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OUR FINEST HOUR

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I have included an article by my father in this issue, which is from the forthcoming book, 'Secrets of the Kingdom, Volume 4'.

It is very relevant for us today. Many of my father's visions, dreams and prophetic encounters were ahead of their time, pointing to the days in which we are living right now.

School preparations are in full swing for Moving Further with the Lord 2023. If you are still thinking of coming, please take advantage of the Early Bird registration which will be ending at the start of the new year.

Stay strong and trust in the Lord.

Mark Johnson

23rd December 2022



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PART 1

PREPARING FOR THE HARVEST

NEVILLE JOHNSON

There is a universal expectation of an impending move of the Spirit of God that will sweep millions of souls into the Kingdom

Over the past few years, we have heard much of the coming harvest. However, in many of the churches I have ministered in over the last few years I have seen very little preparation for the coming great harvest of souls that God is preparing to harvest. It seems like a great portion of the body of Christ is expecting a huge harvest of souls, but very little preparation has been made to accommodate and steward this harvest. There is a universal expectation of an impending move of the Spirit of God that will sweep millions of souls into the Kingdom, but we act as if we don't believe it. When the Soviet Union opened up to religious freedom, many sects and cults were ready to move in with strategy and vision and the church was woefully unprepared. It is true that we are seeing in many parts of the world a large increase in those coming to the Lord, but this is nothing to what is looming on the horizon in terms of the magnitude of

this impending harvest.

Time is running out

In the mid 90s the Lord gave me three dreams in regard to the harvest. In the first dream I was walking along a beach on a very sunny day. It was calm and people were having a relaxing time playing and sunbathing. I looked out to sea and on the far horizon I saw the water mound up into a very large swell. As I watched, this the swell began to rise up into a large wave; at this point the wave was still very far out on the horizon.

About five years later, I had another similar dream but this time the wave was very large and was much closer to the shore. The wave contained, or was embedded, with millions of people; it was a wave of people -- a harvest wave. Those on the beach seemed oblivious to this wave, which was about to crash onto the shore. I tried to warn the people but they seemed unconcerned and ignored

me. In fact, I felt that some of them were going to attack me. The wave finally broke on the shore with great force and power. I braced myself, but the wave swept over me and I was unharmed. I turned, looking to see how far the wave had swept inland, and to my great amazement it had continued inland as far as I could see. It was then that I noticed the damage this wave had caused. I had expected to see the whole landscape to be devastated by the force of this wave but this was not the case; only certain buildings had been destroyed. As I surveyed the damage, it became apparent that many churches had collapsed and a number of government buildings also had been destroyed.

In the third dream there was no visible church. There were just people filled with light, power and glory spreading across the earth like a mighty wave. These people were invincible, although many of them offered themselves to become martyrs. This was the final harvest. There was very little distance between the second and third waves. More of this later.

I pondered these dreams, seeking to understand the spiritual significance and the Holy Spirit began to give me some insight. In the second dream, the churches which had collapsed (which appeared to be the majority of them) were not ready for this harvest. The government buildings were those departments of government, which in the past had handled the needs of its citizens -- mainly social services. The abuse of citizens by many of these government departments over the past years has been frightening. I began to see how this harvest wave of millions of people would destroy the church as

we know it now. The church is about to undergo a complete reformation and when the Lord has finished with it, the latter will have no resemblance to the former. In one generation the Lord will change the face of the church in this world. This new force of Christians in the earth began to take over many of the roles of government in social services. Along with this great harvest wave, many of the seemingly rock-solid intuitions of this modern world will begin to collapse. I saw superannuation funds collapse, government pension funds dried up, many banks went under and after a while, governments could no longer bail them out. Many governments were financially bled dry by the enormous costs created by the consequences of earthquake and flood damage as great storms ravaged many nations. The devaluation of currencies added to these crises. During this time, the true church began to flourish. Many of God's people had prepared for this upheaval. I saw orphanages arise, along with hospitals, which not only catered for the physical needs of the people but also their spiritual needs. It was as though the church had taken over all of the government social services. Joseph ministries began to flourish and huge resources were made available to the church.

