

# NO ORDINARY DEVOTIONAL

For Extraordinary Times

PASTOR CYNDI HIGGINS

JESUS

IS



COMING  
SOON

BAREFOOT GARDENS  
FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTS:

Run Away Brides

Ministries



"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17

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## Pastor Cyndi Higgins



Cyndi is the Founder and International Director of Run Away Brides International Mission's Ministries™ which currently includes nine nations. She is both a National and International public speaker. Cyndi is the wife of John Michael Higgins. John is a solid man of God and a full time crop farmer in Michigan. Together they have 8 adult children and many grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Cyndi owns the business, Exams Express, Inc. a title searching company for real estate matters in Michigan.

Only by the grace of God, did Cyndi Harper survive complications at birth and a violent upbringing. Many would argue that it is out of

character that a survivor of both childhood and domestic abuse would love, live, and teach peace as much as she does. Perhaps one needs only to remember the words of Joseph in Genesis 50:20, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Although not legally changing her name, many know her as Pastor Cyndi Higgins.

**Before the 2014 release of her first three RAB books, "Run Away Brides—the Bible Study and Reconciled Bridal Relationships," and "RAB Biblical Training Course 100,"** she had through her eight children's books, under the name Cyndi Harper-Deiters, taught young children non-violent problem solving methods. Cyndi's successful writing and speaking career began immediately after graduating from the Institute of Children's Literature in 1993. Cyndi skillfully used Jonathan Michael the Resident Rooster, the books' main character, to teach children non-violence and the art of peacemaking. Additionally, she wrote for young adults the Historical Fiction trilogy, "River Turtle."

Cyndi studied as a volunteer Mediator with The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan, and attended Jordan College. Already using her business degree, she changed her educational interest to literature, child-development, and computer applications. She uses the knowledge gained by her variety of studies to communicate better through her books, recorded prayers, songwriting, lesson-plans, pastoral counseling, and public speaking. In 2007, Cyndi retired from full time employment at her company, Exams Express Inc., and shortly thereafter, began her ministerial studies.

**Pastor Cyndi was ordained under Dr. Morris Cerullo of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism and Bishop (Dr.) Anthony Yeboah of Free International Missions in January 2012.** She is the Sr. Pastor of Barefoot Gardens Fellowship Ministries in Ada, Michigan (Grand Rapids). The local focus began in 2008 on binding up the broken-hearted through the 35-week course, "Rejoice Freedom;" she wrote and taught most of the curriculum and lessons plans for this very successful recovery program. Today she is structuring and writing all the curriculum and lesson plans for the International Mission's Ministry, 'Run-Away-Brides (RAB).™ The RAB Bible Study for Church Leaders released in January 2014 and "Reconciled Bridal Relationships" released in May 2014. Currently Pastor Cyndi is writing "Relationships Matter" and her autobiographical book of a reconciled bride to initiate the cause and inspire run-away-brides to return to Jesus. With her God-given writing talent, she creatively weaves the beautiful purpose of life. She skillfully uses her God-given gifts and her experiences in introducing God's beloved masterpiece the human-heart, soul, and spirit. The Lord has used His love, compassion, and understanding through her communication skills and He has brought thousands of runaway brides of Christ back to His embracing arms.

**THE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB SITE [www.bare-foot-gardens.com](http://www.bare-foot-gardens.com)**

# INTRODUCTION

## **Prayer Clarifies, Enhances, and Redirects the Paths of those who WAIT UPON THE LORD!**

**How do we successfully PRAY—STAY—AND WAIT UPON THE LORD?** The first time I truly understood what “Waiting Upon the Lord” meant was through a very elderly well-respected Pastor. He said, “Wait upon the LORD,” does not give you permission to sit around doing nothing while you wait for His directions, no, Sir, it means you become a ‘waiter’ like that at a restaurant. The Lord is seated in your section, and you must wait on Him! Whatever you do, do it to glorify the LORD! Whatever you say, say it to glorify the LORD! So to wait means ultimately to trust in the Lord with all your heart, leaning not on your own understanding, but in everything acknowledging His sovereignty and lordship over your life – and when you do, He will direct your paths.

*“Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”* Psalm 43:1-5

**Others May Be Confused about Who you are and What you should or should not be doing— BUT You Should Not Be!** You should know where you have been and where you are going. If you are unclear about the Kingdom Purpose God sent you into this generation to accomplish, then you need His Clarification. How are you going to get it? PRAYER and SUBMISSION! Some folks get all jacked-up because they can’t figure out what they should do, so they do nothing. These are a category of distractors that I avoid. All you Leaders, you know who these are, they are easily detected, love on them, but waste not your energy because they are not bound to submit to the paths of righteousness! The Bible says, ‘Always studying but NEVER learning!’ James says faith without Action is dead faith and without faith you cannot please God! Become a God-pleaser, not a man-pleaser!

**Beloved, God wants you in His will more than you really want to be in it.** So let Him work it out in your life, PRAY and be patient, and wait on Him. Have confident expectation in His power, and in His timing. He is faithful, and He will give you what you desire when you need it. Is not your life worth more than sparrows? (Matthew 10:31)—Beloved, I want to congratulate you on committing to a PERSONAL FAST AND PRAYER- PERIOD. If you struggle during some of it, do not be hard on yourself. Give yourself ample time to grow in the Lord, He is!

**The Holy Spirit calls our souls to go deeper!** *“Deep calls to deep! In the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.”* (Psalm 42:7) When your spirit encountered the Holy Spirit at salvation, He, the Living Water, swept over you and your spirit merged with Him—Deep to deep! When my garden overgrew while I was on vacation, I could not go down the garden steps (go deeper) without being scratched by unruly branches hanging over the steps. It made me wonder about those ‘unruly distractions’ that snag and grab my attention as I am trying to go deeper with the Lord. Now, these branches belong to bushes I planted so they are not illegal squatters. However, I have discovered that somethings I have sown become unmanageable in the sense they draw my focus away from the Lord by cunningly elevating themselves.

It has been poor time-management, ministry, ministry projects, fundraising, family issues, business needs and duties, ministry issues, saints' issues, property maintenance—etc. These distractors are like those bush branches—scratching at my skin as I try to descend deeper into the Word of God or deeper into prayer. Beloved, we all must go deeper to go HIGHER with the Lord. What do we do to properly prioritize legitimate responsibilities and eliminate illegitimate distractors? Through the Lord, the Word says, we push back our enemies (distractions) and through His name, we trample our foes (sinfulness). God gives us victory over our enemies and He puts our foes to shame. We must trust God and boast about Him all day long and praise His name forever! How, though, can we do it with all these distractors?

**We must make a prayer-plan** then when our minds are sidetracked with the deviation of putting the LORD FIRST we use our prayer-plan to rebuke the distraction and redirect ourselves. Let's use the prayer-plan written for us in Psalm 42.

**1. Start with a DECLARATION**, *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go, and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’”*

**2. Remember how it was before distractions**, *“These things I remember as I pour out my soul; how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praises among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?”*

**3. Direct your Hope and Praise toward God**, *“Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.”*

**4. Remember when your spiritual walk first blossomed**, *“My soul is downcast within me; therefore, I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me a prayer to the God of my life.”*

**5. Fearlessly tell the Lord what's in your heart**, *“I say to God my Rock, ‘Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me, ‘Where is your God?’ Why, my soul are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?”*

**6. Again, direct your Hope and Praise toward God**, *“Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.”* (Psalm 42:1-11)

Love and Blessings;

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

RAB Founder and International Director

## “NO ORDINARY DEVOTIONAL” FOR EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

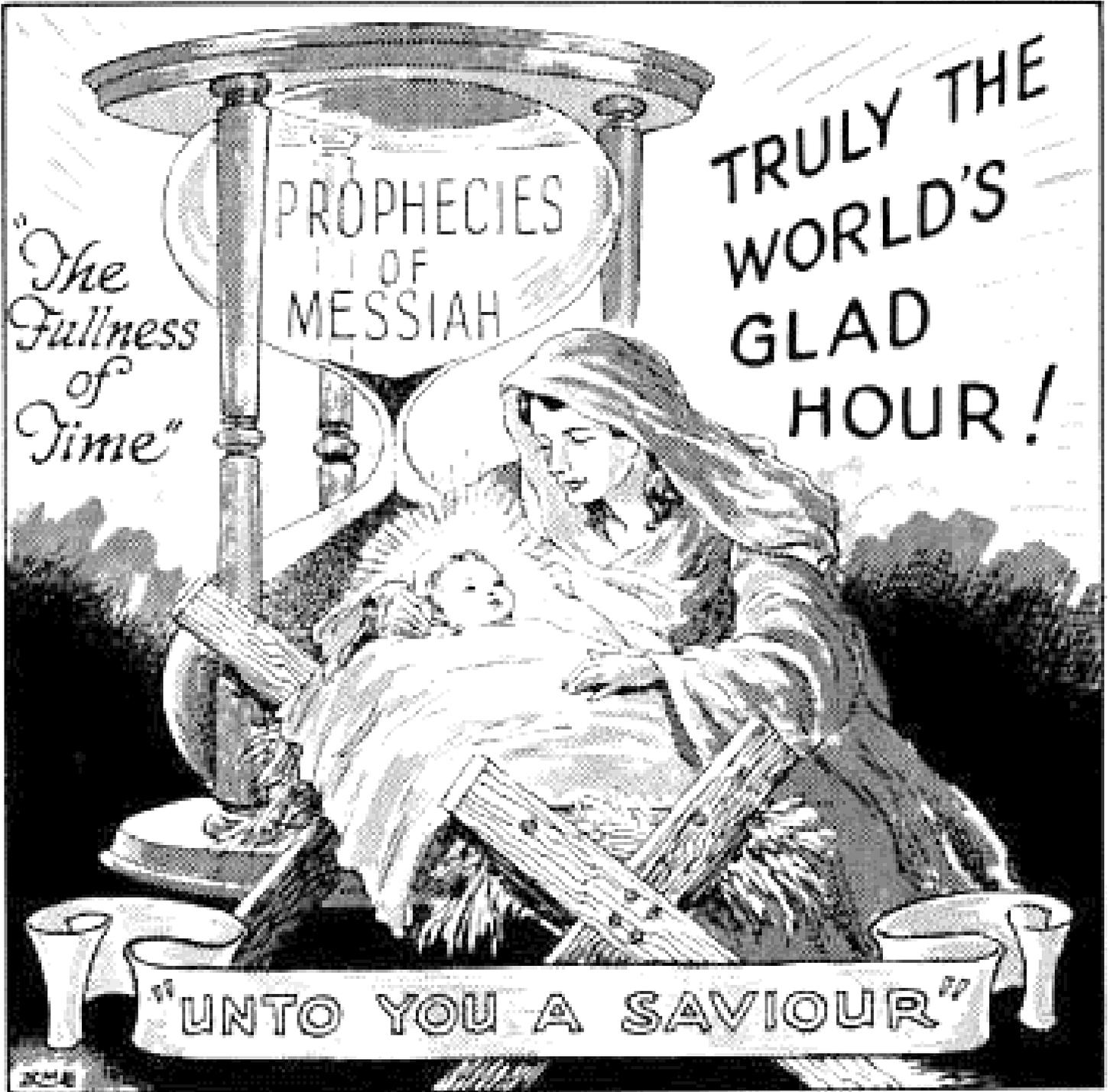
I stand for all the Biblical Views exactly as they are presented in the Word of God. I believe that ALL Commandments are to be obeyed and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and the Savior and the One and Only Begotten Son of Father God Almighty. I believe we are to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth exactly as He commanded. I believe we are to baptize the believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity and make disciples of them. I have been referred to as a non-traditionalist for years and it began when I entered into ministerial school at fifty (50) years old. While I was in school, due to my age, I was referred to as, “A Non-traditional Student.” I was ordained when I was fifty-five (55) years old. Although I was saved at ten (10) years old, I wandered in and out of my faith walk haunted by the ‘Spirit of Religion,’ whereas I simply followed a set of rules I had memorized as a child in a legalistic setting. Finally, after many wrong choices, the Lord delivered me completely from religiosity when I was forty-seven (47) years old. My wilderness experience lasted forty (40) years, but as prophesized over me, all of my latter years shall be greater than my former years and fruitful kingdom works shall the Lord accomplish through me as the Holy Spirit leads and the Father transforms and Christ Jesus regenerates a wretch like me!

What makes this Devotional not ordinary is that it is not your typical 365-Day devotional to assist a believer in starting or ending their day with a word from the Lord. Those devotionals I commend and I myself use them in my everyday devotionals before the Lord. What is not ordinary is this is not a Devotional or a book on prayer, but it is simply an aide for a Christian desiring to set-aside some time for fasting and praying and looking for a devotional specifically arranged to enhance the time alone with the Lord.

We find in the Bible one day, three-day, seven-day, twenty-one-day, and forty-day periods of fasting and praying. Here are just a few examples found in the Bible. David and his men fasted one day when they heard that Saul and Jonathan had died. Esther’s three-day fast had a particular purpose to prepare her to go before the king on behalf of the Jewish Nation. David went into a seven-day fast for his and Bathsheba’s first born son. The people of Gilead took the bones of Saul and his sons and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days. (2 Samuel 1:12; Esther 4:15-17; 2 Samuel 12:16-23; 1 Samuel 31:11-14) Daniel fasted as he confessed the sins of Israel (Daniel 9:3-5). He also fasted 21 Days when he received the vision of a Great War (Daniel 10:1-3). Moses fasted forty days and nights to receive the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 9:9-11). Moses fasted because of the sins of the people for forty days and nights (Deuteronomy 9:15-18). Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted forty (40) days and nights and was tempted by the devil (Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12). Elijah fasted and traveled for forty days and nights from a second angelic feeding (1 Kings 19:1-9).

Fasting and praying was a part of the Old Testament for the Jewish people and it was a part of the New Testament for Christians. Additionally, we know it was practiced by the Jews because they even asked Jesus why their disciples and John the Baptist’s disciples fasted, but Jesus’ did not. Jesus was quick to explain that while the bridegroom was with them they would not fast, but once he was taken from them they would fast (Mark 2:18-20).

I pray you find these one day, three day, seven day, eight day, twenty-one day, forty day, fifty day devotionals helpful as you set aside time to be alone with the Lord and inquire of He, who is Holy.



*"The Fullness of Time"*

PROPHECIES  
OF  
MESSIAH

TRULY THE  
WORLD'S  
GLAD  
HOUR!

"UNTO YOU A SAVIOUR"

# UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

## One Day Devotional

### “What was, what is, and what shall be”

*“There is a time for everything, and season for every activity under the heavens: A time to tear and a time to mend; a time to be silent and a time to speak.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 3:7*

**Quietly** Jesus came into this world and only a few people on the face of the earth at the time knew who he was before he was born and at his birth. Joseph and Mary knew who he was and Elizabeth and Zechariah had a clear understanding of Him. However, none of them spoke it to any other person. His SEASON was to arrive in Silent-Peace for this is what He brought with Him. Into the Season of Grace came the MOST GRACEFUL of ALL human beings ever to live—there shall NEVER on this earth be another Jesus Christ the man.

Zechariah was held physically in silence because of disbelief for he had been visited in the Temple of God by the Angel, Gabriel, regarding his son, John, to be born to him. Luke tells us this incredible part of the story of Jesus’ birth. However, in Luke 2:1-20 the birth of Jesus is QUIETLY TOLD: Jesus was born while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census had to be taken of the entire Roman world. Therefore, the male Jews had to go back to their cities of birth and register. Joseph was of Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of King David---yes, Solomon’s father. Mary had to go with him and she was with child so close to delivery in fact she gave birth to Jesus while they were in Bethlehem. We don’t know where they actually slept or where exactly Jesus was born, but we know that Mary laid Him in a manger. A manger is only used for feeding animals. It says in Luke 2:7 *“She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guestroom available for them.”*

We can assume this all took place quietly as we don’t read of any relatives gathering around and making a big fuss of his birth. However, we are told that there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. The City of David is just on the edge of Jerusalem and it is well known that many Levites were the Temple shepherds and the Levites had many pastures where the sacrificed temple lambs were born and raised. Perhaps, these were not ordinary shepherds, but Levite Shepherds who would have been educated by the Rabbis and Priests and Teachers of the day. Levites were special men as they were assigned to do all of the Temple duties, according to God’s commandment in Numbers chapter 3 and spoken of elsewhere in the Bible.

