beloved person, but in the dream there was no upset or sadness on your part, that says the dream is symbolic and not about literal





death and loss. However, the next morning when your emotions wake up and you relive that funeral scene, you may feel gut-wrenching grief over the loss. You can miss the message of the dream if your awake-emotion contradicts your response during the dream. Or when your fear wakes up you may be terrified for the person and get them thinking they are under a death threat before breakfast. Or when Logic wakes up, you may feel cold hearted and ashamed that you were not sad and again miss the message of the dream. The message in that dream boils down to either that person or your relationship with them is facing major changes, but not changes that include devastating trauma.

**3. When considering a dream,** don't be quick to assume the dream was a literal preview or warning. People are usually quick to think any upset, uneasiness or troubling is a warning of impending danger or grief, but more often dreams are exposing a troubling within rather warning of one to come. If God does send a warning dream or vision, it is to call you to effectual action, not just trouble you. Father would only send warning dreams to put you in motion, not put you in fear or dread.

**4. When considering a dream or vision** to find out if it is a dream from God, we must always factor in the nature of God. Since Father's nature is to be loving, merciful and concerned for us, He is not likely to send crucial insights and drafts to action to an untrained son or daughter who would only respond in fear or stress.

I know a young woman who at eleven-years-old dreamed about the September 11, 2001, attack in New York. When she saw the plane hit the towers on TV, it was exactly like her dream. Seeing that she has become a strong, prophetic force in the Kingdom of God, we realize the impacting dream insight was part of her training in developing an ear to hear. Children who are prophetic or seers or intercessors will likely experience graphic dreams and visions in training for their purpose.

If you have had strategic God-to-Man, prophetic communications that you found out later were insights that you hadn't understood up front, don't grieve and beat yourself up over that. Again, factor in God's nature. Does He intend us to live in regret? No, He is our Redeemer who buys back lost opportunities. His nature is unchanging and we can trust our Redeemer and learn from such experiences.

A warning from God in a dream may sober you, but it will not threaten or condemn you. The point of a God-warning is to be wise and take action. Dreams that come as a threat are not His nature. Threats come from fear, our own or someone else's. Since God is never afraid, He



won't cause you to panic. He won't send dreams or visions to intimidate because He can't be threatened. He won't send them to shame or condemn because He can't be manipulated or moved to action with guilt. His dreams and visions will reflect His nature.

It is possible to receive a God-warning in a dream for someone else, but it will still be a call to positive action such as prayer or instruction to intervene. Hopefully, God can trust us with the warning and we won't even tell the someone else unless or until the Holy Spirit instructs us to do so. Otherwise, we might paint a target on their chest that draws fire, and that would be missing the point of a warning entirely.

Regarding warnings, consider God's nature and don't accept dread or threat. Consider a warning from God to be notification that it is time to move out in effectual action and obedient follow-through.

**5. When considering a dream or vision,** consider the dynamics of a communication from God. 1) A God-dream will have a God-agenda that requires a response from the dreamer, like a realization that requires agreement or an instruction to follow or an insight to act upon or changes or preparation to make. 2) The purpose of a God-dream will never contradict God's Word. 3) The purpose of a God-dream will never contradict God's Character, and healthy relationship with Him is how we know what He is like. 4) A God dream or vision can be a Gift of the Spirit, i.e., a word of knowledge, word of wisdom, gift of healing, gift of faith, instruction to work a miracle, a prophetic word, gift of discernment, etc. A friend dreamed she was in a building and water came flooding in. When it got ankle-deep, she heard a voice say, "Get out! You could be electrocuted!" This dream is not obviously symbolic or literal. If it were symbolic, the flooding water represents increasing, troubling circumstances, and the message of the dream is to take action to get out of them. However, this dream turned out to be very literal. The next day the dreamer was in Penny's at a mall. Ten minutes in the store, the fire alarm went off and sprinklers rained down. The first floor started flooding as they locked all exits. When the water touched the dreamer's ankle, she suddenly remembered her dream. She ran to an employee to tell her they must open the doors and get the people out because there was a risk of electrocution. As people poured out the doors with the water, firemen were coming in and she heard them saying, "Good thing people got out because there is a danger of electrocution!" Her dream was a gift of the Spirit, a prophetic warning from God and a word of wisdom that gave strategic instruction. Should she expect spiritual gifts to be part of the language of her dreams? Yes.

Your dream and vision experiences lay the groundwork for the language you are to understand in your dreams and visions. They are part of developing an ear to hear like Jesus emphasized so that you understand and have clarity whether they are communications from God or self.

(Kathy's book The Heart of Dreams is available for 10.00 + 2.00 s/h. One of her teaching CD sets is titled "Dreams, a Tool From God".)

# RESTORING PROPHETIC HOPE



Act 3:19 *"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times (kairos) of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period (chronos) of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.*

Peter is declaring prophetically that the heavens are retaining Jesus until the restoration of all things that the prophets prophesied and decreed concerning God's generational purpose all through history. They proclaimed restoration that is chronologically going to be there in the whole process along with seasons to refresh us. The word *times* in verse 19, is *kairos* which is an opportune, prophetic time. The word, *period* in verse 21, is *chronos*, which is calendar time, clock time or a span of history. Within that span there are seasons of refreshing that we need on this journey. Even when God has to judge situations severely, He does not release that judgment without the promise of hope in the future.

The prophets of the Old Covenant and the apostles of the New Covenant promised comprehensive restoration with the phrase, "the restoration of all things." This is not to be confused with Universalism that says everybody gets born again because that is not going to happen. However, the majority of the earth will be saved because God will have a greater harvest than the devil. *All things* indicates restoration is comprehensive for mankind and the created order and it is defined both biblically and pro-



phetically by what the prophets prophesied. This promised restoration takes place in history in a time, space, matter world, not after history is over and the eternal age has fully come. It is happening. We sometimes feel the impact of it more than others, but it is happening.

These are references to *all things*: Matt. 11:27, "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father. Romans 8:28, God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and called according to His purpose, [those under His headship and Lordship]. 2Co 5:17 *So that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!* 1 Tim 6:17, *Godly riches supplies us with all things to enjoy.* [This is qualified because we are not supposed to enjoy some things that money can buy. So we don't fix our hope on riches because of their uncertainty. Instead, we fix our hope on God and enjoy all things that God richly supplies.] Heb 1:2, *Christ is appointed heir of all things.* Heb 3:4, *The builder of all things is God.)* Heb 3:4, *For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.* [All things that God authorizes, He builds.]