A new paradigm, a new mindset is needed

Pastors and leaders must take on a Kingdom emphasis and mindset. The Church Age must give way to the Kingdom age. We are not here to build the church. That is the Lord's responsibility. We are here to proclaim the Kingdom of God and bring it to this earth. This will take many forms. There will be many large, influential churches that have a Kingdom view. The leaders of these churches will



not set out to build large churches but to manifest the Kingdom of God in this earth. Congregations will be very fluid with members moving from one congregation to another. This will not alarm the new breed of leaders. In fact, they will encourage it, because they are not trying to build their church but are building the Kingdom of God in their city. No one church has all the truth. The church in the city will become the emphasis. To survive and flourish in the coming changes the harvest will bring we must be prepared to change, adapt, and change our traditional mindsets which often become strongholds of the enemy.

We must start to prepare now

Sometime ago, I awoke with an audible voice of the Lord who said,

“Ready or not, I am coming!”

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. 5. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Isaiah 60:1-5

A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Psalms 22:30

This generation shall see the fullness of God's purpose manifest in a way that the world and church has never seen before. This generation is spoken of many times in God's word as a special generation. David the Psalmist penned these words about this generation:

This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.

Psalms 102:18

This psalm speaks about God's mercy and kindness to a generation that did not exist in King David's day:

When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;

Psalms 102:16-21

The timing for these scriptures to be fulfilled is clear

At the time when the Lords builds up Zion; This did not happen in the early church. We see in Hebrews Chapter 12 that the Apostle Paul was admonishing the church to move on to Zion, a place of an open heaven. (Hebrews 12:18-29)

In Psalm 24 King David said this, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?” (Zion)



He then goes on to state some qualifications:

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6. This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

Psalms 24:3-6

David was saying that there will be a generation that will ascend the Mount Zion, a generation that has clean hands and a pure heart; a generation that will seek the Lord like no other generation. This generation shall receive a very special blessing from the Lord.

The prophet Joel prophesied about this generation

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Joel 2:28-32

Again, we see this occurs when the church has come to Zion: a time when God will pour out His spirit in an unprecedented way, a time when the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon to blood. In these end times, God will visit a generation and in a way that eclipses all other visitations.

Matthew Chapter One verse one begins with this preface :

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

The writer concludes this passage of scripture with this verse:

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. 42 generations.

Matthew 1:17

However, if you count very carefully the generations listed in Matthew 1, there are only forty-one generations, so where is the forty-second generation?.

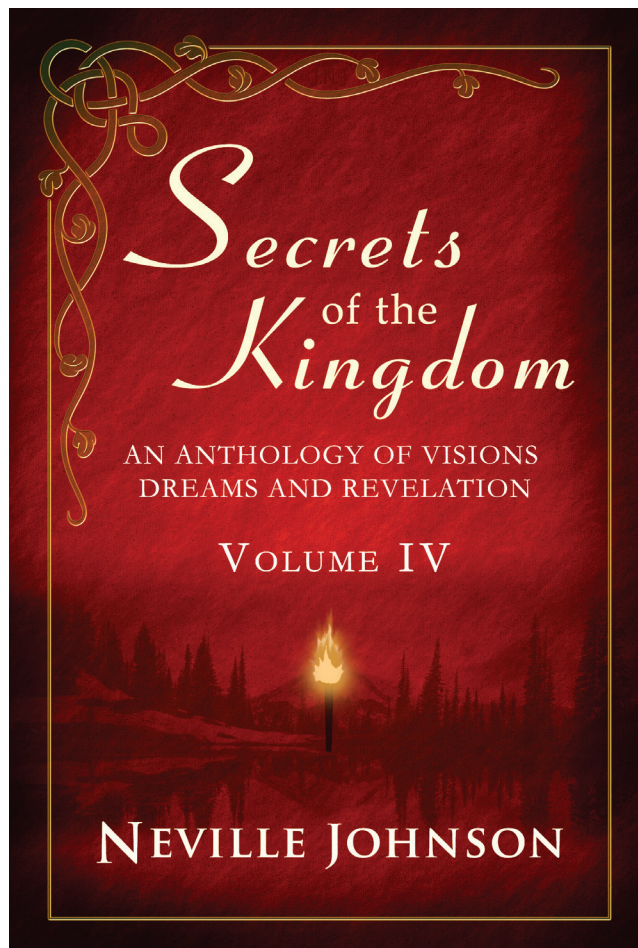
A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Psalms 22:30

Jesus died without having any natural children of His own. However, King David, with supernatural foresight and revelation, wrote about a generation to come that would be counted to the Lord Jesus as a generation -- a generation that would be like Him -- a generation in His likeness.