#### **Luke 2:9-20 tells the events of that night.**

- 1) An angel of the Lord (only 1 angel) appeared to them with the glory of the Lord shining and it cast its glorious light on to the shepherds and they were terrified.
- 2) The angel said (did not shout) ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause GREAT JOY for all the people. Today in the town of David, a **Savior has been born to you; he is the**

**Messiah, the Lord.** Quietly they were told of this birth. It had to be quietly because we do not see others come rushing at the sight or the sound of the angel.

- 3) The angel tells them ‘this will be a sign to you; “You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- 4) Suddenly a great company (a lot of angels) of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying (not shouting) “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” If others had seen or heard this---the fields are so close to Bethlehem and the City of David and Jerusalem—they would have RUN to the shepherds’ fields. None did, though, I wonder why, don’t you?
- 5) Then the angels left them and went back into heaven, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told them about.
- 6) They do not stop for directions. The angel did not tell them where to find this manger but yet they went straight to it. Of course, the “Tower of the Flock”
  - i. ***Migdal Eder, which translated means the “tower of the flock,”*** The first time Migdal Eder is mentioned in the Bible is in the account of Rachel, who died after giving birth to Benjamin, the youngest son of Jacob. “Then Israel (Jacob) journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder,” records Genesis 35:21. This area on the outskirts of Bethlehem is also mentioned in the Talmudic writings. According to the Talmud, all animals found in the area surrounding Jerusalem “as far as Migdal Eder” were deemed to be holy and consecrated and could only be used for sacrifices in the Temple, **in particular for the peace and Passover sacrifices.** There was thus a special, consecrated circle around the city of Jerusalem.
- 7) They knew where to go because this was “The Shelter” and cloths were readily available to wrap the new born lambs in, so they would not blemish themselves trying to move about after birth on their spindly weaken new-born legs. It’s reasonable to assume Mary would have been surrounded by these cloths to wrap Jesus in, because she may have been in the birthing room where all the ‘Temple’s Sacrificial Lambs’ were born and cared for.
- 8) The Shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they began to EVANGELIZE and spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. All that heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **Mary kept it quiet and although she had the right to broadcast the news of her son and who he was, she did not.**
- 9) Luke 2:20 says “*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had **heard and seen**, which were just as they had been told.*”

*“There is a time for everything, and season for every activity under the heavens: A time to tear and a time to mend; a time to be silent and a time to speak.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 3:7*

*“Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm; and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a person may be weighed down by misery.” Ecclesiastes 8:5-6*

**The Cycle: “The Kingdom of God has come on earth”** to prepare it for the Lord Jesus’ 1000 Year Reign. This is a time of Peacefulness between God and man. Whereas sinners can receive Christ Jesus, the Messiah, The Father’s One and Only Begotten Son. We are in the cycle of Redemption and Reconciliation whereas Christ Jesus through His birth, His crucifixion, and His Resurrection, has

brought peace between God the Father and mankind. Right now, we must be the heralds crying out to all people, “Come to the Lord, while He can be found.”

**The Season:** Grace is not forever---Jesus said, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14*

**The Reason:** To bring peace to those on earth whom his favor rests. We are in that Season of GRACE (Church—age). *“The Dispensation (season) of Grace is called such because when God the Word put upon Himself flesh and came to the earth as Jesus Christ (John 1:1-18)*

John 1:16 *“Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.”* Upon Jesus entering into the Ministry the Grace Season took earthly shape. *“And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14)*

God’s reason for the season of grace is to save all who will believe. He is calling out to those people who will believe in Him and His Son and He is BUILDING the Church. God is accomplishing this through the PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL by ordinary people BUT under the leading of the Holy Spirit! Essentially He is calling out His people to be the Church. We are the members of the Body of Christ and Christ Jesus is the Head of the Body and the Body of Christ is referred to as “The Church.” On a timeline the season that Jesus described to the Disciples in Matthew 24:1-14 looks like now.

### **THE NEXT THREE PROPHECIZED EVENTS YET TO COME WILL NOT BE QUIET**

- 1. The Rapture:** Luke 17:34-1; 1 Corinthians 15:35-55; Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelation 3:10
- 2. The Tribulation:** Jesus describes it in Matthew 24:15-28 and Matthew 24:21-22
- 3. Battle of Armageddon:** Revelation 16:12-18, Matthew 24:29-31-31, Isaiah 34:1-10

PRAY—Lord, use me during this season of grace that you have kindly granted mankind to come to you and believe in you. Help me, Lord, to use the Redemptive Gift(s) you have given me to reach my family, my friends, my neighbors, my co-workers or class mates. Lord, prepare my heart to be open to your directions as I travel through this life. Open my ears that I will hear your voice and circumcise my heart that I will receive with joy all that you command of me as being a participatory Christian in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth, however that may look. Lord, I pray for your grace and your mercy so that I can transfer it to others. I pray that you will use me in the ministry of reconciliation, reconciling sinners unto you, Lord Jesus. I pray these things in your name, Christ Jesus. Amen

Feel free to add to this prayer whatever is on your heart or on your mind. Our Lord is waiting to hear from you, Beloved. I bless you in the name of Christ Jesus.

Love and Blessings;

*RotorCyned Higgins*



## THREE DAYS OF REFLECTION

### “Crucify Him!”

**Day One: Crucify Him:** *“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’” And they slapped him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, ‘Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him. When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, ‘Here is the man!’” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “**Crucify! Crucify!**” But Pilate answered, ‘You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.’ The Jewish leaders insisted, ‘We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God. When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. ‘Where do you come from?’ He asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ‘Do you refuse to speak to me?’ Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?’ Jesus answered, **“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”** John 19:1-11 NIV*

Jesus answered with courage, with freedom and boldness, as being not at all dismayed with Pilate’s threats, nor was Jesus affected with Pilate’s proud boasts.

- **“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above!”**  
The reference is to the place from whence he came, and to the decree and council of God. Pilate had no lawful power if God hadn’t given to him. God could have instantly struck Pilate dead.
- Jesus could have prayed to his Father to send legions of angels, which would have rescued him, but this was not to be. Father God gave Pilate power from heaven against His Son, Christ Jesus, for the salvation of many and for the glorifying of the divine perfections.
- **Proverbs 21:1** adds an important truth: *“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.” The Living Bible paraphrases this as, “Just as water is turned into irrigation ditches, so the Lord directs the king’s thoughts, He turns them wherever He wants to.”*
- This fact helps us understand God’s sovereignty and much of history too. Clearly, God has the power to move all history as He desires it to go. His plans will forever be fulfilled. **Romans 13:1-2** makes this deduction certain: *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”*
- Jesus had already prayed to the only one who could have changed the crucifixion’s events, but the Father’s Will was Perfect and Perfected by Jesus’ crucifixion---**BUT THEY WERE GLORIFIED BY HIS RESURRECTION and we were SAVED!** **Luke 22:41-43** *“And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.”*
- I want to encourage you that we should be motivated by God’s love for us. It is often very difficult to do according to the Father’s will. But look at our Lord’s motivation.
- *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)*

**Personal Declaration:** Thank you Jesus for suffering, not only on the cross for me, but in handing over your will to the Father. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8 NASB)

## THREE DAYS OF REFLECTION

### “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS”

**Day Two:** The year of Jesus’ death, He had the first Passover meal with His disciples [Last Supper]. At Sundown the following day was the beginning of the Special Sabbath, the first Sabbath of Passover “*It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*” **John 13:1-2-3**

**The crucifixion:** It was no mistake that many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near Jerusalem, outside the city’s walls. They hung a sign above Him which was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek, ‘**JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**’ “*When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment (tunic) remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another.’ “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled <sup>Psalm 22:18</sup> that said, “*They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*’ *So this is what the soldiers did.*” **John 19:19, 23-24** {The significance of his tunic had not gone unnoticed for it is like the tunic of the High Priest. Only John records this detail - presenting Jesus as our High Priest! John refers to the seamless tunic worn by the high priest in the Temple service (Exodus 28:31-32; Exodus 39:27-29). Jesus is the last High Priest who opened the way to enter the presence of God by offering the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world}*

*“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.”* **Psalm 22:14-15**

*“Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “**I am thirsty.**” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “**It is finished.**” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”* **John 19:28-30**

*“Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down...Jesus was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled; ‘Not one of his bones will be broken,’ <sup>(Psalm 34:20)</sup> and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”* **John 19:31, 33(b)—37**

**Zechariah 12:10** “*And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, and the one they have pierced, and they will cry and mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first born son.*”

**Personal Declaration:** Christ Jesus died for me and I am clothed in His seamless-never-ending-garment of peace. He is my Prince of Peace and I shall REMAIN in His Peace regardless of my circumstances. *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* **John 14:27**

## THREE DAYS OF REFLECTION

### “RELIABLE MESSENGERS”

**Day Three:** *“As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, ‘stay with us **for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.**’ So he went in to stay with them,”* (Luke 24:28-29). The cold dew was forming. They said, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening.” It would have been cruel to have allowed Him to journey on in the dark and the night dampness. This was His own argument in the Song of Solomon 5:2 when He knocked and said, “...*Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.*” It would have been inhospitable on their part to leave Him to continue His journey when they had a home in which they could entertain Him! However, He did not stay for the meal or for the night, once they recognized Him, He disappeared.

*“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon. **Then the two told** what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”* **Luke 24:33-35.** [Approximately 7 miles (11 km) NW of present day Jerusalem].

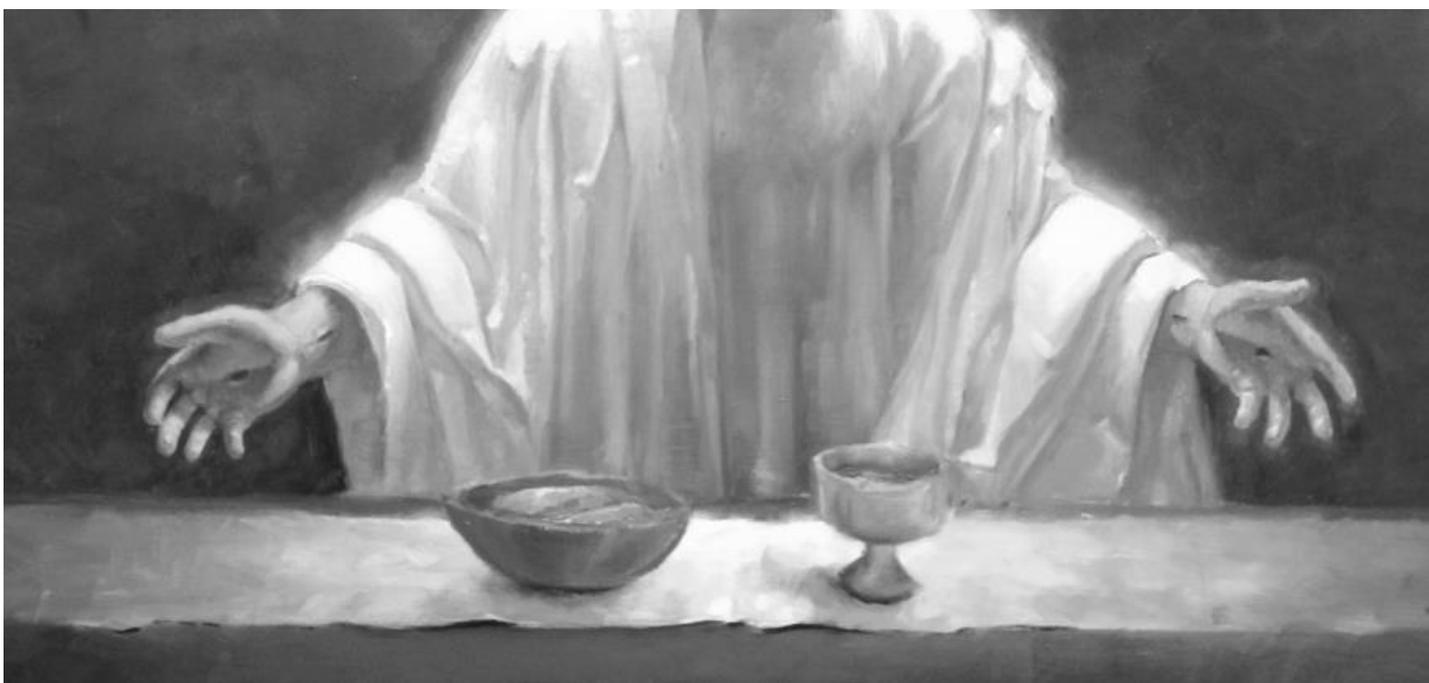
**Not distance, or darkness, or cold, or dew, or fear of robbery or any thinkable threat** would deter these two disciples from traveling that same night back into Jerusalem to the Eleven and give their report, **“We’ve Just Seen Jesus and He is Alive!”** *“Then the Lord replied; ‘Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.’”* **Habakkuk 2:2-3** Herald means to **Publicize— “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”** **Habakkuk 2:14** Let’s take another look at these two

*“One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”* **“What things?”** Jesus asked. *“About Jesus of Nazareth, they replied. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. **They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said, but they did not see Jesus.**”* **Luke 24:18-24**

**Jesus had said to the Twelve:** **“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. What I tell you in the dark, speak it in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**

**Matthew 10:16, 27-28.** A serpent is wise, with keen eyesight and is quick to learn. A dove is innocent, meek and gentle. Jesus saw a necessity in this balancing act because, as He put it, he was sending them out “like sheep among wolves.” As Christians, we are all “sent out,” in one form or another, to spread the Gospel. We are all God’s ambassadors and we need to be balanced in our witnessing.

**Personal Declaration: I want to be A Reliable Messenger.** Although I do not know when Jesus is returning, I know that He is. He promised that He was going to the Father’s house and prepare a place for us and that He would return and take us to be with Him there. He has told us what the signs of the beginning of the end would be like. I will not be alarmed when I hear of wars nor will I fear when I know there are famines and earthquakes taking place in various places. He said many would turn away from the faith and some will hate each other and betray them. Many false prophets and even those claiming to be the Messiah will enter into the scene. I will continue to spread the Gospel. For Jesus came as a “Ransom for Many.” He included me in the MANY. With the Help of the Holy Spirit, I shall announce Jesus is still gathering in more souls under the Ransom Price He paid with His Blood!



Luke 22:14-20 NIV

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, *“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”*

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, *“Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, *“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”*

## A SEVEN DAY SABBATH REST WITH JESUS

“Crucified as a Criminal—Buried like a King”

*“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither will thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” Psalm 16:10*

**Day One:** Jewish Religious leaders were responsible for the burial of crucified Jewish criminals if they had no family to bury them. The Romans permitted these burials out of respect for Jewish sensitivities. Joseph of Arimathea being a member of the Jewish Council easily received Jesus’ dead body from Pilate. Jesus should have been buried under Jewish law for criminals with humane-preventive-measures so animals could not mangle Him. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) However, the scriptures report that Jesus’ is a respectful if not a kingly burial. Seemingly, Nicodemus uses the amount of spices fit for a king {75 pounds or 34 kilograms}. (John 19:38-42) A criminal’s tomb is one previously used, but Jesus is laid in a new tomb and He is wrapped in fine-linen. Mark 15:42-47—Luke 23:50-56---Matthew 27:57-61

*“Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. They went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.” Luke 23:50-56*

**Jewish customs and God’s Law** purposed Christ’s burial to include His rights as a human being, because He was flesh and blood like you and me. <sup>Acts 5:6-10</sup> Customs give insight as to why the women followed Joseph to the tomb and what may have been their intentions. Jewish mourning often included professional mourning and it was a well-planned ritual. We see this mourning ritual when Jairus’ daughter died, when Lazarus died, and the dead boy from Nain as it was for all Jews **except** those who die as criminals. However private mourning for criminals was allowed by the Jewish custom. Therefore, they may have been mourning as permitted. More importantly, their presence gave them the precise location of Jesus’ tomb, so that the later gathering of his remains (bones) for burial in his family tomb is possible. Carefully observing where Jesus is buried and then returning Sunday morning to confirm and even mark for identification his corpse, is in keeping with Jewish burial customs.

*“Then Jesus said, **“Let her alone; against (for) the day of my burying hath she kept this.”*** <sup>John 12:7</sup> Furthermore, ritually washing and anointing His body would have been of utmost importance to them. They may have known of Mary anointing Jesus with costly perfume, but after-death the body is also ritually washed and anointed according to custom; the ritual washing of Jesus’ body is not included in the gospels. Perhaps there was not enough time because the Sabbath Passover time neared.