1Pe 4:7, *The end of all things is at hand.* The word, *end*, in this verse is *telos*. It means a purposeful movement toward a goal. God designed history to move purposefully, progressively and prophetically toward a goal that He intended. The words *at hand* in this verse indicate the *end* or goal Peter was referencing was touchable or within reach. Therefore, Peter was not talking about the *end* as the final return of Jesus thousands of years later. The *end* in this verse refers to the end of the Old Covenant order. That order did not end on Monday after Jesus resurrected on Sunday. It lingered for generations until A.D. 70, when God judged it through the Romans. 1 John 2:27, *the same anointing teaches you all things.* Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as guide and teacher who would teach us all things. Rev 21:4, *the former things are passed away.* Rev 21:5 *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.*

Eph 1:10, *With a view to an administration (dispensation) suitable to the fullness of the times that is the summing up all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.* (NASB) The word in the Greek here for *summing up* is rooted in the word for *head*. In Latin it means recapitulation. That is not a good word in English because it means to step back from fighting or disengage. However, in the Greek, the word has to do with headship or a recap or assigning headship again. N.T. Wright said it this way, "The recapitulation of Christ led to the reconstitution of the people of God." God's people were reconstituted from the Old to New Covenant. God's people were redefined. All that was before was



from God, but it was preparatory and prophetic until the fullness come. The Covenant was brought to a whole new level that fulfills the Old and releases the New. This recapitulation has to do with functioning under the authority of the headship of Jesus Christ. Jesus is not just Lord and King, He is also the Head of His Body. *Col. 1:15-20, He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

God the Son is first of all the First Born of creation. He has the status of the first born with a double portion and preeminence and responsibility. He is God the Son before incarnation. Along with God the Father and God the Spirit, (*let us make*) they made the worlds, the universe. God the Son is the agent of creation by virtue of being the Living Word, the Logos. *John 1:1-3, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.* God the Son is designated Head over the creation or cosmos.

Jesus is not just the first born of creation but also the first born from the dead. He is also Head of His ecclesia Church. In Romans, Paul says He is the first born among many brethren. The double portion is promised to the first born son, but in the Old Covenant, no first born son got the double portion. Able got the double portion instead of Cain. Shem got the double portion instead of Noah's first born son, Japheth. Isaac got the double portion instead of Ishmael. Isaac's first born did not get it. Jacob's first born did not get it. Joseph's first born did not get it. Only one first born son got the Old Covenant double portion and that was El-isha. He got a Holy Ghost double portion from Elijah, but that was not bloodline. Actually, The First Born Son, Jesus Christ, had to come out of the tomb before the first born inheritance could be received, and we (the many brethren) get the inheritance of the First Born with whom we are joint heirs. So, the Son had headship after the beginning of the first creation. Then after His redeeming work in earth, He returned to heaven and was assigned headship again, or was recapped. It says He sums up all

things in Christ, so Christ is God's summary statement, conclusive statement. In Christ, God said everything He is going to say about everything. Therefore, every prophetic utterance must align with the person of Christ, the Living Word and the scriptures, the written word, because the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of prophecy. This is not Universalism, rather it is comprehensiveness.

*Col 2:19, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.* Paul was emphasizing the headship of Christ because of what was going on in the Church. There were some not holding to the headship of Christ. 1) Some were holding to the Old Covenant ordinances like feasts, sabbaths, etc. 2) Some were holding to legalism, self-abasement, but God's covenant is living, loving and legal, not legalistic. 3) Some were holding to the worship of angels. Today we must have discernment because God is saying that He is releasing a lot of angelic hosts to help His Church, but they are not to be worshiped. When John started to bow, the angel said not to bow because he (the angel) was a fellow servant. We have the presence and help of angel armies but we do not worship them. 4) Some were holding to conceited, carnal thinking rather than holding *fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.*

The early, second-century church fathers interpreted Eph 1:10, primarily as having this applicational meaning: Christ as the new and second Adam undoes what the first Adam did. Christ recapitulates or sums up human life on the earth in history in Himself. He restores God's original intention of Gen 1:28, and establishes Himself as Head over both creation and His Church. In rising out of the tomb, He enables mankind to be reset and start over with the assurance of total victory in history for His Kingdom purposes.

(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' book is *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.)

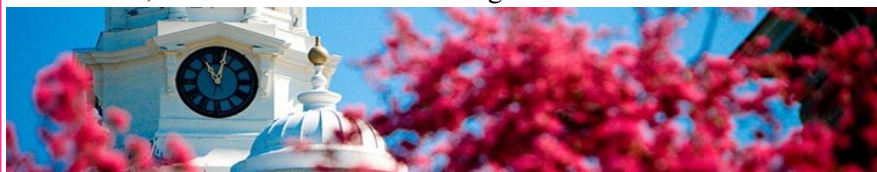
# Two Distinctives in the Kingdom of God



**Simon Purvis**

I want to focus on two distinctives in the Kingdom of God, the Father's sovereign, providential rule and Christ's redemptive, salvation rule where He saves His people and defeats His enemies. *1Co 15:21 For since [it was] through a man that death [came into the world, it is] also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead [has come]. 1Co 15:22 For just as in Adam all people die, so also shall all in Christ be made alive. 1Co 15:23 But each in his own rank and turn: Christ the firstfruits, then those who are Christ's [own will be resurrected] at His coming. 1Co 15:24 After that comes the end, when He delivers over the kingdom to God the Father after rendering inoperative and abolishing every [other] rule and every authority and power. 1Co 15:25 For [Christ] must be King and reign until He has put all [His] enemies under His feet. 1Co 15:26 The last enemy to be subdued and abolished is death. 1Co 15:27 For He [the Father] has put all things in subjection under His [Christ's] feet. But when it says, All things are put in subjection [under Him], it is evident that He [Himself] is excepted Who does the subjecting of all things to Him. 1Co 15:28 However, when everything is subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also subject Himself to [the Father] Who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all [be everything to everyone, supreme, the indwelling and controlling factor of life].*

Obviously, God did not put Himself in subjection under His feet. The Father is still in control. He has always been in control and has always been a sovereign God. He has always ruled the nations and this earth. Satan has never owned this earth. God in His sovereignty has always been in charge and ruling in the affairs of nations. He sets one nation up and takes it down in His providential order. After Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, He ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father and He is





going to sit there until all things have been put under His feet and all His enemies defeated. Notice that Jesus Christ is not coming to defeat His enemies. He will sit there until all His enemies are made subject to Him. The final enemy to be defeated is death and that will happen when He comes.

In this new era we have entered, there will be spiritual fathers. These apostolic fathers will break down barriers such as racism, etc. They will keep the main issues as primary and not allow all the secondary issues to divide us. Even if we do not fully understand or agree with the primary focus, we will not divide over it. It is essential that we do not get disillusioned, disappointed or offended in this era. Through Adam's disobedience and rebellion, original sin was passed to all of us and that sin passed death on to us. However, Jesus Christ gave us life. Jesus has been resurrected as the glorified man sitting at the right hand of the Father. He is in charge of this redemptive Kingdom now. Jesus is sitting there ruling, not resting. His Father in sovereignty is providentially bringing all His enemies under the feet of Christ. In His workings, there will be a resurrection. Romans 8, tells us this is our hope.