This article will continue in the next issue and is taken from the book: Secrets of the Kingdom Volume 4 by Neville Johnson. The book will be available in 2023.



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BOBBY CONNOR

ITS ABOUT THE HARVEST LOOK AT YOUR HANDS

This was much more than a mere dream.
This was a prophetic encounter!

In the early morning hours of March 28, 2014 around 3:30AM I received a very vivid dream, which I feel is significant to help the Body of Christ gage the season we have entered into. This was much more than a mere dream. This was a prophetic encounter! The dream commences, I am in my study at my desk in Moravian Falls, North Carolina I am working on a new book.

The Holy Spirit said; "you have a visitor" thinking someone was at the door I am about to open the door. However the Holy Spirit said, "your visitor is at the window". Turning to look at my windows, suddenly with a flash of light appearing just outside my window striding down what appeared to be translucent pearl colored stairs was Bob Jones. He had the most winsome warm smile and looked absolutely wonderful. However in the dream I was completely aware that Bob had gone to heaven on Feb 14. 2014.

Bob simply stepped into my study. I did not need to open the window he

just walked right in. His appearance was incredible, he was firm and fit He was dress in a wonderful soft beautiful elegant white robe past his waist down below his knees, like a long shirt. His hair was extremely white and glistening I was amazed at his skin it was without blemish white and soft his smile was truly radiant and beautiful. His eyes were bigger than normal and extremely clear sparkling like that of an excited child.

I had been expecting his visit nevertheless words can't describe my delight and thrill I was so excited to see my dear friend I said; "I been expecting this meeting!" And looking forward to it." He quickly replied in an excited tone "Me too!" His next words were, "You are doing fine!" And he said placing both hands on his chest, "And I am doing wonderful."

In this encounter is seemed as if we could communicate without actual conversation, spirit to spirit with our hearts. Then he said, "Have you noticed your hair?" I replied, "no



not really!" He said in an instructive tone. "Run your hand through your hair." Accordingly I ran my right hand through my hair it felt perfectly normal. Then Bob said in a delighted gleeful tone, "Look in your hand," when I looked at my hand I had hundreds of golden pieces of strands. These golden particles seemed to me like the shaft of arrows only much smaller! They were round and very straight about one foot in length.

Bob said in an excited informative manner, "do it again and again and again" each time more and more golden shafts appeared until my hands as well as his were overflowing with these golden strands. Bob declared with a wonderful twinkle in his bright blue eyes, and a smile of someone who knows a secret that you are about to learn, "watch closely!" Suddenly these golden shafts appeared to turn into wonderful huge stalks of ripe grain. These golden stalks filled not just our hands they were now huge you could hardly get your arms around them. And they continued to expand larger and larger. The rapid acceleration of their increase was breathtaking.

Bob said with a child like smile, "YOU know what this means don't you! " I

replied somewhat tentatively, "I think I do!" He said in a most confident tone, "it is the HARVEST!" He said "the coming harvest will be spearheaded by the prophetic." The Prophets will be used in an unprecedented way to announce and declare the fields that are now ripe and ready for harvest. The prophetic voices will sound a clear trumpet call bring forth the Body of Christ to stand-up and speak up becoming anointed evangelists.


Bob said almost in a personal matter of fact manner, "it is so much better to watch from my vantage point." He added, "I know we have much to talk about, but we will do that later!" And suddenly there was a strong flash of light extremely blue bright, and he was gone. In the dream I am standing in my study my body and mind both pulsating shaken to the core by the visitation.

Abruptly I am awake laying in my bed my body still responding to the event that I just experienced my heart pounding and my spirit electrified. The main enlightenment we must comprehend from this encounter is: it is harvest time. The end of the age is now upon us. Arise prepare your heart to thrust yourself into the harvest field.

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THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD TO OVERCOME IN THE LAST DAYS

JOE SWEET

He will give us His wise counsel so that we can “overcome”.
If we follow His counsel, He will always lead us in triumph.