**Personal Declaration:** For me, Jesus died as the sinner and the criminal that He was not! I am set free from every illegal judicial and spiritual offense I have committed. God does not hold it against me. With confession and repentance, I am cleansed and forgiven. I hereby bury the old man-criminal so that I can rise up as the child of royalty that I am. I am a member of the royal priesthood that God called me to. As the firstborn of the brethren is, so shall I be by the power of Father God, the grace granted me through Jesus Christ, and by the inner workings and sealing of the Holy Spirit!

## Day Two

### “Witnesses--Women of the Burial”

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

**The women who witnessed Jesus’ burial** and then returned early Sunday to anoint his body is vitally important. Every word in the Bible needs diligent attention. Why did relatively unknown women carry the weight of burial witnessing? Jewish Law requires 2 or 3 witnesses. His death and His burial essentially supports by their witness our belief in a RISEN SAVIOR. Joseph and Nicodemus were parties of the burial act, therefore without the women’s witness, His death, burial, and resurrection would be a legend and Christian faith would have died before the first-century ended. The resurrection witnesses (Luke 24:6-12) are the same group of women who witnessed the location and the burial of Jesus Christ. These women gave witness to the eleven disciples and they believed them not. Their responsibility was to bear witness unto Jesus not to convince others of Him or this miracle. The Holy Ghost takes the seed of witness and grows it, not people.

**Witnessing Seed Results:** John 4:39 *“And many of the Samaritans believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified, ‘He told me all that ever I did.’”* See the fruit her witness produced? She sowed the testimony and many Samaritans believed. She entered into Jesus’ labor with Him. John 4:37, *“And herein is that saying, ‘One soweth, and another reapeth.’”*

**This woman of John 4**, previously shamed due to her wrong choices and lifestyle now is healed in her heart, her soul, and her spirit by meeting and believing in the Messiah, the Christ. She instantly became a witness willing to lay aside fear of rejection and mockery and went to the men of her Samaritan city and testified on behalf of Jesus. *“The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, ‘Come, see a man, which told me all things that even I did; is this not the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.”* John 4:28-30

**Her witness sowed the seed of ‘probability—this is the Christ.’** Although she states it like it is a question, “Is this not the Christ?” she is actually testifying that He is the Christ. Under Jewish Law and although Samaritans loosely followed the Law, she knew women were not permitted to teach men in any manner in the spiritual laws or in the Law itself. She cleverly announces He is the Christ in the form of a question because under the Law she was permitted to ask (husbands) men spiritual questions. **She sowed the seed.** She planted the promising idea in their minds and inside their hopeful hearts that the Christ they had prayed and hoped for had not only come to earth as prophesied, but that he had come to their Samaritan city. She sowed the seed Jesus had given her for every seed from God is seed bearing unto its own likeness (Genesis 1:12). He provided the seed as spoken in Isaiah 55:10-11. God provides the seed to the sower and the bread to the eater. Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35) and the ‘Word.’ Every word out of the mouth of God shall prosper and please God and not return unto Him void. Jesus said His words were spirit and life---‘the seed of life meant for reproduction.’

**Her word of testimony** is the seed of ‘everlasting life’ planted into others and it produced a great harvest that she did not reap. Jesus reaped what she sowed. She sowed the seed He gave to her and many others received the eternal bread of life. They drank His water (John 4:14). The harvest in those two succeeding days whereas Jesus stayed by invitation was enormous (John 4:40-42).

**Personal Declaration:** With the Lord’s help, I will be fruitful. The end result of a seed is fruitfulness. I shall in the name of Jesus with the power of the Holy Ghost within me rise up and work the seeds He has given to me so that I may reap the harvest He promised me. I shall be a witness unto Jesus Christ and the fruit He produces through me shall not only prosper me in all ways according to the riches of His Glory but also those that hear and believe in the Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus!

Day Three

“Throne Homecoming---At the Right Side”

**“THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET”** (Matthew 22:44)

*“Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* (Psalm 16:11) *“He will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand. After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied; by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”* Isaiah 53:10(c)-12

**Who can condemn us? None!** *“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life---is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”*

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”*

Romans 8:3-----Romans 8:2

**We are the offspring of God through King Jesus.** *“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him,”* (Romans 8:16-17). We have sprung forth from Jesus Christ the first born of the brethren. Through our witness we prolong His days and His ruler-ship is multiplied in each heart opened to receive Him as LORD and Savior. His ruler-ship continues to grow expanding in heaven and on earth. His kingdom, the kingdom of God is inside of we who believe in Him. We are under His domain and influenced by His Spirit in all of our activities both internally and externally. Jesus answered the Religious Leaders: **“The kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither shall they say, lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold the kingdom of God is within you.”** **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.”** Luke 17:20-21 and Matthew 22:37-38

**We have the authority to do the works of God:** When Jesus was on the earth, everything He touched or spoke to responded to Him exactly as He desired. He told blind eyes to open and they did. He touched the blind, the deaf, the dead, the diseased, the poor and needy and they became from His touch and His word what He purposed according to His Father. Storms halted, fish and bread multiplied. Boats sank and nets broke under the weight of colossal catches. Such is the Kingdom of God that He has authority over and this Kingdom reigns and operates within each believer. He conquered the devil and plundered his spoils. All spoils of war belong to the conqueror and they belong to Him to share with us, His brethren. Let us take hold of that which is already ours!

*“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* Hebrews 13:20-21

**Personal Declaration: Psalms 40:8** – *“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart.”* Where the kingdom of God rules, the JOY of the LORD abounds. The JOY of the LORD is my strength. I am victorious, because Christ Jesus has overcome this world and its enemy. According to the promises of God, I will be counted among the living in the presence of the Lord where my name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. I will live and not die. I am the branch and Jesus is the vine. What He sends forth through me will produce Godly fruit for His name sake. Entering into the suffering of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, under the protection of Father God, I will bear witness to Christ Jesus who is seated on the throne at the right hand side of the Father.

Day Four  
“Silencing”

*“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”*  
*“For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.” 1 Peter 2:15 and 2 Corinthians 13:8*

At first Job knew he could not call God into court and challenge Him (Job 9:14-20). He said *“If it is a matter of justice, who can challenge Him?”* However, we find Job, once the pain and suffering became intolerable, challenging God. *“I sign now my defense, let the Almighty answer me!”* (Job 31:35-37)

**Spiritual Blindness** is not a side-effect or a symptom of lack of faith or unbelief. It is a disease that erodes the TRUTH of the LORD from a person’s life. It is caused by one inhaling the Spirit of Religion and breathing it into their inner most spiritual being. A disease of the spirit and soul that lays dormant and slowly hardens and becomes a stony heart of the religious one. This disease is not a respecter of men or women, for it attacks believers and non-believers. There is only one physician that is able to **silence** Spiritual Blindness and that is Christ Jesus. Like any emergency room, attendants bring the patient into the atmosphere of healing whereas the doctors and nurses and medicines and researched procedures are used in saving lives. Blindness in the natural is not contagious, however, Spiritual Blindness is very contagious. It is catastrophically irreversible like a breach in the sea-wall when it forces itself unto all things on the other side. All that can be touched will be touched and forever changed. What was before will not be anymore. What remains is formed from that which was. I remember after the smoke and dust and ashes settled from the 911 Attack in New York City, the most beautiful iron-cross appeared. It stood brilliantly strong in the midst of the ashes, rubble, and the profound pain of America. It was transformed from being a steel beam that had supported one of the towers into **“The Ground Zero Cross.”** It is now displayed in the **National September 11 Memorial and Museum**. The Ground Zero Cross became to many a symbol of hope and healing on 9-11-2001 and it still is. Today and every day we as Christians can thank our Lord Jesus Christ for dying on **“The Cross of Calvary”** so that we ALL can have hope and healing in the asking of it!

**SILENCING in July 2014** by an American Second Court was necessary because a group called American Atheist filed an injunction against a “Christian Cross” being in a public place that millions of tax dollars was used to build in remembrance of those lost and those who survived with everlasting earthly wounds of body, spirit, soul, mind, and emotions. Religious Leaders on the day of Jesus’ Resurrection tried to do the same thing in secret. However, the Holy Spirit exposed them by telling it to Apostle Matthew also called Levi and told him to write it down for all of us to see how **the Holy Spirit silenced** the ignorance of foolish men.” Matthew 27:62-66 tells us the chief priests and the Pharisees insisted on Pilate placing a guard over the tomb of Jesus and putting a Roman seal on it. Then these same Roman guards saw the Angel from heaven in the midst of the violent earthquake. Being so terrified they shook and became like dead men. They went to the city to report to the chief priests everything that had happened and they were BRIBED into lying and saying that the disciples of Jesus came in the night and stole Him away. The guards took the BRIBE-MONEY and the story was circulated and believed and still is among many today (Matthew 28:1-15).

**Personal Declaration:** Although Job did not understand his loss, pain, and suffering, I know that Job’s life ended well and so will mine even though I walk in loss, pain and suffering in various areas of my life. I admit to my incomprehensible ability to figure out God. I serve the Most High God and He is too big for me to understand His ways and His thoughts (Isa. 55:8). However, I trust Him in all things both those laying in secret and those He will expose for my own good and for His name’s sake and His Kingdom Plan! Like the cross of Calvary and Ground Zero, **I receive the gift of DIGNITY** from Jesus Christ my Redeemer. Dignity in having done something well in the midst of a horrible mess. He knows all my personal moments of dignity and He will recall them for my anchoring and lifting in Him! I silence the voices of my past and those of my present speaking lies and I hold unto the LORD. He will enable me and empower me to walk in faith and dignity and redeem my future!

## Day Five

### “Walking Impression”

*“He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms and hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Micah 6:8 -Ephesians 5:15-20 –*

**If the two disciples on the road to Emmaus** had not been walking in the Spirit of Depression, they would have looked up and seen that the One who had joined them was the One they were grieving who had seen crucified. When a Promise from the Lord is not remembered, oh the pain that we needlessly bear. Gently He persuades us into the direction of believing all that He has promised both corporately and individually. In His last breath that He had taken hanging on that Cross of Redemption for our sin and shame, He declared **“It is finished!”**

**What if they could have seen God’s Big Picture?** Would it have outwitted the Spirit of Depression which engulfed them beyond words? What, beloveds, must we do to guard ourselves from being overcome by the waves of depression that drowns and steals our joy? We must look at the greatest of the Lord and His Plan. His Kingdom came near all of them before He died and rose again and He deposited it into each of their hearts as well as ours. He has a plan for each of us that belongs in the fabrics of His kingdom. We are His threads slowly being woven by His hands into His eternal kingdom. Our Precious Lord is the creator of our very essence. Years ago when I studied art, I was drawn to Impressionistic Art. When you admire it from afar, it makes itself known and clearly the admirer of the work can grasp what the ‘Big Picture’ is. However, if you walk closer to the Impressionism, it becomes unclear. Oftentimes it cannot be comprehended from such a close viewing. Such was the day that the two disciples were walking on the road.

**“Now that same day** (day Jesus rose and the women reported it) two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; He asked them, **“What are you discussing together as you walk along and are sad?”** (Luke 24:13-35) They told Jesus how He had been crucified, but they had trusted He was going to redeem Israel and now three days had come and gone. Although the women among them reported they saw angels which said Jesus was alive, it was not believed. However, some of the disciples that went to look in the tomb did not see Jesus, and their hope was, again, lost. **“Then He said unto them, ‘O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?’”** Luke 24:25-26 **The Big Picture**

**quantifies the BIGNESS OF GOD and HIS PLANS!** Even Moses and Elijah both hit rock bottom and were influenced by the Spirit of Depression because of lack of perspective (Numbers 11:11-15 & 1 Kings 19:4-10). You see it is our perspective and lack of objectivity that takes an impression and transfigures it into depression. One depressed cannot see clearly and Satan is depending on it for his purpose of destruction, but God made us a promise: **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”** 1 Corinthians 10:13 **Personal Declaration:** None of the circumstances that I now face, or will ever face in my future or in my lifetime, can cause me to take on the Spirit of Depression or Defeat. I do not have to ever be depressed again or feel defeated! God has promised me that He is my guarantee against depression and He has not planned defeat for me. He will not allow any circumstance, trial, or attacks of the enemy to come into my life that I cannot bear. He has promised He will cause me to be **VICTORIOUS!**

## Day Six

### “Intimately Familiar”

Jesus walked with the two disciples to Emmaus the whole way sharing Scriptural TRUTH with them. *“As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, ‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.”* Luke 24:28-31

**Intimately familiar:** My mother passed away in June 2004, but if I were to hear her laugh or see her handwriting, I would know instantly it was hers. Without great intimacy one can learn a voice, like that of our President. However, we do not recognize him through laughter or his handwriting. To be intimate one is closely associated and given opportunity to carefully study a person and their characteristics, gestures, and body language. Familiarity is a higher degree of intimacy because ‘freedom’ enters into the relationship. Familiarity is well-known and memorable with an openness within close relationships of family and friends. As a marriage progresses between a man and a woman we know that this intimately familiar relationship grows so deeply, they sense one another’s needs before they speak it and just a look or a jester speaks a thousand words.

**Burials and Funerals** in America almost always include a meal after the deceased is laid to rest. This gives opportunity to the friends and the family of the deceased to relax and share personal memories of the loved one no longer in their midst. When these two disciples reached the village and sat down to a meal less depressed from being with Jesus and the Words he had shared with them, they relaxed. As soon as Jesus did that one intimately familiar act, of taking the bread, giving thanks, and then breaking it just before He handed it to them, His person was recognized. There had to be a ‘Jesus-way’ of doing this common act that identified Him as “ONLY JESUS.”

**Obviously Jesus was intimately familiar** to these two disciples *what’s more encouraging is that Jesus is intimately familiar with all of those He calls His.* Often in the Gospels we read Jesus knew their thoughts. Jesus knew what was in their hearts. Jesus knew they were trying to trap Him. Jesus knew before He heard what they were discussing. Jesus left the area for it was not His hour and He knew their desire to siege Him. One of the saddest things to hear in marriage counseling is that one of the spouses took a lot of time to familiarize themselves with their spouse and learned with intimacy what they liked and did not like. They learned their favorite of everything. However, the receiving spouse was just that ‘the receiver’ who failed to take a careful study of their spouse and missed all the opportunities to become familiar with their likes and dislikes. You see, Beloveds, if we are too busy wanting and receiving the best that Jesus has to give us, we might miss the greatest opportunity we have been given this side of heaven—becoming intimately familiar with Him. *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-30

**Personal Declaration:** I refuse to accept a counterfeit Jesus as my Lord and Savior. My Lord said that He did not come into this world to condemn me but to save me and because I believe in Him I am assured that I am His treasure. Nor has He prepared a plan to harm and hurt me, but to prosper me in many ways under His guiding care within the confines of His love. His yoke is easy and not cumbersome. He asked me to learn of Him and discover with intimate familiarity that he is gentle and humble in heart. Although He chose me and not me Him, I have chosen to love Him and I desire to do so with all of my heart, and all of my soul, and all of my mind, and all of my willpower. He promised to complete all the good works He has begun in me and I rest in His promises. I accept the Father’s gift of the Holy Spirit who guides me and corrects me and teaches me what I must do and know to become intimately familiar with my Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus---The Bridegroom of the Church. *“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me.”* Song of Solomon 7:10

Day Seven  
“Burning Heart”

Upon the two disciples of Emmaus recognizing Jesus, he disappeared from their sight. *“They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’”* Luke 24:32---Paul compellingly wrote a reminder to the Christian Church in Corinth of the events of Christ’s last days on earth. *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve.”* 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

**Oh how glorious, they had seen the RISEN SAVIOR with their very eyes.** However, before these two disciples saw Him for who He was, they felt something different inside themselves as He walked with them and as He ministered the Word unto them. Their hearts burned within them---the warmth of the Precious Savior cannot go unnoticed when He is in your midst. As you feel something physically happening, what a shame the enemy is able to block it by speaking lies into your mind that this cannot be God. If you can feel the Lord upon or inside your physical body, do you need Him to physically appear for proof that He is in your midst?

***“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes---I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”*** (Job 19:25-27) Job knows that even after he physically dies and his skin rots and is no more that in That Day when Christ Jesus returns and stands on earth, he himself with his own eyes will see the Lord. Job said, “My heart yearns within me.” Yearning meaning being deeply moved with a desperate and unquenchable desire. Job waits upon the Lord in a state of complete brokenness and despair lacking the ability to understand the tumultuous situation he was suddenly thrown into. All of his children dead in one whirlwind. All of the flocks and herds dead. Everything that he owned and even his health gone and degraded to such a sickening sight that not even the servants would assist him. Yet he remained faithful to God and he cried in many ways out to Him. What about you beloved? “Oh my God---how my wearied and empty shattered heart cries out to you—I need you---rescue me, Lord. Lift my eyes so that I can see into the beauty of your face and feel the embrace of your arms and hear the beat of your heart, oh my Lord Jesus!”