We were never created to live outside our bodies. This body is our house. Heaven is just a temporary place. It's not our home. It is temporary until Jesus comes back and brings with Him those who have gone there. We will meet them in the air and we will all get new bodies, this mortal body becoming immortal, corruption becoming incorruptible. That will happen on the last day. Look at the phrase in verse 23, *then those who are Christ's [own will be resurrected] at His coming*. This is clearly talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ. This is *perousia*, the second coming, and this is the end. It is the end of human history, the end of time, the end of the redemptive Kingdom, the end of open door of salvation and the end of Satan's influence upon the earth. Jesus does not come and start something. He comes and ends something. Verse 24, says, *then comes the end*. This is the end of His redemptive rule that has come to its climax and fullness. At this point, all His enemies have been defeated and the Son takes His redemptive rule and all the fruits of it and bows down to give them to the Father. When He comes, there is no salvation after that.

In the scripture, there are two different periods called latter days. The first is when Jesus came the first time. He came to end something and start an end of something. In His first coming, He declared the Kingdom of God is at hand. He brought a new era and closed an old one. In the old era, Israel administrated the Kingdom of God under the Old Covenant.

His birth, death, resurrection and ascension ended the era of Israel administering the Kingdom. The Kingdom was taken from them and handed to a new people in a new era. The closing of the old era was to have certain signs as recorded in Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21 and Revelation. Those signs included upheavals in nature, wars and rumors of wars, false Christs and false prophets bringing a system/message of antichrist. The antichrist was not a person but a system of unbelief. In 1John 2, this antichrist system did not believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This system created a great apostasy and falling away. The great apostasy happened back then in history. Another sign they watched for was an army surrounding Jerusalem because of a coming desolation that would produce a great tribulation where thousands would die. These were all signs of the old era and the end of its administration by Israel who rebelled against God. The Kingdom was taken away and it ended in these negative signs.

When Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father, He brought in a new age. It was called the *age to come*. The eternal age had begun. It has not been fully realized and won't until Jesus returns, but it has begun. *Gal 1:4, Jesus gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.* Satan is the god of that present evil age according to *2Cor 4:4. It says the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel* and believe. There are two ages in this earth right now, the *evil age* and the *age to come*. According to *Col 1:13, He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son* which is an eternal age. We have been transferred into a new age. When we are born again, we are never going to die even though our bodies will. *John 6:47, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.* We are already part of the new age. We have already been redeemed from this evil age that Satan controls. *1Jn 5:19, We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one,* but we are not subject to Satan's control. The nations were under Satan's influence in the Old Covenant, but when Jesus sat down at the Father's right hand, the strong man was bound, (Matt. 12, Luke 11). The Stronger binds the lesser strong man and spoils his goods. In Revelation 20, the binding was so that he could not deceive the nations anymore. Under the old administration, the nations were deceived. In the new administration, with Satan bound, the Holy Spirit was sent upon the people to go and disciple the nations. The nations can be disciplined. He didn't say go win a few people to go to heaven. The gospel is not about preaching people into heaven. It is about getting people out of an evil age, out of an evil culture and into a new age where there is righteousness and we can walk right. Families can be right. Our character can be right. The Church is part of a new age, a different culture. God intends for the culture of the Kingdom of God in the Church to change the society in an evil age outside the Church.

(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)

# The Covenant of Sonship



**Larry Burden**

“It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” (Luke 15:32).

So many in the church today have tied their identity and worth directly to what they do. My testimony as a new believer may be similar to many who are reading this article. When I received Christ and became born again, I joined and became a member of the local church. I became a servant in the Lord’s house because I wanted to please the Lord and give something back to Him for all He had done for me. I did not realize how my work of service would soon become my identity. My identity and worth became directly tied to what I did.

Whenever my service assignment changed in the church, I would go through a period of crisis. I would feel like I had failed or somehow wasn’t good enough for the job. My self-worth was fragile because my identity was tied directly to my job performance. So many are like that in the church today: take away their job and you rob them of their identity. I had multiple crises as a church worker because I never realized my true identity was actually that of a son.

Jesus encountered the same thing with His disciples. He knew that they connected their identity and worth to their works. Clearly this was evident when the disciples debated among themselves about who would be greatest in the kingdom (Luke 22:24). No doubt they rehearsed all their great accomplishments as they debated the issue.

On the night of the Passover before His crucifixion, Jesus assembled





the twelve disciples to partake of the Passover meal. He is quoted in Luke's Gospel as saying, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:15-16). It was on that particular night that Jesus released the new covenant revelation to His disciples and inaugurated it with communion. A new covenant relationship was established that continues eternally.

The Passover was also important to Jesus because a divine shift was coming to the disciples in their relationship with the Father. In John 15:15, Jesus told His disciples, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you".

The terminology identified a relational shift from that of servant-master to one of son-father. Up to the night of the Passover, the relationship of the disciples to Jesus had been strictly business. However, after the Passover meal, that changed! In the new covenant, the disciples were no longer held by the Father as servants, but sons!

### The Strength of Covenant Sonship

In Luke 15:11-32, we read the story of the prodigal son. The story is about two brothers and a father. The younger brother was confused and had a wayward spirit. He asked his father for his inheritance, and in response, the father gave it to him. The younger brother took off from home, traveled far away, and immediately squandered his inheritance on wine and women.

In the midst of this mess, the son came to his senses and remembered his father. He recalled that even his father's servants had enough to eat. So he decided to return home, repent of his sins, and ask his father to hire him as a servant.

In the son's shameful heart he said, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (verse 19). It is important to note that in his destitute state, the son knew the true character of his father. He knew his father's nature; and in the son's deep despair, he knew that if he were repentant, his father would likely receive him and give him a job.

When the son returned home to seek mercy and ask his father for a job, the father offered him something much better—a home. While the son was yet a great distance from his father's house, the father saw the son walking toward home. This suggests that the father kept a daily vigil, hoping for the moment that his son would return.

As his son approached from afar, the father was moved with deep compassion and ran to meet him. The father embraced his son, hugged his neck, and kissed him even before the son had a chance to say one word. The father did not rebuke his son nor demand an explanation of his son's whereabouts. The father simply opened his heart and arms and welcomed the lad home!