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow

cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The Great Tribulation

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will



be shortened.

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

"Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:3-31

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you

see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21:2-36

The Lord Jesus said these things would come to pass at the end of the age:
False christs deceiving many
wars and rumors of wars
nation rising against nation
kingdoms rising against kingdoms
famines, pestilences and earthquakes
in various places
saints being delivered up to tribulation
many will betray one another and
hate one another
false prophets
lawlessness abounding
love of many growing cold
the Gospel of the kingdom being
preached in all the world
the abomination of desolations in the
holy place
great tribulation such as has not been
seen since the beginning
signs in the sun, moon and stars
distress of nations
perplexity
the sea and the waves roaring (storms
and tsunamis)
men dying from heart failure due of
fear
powers of the heavens shaken



Notice that in the midst of all the trouble and calamities, the Gospel of the kingdom will be preached. These difficulties should not slow us down. Instead we should be more motivated than ever to get the job done. The difficulties at the end of the age are revealing the vanity of things that people have pursued other than the Lord. The shakings are preparing the great harvest of souls to be reaped. Jesus said "after the tribulation of those days... He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other".

The Lord gave us wise counsel to overcome. In Luke 21:36 He said

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21:36

Watching and "praying always" will position us in the grace of God, to be at the right place at the right time, to have His power, to have divine guidance, supernatural provision and protection. If we apply and walk in the counsel of the Lord to watch and "pray always" we will be "counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

"Escaping all these things that will come to pass, and standing before the Son of Man" does not mean that we leave the earth. It means that while we are still here on the earth, consciously living our lives in the sight of God, we will be kept from the evil. This is how the prophet, Elijah, walked before the Lord.

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the

inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

1 Kings 17:1

Elijah was still on the earth. He had not yet been taken up to heaven. However, he said that he was standing before the Lord. This means that he lived his life every day conscious of the presence of God and he lived in the knowledge that God was with him and God saw everything. He lived his life before the Lord. As a result of walking with God that way, he was kept from the famine that came on the land.

During the famine, the word of the Lord came to Elijah to go to the brook Cherith. There God provided water and food for him. When the brook dried up, the Lord directed him to the widow of Zerapheth. She provided for him with a supernatural supply of food. So Elijah wasn't raptured off the earth during the famine, but he surely "stood before the Lord" and was kept from all the trouble that the famine caused for everyone else in the land.

This was the counsel of the Lord for us at the end of the age. We must learn to walk in Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man"

Luke 21:36

This is how the Lord Jesus prayed for us: "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from (keep from = tereo ek) the evil one" John 17:15.

The same Greek word used in John



17:15 is used in Revelation 3:10. That word does not mean that God will “keep us” by taking us out of the world, but while we are here, surrounded by trouble, He will keep us “from” the trouble.

The Lord commanded us, in Luke 21:36 and several other passages of Scripture, to persevere in prayer.

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from (tereo ek = keep from) the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth”

Revelation 3:10.

Praying always

The Lord Jesus gave us an example of how to live a lifestyle of “praying always”.

He began His day in prayer.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Mark 1:35

He instructed us to do the same by seeking Him and His kingdom first, above all else. We must start our day with the Lord in prayer and the Word of God.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

I love those who love me, and those who seek me early will find me.

Proverbs 8:17

During the day He withdrew into the wilderness to pray

However, the report went around

concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. 16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 5:15-16

Sometimes He would pray all night.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 6:12

Prayer ascends to God and then MERCY, GRACE and HELP FROM HEAVEN come down.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Psalms 86:5

Jesus knew this. This is how he lived. The disciples watched His life and observed that PRAYER was the secret to His power. They saw Him calm the storm, multiply food, heal the sick, cast out devils and raise the dead. After watching Him, they did not ask Him to teach them how to heal the sick, calm storms or cast out devils. No. Instead they asked Him “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

He did teach them and they did learn to pray. This is what we must learn to do. We must make prayer our highest priority.

The Book of Acts church...

Prayed daily (Acts 2:46)

Prayed Continuously (Acts 1:14, Acts



2:42, Acts 12:5)

Prayed Steadfastly (Acts 2:42)

Prayed in one accord (Acts 1:14, Acts 4:24) with one voice

The apostles prayed for the churches....