**In our despair we hear His voice, “Take courage the Dead in Christ shall rise!”** Apostle Paul wrote believers in Philippi, *“I want to know Christ----yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”* Philippians 3:10-11

**Yes, these two disciples walked and talked with Jesus on the first day of His Resurrection,** as He had said, He would be murdered and buried but upon the third day He Would Rise up from the grave! Although at first, their eyes did not recognize Him, their innermost parts did when He touched them with His presence and their hearts burned within them. He wants to do the same for you and me today.

**Personal Declaration: I know my Redeemer lives!** Regardless of what has died around me or is in the process of dying, my Savior Jesus Christ, lives! He has compassion for me. If He fed the hungry on the hillside bread and fish out of His compassion, He will feed and heal me spiritually and physically from the richness of His glory what I need so that I do not collapse along the way on my journey. I desire to lose my life in Jesus and for the Gospel putting aside the lusts of the flesh. Once I did speak and act like a child. Now, I am a called Child of God anointed for royal-priesthood. I have an inherited position in the family of Father God Jehovah, and my position cannot and will not be taken from me. I know my future is secured in the sealing of the Holy Spirit through the blood of Christ Jesus and ordained by Father God. I shall walk with a burning heart for Jesus into this world as the salt and light He has called me to be and I will see Him with my very own eyes on That Glorious Day!

**Christian Fast and Prayer Dedication  
In Honor of the Jewish Festival of Dedication  
(Festival of Lights)  
Hanukkah**



# AN EIGHT DAY DEDICATION TO CHRIST JESUS—THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD SHOWING OUR GRATITUDE TOWARD HIM

*This is the time of the year, when we fondly remember the ‘Reason for the Season,’ the birth of Jesus Christ. As close as the historians can calculate it, Christmas has been being celebrated only since December 25, 336 A.D. during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine. He was the first Christian Roman Emperor. December 25<sup>th</sup> on our calendar is the same day called the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev on the Jewish calendar. You will soon see that the Festival of Dedication is also called the Festival of Lights. We celebrate Jesus Christ as the LIGHT of the world that He is as recorded in John chapter One.*

We see in Revelation chapter 12 that the devil has been doing his best to destroy Jesus Christ even before He was born out of Israel. The woman that the dragon tried to destroy (Israel) and the child she carried and soon would deliver that Satan wanted to kill was of course, Jesus Christ. We know that all has been and all that has been shall be as God calls it forward. ***“Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.” Ecclesiastes 3:15.***

That in itself can be mind-boggling. However, we must remember that God is not restricted to the dimension of time, such as we are here on earth. As soon as Mary was told by the angel that she had found favor with God and that she would conceive and give birth to a son, and she was to name him Jesus, the devil began to plot to destroy Jesus while still in the virgin’s womb. If not by the penalty of stoning to death because she was a betrothed wife, yet not consummated, found to be with child then by DISGRACE when Joseph would put her away by a divorce certificate; alleging that Jesus was illegitimate. However, that plot failed as well, so then the devil used evil Herod to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under during the time of Jesus’ announced birth by the Magi. Then, of course, we see the many attempts once He began His ministry, but the Word says, “His hour had not yet come.”

Ironic that Jesus Christ lived to die, but He insisted on staying alive until His appointed time. Ecclesiastes says, ***“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8***

**We CELEBRATE the birth, the life, the death, the resurrection, and the ascension of Christ Jesus continuously and at appointed times we OVERLY-JOYFULLY CELEBRATE HIM!** Therefore, many Christians are preparing festive decorations and foods and arranging family gatherings and buying gifts to give in remembrance of the Magi giving gifts unto Jesus Christ. Before, we get ahead of ourselves and celebrate His birth, I would like us to remember that before He was born, God sent strong and devoted men and women into the midst of the Jewish people during a crises. During those silent years called Intertestamental period (433 B.C.E.to 5 B.C.E.) between the Old Testament as we have it and the New Testament. Those 400 plus ‘Silent Years’ which were not silent

at all, but filled with all kinds of life and activity, however God did not send any prophets during these long years and the Scriptures are quiet, as far as we can read in the sixty-six books we have in the authorized version. However historical books and other records, and what is called the Apocryphal books of the Bible, as well as cultural changes and societies appearing and disappearing and with the help of archeology, we are able to identify much of what happened during those ‘Silent Years including the Maccabean Revolt, which births the “Festival of Dedication.”

This is what brings us to the Feast of Dedication. Let’s turn to the Word of God to the book of John in chapter 10 beginning with verse 22. *“Then came the **Festival of Dedication** at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’”*

***The Festival of Dedication is what many of us know as the Jewish Holiday, “Hanukkah.”*** It has now been being celebrated about 2179 years. This is an eight (8) day celebration. Whereas the Jewish people celebrate for 8 days the miracle that took place after the Maccabees restored the Temple after Antiochus IV Epiphanes had profaned it and did such disgusting things not only to the Temple but inside of it and not only the Temple but the Jewish people themselves! It is a horrid time of history the Jewish people endured under the unrelenting hand of tyranny and great oppression and unspeakable atrocities. He had prohibited some of the central elements of Jewish practice, attempted to destroy all copies of the Torah (First 5 books of the Old Testament) and required offerings to the Greek god Zeus. His crowning outrage was the erection of a statue of Zeus and the sacrificing of a pig in the Temple of God in Jerusalem.

Opposition by the Jewish Maccabee family led by Mattathias, an elderly villager from a priestly family and his five sons, Judas (called Maccabeus) Jonathan, Simon, John and Eleazar. Mattathias destroyed a Greek altar in his village, Modein, and killed Antiochus’ emissary. This triggered the Maccabean revolt, a 24-year war (166-142 B.C.) that resulted in the independence of Judah until the Romans took control in 63 B.C.E. (aka B.C.). After they destroyed the plot of Antiochus’ to eradicate the Jewish religion, they cleaned the Temple and consecrated it and it was REDEDICATED to the Lord God Almighty and the Jewish people in 164 B.C. (aka B.C.E.)

The Jewish oral tradition goes that when they lit the lamp there was only enough sacred oil to burn for one day and night instead of continuously. It would take several days to consecrate olive oil for the purpose of burning the Temple lights as commanded in the Old Testament. However, the Lord intervened where it was impossible for man and He made the consecrated oil be enough to burn eight straight days and nights until the Temple priests had enough newly dedicated oil to add to the lamps. This is why the Jewish people who celebrate Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) add the lighting of one more candle each sundown for eight (8) evenings until all 8 of the Hanukkah *menorah is lit*. Hanukkah unlike Christmas lasts eight days and it is 8 days of festival and celebration and time with the family and each other.

Every year Hanukkah begins on the Jewish calendar on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev which is the third month of the Hebrew calendar and the ninth month of the Greek calendar, and occurs sometime in December of the Gregorian calendar. Hanukkah begins at sundown and concludes on the ninth night at sundown. You notice this is nine (9) days, this is because on the very first night the servant candle for the rest of the festival has to be lit. It is called the Shamash or service candle which lights all the other candles

throughout the remaining eight (8) days. Hanukkah is also known as **Chanukah** or Festival of Lights and **Festival of Dedication**.

This is why we see Jesus in the temple courts during the Festival of Dedication, He is Jewish and He celebrated the Jewish Festivals. By the time we see Jesus in John chapter 10 at the temple and teaching from Solomon's Porch during the Festival of Dedication, the festival has been being celebrated about 194 years by the Jews. The Eight days will include Devotions touching on the subject matter of how Jesus answered the questions the Jews posed in John 10.

***“Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.’ Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’ ‘We are not stoning you for any good work,’ they replied, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are ‘gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came, and Scriptures cannot be set aside, what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father. Again, they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.” John 10:25-39***

#### **JESUS SAID:**

1. I did tell you (10:25)
2. I do the works in my Father’s name (10:25)
3. I know them (10:27)
4. I give them eternal life (10:28)
5. I and the Father are one (10:30)
6. I have shown many good works of the Father (10:32)
7. I am God’s Son (10:36)
8. I am in the Father and the Father is in me (10:38)

We are going to focus on these 8 “I” statements of Jesus Christ to His Jewish opponents on the Festival of Dedication as we prepare ourselves for our Christian festival we call Christmas, celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior as well as PRAY EARNESTLY for our Jewish brothers and sisters as they prepare to celebrate Hanukkah and for our Christmas Day celebration.

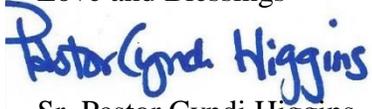
The 8 day fast will begin at sundown and run eight (8) full days and will end at sundown on the eighth day at the very same time the Jewish Festival “Hanukkah, Festival of Dedication,” begins or before Christmas Day.

Many participants do a partial fast, whereas they will abstain from food for either 12 or 18 hours per day and take just one meal. Again, a fast is a dedicated time to the LORD without the interference of other humanistic practices. Some are choosing to fast from things that are meaningful to them, but they are setting those aside to concentrate on the Lord and on the preparation of celebrating the Birth of Christ as well as preparing to enter into a new year, God willing. Some may want to just incorporate

the daily devotionals into their daily studies and not participate in the fasting, which is perfectly fine. Remember do all things unto the Lord desiring to honor Him and please Him in all of your ways.

The 'Devotional' is to encourage each of us with Christ's Declarations of "I." We celebrate Him for He is the great, "I Am."

Love and Blessings

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

***“I did tell you.” John 10:25***

**Day One:** Jesus answered the Jews gathered around Him in the Temple courts specifically at Solomon’s Colonnade. They fussed with Jesus whether He was the Messiah. Tell us plainly they said as they sniffled about Him keeping them in suspense. He hadn’t kept them in suspense but had actually answered them. However, their disbelief kept them deaf to the Truth leaving them only to whine that He hadn’t answered them directly—“That Yes, indeed, He was the Messiah.”

Winter time in Jerusalem brought brisk air and cold dampness that would make one prefer the comforts of a warm fire. Jesus like other Jews had gathered at the Temple for the celebration of the Festival of Dedication. Seemed like as the day grew closer to the baptism of His death, the more scoffers arose daily to test Him in numerous ways.

Even during the Festival, the unbelievers found Jesus their target of ridicule. He certainly did not fit their centuries of speculation and overtly expectation of what “The Promised Messiah,” would be like, look like, or act like. Their blinded presumptions kept them from seeing who He truly was and their insistent expectations deafened them from hearing the rushing waters of life that cascaded into the atmosphere every time He spoke.

I can imagine as He looked out beyond the crowd and over their heads, He saw the horizon receiving His setting sun. Earth soaking up the last rays of His righteousness, He had carefully weaved into existence. Here stands the “I Am” who created ALL of creation itself being relentlessly questioned again about His authenticity of who He truly was.

He looked at those scoffers and leaned toward them to answer their direct question in the form of an accusation. “If you are the Messiah tell us plainly,” John 10:24. Jesus may have sighed before He spoke, a sigh of sorrow for although He was the Messiah and He had said it many times in many ways, these unbelievers were unable to hear His answer for only those who the Father knew would believe were able to receive the redeeming words spoken from the voice of heaven.

He may have desired to open their ears to hear and their eyes to see, but the perfect will of Father God was His divine purpose so with sighing hesitation Jesus answered them, ***“I did tell you, but you do not believe.” John 10:25(a)***

They did not believe He came to bring peace between God and man. They could not believe that He would bring the dead to life nor could they understand He came to redeem those who would believe including the Romans and even the Gentiles. He came to condemn evil and to destroy the works of the father of all evil, which is Satan who had been a murderer from the very beginning. He did not come to lead armies with swords for He opened His mouth and what lie within was the double-edged sword.

He did not come to overpower the Romans in military or political action but to overcome all the worldly ways that suffocates every man and woman as whatever goodness they were born with would soon evaporate under the prince of the air’s oppression. **He had made it plain, but yet they could not receive!**

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration every member of my body so that I can receive, believe, and live according to the very Words of the Lord Jesus Christ. I give unto Him my love and my devotion. I entrust my ears and my eyes and my heart and soul along with my mind and my body and my spirit and my willpower to have His way with ALL of me. Have your way with me, Lord Jesus, lead me Holy Spirit in your righteousness. Amen.

***“I do the works in my Father’s name.” John 10:25***

**Day Two:** The Lord had replied, “Write down the revelation and make it plain on the tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time...”

The appointed time of the first coming of the Messiah had arrived on God’s perfect schedule. Yet many could not receive or understand the revelation of the Son of God standing in front of them on Solomon’s porch. The foundation of that very courtyard had been built at the precise place appointed by Him who now stood there advising these unbelievers that the works He did in His Father’s name testified about Him. The works were witnesses to whom He was, yet Jesus said you still do not believe because you are not my sheep.

He spoke many times and many of the Jews listened. Some believed Him and others claimed He was a demon-possessed madman. He had told them in a previous setting that He was, *“I am,” He said, “The Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep.”* He made it clear as a moonlit night that there were many more sheep and He would gather them all into His flock.

Those with sight could not see what a few days earlier the blind man saw. He had been blind from birth but Jesus had healed him and opened his eyes. The Pharisees were bewildered and filled with doubt, anger, and unbelief. They hounded the blind man who could now see as well as his elderly parents taunting them with mockery. The elderly parents would not answer directly the Pharisees’ questions, *“Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”*

*“How can he see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.”*

Therefore, they asked the healed blind man, again, *“What did he do to you? How did He open your eyes?”* The healed blind man thoroughly annoyed now by their condescending accusatory questions impolitely said, *“I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?”* Then he added very sarcastically, *“Do you want to become his disciples, too?”*

Then the Pharisees were really angry at the sharp tongue of this least of them. How dare he disrespect them and taunt them. They hurled more insults at him and accused the once blind man of being seeped in sin at birth. Before they threw him out of the synagogue never to be allowed in again, he reminded them that God doesn’t listen to sinners but to the righteous and never before has anybody ever heard of somebody opening the eyes of a man born blind. *“If this man who healed me, Jesus, was not of God, He could do nothing for my blindness.”*

Isaiah had said, *“Be strong—do not fear, your God will come. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. The lame will leap and the mute tongue will shout for JOY.”* ***“The works of the Father,”*** Jesus said ***“I have performed are my witnesses.”*** ***(That I am the Messiah)—added by Pastor Cyndi for emphasis***

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration every doubt that I have, have ever had, or will have about Him, The Father God, and the Holy Spirit. I bequeath unto Him any and all of my misunderstandings due to lack of knowledge. I confess I am powerless without His wisdom but I am light against darkness as His knowledge swells within me opening my eyes and building me up with His boldness and authority! Amen.

***“I know them.” John 10:27***

**Day Three:** Jesus continued as they recklessly looked at Him with scales of worldly blinders covering their pupils not allowing the Light of the world to seep into their souls and awaken their innermost man. Like the Good Shepherd He is, He spoke gently but boldly and lovingly yet with authority that left many awe-struck.

***“My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.”*** He could have continued by telling them although his sheep live in this world that is overshadowed by death, they know they need not fear any evil. They know I am with them and in the green pastures alongside the cool waters, I will give them rest for their souls. I rule with a rod and a staff that gives comfort to my sheep and they will always have the company of goodness and mercy all the days of their lives.

Could they understand anything that He was saying? I wonder how many of them became like Lot’s wife that day she turned into a pillar of salt; there looking back at what was instead of looking at what now appeared before her. The angels had told them to walk away and not to look back. She should have kept following Lot and their daughters. She should have gone forward and accepted the present for the Lord gives and He takes away, Job said. Follow they commanded. However, she could not bear her loss of what she was, what she had, and her past lifestyle before this heavenly deliverance lured her back like a washed sow back to the mud.

The delivering Messiah stood before them. All the proof stacked up miracle on top of miracle proved who He was, but yet their position of stubborn independence of God’s authority stopped up their ears. Their false piety and twisted traditions and formal legalistic behavior and hardness had left them like empty graves.

With LIFE itself speaking to them from the Temple courts during the Festival of Dedication, they were unable to grasp LIFE from Him. He is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. While He spoke to them if only they could have understood, they would have tasted His words and known that His words are always good!

What a loss when the rituals become more important than the person they were designed to honor and worship. When insistence on being right becomes the platform for oppression and misuse of position, pride enters the arena of life and surely destruction will soon follow if left unconfessed and repentance is ignored.