Not only did this father embrace his wayward son, but he also reaffirmed to the young man the honor of sonship. He first summoned his servants to bring his best robe and put it over the son, symbolizing his covering and blessing. He then placed his ring upon the son's finger, symbolizing both his covenant with his son and confirmation of the young man's renewed authority. He then called for shoes to be placed on his son's feet, symbolizing protection and a renewed ability to walk out his ordained destiny. Instead of rebuking his son, the father blessed him and restored to him the full rights and privileges of covenant sonship!

### The Older Brother

It is important to note that when the younger son asked for his inheritance, the father gave both sons their inheritance. We know that the younger son blew his inheritance, but what about the older brother? He obviously let the father keep it for him because the story goes on to say that the older brother was working in the fields when the prodigal returned home.

The older brother heard the noise of a celebration going on at home, and he asked one of the servants what was happening. When he learned of his brother's return and the ensuing celebration, he became very angry. He confronted his father, disturbed that in all the years that he had worked for his father there was never a party given for him.

It is unfortunate that the older brother was a son by birth, but an orphan by paradigm. Even though he was a son, he had no understanding of what it meant to be a son. He merely worked in his father's field as a laborer along with the other servants and to gain the acceptance of his father. He had no idea that the heart of his father held this sentiment: "All that I have is yours" (verse 31).

The older son is the picture of the majority of churchgoers today. He represents the religious system of servanthood that is aimed at getting the approval of the Father in heaven but has no true heart connection with the Father at all. Rather than seeking the Father, churchgoers become caught up in the paradigm of the church system. When a need then arises, they expect the church to provide for that need.

When the church fails to measure up to their expectations, these church people blame those in the church system who represent God and abandon that system in search of a different church that promises to do better. These individuals are like the older brother who refused to receive his inheritance, choosing rather to earn it. They are orphans seeking genuine identity and purpose in life but never finding it.

We are not received by the Father because of our goodness and kind deeds. We are received because we have been granted sonship through our repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The works that we do as sons and daughters are not to gain favor with God or to prove that we are worthy of His love and favor. Our kingdom service is the reflection of our love for Him as sons!

We must come to an understanding of covenant sonship through Christ. We must don the robe, wear the ring, and put on the shoes given us by our Father. We must demonstrate to the world and the church the reality of true sonship so that generations to come will not live as orphans.

(Larry and Kathy Burden are the founders of KingdomLife. This article is from [www.kingdomlife.org](http://www.kingdomlife.org). Larry's latest 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, the true freedom and blessing that is found in the kingdom of God. Contact info: [www.kingdomlife.org](http://www.kingdomlife.org))



We all move in circles of predetermined events that reveal things to us, unfolded things that seem orchestrated. We get there in awe and wonder and ask "How did I get here?". God comes to inch us along to choose the best. One choice didn't get you here. It was a series of choices. Destiny deals with not only what is drawing you, but the various pieces of your life that God puts into place so that they all fit together. All things fit together, work together, for good. It's a positioner decision in our generation to influence something that changes someone's history, maybe even ours. It is not a one-time event. It's a lifetime of events and the sooner we get the Church to accept the challenge, the sooner the impact we'll have

on this generation or our sphere of influence.

God thinks generationally. He thinks in terms of Kingdom. He thinks in Divine Purpose and overall strategy. What good is it if God has power and no plan? The Word said, ***"Before the foundation of the world, everything about you was settled in God's mind for your destiny."*** It's built in, it's baked in. God is going to work His plan. Look back over your life. We grieve and cry over the things we lose in this life. When all the time "they" did not pertain to our destiny. *When God is ready to promote you, He will move you from the background to the foreground like David.* After Samuel anointed him King he said, "Behold your future King!" David didn't go and hire a P.R. Firm to do TV or direct mail or put up billboards. Stop promoting yourself and wait.

Too many people are involved in false advertising about themselves, portraying something they're not. *You're not* until God says, "You are". Let God move things around. But if we don't know our purpose in Him then we cannot do what God called us to do. God brought David from obscurity to the forefront by an attack from an uncircumcised Philistine. Goliath couldn't swallow anymore because David separated his head from his body. 1 Samuel 18:6,7,8 (KJV) *"And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have **ASCRIBED** unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?"* ***"ASCRIBED" means: ALREADY CREDITED TO DAVID, CHALKED IT UP TO HIM, HIS FUTURE VICTORIES BEFORE THEY EVER HAPPENED, PROPHETIC!"***

Your first victory can change your direction and your destiny forever. It is ***ASCRIBED*** to your many future victories. It was the way that the victory was won that brought him into prominence. That first victory was prophetic by pronouncement as to his future victories. When somebody gets ready to attack you, God is just showing you off like "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job1:8) We can't remain neutral when the enemy shows up. We have to resist. David was not neutral. Samuel told David, "You're going to be King," but it didn't mean *today*. When you receive a prophecy, you can't make it come to pass *today*. The prodigal son got something that was his *too soon*. The son said, "Give me the por-



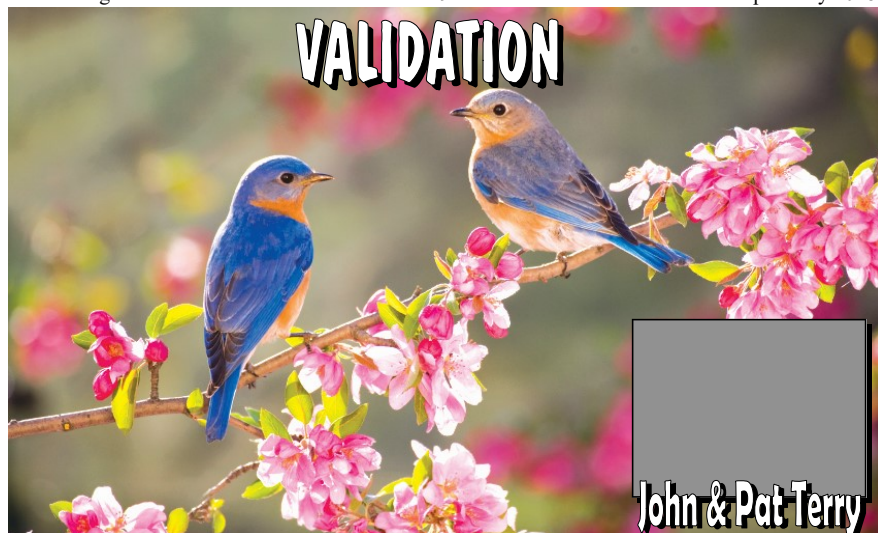
tion of goods that belong to me". (Lk.15:12) They were his. *But timing is everything. You can't handle correctly what you don't know the value of or its purpose for, in your future.*

What you're used to winning with is probably how you'll defeat the next giant. Now we get to the meat. This time after coming home from many victories, David was not greeted by tambourines, music and dancing. There he was with all his friends and Ziklag was on fire. David was always cool with his friends. Ask yourself, "What did God know and when did He know it?" God allowed David to be put in a position of destruction/stoning. But David encouraged himself in the Lord. He called for the oracles of God. **David heard all the songs about him killing his ten thousands when he had only killed one man and two predator animals.** He pulled from those prophetic assertions many times in battles that surely this did come to pass. Can you, like David, understand what God has **ASCRIBED** to your life and ministry? We never have to force it because He said in Isaiah 46:10, "*Declaring [His Word] the end from the beginning, and from ancient times.*" (before there was time) He has declared even the things that are not done yet, not yet performed by you, that are **ASCRIBED** to you, saying, "My counsel shall stand and I will do my pleasure. Today celebrate what has been **ASCRIBED** unto you. Every person you've met and prophesied to or preached to or exhorted was **ASCRIBED** in time and place to you.