Without ceasing (Romans 1:9, 1 Thes. 2:13, 2 Timothy 1:3)

Exceedingly day and night (1 Thes. 3:10)

Always (Col. 4:12, Col. 1:3, 2 Thes. 1:11)

They turned the then known world upside-down (Acts 17:6). The power of God flowed like a river in and through the churches, bringing in massive harvest of souls.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Acts 2:41

However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Acts 4:4

Multitudes of sick people were healed.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Acts 5:16

Entire cities turned to the Lord in a day.

And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

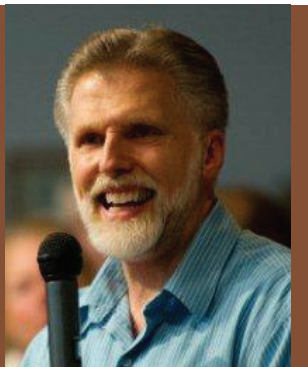
Acts 9:34-35

Now it is our turn to pray daily, continuously, steadfastly and in one accord like the disciples and the apostles did.

All believers today are exhorted to... pray always with all prayer and perseverance (Ephesians 6:18) continue steadfastly in prayer (Romans 12:12) pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17)

This is the counsel of the Lord.

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The Incomparable Gift

SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

Beloved, have you seen the Gift within you?
Have your eyes really seen the Salvation of God?

Thanks be to God for His indescribable
gift

2 Corinthians 9:15

For aeons, a wonderful gift lay hidden deep within the bosom of the eternal God. Only the prophets, patriarchs and a few individuals who walked intimately with God knew of this gift.

Why were the common men ignorant of the existence of this gift? Because this gift was hidden in God, who;

"made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies"

Psalms 18:11

Those few who walked with God had had their souls saturated with the light of God. This light within their spirit, like a double-edged sword, pierced through the darkness and enlightened their eyes to behold the gift. The prophet Simeon saw this gift when he said, on seeing the baby Jesus.

"For my eyes have seen Your salvation"
Luke 2:30

And Anna too, upon seeing the baby Jesus, proclaimed to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem that this is indeed the promised Messiah (Luke 2:38).

Beloved, have you seen the Gift within you? Have your eyes really seen the Salvation of God? Or are you still sitting in darkness though you have embraced the light of the Gift (cp. Matt 4:16)?

What gift of salvation of God since you are already born-again, baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit? This gift is a deeper knowing of the Lord Jesus.

"For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness,"

2 Corinthians 4:6

Is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."



What is this gift of light? A deeper knowing of the Lord Jesus who is hidden in the glory of God.

The Lord Jesus told Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father;" (Jn 14:9). There is a mystery of the Lord Jesus which is hidden in the glory of God. To those who are willing to seek for the Lord with all their heart and soul like the magi did looking for the Lord Jesus, angels will guide such true seekers to the knowledge of the truth.

The Holy Spirit Himself is a Gift of God (Acts 2:38). When you receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, you also receive His nine gifts. Likewise, from the bosom of the Lord God, His Gift, the Lord Jesus, came forth (Jn 1:18). The Lord Jesus did not come empty-handed. He brought with Him the gifts of grace, truth and salvation (Jn 1: 17; Rom 6:23). With these gifts, He reconciled man to God.

Like the man who buried his talent in the ground, is the Lord Jesus buried deep in the ground of commercialism, materialism and worldliness in your life? Your heart can either be filled with the light of God, transforming it into a Jerusalem, the city of God, or it can be filled with darkness caused by the cares and woes of this world, transforming it into a Babylon. How is the state of your heart?

"For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matt 2:2). This was said by the magi who came looking for the baby Jesus. When the magi saw the star in the East, why didn't it guide them all the way to Jesus' place of birth in Bethlehem? The Jews have been waiting for almost 4,000 years for the arrival of the Messiah. The star guided the wise men to King Herod's court so that the Jews could be informed of the birth of the Messiah.

Though the Jews had the Scriptures that states the place of the birth of the Messiah (Mic 5:2) and the confirmation from the magi, they did not go to look for the Gift in their midst. Why! This was because they were buried in the darkness of their traditions, fear of man and unbelief (Matt 23). Though the treasure was in their midst, they did not possess it.