**Follow**—Jesus spoke a word of action and He said, ***“They follow Me.”*** He said when they hear my voice, they know that I know each one of them individually. I know their weaknesses and their strengths. I know their losses and their gains. I know their failures and their successes. I know their good side and their bad side. I know their unrighteousness and I know their righteousness. I know their hearts and I know their minds. Yet it is because they fully understand that I know them completely that they hear me and follow me because I love them as they are be—coming who the Father said they would be. He will see to it that those who follow me will be—come likened to me; in His Son’s image! Praise the Lord—Hallelujah and Amen my beloveds!

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my un-checked emotions from every past event of my life that has left me hurt, sorrowful, guilt-ridden, ashamed, sad, mad, hateful, resentful, bitter, hardened, prideful, stubborn, independent of Him, unloving, and unforgiving and all other emotions that do not line up with His Holiness and the holiness He has called all born-again Christians to embrace. I release ALL my past including my past failures and all those accomplishments that I am proud of so not to incur pride. Amen!

***“I give them eternal life.” John 10:28(a)***

**Day Four: “Jesus said to them, ‘I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.’” John 10:28-29**

Imagine with clenched hands and standing upright in His Godly stature, Christ Jesus spoke profoundly what only He could say. He took credit for others’ eternal life and made it clear that it was His to give to those His Father had given to Him. He reported that Religious Leaders do not cross every “T” nor do they dot every “I” of each saint to determine their eternal experience. He summoned His majesty when He said NONE—not anyone could snatch a soul out of His hand once they were inside His clutching mercy. Far greater is My Father, He testified and He gave a double guarantee for He sealed His clutching with the clutching of His Father’s hand who had said in (Isaiah 45-56)

*“Remember this, keep this in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago. I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, my purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth for I am God and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked. Before me every knee will bow, by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength. All who have raged against Him will come to Him and be put to shame.’”*

**Jesus spoke, double protection, double peace, double provision.** They are inside my hand, Jesus said and NONE will get them out. As if that wasn’t promise enough for eternal life He has given us, He then doubled the protection, peace, and provision. In case the Jewish audience doubted Him that day, He made it clear that He was doubly assuring the saved. My Father who gave them to me also have them clutched inside of His hand and NONE can snatch them out of His hand. He has engraved their names on the palms of His hand. ***“Behold I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.”*** Isaiah 49:16

**We have double security in Christ Jesus, my Beloveds.** He is in the Father and we are in Him. We are not only clenched inside of the Savior’s nail pierced hands we are clenched inside of the Father’s hands. For how long? FOR ETERNITY! We are inside the stronghold of the Son’s and the Father’s prison of hope as spoken in Zechariah 9. Our eternal King will come to us righteous and victorious; lowly and riding on a donkey; on a colt, the foal of a donkey, then Beloveds, we have been by the covenant of His blood returned to Him our fortress, we the prisoners of hope! Biblical hope is confident expectation of good things happening in our life.

Instead of shame and sorrow, we are called priests of the Lord, and ministers of God. The riches and the wealth of the unrighteous will be our portion. Instead of shame we shall receive a double portion and instead of disgrace, we shall rejoice in our inheritance. And so the Word of God says we will inherit double portion in our land and everlasting joy will be ours (Isaiah 61).

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my present and my future and my hope of eternity in Christ Jesus doubly protected by Father God. I give unto you my name and my reputation for what is a person without a good name and an upstanding reputation lived out in integrity? I give unto the Lord my diligence to make my calling and election sure. I rejoice in the hope and Glory of God! Amen.

***“The Father and I are one.” John 10:30***

**Day Five:** Jesus said to them that the Father and He were one! That was a lit match to start a real fuss with all of the Jewish audience. Jesus had always been. He has no beginning and no end. He is God the Word. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”* John 1:1-5

Logos is the Greek for word. When the Jews used it they used it to refer to “The Word” of God by which He created the world and governs it. Additionally, the Jews used the term logos to refer to the Law of God that He gave the Israelites to be their life. Of the Law the rabbis said that it was created before the world and it lay on God’s bosom while God sat on the Throne of Glory. They said it is divine, “The Word,” and that it was God’s ‘firstborn’ through whom He created the heavens and the earth. That being the light and the life for the world and that it is “TRUTH.”

The Jewish rabbis don’t know how right they are and that in fact they are talking about Jesus Christ. Although “The Word” was and is distinct from the Father, He ‘was’ and ‘is’ God. Furthermore, ***“No one has ever seen God, but the One and Only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father.”*** John 1:18. Jesus had said He and the Father are one many times. ***“If you really know me, you will know the Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*** John 14:7 and then we have this precious private prayer between Jesus and the Father where Jesus says, ***“I pray that they will all be one just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.”*** John 17:21

The statement that Jesus made at the Temple from Solomon’s porch that day was a bold statement. Jesus claimed preexistence in the Father’s presence. In fact, He had told them that He was even before their father, Abraham, to which they scoffed and said, “You aren’t even 50 years old how can you say you were before Abraham?” Colossians 1:16-17 makes it clear that Jesus existed from eternity past and lived in perfect oneness with the Father holding the same power as God. He was sent to earth as “The Messiah” by Father God’s authority. He was there when mankind was created. He was there when the **tower of Babel was stopped!**

*“Come let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves, otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the earth.” “But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **Come, let us go down and confuse their language** so they will not understand each other. So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth and stopped the building of the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4-9) **We are no longer to be scattered and confused babblers, but we are to be just like Jesus and the Father are ONE.***

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my babel. I want to live in ONE with the Lord and with the family of God. I no longer want my confusion, my words, my ideas, my opinions, my thoughts, my behaviors, or actions to be babbled and disconnected. I desire ONENESS with Jesus Christ, Father God, the Holy Spirit, and my Christian brothers and sisters. I am a member of the Christian Tribe belonging to the Household of Abba Father.

***“I have shown you many good works of the Father.” John 10:32 NIV***

**Day Six:** *“Again His Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus said to them, **“I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”**”* John 10:31-32. Have you ever felt like asking somebody this? ‘I have done good for you, why are you now treating me so badly?’ I know I have wondered this at times in my life. When those I have loved and cared for and honored in Jesus’ name seem to have turned stone cold toward me. The key, I believe, is in what Jesus said. He did not say, ‘I have shown you MY good works, healing, deliverance, feeding multitudes, cleansing lepers, resurrections. No, He said, “The good works of THE FATHER.” Do you recall our Precious Savior’s words in Luke 6:22-23? He said we are blessed if we are excluded, rejected, or insulted. Furthermore, if they reject our name because of the Son of Man we are to REJOICE and LEAP for JOY because GREAT is our reward in heaven. **Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!**

Now, Jesus knew who He was. He was ***God the Word*** who had taken on flesh to minister to the inhabitants of earth the Salvation Message. He did not have an identity crisis like so many Christians seem to have. The key to success is in the exact words of Christ Jesus. ***“If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.”*** John 10:37 KJV. Read again John 10:32 KJV, ***“Many good works have I shown you from my Father, for which of those works do you stone me?”***

**Jesus is teaching us** that the good works we do in His name are not ‘our works.’ The works are His. *“Being confident of this that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:6 NIV) Furthermore, when Jesus was called good, what was His reply? ***“Why do you ask Me about what is good?”*** Jesus replied, ***“There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”*** The question posed to Jesus was, ***“What good thing must I do*** to get eternal life? Matthew 19:16-17. Mark 10:18 reads like this, ***“Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone.”*** After this meeting fear crept up into His followers and their hearts and they asked Him, ***“Who can be saved?”*** ***Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”*** Luke 18:26-27

Therefore, we must separate “I and me and ours and mine from ***good works***.” We do not do ‘our good works,’ Beloveds, we do the work of the Father that Jesus left us here to do. He said, ***“Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever (works) you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*** John 14:12-13 (\_\_\_) added for emphasis. While Jesus was on earth it was only Him that was doing the Father’s works. Even when He sent the disciples out to minister, He had to give them the ability to do the works of the Father.

Once Jesus removed himself from the earthly realm, the Father’s good works still had to be accomplished through those who believe in Jesus and are born again of the Spirit. Greater works will we do, not our works, but Father God’s and now that also of the reigning Lamb of God. GREATER because now humans would be used by God to perform the miraculous. In no other time would there be ‘greater works both in quality and quantity’ than during the Church Age that we are now living.

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my ‘own works mind-set.’ I desire Lord that you separate me from doer of my work attitude and help me embrace the truth. I am doing the works of the Father through Jesus Christ and for this I take no credit. *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* AMEN! Gal. 2:20

## ***“I am God’s Son” John 10:36 NIV***

**Day Seven:** *Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are ‘gods?’ If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside—what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son?’ Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father.”* John 10:34-37

Jesus is speaking of Psalm 82:6 *“I said, ‘You are ‘gods;’ you are all sons of the Most High.”* This verse is about rulers, kings, judges, even religious leaders; those that God has given authority to. They are as deputies of the heavenly king, it is an honorary thing to then call them, ‘gods.’ If we read Psalm 84:1 it makes it clearer, *“God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the ‘gods.’”* They were void of the true understanding of the moral order that God’s rule sustains. Stubborn ignorance is difficult to battle. Jesus was and is and will always be the Son of God. They could not comprehend it as they were not His sheep.

He reasons with them using Scripture that they study. He makes the statement that Scripture cannot be set aside. (Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32; Ecclesiastes 3:14; Matthew 5:17; Revelation 22:18-19.) The judges, to whom the quotation in John 10:35 refers, were called *gods*, as being representatives of God. See Exodus 21:6; Exodus 22:8, where the word rendered *judges* is *elohim gods*. In Exodus 22:28, *gods* appear and Jesus reasons if these judges could be called *gods*, how do I blaspheme in calling myself *Son of God*, since the Father has consecrated me and sent me on a special mission to the world? ***“What about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world?”*** Jesus even tried to simplify it for them by saying, ***“Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father.”*** He did what NONE other could do and they recognized it when He resurrected Lazarus.

Many Jews who were with Mary after seeing what Jesus had done in resurrecting Lazarus believed in Him. However, some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done and they called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. *“What are we accomplishing? They asked. Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation...From that day on they plotted to take his life...So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.”* John 11:45-48 and 12:10. This man is HERE and He is PERFORMING MANY SIGNS! They feared the Romans would take away their temple and permission to practice their religion as well as eliminate them as a nation. Today unbelievers prefer to live hassle free by being a slave to sin with Satan as their master then to be a slave of righteousness. What are you, Beloved, afraid of losing if you fully live a dedicated believing life glorifying Jesus by never doubting the truth that He is The Son of God and He will fulfill every promise He made to you?

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my fragile belief. As the father of the demon-possessed-boy said, **“I do believe, BUT help me overcome my unbelief!** I believe in you, but sometimes I am like that boy’s father, **“If you can do anything, Lord, take pity on me.”** I present my faith-wavering mentality to you King of Grace. Take it, Lord, purify it and remove all the imperfections that I have adopted regardless of the cause. Take your holy axe to the root and use your breath of life to dry up the source. I am ready to be fully persuaded, Jesus, to live what you promised that everything is possible for one who believes. Amen!

***“The Father is in me, and I in the Father.” John 10:39***

**Day Eight:** ***“But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*** Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.” John 10:38-39

**John 14:10-11, 20** ***“Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”***

***“Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:15) Everything has already been. It is God who calls the past into the future, which is our present. Jesus did not say, “Because I am going to live.” Jesus said, “Because I live, you will live.” Jesus’ present is our future and yet it is His past. When He said this, He had not yet been crucified and therefore had not yet risen from the dead. He gave them a clue, “On that Day!” On the day of His resurrection, then they would believe that He is in His Father. Those who believe are in Jesus and Jesus is in those who believe. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are not locked into time such as we are nor are they locked into a physical body like we are. Jesus said in John 4:24, ***“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”***

Jesus Christ had to die and be resurrected before the Holy Spirit could come and be with us. Why? Because Jesus had to be released from the bondage of being trapped inside a human body. Once He was resurrected, He was no longer bound. He said of His spiritual body that it was flesh and bone. He did not say blood, for a resurrected spiritual body does not need blood because in Deuteronomy we are taught that the life of man and animal are in the blood that is our life and what makes us earthly creatures and not heavenly creatures. He appeared in His Resurrected body to the disciples ***“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and frightened thinking they had saw a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”*** (Luke 24:36-39) ***“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives (present tense) with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*** (\_\_\_) *Emphasis added.* (John 14:16-18) Beloved, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are One Godhead in tri-union. Spirit is like the wind, Jesus had said, we don’t know where it came from or where it is going but yet we know it is. Open your spiritual eyes, ears, and spirit and receive this truth today, dearest one. Jesus went back to His spirit status no longer bound in a human body.

**Declaration:** I dedicate to Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for the purpose of consecration my spirit. I am spirit and I have a soul and I live in a body. I want a real spiritual life and spiritual wisdom now while I am spirit, body and soul, which includes my mind, emotions, and willpower. I am your Inner Sanctuary. Lord, as you dwell within me bring your refining process to bear upon my life until, Christ Jesus, you are all. Amen! ***“It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh counts for nothing and that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*** John 3:6; John 6:63.



<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: **"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**

Revelation 1:9-18 NIV

## 21 DAY 'NEW BEGINNING' DEVOTIONAL INTRODUCTION

As you desire a New Beginning whether it is a New Year or a New Season in your life, seek the LORD for His direction and His hand in your life as you EXIT what was and ENTER into what God already knows about you and what you will discover. You have decided to set yourself aside for 21 Days with additional prayers and perhaps fasting. If you are doing this fast and prayer for a NEW YEAR, I urge you to wait until the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January to begin. I will share a Biblical reason from the book of Joshua that I follow for the reason of waiting until the 10th day of January for a NEW YEAR'S Fast and Prayer Decision.

We shall be using the book of Joshua as our Devotional Teachings during this HOPE Fast and Prayer Period. I will share with you some exciting Biblical prayer strategies including knowing and growing your redemptive gifts to enable your purpose and your destiny to accelerate during this new season you are entering. Developing and maintaining your God given GNA Redemptive gift allows you to run the race of faith victoriously in every daily lap you take. The Joshua study will prepare you for your renewed partnership with the Lord in His harvest work as well as with others.

God Bless you and your entire household and your extended family and those the Lord has made you overseer of to protect in His name, to nurture in His name, and to provide the Good News to them and the neighborhood and communities within your area of influence. For man alone it is not possible, BUT with God, ALL things are possible!

Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in this world. No weapon formed against you shall prevail. Be courageous and be strong, fear not, for your Lord your God is ALWAYS with you! He is your refuge and your Rock of Salvation--He is the Almighty God, the Great I Am, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega, the Ancient of Days, the LORD of Hosts, the Mighty Warrior, the Creator of all creation, the Bright and Morning Star, the Elect One, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Immanuel--God is with us, the Word of God, the Word who became man and entered into this earth and took upon himself flesh as you and me and considered it not robbery that He who created mankind and all of the earth and the heavens above, was now lower than angels but for a while.

He dared to walk as God and man at the same time wrapped up in flesh looking like you and me! Glory to God that He came to save and save He did on the cross and He came to die and die He did, BUT He did not stay dead for the grave could not hold Him! Up from that grave He arose and on the third day He made himself known to the disciples and for 40 days, he walked in his spiritual resurrected body and ministered to many. More than 500 witnesses saw Him in His resurrected physical state.  
**Glory to God!**

Now, He sits upon the throne at the right hand side of the Father, our Father God, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be His Name---His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Lord, we pray that you forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Lord we ask for our daily bread, and we ask Lord, that you lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil in Jesus holy name---For Father, thine is the kingdom, and the glory and the power forever and ever, Amen!

Love and Blessings;

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

# HOPE 21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

## NEW BEGINNING

*“HOPE DEFERRED MAKES THE HEART SICK,  
BUT A LONGING FULFILLED IS A TREE OF LIFE.” PROVERBS 13:12*

### **“Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”**

**Day 1: Your 21 Day Daniel Fast and Prayer Setting-Aside** has begun and you have decided to come quietly into the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior and begin a 21 Day fast and prayer period according to the fast of Daniel as recorded in the Holy Scriptures in **Daniel 10:2-3** *“At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; not meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.”*

*“**On the tenth day of the first month** the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, ‘In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground. For the LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.’”*

**DAY ONE: The tenth day of the first month is the day that the Passover Lamb was to be selected according to Exodus 12:1-4** *“The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ‘This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.’”*

According to the Western Calendar that we use, January is the first Month of the Year, however on the Jewish Religious Calendar in Israel that is Springtime (March or April). Israel’s Agricultural Calendar’s first month begins in the Autumn (fall) and this is the calendar they currently use.