God thinks generationally. He thinks in terms of Kingdom. He thinks in Divine Purpose and overall strategy. God has power and has a plan and has **ASCRIBED** victories for you in it.

(Dr. 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 from 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.)

The month of APRIL IS FOR EMBRACING THE PROMISES OF GOD and clinging to them, in spite of present appearances, while knowing that the Lord God is faithful to His promises. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands *what* He spoke with His mouth... (2Chron.6:4, NKJV) "being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (Rom.4:21, NKJV)



As Pat and I enter our 8<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to the homeless, the poor and hungry, it brings questions to my mind. Are we doing all we can do, are we making a difference, should we continue in this direction, are we furthering the Kingdom of God?

I thought about Jesus and His ministry while He was walking among us. Jesus said He did what He saw the Father doing and spoke what He heard the Father speak. That seemed to me like a pretty good plan for Pat and me also.

Jesus got up in the morning and said, "OK, Father. How do we go about saving the world today?" There was no great adventure laid out, just a word, "Go over there today." Along the way, people were healed, delivered and introduced to the King and the Kingdom. Not a bad day, but I don't think He set out to do these things specifically, He was just going where the Father said go. Jesus wasn't worried about how many or how few, He just went and did what the Father said to do.

Jesus showed us that as we obey Him, we walk into that which He has ordained for us. Several places in the scriptures the Father says, "Today, if you will hear my voice". It often doesn't look like what we think it should and we don't receive the recognition we thought we should get.

As I have asked the Lord about myself, often feeling I haven't done everything I was supposed to have done, the Lord told me to stop looking for **VALIDATION**. I know I am not alone in a desire to know that I am hitting the mark. That desire for validation gets us into a lot of trouble and accomplishes little.

Jesus was so successful because He wasn't looking for validation, He knew

who He was. He realized, and was trying to teach us, that success in the Kingdom is doing what we hear the Father tell us on a daily basis. The end result is we operate like Jesus did and accomplish that for which we were intended, set by the Father before the foundations of the earth. Phil. 3:12 "...but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."

On my first mission trip to Mexico in 1983, I was a new Christian, but I clearly heard the Lord say to me, "I have called you into full-time ministry." To me that meant being on staff full time at the church. I went home excited to tell my Pastor the news. I asked him what I should do to prepare and he told Pat and me to clean the church every week, so we did! I became frustrated with the delay of what I thought should be happening. I was a supervisor with the Conroe Post Office at the time. I asked the Lord if I heard him wrong or what. He told me that full-time ministry was to minister full time, to start right where I was. So I did that and in just a few months, I was on staff at the church.

The Father wants to use us to further His kingdom on the earth, so as long as we are breathing we are capable of doing just that. Stop looking for **VALIDATION** from man. Just look to Him and do what He says on a daily basis, then when you look at where you have been and see that lives have been changed and the Kingdom has been demonstrated, you will know you are "doin the stuff".

The Validation for our life comes through listening and following our Lord's instructions. That is what we are here for. If we do what the Father says to do, go where the Father says to go and love others like Jesus does, we will hit the mark every time and run this race well.

From PAT

In 2009 John and I stepped down from pastoring a church in Cut N Shoot, Texas. Before this decision was made, we spent some time asking the Lord for guidance. We needed to hear His voice because of the weight of this decision and its effect. We assumed the Lord was going to put us back in the business world, and we would get jobs since we were giving up our salary with the church. That was in October. We had decided we would seek the Lord and wait until the first of the year to look for employment. In December, much to our surprise, a friend of many years heard about our decision, bought our old Suburban and then told us to purchase a new Dodge truck and he would make the payments. He said whatever God was going to have us do, we would need a decent ride. This seemed like a pretty good start into a new season.

We were now asking, "OK Lord what is next?" We had been doing nights of worship at the Conroe House of Prayer, better known as CHOP, for about a year before this all came about. About that time CHOP took on new leadership. Luke Redus with Compassion United took over the facility and the ministry there. It had been just a house of prayer and worship until then. But Luke and God had a bigger vision for CHOP, a widening ministry to the poor, those staying at Salvation Army and those seeking a second chance and a new life. We met with him and heard his heart and felt we were to go along with what God was doing. This

step, just following what the Lord was saying to do, has led us now to eight years of ministry at CHOP and also partnering with Compassion United in their Fresh Start Mentoring program.

As I think about the word VALIDATION, and this sequence of events, I realize that our validation with those who didn't know us personally, people like Luke, was coming from our years of hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord. We didn't hear an audible voice, but a leading voice. We had a proven history of heeding the voice of the Lord and doing what He says.

I would encourage you with this, follow the Lord's leading, heed His voice. He will lead you into places you could not or maybe would not have gone. He is a true adventure creator. You are going to love it!

(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)



We all have GPS, God's Positioning System, we just don't use it enough. If we didn't have it we could not be saved. God is all about words. God spoke everything into existence except for man. God gave us the written word, the bible as a guide. The bible is also alive and God speaks to us through it. God speaks to us through thoughts, dreams, visions, pictures, prophets, people etc. God has many ways to communicate with us and we have to express it in words or sometimes pictures. God watches over His word to perform it Jer.1:12. We must confess with our mouth to accept Christ as our savior. Often times in scripture we see that the Word of the Lord Came to a prophet and at some point God asks, "What Did You See?". When God communicates with us we have to

reconstruct it with words. God provides us with salvation, provision, protection and purpose. God has even given us a private prayer language to communicate with Him, and since God watches over His word to perform it, whatever God has communicated to You is His word that He is watching over.