Is your life, too, like that? Look at what the Lord Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: "*If you knew the gift of God ...*" (Jn 4:10). Do you know the Gift of God, or do you just have the Gift of God? Is Christmas just an exploitation of commerce? Is it just a celebration of the decoration of a tree? Is it just another time of the year to be merry?

The magi were not contented with the mere knowledge of the place of the birth of the King of the Jews. They pursued after the star. Just possessing the gift is not enough, you must know (pursue) the Gift into a deeper relationship.

One of the commercialization of Christmas is the showering of gifts upon one another. The magi brought gifts to the toddler Jesus. What did they bring - *gold, frankincense and myrrh*. As the prophets Moses and Elijah appeared to the Lord Jesus in glory and spoke of His decease which was about to take place (Lk 9:21), likewise the three gifts speak of the work which the Gift of God was going to accomplish.

Myrrh signifies the *death* which the Lord Jesus was about to suffer (Isa 53:8-12). *Gold* speaks of *holiness*. The Bible says that without holiness no man can see God (Heb 12:14). Sin alienated man from the presence of the holy God (Gen 3:23-24). Therefore, gold signifies of the reconciliatory work which the Lord Jesus was going to



accomplish (2 Cor 5:19). Frankincense signifies prayer or communion (Ps 141:2). Frankincense was one of the spices put on the altar of incense (Ex 30:34). Sin cut man from communing with God. It plunged man into the sea of peacelessness (Isa 48:18,22). Therefore, frankincense signifies of the restoration of communion between God and man which the Lord Jesus was going to accomplish (Eph 2: 14-18).

The magi brought gifts to the Lord Jesus. Have you ever brought any gift to the Lord Jesus? What gift should you give? Take the cue from the all-wise magi. You can give the gifts of:

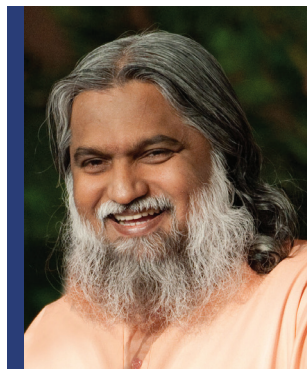
1. Gold, by living a life of holiness and total surrender (1 Thes 4:7).

2. Frankincense, by giving yourselves to prayer and seeking God intimately (1 Thes 5:17).

3. Myrrh, by offering your body as a living sacrifice to God and be willing to lay down your life as a martyr (Rom 12:1; Rev 12:11).

This Christmas season, pause and ponder what you are celebrating. Are you making merry of a festival or are you seeking on a deeper level the incomparable Gift that is within you? Are you presenting gifts to one another, or are you presenting yourself as a gift to God?

Make yourself a gift to the Lord Jesus. Give a gift that is precious to your heart to the Lord Jesus.



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You Go Up Moses, I'm Tired

Andy Tiplady

I constantly challenge people to hear
and wait on the Lord for themselves

I have just come back from a week away in Scotland, where twelve of us from the ministry came to pray and wait on the Lord for this next new season. A great time was had by all. I had a clear idea in the way we should go, having previously waited on the Lord for guidance and instruction prior to coming. It was a great community atmosphere and with 12 people in one house it came with challenges, but we served one another by taking turns in cooking for each other, it really was a great time.

The main purpose of the week was for each of us to hear from the Lord as we individually and collectively practiced waiting on Him. What surprised me was how difficult it was for our folk to remain in silence as we waited on the Lord. People found it tough! Praying together? Great. Waiting together? Not so easy. However, we persevered and pushed in and by the end of the week it had become easier.

If anyone has been around me, I constantly challenge people to hear and wait on the Lord for themselves.

This is going to be vital in these coming days, to simply wait upon the Lord. There are many Scriptures about waiting on the Lord.

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew [their] strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

The root word for 'wait' in the Strong's 6960 is: -

to wait or look eagerly for; to lie in wait for, to wait for, linger for, to collect, bind together

I like 'bind together'.

I also like to challenge people to be like the Berean's in Acts 17:11 to study the Word for themselves and to not rely on what your favourite preacher, teacher or prophet is saying and then adopting it as if it correct without testing it. We must each test and approve the Word for ourselves and then make up our minds up on what we feel it is saying and only then

check what is out there. I personally do not seek out to read or listen on the internet what others are saying to give myself direction, mainly because I am desperate to hear from the Lord for myself. I do however share with others what I feel the Lord is saying, and we discuss and study what we feel it means. Accountability is a must. Jesus sent the disciples out in twos. Hmm, I wonder why?