At sunset go before Father God in Jesus Holy Name and commence this **21 Day ‘Hope Fast and Prayer Setting-Aside.’** As a bride-to-be fills her hope-chest with those precious nuptial possessions she gathers to present to her Bridegroom on their Wedding Day to show her love and devotion to only Him, let us petition in union that the gates of heaven open and heavenly opportunities for the Bride of Christ flow without ceasing into our spiritual bridal hope-chests.

**HOPE PETITION #1: Our Father who art in heaven,** HALLOWED be your name. Let your kingdom come unceasingly and your will be done in full measure on earth in our nations, our states, our districts, our counties, our cities, our villages, our communities and neighborhoods, and our rural country-sides as it is in heaven. In heaven we know by the Scriptures that ‘opportunities are present everywhere and at all times.’ I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 2:** *“Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: ‘When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, **you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.**”* Joshua 3:1-4(a)

Shittim is the last encampment of the Israelites at the end of their forty-year wilderness journey. It lays east of the Jordan opposite of Jericho. Moses had led them this far just east of the banks of the Jordan River that separated them from the Promised Land of God. While in Shittim, Balaam attempted to curse all of the Israelites. The Israelites fell into grave error, for many of them took wives from among the Moabites. Their intermarriage and idolatry cost them 24,000 Israeli lives as their punishment (Num. 25:9). Joshua was publicly named the successor to Moses in Shittim. Moses, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote his last recorded words of Deuteronomy in Shittim and Moses delivered his farewell address there to the Israelites. From Shittim in the plains of Moab, Moses ascended Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah across from Jericho and died.

*“Now, Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses,”* (Deut. 34:9). Joshua sent spies into the promise land to Jericho from Shittim, so that they could claim and possess that which the LORD had promised them. This place where they last lived with Moses was not the end rather it was the basecamp for their new beginning. Here preparation to cross over the Jordan into the promised land took shape. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord symbolic of the Lord’s throne being so holy and sacred the Israelites were warned not to go near it for God dwelled in the midst of his people between the Cherubim, and He was too holy for them to approach Him.

**NOW THOUGH,** Beloved, just like the Israelites your spiritual and some of your physical basecamps **are of the past because God is moving!**

- 1.) When you see the LORD move, move out from your ‘comfortable’ position and follow Him!
- 2.) Follow Him so that you will know which way to go.
- 3.) Follow closely since He is leading you in a way He has never done so before.

**HOPE PETITION #2:** Dear, Lord, like a virgin bride leaving her father and her mother and those childish comforts behind to take the responsibility of her own household and respectively responding to the love of her new husband, I ask in Jesus Holy Name, for expectant, loving, and obedient heart before you. Remove all of Shittim’s basecamp mentality from my childish mind. Let that which was meant to be temporary pass behind me as I follow you closely being led in a way that you have never done so with me before. Lay your hands upon me and fill me with the spirit of wisdom. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 3:** *“Moses the man of God pronounced the blessing over the Israelites before his death saying, Surely, LORD, it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction.”* Deuteronomy 33:1; 33:3.

*“And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the LORD of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap. So the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Aretha.”* Joshua 3:13-16(a)

What we see today, Beloved, is too many Christians refusing to be led by those the Lord has called and ordained to be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. We watch them breaking camp from their local Church’s and running right into angry waters of deceit and lies. Christianity is not an individualistic religion it is a relational relationship with the Lord and others. **“When the whole nation** *had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.’* Joshua 4:1-3

**Joshua selected the twelve:** *“So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, and said to them, ‘Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you”* Joshua 4:4-6(a)

- Like the men who bore the stones on their shoulders, let us bear in our hearts and on our lips the names of those runaway brides of Christ and those who have exchanged lies of the enemy for the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we pray for their return to our Savior.

**HOPE PETITION #3:** *“You Lord have promised that You will keep the feet of your saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.”* Lord, I pray for the feet of the priestly Christian nation to stride with integrity and in unity alongside their brothers and sisters. I ask in Jesus name for your empowering spirit upon those you have called to shepherd your people that they will boldly take their stand holding the Light of the Gospel of Jesus in this dark and dying world. I ask for your abiding help, Lord, that wherever their feet stand, call it holy ground, because of You, dear Lord. I ask for the maturity of Joshua’s spirit to be mine as you send true and faithful men and women with the Good News of Jesus Christ around the globe. Wash their feet with the blood of your One and Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit anoint them with your sacred anointing oil consecrating them to fearlessly serve our Lord God Almighty! I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 4:**

**I would like to start today’s Hope Devotion with a testimony from Rev. David Likoko of Nairobi Kenya:**

Dear Pastor Cyndi,

Thank you so much for your constant updates am in receipt of all the marvelous materials you have sent to me. I love the song and the teachings on Heavenly opportunities. So inspiring and motivating at the same time. We are together doing the fast and it's becoming sweeter as each day unfolds. Many more people are joining in the fast every day and we are all loving it.

I believe after this fast there will be an outburst of heavenly blessings in each and everyone's life. I cannot wait to see what the Lord is up to. He is mysterious and full of surprises. I would love to see chains broken, Holy Spirit outburst (divine visitation), Sicknesses healed, Minds transformed by the power in the word of God, true repentance, and many souls coming back to Christ.

I have sent these teachings to my other partners in the ministry and they have also joined us in prayer and fasting. Am glad the Lord is at work in our lives and I believe the work he has begun in our lives he shall bring it to accomplishment in Jesus name. He is the one who worketh in us both to will and to do his perfect pleasures, it is not by Might nor by power but by the Spirit of the Most High God. My dear, I feel so much love for our Lord Jesus. If I look back where the Lord has brought me from, the many tests I have gone through, the heart breaks, despise, rejection, humiliation, and in all this He made me stand. I just give him all the Glory. Am still focused and I know I have already conquered all in Jesus name. My strength is renewed each day, and my heart is at peace in Him, this is why I have all the confidence to say Jesus is Lord over my Life.

My beloved Sister Cyndi, I will never give up on our God, He is so real. I want his will to be done in my life and I desire that I will submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit all the way. Let’s Give him our very best as always and try and prepare many more souls for his return. It will be such a great joy if we go to the place he has been preparing for us with a lot more people than there are today. Let’s make it an effort that One more soul for Christ Jesus each day, by the help of the Holy Spirit in us.

I Love you mother, stay blessed and connected as always, may God give all them who are doing this fast more strength and may they all remain focused not allowing any form of distraction. Till I hear from you. God bless you.

Your Son,  
Rev. David Likoko

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 4:** “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’” Joshua 3:5-- “Now what I am commanding you today is **NOT TOO DIFFICULT** for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in the heaven, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it? No, **The Word** is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.” Deuteronomy 30:11-14

In Shittim, after Moses spoke to the people and finished writing down the Law, the LORD said to Moses, “**Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him.** So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.” (Deuteronomy 31:14). Read the rest of chapter 31.

God spoke to Moses first and then He spoke to Joshua. Do you see protocol here? Joshua did not assume because he had been Moses’ lifelong assistant in the wilderness that he was selected to take Moses’ place. Also up to this point in all these long forty years in the wilderness, the LORD had only spoken to Moses and not Joshua. The LORD ordered Moses to bring Joshua with him **because the LORD was going to commission Joshua.** Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, “*The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun; ‘Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you,*” 31:23. The LORD commanded the people to consecrate themselves for tomorrow, because He was going to do amazing things among them and take them from basecamp into His Promise! **He had done an amazing thing for Joshua, “And the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today, I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses.’”** Joshua 3:7

Joshua trusted the LORD all the time. A good contrast to study is Saul the first king of Israel he was not so loyal to God and preferred to please people rather than obey God. We have been told to prepare ourselves for tomorrow and consecrate ourselves so that the LORD can do amazing things among us. “*For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written; ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”* Romans 10:10-11; and 10:14-15

**HOPE PETITION #4:** Father God Almighty I come before you in Jesus’ holy name. I know dear Holy Father, you have amazing things and opportunities written for me in the personal plan you have for each of us. I ask you to receive the confession of my sins as I ask for your forgiveness. Jesus cried in the cities and villages and John the Baptist cried from the Jordan River, “Repent! Confess your sins!” LORD, I desire to consecrate myself with confession and repentance. Lord, I do not do so in hopes that you will give me something in exchange, but I do it out of obedience and in honoring you! **I call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 5:** *“The people hurried over (the Jordan), and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran flood stage as before. On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.”* **Joshua 4:10(b)-11; 18-19**

**Yesterday’s tomorrow has come and we stand in the presence of today, I pray consecrated through confession and repentance to our LORD.** Isaiah 1:18-19 *“Come now, and let us reason together,”* Says the LORD, *“Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. “If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land...”* Isaiah 43:25 *“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”*

The LORD commanded that all the male Israelites be circumcised with flint knives at basecamp, ‘Gibeath Haaraloth’ which means hill of foreskins. After the whole nation was circumcised they remained in that basecamp to heal and it was renamed Gilgal which means roll. *“Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. **On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.**”* Joshua 5:9-10

**Passover!** Exodus 29:38-46 describes the twice-daily sacrifice of year-old lambs. God said, *“It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.”* The lamb symbolically atoned for the sins of the people so that they could commune with God. Jesus’ sacrifice is eternally atoning. *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29). Corinthians 5:7 **“Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.”** Ephesians 1:7 *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace...”*

**HOPE PETITION #5:** Lord Jesus, thank you for redeeming me and being the Passover Lamb of my life rescuing me from eternal death. Through you and with the help of the Holy Spirit, I desire and I pray to be victorious and to be dressed in white at your Wedding Supper. I want to sing this song for you as you wash me, *“I Have been to Jesus for the cleansing power. I am washed in the blood of the Lamb. I am fully trusting in His grace this hour. I am washed in the blood of the Lamb. I am washed in the blood, in the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb.”*

**Lord Jesus help me to say “Yes,” to all of this song’s questions, not by power or by might, but by your Spirit.** *“Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you walking daily by the Savior’s side? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Do you rest each moment in the Crucified? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright, and be washed in the blood of the Lamb?”*

**I call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 6:** After the Israelites setup basecamp, ‘Gibeath Haaraloth’ which means hill of foreskins, the LORD commanded an ALL tribal **circumcision precede** Passover celebration and battle victory. *“At the time the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.’ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt all the men of military age died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.”* **Joshua 5:2-9—God chose the instrument of circumcision--God chose the place of circumcision--God chose the people of circumcision--God chose to explain why He required circumcision--God held them in Gilgal in ‘Tents of Healing,’ after the circumcision**

God imposed circumcision of the flesh upon Abraham and his descendants as a token of the covenant. It **marked the beginning of covenant solidarity** for Abraham's descendants. *“This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. **My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.**”*

**Now, Beloved,** we are taught it is not the fleshly circumcision that matters to God, but the circumcision of our heart. The Holy Spirit “Ruach Ha’kodesh (Hebrew) is the renewing force within us. It was the Holy Spirit of God which brought peace, comfort, and joy to David. It is the Holy Spirit that performs the circumcision of the heart! Deuteronomy 10:16 and 30:6, *“Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked (stubborn) any longer. The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.”* Let us ask as King David did in Pslam 51:10-12.

**HOPE PETITION #6:** In Jesus name, Dear Abba Father, I cry out to you *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”* I ask you Lord to circumcise my heart during this 21 Day HOPE fast and prayer assembly. LORD, while I am in my new basecamp inside this tent of healing with you waiting for wholeness to overcome my soul, my heart, my spirit, my mind, and my body, renew my strength with a new bathing of your Living Waters and with application of your heavenly ointments. Lord clothe me with your righteousness and dress my feet with your peace. Write your love words upon my heart and engrave my name once again on your palms. Without heart circumcision I know I cannot celebrate battle victories. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 7:** How vulnerable the Israelites must have felt for Joshua 4:13 says, “*About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, the plains of Jericho.*” Yet, Beloveds, they were not in any shape for battle because they had just been physically circumcised. They were in their tents healing. How could they be ready for war if they were attacked? “*Then the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore, the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.*” What reproach? The shame of their degrading slavery. How was the reproach rolled away? By their radical trust and obedience to God. God called Israel to a place where they saw themselves as they were in Him. They camped right across from Jericho the strongest military stronghold of the Canaanites. By faith, freshly circumcised, they could see themselves as an obedient, trusting people, and stopped seeing themselves as they were in their slavery and bondage.

Look my beloved, they did not need to worry because the LORD had done something for them to slow down any warmongers from entering the Israelites’ basecamp. “*And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them anymore, because of the children of Israel.*” Joshua 5:1

Praise God, those who were desirous of destroying the Israelites and had the power and the military might to come against them, were suddenly afraid and they no longer had the evil spirit of fight in them! They saw what the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had done. A second time, He had dried up a major source of water to let His people cross over. The raging flooding Jordan River stopped up for them to cross millions of people and tents, and carts, and oxen, and donkeys, and all the sheep, and other livestock.

Beloved, Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday, and He shall be the same tomorrow. He has held the enemy back to circumcise your heart, roll back the reproaches, let you heal, let you celebrate, and then let you taste victory! Our Savior wants to do in you the same as He did in the Israelites, take away the dishonor and shame and let you see for yourself who you are in Jesus. Believe Him when He says, “I’ve got your back!” The LORD has brought you to **Day 7** and He has begun rolling away reproach from your heart, mind, and soul. He is removing old hurts, brokenness, sickness, medical and mental disabilities, abandonment issues, rejection matters, bankruptcy problems, financial disputes, real estate quarrels, family clashes, marriage disagreements, ministry divisions, and so much more. Stay quiet while He rolls! **Number 7 is the Biblical number for wholeness, completeness, and perfection! Glory to God!**

**HOPE PETITION #7:** “*The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.*” Exodus 14:14 “*Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!*” Psalm 46:10; “*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*” Psalm 37:7; “*Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom!*” Job 13:5. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 8:** *“The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land; unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, **but that year they ate the produce of Canaan!**”*  
Joshua 5:11-12

They reaped the grain the Canaanites had sowed and took other spoils. While the Israelites did this, the Canaanites did not attack them, but they kept quiet within their own walls. *“Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in,”* Joshua 6:1. According to the Historian, Josephus, after the Israelites came out of the Jordan they went another 50 furlongs (6.25 miles). They then set up basecamp only 10 furlongs (1.1/8<sup>th</sup> mile) from Jericho. With millions of people camped so close to their city walls, they were truly intimidated. However, the Canaanites were prideful and believed they were safe inside their walled cities. After all, Beloved’s, they had been preparing for this day for 40 years. Once the Israelites left Egypt all knew they were coming to take the land that the God of the heavens and earth had promised them.

Beloved, we all have adversaries because of Christ Jesus’ holy name and us bearing it. However, if we trust in the Lord God Almighty, our foes’ laid out plans to snare us or even stop us spiritually as well as naturally will not succeed. The devil and his military force has had time to build walls against us. They believe their fortified walls will withstand the weapons God has given us. Unfortunately, they are correct, **but only if we, Christians**, give up and walk away from the purpose God put us here on earth for. **In front of the Enemy-Canaanites, look closely what the LORD had master planned before the actual battle began.**

- 1.) God put them 1.1/8<sup>th</sup> mile from the enemy’s strongest military base, Jericho, and He then had them perform the covenant sign, circumcision, of God’s Covenant that He would GIVE all the land to the Jews and fight against the inhabitants of those lands for them and take it by force!
- 2.) The Israelites celebrated the JEWISH Holiday of Passover whereas the angel of death killed the Egyptians’ first-born but not the Jews’ and this brought them freedom of Egyptian slavery.
- 3.) The LORD let the Canaanites see from their watchtowers the Manna (angel’s food) miraculously fall from heaven over the Israelites’ camp the morning of Passover.
- 4.) The LORD forced them to witness the Jews taking their grain harvests and their produce and whatever else of the Canaanites they wanted to plunder that was outside the walls of Jericho!

**Let us understand the God that did that, is Our God Jehovah, Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be His Name!** He is unchangeable, Beloveds, believe with me and trust in Him that He has a masterplan written for us. He will for His name sake make our enemies watch from a close distance His loving plan for each one of us manifest into its complete and perfect wholeness!