Heb. 11:6 (NKJV) *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* Logic can rob you of God's blessings and direction. Our little brains can't begin to comprehend God on a logical level, we must accept it by faith and move on. (Also 1Cor.2:9; Isa.55:8-9)

The day we become Christians is dependence day on God and we must resolve that we are not alone and we are not our own. Jesus said "I will never leave you or forsake you". That means we do not have to face life on earth alone with just our own intelligence to guide us. Jesus came to show us the way as well as to make a way. In Eph. 1:5-6 we are told we are predestined to become sons of God like Christ. We can't become like Christ with human intellect, it takes obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Adam and Eve were the first generation of humans and they were deceived by Satan, so do we think we are smarter than they were? They caused a situation that makes mankind doomed to eternal death without intervention from God. God being the loving father He is had a plan and it is Jesus. Not only did Jesus show us the way, the Holy Spirit was sent here to guide us through life on earth and into eternity .

We make decisions every day that impact our lives. Sometimes we listen for God's direction and sometimes not. I met a man by the name of Jack who gave his testimony. He had planned to go fishing with his buddies on Saturday. He was not a Christian at the time. As he walked the pier headed for the boat he kept hearing "don't go". As he approached the boat his buddies encouraged him to hurry and get in. He finally told them goodbye and headed back to his car, not understanding what just happened or why. Later that day he learned that all of his friends drowned when their boat capsized. Jack also learned that his wife and family had been praying for his salvation and he became a Christian the following day. Jack said he didn't know if he would even be alive or saved if he had gotten in the boat.

I knew a man by the name of George who was learning to fly airplanes and was loving it. The next step in his training was to fly with instruments only. He and the instructor took off and George was allowed to do the take off. When they reached a certain point George was blindfolded and the instructor took over. The instructor made a series of maneuvers



and flew into the clouds. He told George to remove his blindfold but not to look at the instruments. George complied with the instructions and couldn't see anything but clouds. Now the instructor asked George what direction he thought was north. He thought for a moment and pointed in the direction about 2 o'clock from where he was seated. When he looked at the compass, it showed that north was at about 9 o'clock from his seat. George was a little bit shocked at what happened next. The instructor asked him what he was going to do. He asked, "Are you going with your instincts or the instruments?" George thought for a moment then responded, "The instruments." The instructor told him, "Good choice. If you are not going to use them you may as well take them out."

As George was telling me about these events I was thinking about how the Holy Spirit is trying to give us direction to keep us on track and out of trouble. I was to do the eulogy at my boss's funeral. I had about three days to prepare. When I stepped up to the podium I had a paper with the historical information and about six blank index cards which I laid down in front of me. I looked around the room and saw fellow workers, his family and the owners and officers of the company. I read the historical information then the Lord began to feed me information and I delivered it. Everyone was amazed at what I had said. Even I was amazed. That day gave me positive exposure to the people who had influence over me and settled a lot of relationships between my boss and his superiors. The family asked for my notes after the service and I handed them the blank cards and told them that was strait from the Lord. I told them that I didn't know any of that before I said it that day.

God has a plan for our individual lives and his GPS helps us to stay on track and on time. If God has a plan, He has provisions for that plan. The provisions are along the path predetermined by God. If we get off of the path we may forfeit provisions for our life and our work. We usually think of provisions as the necessities of life on earth but provisions come in many forms. Provisions can be opportunities, ideas, abilities and so on. Whatever we need to succeed God has already planned ahead for it because God wants us to succeed for his namesake. God knows the need before we pray and already has His plan and provisions for it. As a Christian we must become like a pilot who was trained to fly by sight and landmarks and be converted to flying by instruments. We have to listen to the inner voice and go on faith.

(Kenneth is a mechanical designer by trade and a teacher by gifting and has served as a teacher, Christian education director, men's ministry leader and an elder.)

# HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?



Over 30 years ago, in his work concerning our worldview being Christian, Francis Schaeffer asked, “How then shall we live?” over 30 years ago. The Apostle Paul wrote in Gal 5:18 But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. And he goes on to talk about the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, but then he makes this statement... Gal 5:25 “If we are living by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us be guided.” Another translation says something like this: “since we are made alive by the Spirit, let that same Spirit guide our every step.” Then basically there is no law we cannot keep or no concern to have to watch every little thing. It is accomplished by the Holy Spirit that lives in us. Jesus’ command was basically keep the law of love and the commandments are fulfilled. Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

How then shall we live? All I know is when the scripture says “perfect love casts out all fear” the only one I know that has perfect love is Jesus. It’s also said “No greater love is there than to lay down your life for another.” Jesus did that at the cross and cast out our fear of death that we were subject to as long as we were under the law. He also gave us His Spirit so love could cast the fear out of others. When we are filled with His Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will conquer our every fear. God’s Holy Spirit of Wisdom is able to turn every tide that comes to wash us out to sea. What faith by itself cannot do, love can. What is long-suffering without gentleness or kindness? How can goodness or well-doing work with-



out meekness? There is no peace outside of temperance, neither an inward joy. My thoughts today are that I want to live by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead otherwise I will do the works of the flesh.

How shall we live with relation to love, the fruit of the Spirit and God's Word? Let's consider how perfect love casts out fear and love being a part of the fruit of the Spirit. Sometimes we can get the wrong impression of how truth and love work together. Can I just say here that when God initially speaks to any man He doesn't move away from His Word, remembering that God holds the importance of His Word above His name (Ps.132:2).

Sometimes people hear things that they think are the Spirit but it has no value because it does not pass the plumb line of the written Word. God said Himself that "the law is perfect converting the soul." How do we discern anything we hear in the realm of the spirit or in our hearts if we don't have revelation by His word? If you hear a still small voice and see a beam of light come forth that knocks you down with its brilliance, does that make it a word from the one true God? Scripture indicates that our "hearts can deceive us," that "even the elect may be deceived" (Matt.24:24) and the devil himself can come "as an angel of light." How dangerous is it for us to isolate ourselves and say, "The Spirit of the Lord has told me this thing or that?" Don't we know in part and prophecy in part? Aren't we better together than we are by ourselves? (Consider Acts 15 when Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to confer with the brethren concerning the word that some came preaching from Jerusalem.)

We are dependent on the Holy Spirit for sanctified living, but there is such a thing as "instruction in righteousness" (2Tim3:16) coming from our teaching gifts and leaders in the church. Aren't we safer if people of faith and full of the Holy Ghost confirm our "Spirit-led life"? I'm not talking about lording over the flock, but rather submitting ourselves one to another. 1Pe 5:5, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." We become cynics when we believe that all men's motives are for selfish reasons and that real love and truth cannot work together.