I will say this, the word 'prophet' is bandied around far too much, and too many people adopt the narrative or word of the so called 'prophet', or man or woman of God, receiving it as if it's a direct word from the Lord's mouth, instead of checking and studying the Word to see, as the Bereans did, who "searched out the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

I hate to say it, but the body of Christ has become lazy. It's like we are saying to Moses in the desert, "nah, you go up Moses and tell us what the Lord is saying! I'm tired."

Take for example the whole 'rapture/catching away' mentality that has permeated itself into the church. Nowhere in the Bible does it say there will be a secret catching away before, during, or at the mid-point of the Tribulation of the last seven years. Jesus says the opposite. Just look at what Jesus told us in the Scriptures, for there are many that tells us we will be going through some very dark times. However, there will be a company of people who will shine with the brilliance of Jesus, as He comes out of His chamber, as the Bridegroom, coming for His Bride in Psalm 19:5.

Jesus even prays:

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
John 17:15 NKJV

And then John is told:

"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 3:10 NKJV

He does not say that He will take us out, but He will keep us from the evil one, as we help prepare His Bride. However, what most of the charismatic church has done is adopted someone else's theory and made it their own. Instead, we are called to find out our purpose and start to establish His Kingdom, on earth, in preparation of Revelation 11:15 when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of the King of Kings, where He will rule with His Bride and His friends, for ever and ever.

However, there is a catching away where we will meet Him in the clouds, as the 'cloud rider' returns. I do not want to be taken out of this world in the time He needs me most, to be a witness for Him and help Him get the reward of His suffering; His Bride. Who gives the midnight cry in Matthew 25:6? You'll have to either be at the school, or livestream Mark's school in February: "Moving Further With The Lord" to hear. The most exciting times are coming for those who believe and go deeper with the Lord. I don't want to be taken out. I want to be in the front line, not playing a harp on a celestial cloud. It states in Revelation 14:4 that we will be first fruits to God and to the Lamb. Most folk are either wanting to be transported out of the world, or be involved in a world-wide revival, expecting it to be so easy. Sorry to tell you, the greatest harvest will be when the world is at its darkest, the likes of this world has never seen. Jesus tells us that in Matthew 24:21-22.

It says in Proverbs:



[It is] the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings [is] to search out a matter.

Proverbs 25:2 NKJV

We must search out matters for these coming days. The things the Lord has hidden for us to find as we wait on Him. I waited on the Lord for two years over one matter that I found in the Word, and travailed and cried out to the Lord over it. Two years! I will speak about this at the up-and-coming school in February with Mark Johnson, "Moving Further With The Lord." I'm looking forward to it as we delve deeper into the Word, for this next season. Please, if you can't be there sign up for the streaming/VOD as you won't want to miss what is being said by the speakers. I know it'll be a pivotal meeting. Exciting times are ahead. As Neville Johnson often quoted from the 'Tale of Two Cities', 'it'll be the best of times and the worst of times.' We must get ourselves ready and know what the Lord has called each and everyone of us to do in these coming days.

Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Daniel 12:3 NKJV

Someone must get some wisdom so that they can shine and then turn many to righteousness! But what

wisdom do we need?

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

1 Ch 12:32 NKJV

Just like the sons of Issachar, we need to get some understanding of the times and seasons we are living in so can tell the folk around us what they will need to do and so much more. Jesus rebuked the people for not knowing the times and season they were living in. So, how much more now? We have the fullness of the Word. It will be our compass to keep us on track so that we do not stray off the narrow path, and we won't be deceived if we know the truth of the Word and not somebodies' opinion.

Meditate on the Word, and wait on the Lord, and dare to believe that He wants to share secrets that have been hidden for us for these days.

I like what Joshua said:

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:8 NKJV

Good advice. I want to go up the mountain and hear what the Lord has to say and not send someone else to go up and then tell me. The Lord is wanting to speak to those who have ears to hear, and a heart and a mind to understand the days we are going to be in soon.

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