**HOPE PETITION #8:** In Jesus name, I will eat and drink from the Promises of God. I own what God promised me. I shall eat from the ‘Good of the Land.’ Help me, Holy Spirit, be the violent-prayer-warrior that takes the kingdom of heaven by storm! As I get on my knees in my prayer closet I am breaking through to heaven for my heavenly portions that God gave me. During Passover Peter was arrested and put into prison. An Angel of the Lord set him free and he ran to Mary’s house, the mother of John Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Lord, in body or in spirit, I join others in this HOPE fast and prayer and I pray in agreement with them that what you said is ours, is ours! We gather together and **call down** in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 9: Last week** one of the RAB Pastor’s sent me a word the LORD revealed to him that we would be hearing sounds. Friday evening there were four BFG warriors in the ‘prayer room,’ about an hour into it, I distinctly heard two other voices above us praying. I spoke of it after the prayers had ended. I wondered if one of them called other prayer warriors that had been put on speaker phone. None of them had done so and they, too, had heard other voices coming from above us. We believe ministering angels had been sent to minister unto us as we prayed. SOUND is imperative to listen for as well as the sound in silence. I suggest we write them down in our prayer journals and see what the LORD is doing with the use of sound.

Last week in our Joshua text we learned that they were circumcised once they crossed over the Jordan and with that the LORD rolled away all of Egypt’s reproach. We then saw that they celebrated Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month before taking Jericho. Now, I want to share with you the sound of Passover’s trumpets that announce its commencement as well as the sound of the Year of Jubilee, whereas they celebrated their ‘liberty.’ The Passover Sound of the Trumpet precedes the Sound of the Shofar’s Warfare Sound of the days to come for the overtaking of Jericho! ***“The LORD said to Moses; “Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out. The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations. When you go into battle in your land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies. Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God.” Numbers 10:1-2 and 8-10.***

**The Year of Jubilee** only comes once every 50 years. God commanded *“Count off seven Sabbath years—seven times seven years, so that the seven Sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month, on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan.” Leviticus 25:8-10* The Greek Bible, called the Septuagint, renders Jubilee “a trumpet-blast of liberty.” More amazing were the sounds of trumpets and shofars at the commencement of the Year of Jubilee. ***On fast days the principal ceremony was conducted with the trumpets {of hammered silver} in the center and with a shofar on either side.*** On those occasions the shofarot were rams' horns curved in shape and ornamented with silver at the mouthpieces. On Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) of the Jubilee year the ceremony was performed with the shofar as on New Year's Day. {} added for emphasis.

**HOPE PETITION #9:** I shall shout for JOY to the LORD with all the earth. I shall worship the LORD with gladness; I shall come before HIM with joyful songs and enter HIS gates with thanksgiving and HIS courts with praise! I shall praise HIS name for the LORD is good and HIS love endures forever! HIS faithfulness continues through all generations, and I am very thankful! I shall listen to HIS Sounds this year! I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 10:** “Now, when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, ‘Are you for us or for our enemies?’ ‘Neither,’ he replied, ‘but as **commander of the army of the LORD** I have now come.’ Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, ‘What message does my LORD have for his servant?’ The commander of the LORD’S army replied, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did. Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns (Shofars) in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets (Shofars). Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-4

A few facts concerning the ‘shofar’ taken from the **Jewish Encyclopedia**.

- “It was the voice of the **shofar** ‘**exceedingly loud**’ issuing from the thick cloud on Mount Sinai that made all in the camp tremble (Ex 19:16, 20:18): The **shofar** has never varied in structure from its prehistoric simplicity and crudity of that of animal’s horns, rams and goats. The mouthpiece of precious metal is gold for Rosh Hashanah; silver for fast days.
- The curved **shofar** is symbolic of the contrite heart repenting on the most solemn days.
- It is also used to bewilder and stagger Satan.
- The shofar accompanied the solemn, seven-day procession of the sacred Ark around Jericho as the terror-stricken inhabitants saw their city walls crumble to dust in the echo of its blast and such a sound will announce the time of the Great Day of the Lord.
- The use of the shofar is now reserved for sacred occasions. “*And behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of our fathers; for ye shall not prosper.*” “*And let it be, when thou hearest the **sound** of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.*” 2 Chronicles 13:12; 2 Samuel 5:24 KJV

**HOPE PETITION #10:** Dear Lord, I am listening carefully to hear the sound of the warring angel’s feet as they run behind You into battle for me. I now proclaim that I am joining the assembly of the TRUE Worshipers of You. Jesus said that You are seeking TRUE Worshipers that will worship you, Father God, in spirit and in truth. In Jesus name, I pray Holy Spirit that you will help me to surrender to your workings in me so that Father God will seek me among the sound of worship and be pleased. “*It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one **sound** to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests **sounded** trumpets before them, and all Israel stood. And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters **sounded**: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.* 2 Chronicles 5:13; 7:6 and 29:28 I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 11:** The Commander of the Army of the Lord that Joshua encountered said a very ‘key’ thing when he answered Joshua’s question. *“Now, when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, ‘Are you for us or for our enemies?’ ‘Neither,’ he replied, ‘but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”* Joshua 5:13-14

Neither,” **BUT I NOW COME** as the commander of the LORD. God sent a commander of His Angelic Army to oversee the battle which Joshua had been commanded to fight. *“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, **“Destroy them!**”* *“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River **into the land I am about to give to them**; to the Israelites. **I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, and you may be successful wherever you go. So Joshua ordered the officers of the people; Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here **to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.**”* Deuteronomy 33:27; Joshua 1:1-3; 1:6-7; 1:10-11

- Three times in this short Scripture the LORD says He is GIVING them the land.
- Yet, they have to DESTROY the inhabitants and TAKE POSSESSION. Therefore, we must understand that somethings that God promises He is going to GIVE to us, we must forcefully take it through battle in the supernatural which always begins on earth in a shadowing of what is happening in the supernatural simultaneously and for what is yet to come! *“They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”* Hebrews 8:5; Colossians 2:17

**Beloved,** what are you battling for right now in the natural? Think with the spirit of wisdom that God imparted over us on Day 2. Everything in the natural runs parallel with the supernatural. What did the LORD say He was going to GIVE to you that you have not yet received? Are you in a battle for it here on earth? Such as, did God promise you a house and now the financing is falling all apart? First: You MUST battle for it with prevailing PRAYER. Secondly: Then you MUST, LISTEN for the Commander’s instructions. Thirdly, you MUST get your provisions (plans) ready. Lastly, in three days you TAKE HOLY POSSESSION of the promise in the supernatural.

**HOPE PETITION #11:** Destroy them, take possession of the promise, be strong, very courageous, don’t be afraid, don’t be discouraged for The LORD is with us! **Some of us need God’s Angelic Commander** to oversee our battle. You may enter into a **3 DAY Full fast, meaning NO FOOD but you will take water.** Lord, some of us need to go to **HOLY WAR in prayer for there is no other way to take possession of what you have promised.** We have three days to get ready our provisions (fasting and prayer and any natural plans). If you are doing this **3 Day Full fast**, it begins at sunrise tomorrow and you shall break this fast at sunrise on the morning of the fourth day. **I call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 12:** The Lord sent a prophet to speak a prophetic word to me while I was in Kenya in August 2014. That prophesy lined up with one given to me in the USA in 2011. Prior to ever putting my feet on African soil, I had ministered prayer and the Word of God along with food and shelter to men and women of God traveling from Zambia, DRC Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, others from Pakistan, Columbia, Canada, Mexico, and European nations. The prophetess that spoke it sat in my home which was also Barefoot Gardens Christian Guest House. She considered with the Lord the nations I had hosted and served over the years at that very table. After prayer she spoke, “*Nations will come to you BUT then God will send you as a mother to Nations with His word in your mouth.*”

The Prophet in Kenya said, “*Run Away Brides Ministries will be in 40 nations within 10 years reconciling runaway brides of Christ in the multitudes of thousands.*” Beloved’s God promised growth and expansion not for my sake or Barefoot Gardens Fellowship’s sake or RABs sake, but FOR SOULS! Jesus is coming soon and we must prepare the Church to receive her Bridegroom!

Growth and expansion takes committed people and committed funds. My battle has been just that. People have come and some have gone. We gained vineyards and produced fruit, but in some we only had one season of growth and now they lay dormant. We worked hard and raised funds but in transport the enemy robbed us in a variety of ways through people and circumstances.

I am sharing this with you to make a point of whatever goes on in the natural in the Matters of God is going on at a higher level in the supernatural. Here in the natural the Lord is leading us into new lands. To expand as prophetically spoken, we need to take possession of territory God pledged to us currently occupied by the enemy. While we battle to take a district away from Satan, God is ahead of us in the supernatural warring to take a whole nation, elsewhere! While we battle for ministry funds, God is above us warring over His silver and gold He created inside the cavity of the earth held by Satan through men’s greedy willpower. Like Joshua, we need to get on the same war-link as God. What He is going ahead of us fighting to give us, we, too, need to be fighting for it alongside of Him. Joshua did not settle for just Jericho, why? God promised Israel NATIONS!

If you are obediently walking with the LORD trusting Him and you are in this battle, it is because God is warring to give you something supernaturally bigger in His spiritual realm **but** it is for kingdom purposes. God had shut up Hannah’s womb, but instead of mumbling and complaining under the persecution of her husband’s other wife, Peninnah, who provoked her in order to irritate her year after year, she prayed. Peninnah had children from their husband, Elkanah which added to Hannah’s sorrow. ***Hannah asked God for one son and she promised if she had one son, she would give him to the Lord. At the same time, the LORD was battling in the supernatural for a prophet but he needed a womb that was of a woman of God. We shall continue this tomorrow.***

**HOPE PETITION #12:** Father, I come before you in Jesus name and I am the least of Your kingdom kids holding onto Your promise that I will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty military of God’s servants and you, LORD, shall swiftly multiply me in Your perfect time and perfect will—so let it be! **I call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 13:** Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, Peninnah would provoke her until she wept and would not eat. He gave her Samuel and she gave him back to God after she weaned him. God then gave her something supernaturally bigger, **“And the LORD was gracious to Hannah, she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.”** 1 Samuel 2:21

**What did Hannah do to get the promise that a woman’s womb, including hers, is created to give birth?** *“In her deep anguish, Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”* **Later** when she took young Samuel to the tabernacle to Eli the Priest **she said:** *“I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.”* And he worshipped the LORD there.” 1 Samuel 1:10-11; 1:27-28

Joshua surveyed Jericho through a spy investigation and made a plan based on their information. You cannot sit at home or in the Church and pray holding your hands out waiting for God to drop into them what you are seeking. You have to prepare in prayer, make an honest plan in the natural, and for God’s name sake—be ready in three days to storm the supernatural with warfare prayer!

*“Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. ‘Go, look over the land,’ he said, ‘especially Jericho.’ So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.”* (Joshua 2:1) When they overtook Jericho, Joshua told the two spies to get the prostitute and her family. They burned the entire city but Rahab and her family were spared. *“But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.”* (Joshua 6:25) Not by mistake did they end up at Rahab’s establishment. They needed an insider for the day of the siege and she needed a guarantee for her and her family’s lives. GOD NEEDED the right womb for a natural lineage for His One and Only Begotten Son, Christ Jesus.

**The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah listed in Matthew chapter one includes this same woman, the prostitute named Rahab.** *“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham; Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Serah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boas, whose mother was Rahab, Boas the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David...”* (Matthew 1:1-6(a) see also Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25)

**HOPE PETITION #13:** I say alongside of Hannah my heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD **my horn** (strength) is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 14:** “Nay” he replied, ‘but as captain of the host of the LORD, I have now come.’ Then Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did WORSHIP, and said unto him, **“What sayeth my lord unto his servant?”** And the captain said, ‘Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5:14-15

### Joshua RECOGNIZED the LORD:

1. If it was not God, He would not have allowed Joshua to worship Him. By falling on his face and worshipping and not being told to stand up (Rev. 19:10) Joshua was in God’s divine presence. Apostle John in **Revelation 19:10** made the mistake of worshipping an angel, “*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me. ‘See thou do it not; I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’*” Again, he makes the same mistake because of his eyes and his ears, in **Revelation 22:8-9** “***And I, John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then sayeth he unto me, ‘See thou do it not; for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the saying of this book; worship God.’***”
2. He said he was the Captain of the Hosts of the LORD, there is no other Captain of the LORD’S host other than Himself. We are talking about the ‘hosts’ the millions upon millions of angels. In Revelation 19:14 when Jesus appears He is ahead of the heavenly armies.
3. Submitted himself as a servant, he asked, “*What sayeth my lord unto his servant?*” Joshua called him lord, the *Hebrew text reads Adon*, which is sovereign; lord; master; owner.
4. What made it holy ground? The presence of the Lord in Moses’ case as well as in Joshua’s case. Moses, too, was told to remove his shoes for it was holy ground. In Exodus 3:1-6, we see the similarities, ‘The angel of the LORD appeared unto Moses in a flame, then a few verses later the angel of the LORD said, “*I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look upon God.*”

BEWARE not everything that looks or sounds like Him is Him. We must have the Holy Spirit’s help to discern properly what is of God and what is not of God. “*Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good*” (I Thessalonians 5:19-21). “*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety*” (Proverbs 11:14).

**HOPE PETITION #14** “*Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, “Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?”* He basically asked: “Are you God or the devil?” God reveals Himself to those that seek Him earnestly. (Deuteronomy 4:29) “*But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.* Satan even tried to get Jesus to worship him, “*All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*” ***“Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, ‘THOU SHALT WORSHIP THY LORD THY GOD, AND HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE.’*** (Matt. 4:9-10) Lord, I ask you to open my spiritual eyes and ears and as I Study your Word, write it upon my heart and mind so I always know if this is God or the adversary. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 15:** Joshua went by himself to size up the enemy’s stronghold. There are times when we have to go into the battlefield (our prayer room) alone; no friends, family; prayer partners; or pastors. Joshua went for a personal inspection as ‘Israel’s military leader. Although he went alone, the Lord was already there waiting for Joshua to enter into His presence. Beloved’s He is always for us and with us. God promised Joshua that He would be with him. *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”* Joshua 1:9. There are times, we MUST get into His presence alone and most times there is a battle swirling around us. The LORD gave Joshua the battle plan, *“And ye shall march around the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.”* Joshua 6:3

Joshua was not new to being in the presence of the LORD by himself. He didn’t need an audience. When he was unknown to most and not liked by others, a servant to a leader, hated by some, and ignored by most, he stayed in the presence of the LORD as much as his leader allowed him. *“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp; but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11*

Joshua quietly learned intimacy with God by observing the face to face talks Moses had with God. One day Moses asked Him if he had found grace in God’s sight that the LORD would show him God’s way so that he would know God deeper and find grace in His sight! Oh how Moses wanted to please the Lord. The Lord responded lovingly, *“And he said, ‘My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.’ “Thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. And Moses said, ‘I beseech thee, show me thy glory.”* Exodus 33:14, 17(b)-18.

After being alone with the LORD, we transition from being alone in His presence by leaving revived. **Joshua understood God in the battle he had learned it from Moses.** *“The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.’ “So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered...And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”* Exodus 17:9-10(a) & 11. Charles Spurgeon used this as an example of intercessory prayer. We find that there is a complex interrelationship between God and the intercessor and God and the warriors. We see God’s Kingdom work taking place due to the interrelationship. If either man stopped doing what they were called to do, the battle would have been lost. It is important to note that neither Moses nor Joshua worked alone. Moses was backed up by Aaron and Hur, who held his staff. Joshua was accompanied by an army of warriors. This teaches us that while there may be a prominent leader, these roles also may cooperate with many other supporting roles.

**HOPE PETITION #15:** “Lord, as the valiant men of buckler, sword, and bow, I ask you to go into the battle with me as I prevail in prayer and as I labor alongside others in the Body of Christ. I trust you, Lord! I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 16:** *“Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!”* Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Remember what the enemy has done to you, but do not dwell upon it. God is going to blot out the name of Satan in the end so hold onto that truth. So when life on earth seems impossible, you will not start lagging behind in your spiritual walk. Don't lag beloved, when you don't stay in step with the LORD, the enemy is not very far behind you. God had said to Cain after his sacrifice was not up to God's expectations, *“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”* (Genesis 4:7). Jesus told us to resist the devil and he would flee. When we are weary and worn out, it makes us an easy target for the enemy to attack and for us to miss the opportunities God is putting before us. Every human was designed to sleep, so rest your bodies properly and when called to minister hard, ask the LORD for divine energy, divine strength, and divine health. Beloved, we do not fight alone our Lord told us He is always with us. What the LORD told Joshua to do may have sounded ridiculous, but Joshua knew God and he understood that not everything the LORD does seems rational to the logical mind. *“March around the city once with all armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight.”* Joshua 6:3-5

From the top of the wall around Jericho, the enemy could have sent arrows at these marching around the city each day, but they did not. God Jehovah's reputation made the enemies fear Him causing them to shrink back inside their walled cities as the Israelites marched fearlessly because of their God's reputation. Rahab had told the spies, *“We have heard how the LORD dried up the Red Sea for you and completely destroyed...When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”* Joshua 2:10(a)-11.