How then shall we live? We shall live and not die to declare the glories of God. This is our lifestyle, this is our quest. We are nothing short of the most incredible creation in all the earth. We have been given such amazing attributes that we can actually live and not die. Even if we were to depart this physical body we have such a spiritual body that we just

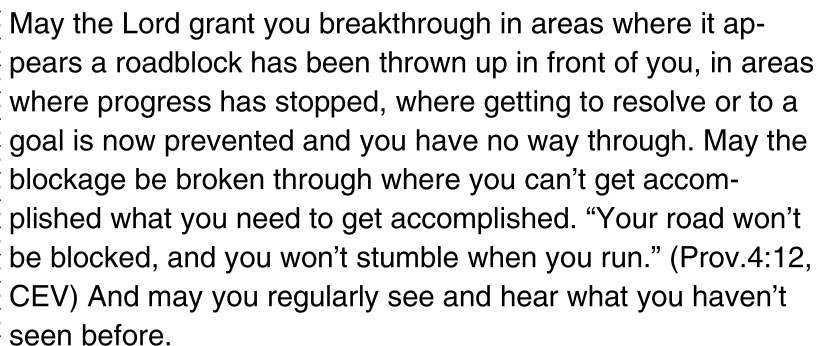
transition from one to the other in a moment. However, while we are here, we declare openly our wonderful Creator who has decided that we are to live and move and have our being in Him (Acts17:28) both now and in time to come. Wow, what an awesome God who gave me access without hesitation into His presence(Heb10:20). There I may tell Him all my needs, knowing that He knows them before I can even get it out of my mouth. With His hand upon us we are subjugated to anything He wants from us. And just because we know that He only has our spiritual well-being in mind, He doesn't give into our fleshly, self-destruction, He just continues to finish the work in us that He started. Where would any of us be without this continual wooing of His Spirit?

How then shall we live? Abundantly, above all that we ask or think. Just realize that we can find His will for our lives and that would be the best thing for us. It would bring the most glory and the greatest fulfillment to our lives.

How then shall we live? By every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Every loving, caring, directing, guiding, revealing, encouraging, building, healing, delivering, captivating, restraining, empowering Word from God is how we live(Mt4:4). How then shall we live? We shall live by "knowing the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformed to His death"(Phil3:10). What death? Death to our will and alive to His...That's how we really live.

(Bill Traylor is serving as Apostle at Grace International Church in Willis,TX. He is involved in leading regional prayer efforts, training people for ministry, counseling and serving on presbyteries to co-labor with regional leaders and contracting in the marketplace. He may be contacted through the church website: [www.graceic.org](http://www.graceic.org) or at 936-856-2455)

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May the Lord grant you breakthrough in areas where it appears a roadblock has been thrown up in front of you, in areas where progress has stopped, where getting to resolve or to a goal is now prevented and you have no way through. May the blockage be broken through where you can't get accomplished what you need to get accomplished. "Your road won't be blocked, and you won't stumble when you run." (Prov.4:12, CEV) And may you regularly see and hear what you haven't seen before.



It really is an exciting time even though it may not look like it because we have entered a new era.

Let's look a little closer at what this means. Merriam Webster defines "era" as: a memorable or important date or event, especially one that begins a new period in the history of a person or thing, a stage in development. When I read this definition, that last part jumped off the screen, "a stage in development". So, I looked up "development": 1. An unfolding; the discovering of something secret or withheld from the knowledge of others; 2. The unraveling of a plot. Oh my! We have been in the midst of an "unraveling plot" our entire lives! I am basing the time span of the past era on the life of Dr. Billy Graham. There were several words out there that the death of Dr. Graham would mark significant change, and that is when I knew we were truly in a new era. So, for most of us we have been in this "stage of development" all of our lives. God has been developing the Kingdom here on earth throughout the past era and we are about to see what He has been doing.

Back in the day, I used to have my own darkroom where I developed pictures. The process it took to walk out with a picture is quite remarkably like the past era we have been in. You start in a very dark room with a safe light, take a piece of light sensitive paper, put a negative between the paper and a white light and it burns and image on that paper. Now, you can't see that image... yet. Next you put that paper in DEVELOPER, but you don't just leave it there. You have to agitate that paper until the image starts to appear. Then you move it into a stop bath which stops the





developing process. You don't want an over-developed picture, it's overdone. You agitate it some more to make sure the picture stops developing. Then you move it into something called "fix" which gets rid of extra particles and keeps the final product from being sensitive to light. Agitate some more. Then finally, the picture gets put into a water bath to clear it of chemicals so it is ready to be presented. Oh, you agitate it some more to make sure those chemicals are washed off. Lastly, you let that picture dry and it is ready to be presented. That's just the process it takes for the picture to be developed. The film development, the captured/intended image, happens in complete darkness!

This process is a great picture (no pun intended) of original intention of God being developed on this earth. There are intentions developed in secret so the enemy cannot touch them. Then they go thru the process of birthing the image of God. You notice the agitation required for the image to be fully developed, but also notice there is development, movement, fixing and washing. Come on!

The past era was spent in the darkroom. What God has been doing is about to come to light. This is not the end. It's the beginning. We are standing on the shoulders of all of those generations that paved the way before us. *They* prayed for this day and *we* GET TO LIVE IT.

"Arise [from spiritual depression to a new life], shine [be radiant with the glory and brilliance of the Lord]; for your light has come, And the glory and brilliance of the Lord has risen upon you.

For in fact, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness will cover the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you [Jerusalem]

And His glory and brilliance will be seen on you. Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."

Isaiah 60:1-3 (AMP)

(Melissa writes from a point of interest where she has spent much time in developing her photographic skills. She draws from her experience as a professional photographer as she grows her photographic company Sterling Regard. The pictures she uses in creating the beautiful memes Marty uses for his "The Month of \_\_\_\_ is For" on Facebook were mostly shot in Europe by her. To view some of her beautiful and charming photo work and interesting photo series, go to Facebook and type in: Sterling Regard Photography.

# The New Era

## And the Church

## And Trampling



Marty Gabler

Jahweh is raising up His church in this new era. He is raising up His church to transform nations over night. We are getting past religious ineffectiveness and a defeated sense of eschatology and coming to Zion, to the place of the throne of God which is a place of power and dominion. Perhaps we should rehearse John's exhortation to us that "...as He [JESUS] is, so are we in this world." (1Jn.4:17) It would then follow that our Lord JESUS IS sitting on the right hand of the throne of Almighty God in the heavenly places (1:20) and that we, like Him, are also sitting with Him [authoritatively positioned] in heavenly places in Christ (2:6). Therefore, there should be authority, power and dominion displayed such as it was when JESUS was on the earth, especially since it is the determined will of God to now show His multi-layered, redemptive wisdom to powers and principalities through the church (Eph.3:10).

The era of half-hearted church-maintaining, while sneaking peeks toward the sky hoping for an escape, is dying away. Do not think for one minute that it is not also the heart-felt wish of the powers of hell and the spirit of this age that the church might go someplace else, because the wisdom of God and the redemptive power of His Christ *are* being manifest through His church and the Kingdom of God *is* advancing in the earth in spite of the best-effort opposition of the kingdom of darkness. We are in a new era where there is hope for the future and there is determination of sons to be manifest as groan-stoppers (Rom.8:19, 22). In Jn.20:21 Jesus told His disciples that He was sending *them* even as the Father had sent *Him*. Then, we have record of the extraordinary results of that authoritative sending throughout the Book of Acts.

The hour is coming when the glory and power of God is going to be demonstrated in a company of people. "There will be a trickle, then it will begin to grow and then there will be a tipping point."<sup>1</sup> God is a *mighty* God. "You shall not dread them, for the Lord your God is among you, a mighty and terrible God." (Deut.7:21, Amp) The word "mighty" is associated with dominion. This new era is about believers reconnecting with the right to rule. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Eph.6:10) The spirit of might is going to become part and parcel of our weaponry and tactics. The church will have strength to overcome any enemy. "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Lk.10:19) This power and might and strength have been held by God for the church when there would be a tipping point at which He could release it in great measure. We have only seen a trickling of it to this point. When we realize that we are in an era that the church has never

operated in before, we can avail ourselves and position ourselves for the Holy Spirit to come upon us in power that has been reserved for this time in history.

We can expect and decree a major restraining of violence, crime and other problems within our cities. Jesus had dominion over spirits, all manner of diseases and even over the elements of nature and weather. But we must also realize that strife and contention within churches and among the citywide church will not accommodate the Spirit in power which brings extraordinary results—the trampling of the enemy. Jezebel, Absalom and Korah must go. Even the days of false brethren are numbered. (Gal.2:4)

One of the benefits of this unprecedented trampling and power is healing and deliverance. People get healed without anyone laying hands on them. People walk up after a meeting and tell me they were healed of something that was not even mentioned in a word of knowledge. People with cancer are healed without anyone laying hands on them. We heard a report of severe Parkinson's being healed. An alcoholic was completely delivered during a ministry time of word of knowledge and prophecy but no form of dependency was even mentioned. He was delivered right where he was seated. His wife reported that she knew the moment he was delivered. A very angry, rebellious 16 year old whose father had abandoned him attended one of our meetings recently after having refused to attend with his mother for months. At the end of the service his mother asked him if he would let me pray for him. He came forward with her and I prayed for them and prophesied to him. The word of the Lord so impacted him that his life was transformed. He was totally different from that moment. On his own accord he went to the pastor and apologized and asked him to be his father and volunteered for any work needing done. We are already seeing the power of the new era.

Storms have been diverted, effects of storms have been shut down and flood water has been held back by the hand of God. Not long ago, one of this nation's enemies was testing a bomb underground and it accidentally blew up destroying the facility along with many of the enemy. Missiles aimed for strategic areas of Israel have been diverted to explode harmlessly in the desert. An illusive attacker of many women in London was finally caught by a Christian policeman after a church in the area prayed and declared his capture would be by a Christian. All of these things happened when prayer groups agreed and decreed. We can pray and declare that murderers, hijackers and rapists will take themselves out with their own weapons. We have power over the enemy but we must speak and act.

What God has started cannot be stopped. "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.**" (Isa.9:7; also 2Chron.6:4; Isa.46:10; Rom.4:21) He has started a work in believers and that impacts their environment. Our cities, our communities, our nation must be recaptured. We cannot be held captive by criminals, whether they are in the streets and alleys or whether they are in political office. Our prayers must change to become prayers of decrees and commands. The church finds itself in a new era and must co-labor with the purposes of our Lord by speaking and acting in the power He has given us over all the power of the enemy. (Lk.10:19)

(Footnote 1: Sadie Govender)

## 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

April 1 \* Resurrection Day!  
Resurrection blessings to you!

April 8 \* Cedar Park, TX  
Dickinson Home Church \* 6:00p.m.  
Near Austin  
Info: Don Dickinson  
512-267-2106

April 12-14 \* Louisa, KY  
Addiction Recovery Care  
Director: Tim Robinson  
Ministry to Leadership

April 15 \* Huntington, WV  
Expression Church \* 11a.m.  
Pastor Kevin West  
[expchurch.org](http://expchurch.org)

April 19 \* Granbury, TX  
FMCI's Regional Reformation  
Institute with Jim Hodges  
Melissa leading worship  
Info: [fmci.org](http://fmci.org)

April 20 \* Granbury, TX  
FMCI's Regional Reformation  
Institute with Jim Hodges  
Marty Speaking 7p.m.

April 21 \* Granbury, TX  
FMCI's Regional Reformation  
Institute with Jim Hodges \* 9a.m.  
Marty & Kathy on Prophet Team

April 28-29 \* Grove, OK  
New Song Church  
Pastor Marty Dyer  
[www.newsonggrove.com](http://www.newsonggrove.com)

April 19 \* Seguin, TX  
New Life Fellowship  
Pastors Chris & Chelsea Larson  
Kathy & Melissa Ladies Lunch  
Info: 830-372-1200  
[www.newlifefellowshipseguin.com](http://www.newlifefellowshipseguin.com)

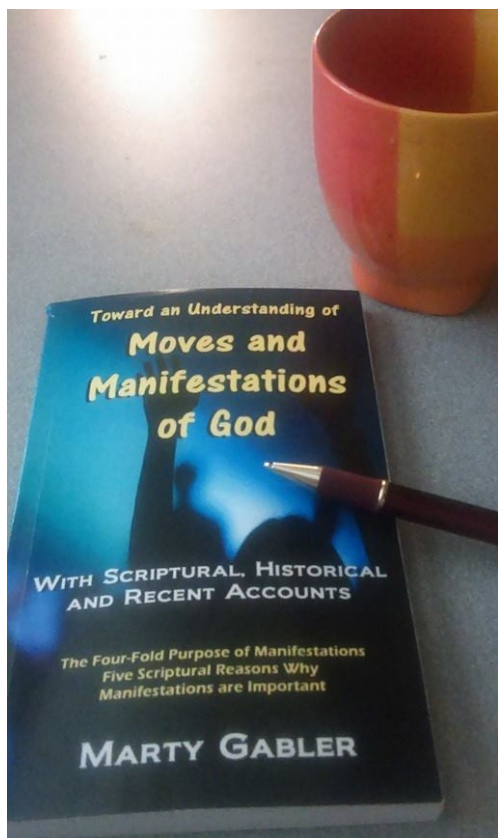
April 20 \* Seguin, TX  
New Life Fellowship 10a.m.  
Pastors Chris & Chelsea Larson  
Marty Speaking

April 27 \* Coldspring, TX  
Victory Gospel Church  
10:30a.m. & 6:00p.m.  
Pastor Carolyn Aycock  
Info: 936-653-4509

June 1  
Marty & Kathy 45th Anniversay

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