It is God's reputation that **MUST PRECEDE** you, and not yours. When He is leading you into new territory, you just need to not grow weary in doing the good works and do not get worn out by idolizing the work for the LORD instead of idolizing Him. Do not allow yourself to lag behind in your spiritual growth or in the local body of Christ's gatherings and Church matters. Stick together and trust the accuracy of His instructions regardless of how outlandish they seem.

**HOPE PETITION #16:** Father, I ask in Jesus name that you help me not to fear for you have promised there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. You Lord said everyone born of God overcomes the world. Lord you promised us that our faith in You is our victory that has overcome the world. I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, 'heavenly opportunities present everywhere,' here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 17:** *“So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, ‘Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.’ And he ordered the army, ‘Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”* Joshua 6:6-7

**Instructions given by Joshua:** Priests carry the ark, seven others walk in front blowing their trumpets, soldiers march. **Clear instructions given and followed!** *“When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’S covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the army, ‘Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout! So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.”* (Joshua 6:8-11) **Actions speak louder than words!**

**Joshua trusted the men he committed the faith and war assignments to and he trusted the LORD and His plan. Each man did according to his ‘call’ and Joshua’s instructions as God commanded.** Paul told Timothy to entrust reliable, trustworthy, and qualified people to teach others the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then Paul said be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and suffer like a good soldier of Christ! *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing by the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.”* (2 Timothy 2:2-6) **Dedicated effort is rewarded in heaven.** *“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘The worker deserves his wages.’”* 1 Timothy 5:17-18 **Dedicated effort is rewarded also on earth.**

Most God-ordained leaders, like Joshua, are not looking for rewards here on earth, but they do need committed people and committed funds behind them insuring the Lord’s work goes forward and souls are saved and lives are changed for eternity! Dedicated Christian leaders who are in love with Jesus are valuable resources to any ministry and we need to thank them and appreciate them and let them know they are loved. *“Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, and are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

**HOPE PETITION #17:** Father, I pray in Jesus’ name, for my spiritual leader. I desire to be more thoughtful and supportive of my spiritual leaders. I may have forgotten that even as much as they love you, Lord, they are human just like me but they carry the responsibility to guard us just like Joshua’s soldiers did the priests going around Jericho. I declare I am a soldier of Christ Jesus with actions that match my words! I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 18:** Two times Jesus fed the multitudes. Five loaves of bread and two fish becomes twelve basketfuls of leftovers (Matthew 14:13-21). In Matthew 15:29-39, seven loaves of bread and a few fish becomes seven basketfuls of left overs. Very little needs to be said to multiply the kingdom of God as long as it is His Truth being spoken. Twelve basketfuls and seven basketfuls of broken pieces collected could metaphorically represent each broken-hearted person redeemed through Christ Jesus and added to the kingdom of God. After the miracle in Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus sent the disciples off in the boat and He dismissed the crowd and He then went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. **“Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them (disciples in the boat), walking on the lake.”** Matthew 14:25

**“Joshua got up early the next morning** and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.” Joshua 6:12-14

Words don’t influence people like actions do. **Joshua got up early the next morning!** Servant-leaders rise early. *“Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they lodged there before they crossed.”* **So did King David:** *“I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words. In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.* **So did Jesus:** *“In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.”* Joshua 3:1; Psalm 119:147; Psalm 5:3; Mark 1:35

**Joshua’s faith assignment was not about gathering people and populating the Kingdom of God like ours is during the current Church Age.** His assignment was to take the Israelites into the Promised Land of God and help them take possession of the land. **Like Moses, Joshua did not have to say much. His servant-leader actions said all that words cannot!** God used Abraham to establish a nation of people for Himself. He used Moses to deliver them and set the Law in order. God’s purpose for Joshua was to bring them to the Promised Land called Israel which solidified Judaism that brought forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He then tied Judaism to Christianity with His blood cord covenant. Well done, Good and Faithful Servants!

**HOPE PETITION #18:** Our faith assignment is to **share the salvation message of Christ Jesus and make disciples of them.** We know, Jesus, you are coming soon for Your Church, Your Bride! we must RISE EARLY. King David said, *“Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn!”* Watchman Nee wrote: *“A man must choose between his love for his bed and his love for the Lord. The more he loves the Lord, the more he will rise up early.”* Father, help me rise early in the morning feeling your embrace, conscious of your love forgiving me, knowing your peace within me, feeling your Spirit strengthen me, hearing your whisper encouraging me to pray up before I go out in your name to do what you ask me to do, go where you tell me to go, and say what you tell me to say! **I call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 19:** *“On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, ‘Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.”* (Joshua 6:15-18) Excavations there reveal that its fortifications featured a stone wall 11 feet high and 14 feet wide. It was virtually impregnable.

Joshua and the Children of Israel encircled the city of Jericho seven times and after that the walls of Jericho miraculously sunk and allowed the Jews to conquer the city. At a traditional Jewish Wedding, the bride walks around the bridegroom seven times symbolizing bringing down walls between the couple allowing them to unite and bond in an intimate manner. Also it is a re-enactment of the creative process since the earth made seven revolutions during the seven days of creation and the bride and groom are in a sense repeating this creative process. It corresponds with the seven wedding blessings and **demonstrates that the groom is the center of the Brides’ life, as Jesus should be ours!** *“How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? For the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth.; A woman encompasses a man”* [Jeremiah 31:22].

Beloved, I have marched around my husband’s and my property, BFG Ministries’ property, and others’ properties as directed by God and I have prayed the words that the Holy Spirit tells me to pray. A Jericho March is what some may refer to as a prayer walk by an individual, a group, or a congregation. The purpose is to pray for or against something and ask God to intercede, protect, or change something. A few months ago, led by the Holy Spirit, we encircled the inside of the BFG Sanctuary and we marched around it seven times encircling Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior and Bridegroom of His Church as such He protects, provides, and blesses.

Today with the trumpet of the everlasting gospel, which proclaims liberty and victory, we must encourage the followers of Christ in their spiritual walk and warfare. As promised deliverances must be expected in God’s way, so they must be expected in His time. At last the people were to shout: they did so, and the walls fell. **This was a shout of faith; they believed the walls of Jericho would fall. It was a shout of prayer; they cried to Heaven for help, and help came.**

**HOPE PETITION #19:** Apostle Paul assures us, *“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”* (Romans 15:4) The Scriptures record complete obliteration of Jericho in order to teach us obedience, even when God’s commands seem foolish, they bring victory. Lord, help me to organize a Jericho March around my homes, church buildings, and cities. Lord lead me in this Jericho March so I will pray what You instruct me to pray about. During this HOPE Fast and Prayer Assembly, the Lord instructed us to come in agreement and pray what may seem foolish, yet we join hearts and pray: ‘We gather together and call down in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).’

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 20:** I like to think of Rahab as one of those vessels that God had consecrated for Himself in the city of Jericho that day. A devoted vessel that He was putting His treasury inside to fill up with that which He had a predestined purpose for. Obed, who would come from the loins of Boaz, her son, who in turn would give life to Jesse who we know as the father of King David!

Jesus said of the sinful woman that washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, greater the sin forgiven, greater the love that person has for Him! **Luke 7:38-50** *“As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.’”* Jesus answered him, **‘Simon, I have something to tell you.’** **“Tell me, teacher,”** he said. **“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”** Simon replied, *“I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”* **“You have judged correctly,”** Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, **“Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”** Then Jesus said to her, **“Your sins are forgiven.”** The other guests began to say among themselves, *“Who is this who even forgives sins?”* Jesus said to the woman, **“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”**

**I have a pastor-friend in my circle** that is highly thought of in the greater Tri-County area where I live. She takes in women recently released from jail who had been incarcerated for drugs and prostitution. She has a “House” for these beloveds and at any given time there can be up to 12 of them living with her. She is a ‘true minister’ of reconciliation. She ushers them to Jesus and then works with them for months and some a little longer making disciples of them. She oversees their further educations and helps them prepare for an honest life. She assists them through many agencies to get all the help they need and to find honest employment. She is minister of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, but do you know before that, she was married and divorced twice!

She also lived sixteen years of her life as a drug addict and supported it by being a prostitute on the streets of our largest West Michigan city. She had been arrested and imprisoned many times only to come out and go right back to it because of homelessness and being shunned by her family. However, the day came when she woke up! As she lay half-naked on a dingy sofa, the LORD showed her first the place where she was headed along with the sights and sounds of demons and voices of untold numbers torturously screaming. She was terrified out of her mind and thinking at first this was an illusion due to the drugs she had taken the night before. Then she heard the voice of the LORD. “You think what you see and hear is a hallucination but it is Me! Now, look upon Me, I am the LORD and I have come to rescue you today!”

She has been drug free for over twenty years and has been running these Rescue Houses for women for almost fifteen years. Yes, she was a Rahab as well as the sinful woman that washed and dried Jesus’ feet, but He rescued her also and saved her life and she has nothing to offer Him than her body as a living sacrifice and a repented lifestyle along with her love and trust in Him. The courts and the

agencies that send women to her and work with her don't call her so-and-so the Prostitute, they call her, "Pastor, the Woman of God," as do the women the Lord has rescued and saved through her. *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* 2 Corinthians 5:17 HALLELUJAH & AMEN!

In the New Testament we met Zacchaeus just inside of Jericho many centuries after the fall of its walls! He was a thief and everybody hated him, that is his own people the Jews because he robbed them continually through taxes by charging them more than the Romans wanted to put into his own pocket! **Luke 19:1-10** *"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, **"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."** So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. **All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."** But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, **"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."***

Achan is another story about sinfulness and living an un-repentant lifestyle, however, his sin did not lead him to confession and repenting, it led him to lying and stealing and only when he was caught by Joshua did he tell the truth of what he had done. His name was not attached to dishonesty in his introduction whereas the entire Israeli community would have shunned him or referred to him as Achan the thief like they had Rahab the Harlot and Zacchaeus the greedy Chief Tax Collector! **"Achan, son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah!"** God said to Joshua: *"What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. **Joshua 7:10-11***

**HOPE PETITION #20:** Dear Lord, Achan was sinful in his heart filled with greed and yet put on a face of prideful piety for all to see UNTIL he was found out to be the one who had caused others to fall, because he disobeyed Joshua's command that God had given. Lord, search me and purge me and if you find anything 'Achan-like' in me or anything not like you, deliver me in Jesus' holy name! I want to be less like me and more like you every day, Sweet Savior. Holy Spirit prune me, cut me, burn me, then shape me according to your will and use me for the Kingdom of God, I pray! 'I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, 'heavenly opportunities present everywhere,' here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).'

## “Heavenly Opportunities Present Everywhere”

**Day 21:** *“But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets; and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, **‘Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her.’** So the young men who had done the spying **went in and brought out Rahab**, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. And they burnt the city with fire, and ALL that was therein; only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. And Joshua saved **Rahab the harlot**, alive, and her father’s household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.”* Joshua 6:19-23 (KJV & NIV)

The spies came to Rahab’s establishment and instead of Rahab trying to seduce them for money, she hid them and then helped them escape. She gave them specific orders on how to avoid being caught. She was commanded by the King of Jericho to bring these Israeli spies forth, **but she recognized the heavenly opportunity present in that moment** and protected them and said to the king’s men, *“Yes the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them. But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.”* Fully written in the Scriptures see Joshua 2:1-24.

When these two spies returned to Joshua days later they said to him, *“The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us!”* 2:24; Who had they learned this from? **Rahab the prostitute!** She had told them as they lay hidden on her rooftop, *“When we heard of it our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you (Israel) for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”* 2:11. **Now, believing their God was “The God,” she sieged the heavenly opportunity in helping God’s people and asked for her and her household to be SAVED!** *“Now, then please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family because I have shown kindness to you.”* 2:12 Even after she saved their lives, she was referred to as “The Prostitute.” Yet God did not condemn her for who she had been but celebrated who, through Him, she had become; one of His faithful servants! She is not referred to as Rahab the Harlot in the lineage of Jesus Christ but as **Salmon the father of Boas, whose mother was Rahab.** Rahab married an Israelite soldier named Salmon. Rahab was rewarded for her faith by being added into the family tree of Christ, as were Ruth and Boaz because their son was named Obed who was the father of Jesse who was in turn the father of David. David became the King by the hand of God and God honored him saying that David was a man after His own heart. The Messiah was promised through David’s throne and that He would reign forever and ever, to which of course we know Christ Jesus reigns and shall forever and ever!

Her father is mentioned and that he and his entire household were saved because of Rahab’s faithfulness to the promise she and the spies made. Obviously his background and his name are irrelevant as the Scriptures do not tell us his name or anything about him or her mother. Many people

say that you are the product of your environment and that who your parents are affect who you become. Well, if that be the case her parents did a very poor job in raising her because she had become a prostitute. Yet, God changed everything in one moment for Rahab because He had put into her DNA a ‘heart’s desire,’ that only He would be able to fulfill. In the right setting at the perfect time, the LORD initiated His purposeful plan through Rahab. God took off her garments of whoredom and dressed her in His righteousness and wed her to an Israelite, Salome. He overlooked her past life and saw only her present and bright future in the LORD and she became a mother in the generations to come of He who would SAVE ALL that call upon His name and believe in Him as the Lord and the Savior—the sent Messiah, Christ Jesus!

*“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:24-26)*—James perspective is not a condemning one, yet a celebratory one as he sees how Rahab was JUSTIFIED by the works she did when the spies were sent to her and she rescued them and saved their lives. In Matthew 21, Jesus tells a parable about two sons. Their father tells the first son to go to the vineyard and work and he said, “NO, I won’t,” BUT later he repented and goes to work for his father. The second son said, “YES,” as soon as his father asked him, BUT he did not go and work! Jesus asked the self-righteous religious leaders, who obeyed? They all responded the first son. The worst sinners, when converted, often make great saints. There is more hope of their repentance than of the self-righteous or hypocrites. They profess the form of religion without the reality, and in their own view need no repentance and continue to label a saint for their past which the LORD has wiped clean and forgiven and forgotten. He knows with His foreknowledge who will come into His household by saying, “Yes,” to Jesus Christ, His One and Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior.

Beloved, we have all been RAHAB in one sinful way or the other! Do you suppose she instantly overcame all of her old ways of doing life? Doubtful but as she surrendered to the Holy Spirit, He worked in her as He does for you and me today! We have been the son who said “No,” at first but then regretted it and repented. *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 HALLELUJAH & AMEN!*

**HOPE PETITION #21: Dear Lord,** I know my ugly past and how it affected me and others, however I confessed and repented of it and it is not who I am today. I have been born again of the Spirit and washed in the blood of Jesus and I am your child signed, sealed, delivered, and guaranteed by the sealing of the Holy Spirit. I am not wearing any label that others put on me. I am in the Lamb’s book of Life and that says it all for me! Thank you Jesus for coming in the natural sense through Rahab who WAS a prostitute, but you considered it not repulsive in your natural lineage to be represented by her the faithful toward the Jews in their hour of need! I **call down** with faith and in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).’

**Today you break the Daniel Fast but don't ever stop praying for others.**

Dear Beloved:

Thank you for being on this 21 Day Prayerful Journey with me. It may have been a trying period for you. I hope it has been a timeframe of many amazing answered prayers. I believe you have experienced untold blessings and the manifestation of God's hand has shown up in small and large and in-between ways. I pray that you have experienced miracles and miraculous healings and deliverances for yourself or for those whom you were praying for. Regardless of what you were praying for has manifested yet or not, it is assured to us all that our prayers have reached heaven and are before the LORD upon His Throne. Our Lord Jesus Christ is ever interceding for us and all that we ask in His name according to the Word of God, it shall be answered so that the Father is glorified through the Son. Do not give up beloved, keep praying and believing that the Lord knows how and when to answer your prayers in the way which will be most beneficial to you and those around you.

I know one thing for sure, you are all walking out of this Daniel Fast differently than how you walked into it. Amen. We are like the Woman at the well that Jesus met that day in Samaria as she was getting water from the local "Jacob's" well. She had a distasteful past and when Jesus pointed out to her that her past had included five husbands and currently she was living with a man she was not married to, she exclaimed, "You must be a prophet." She had met a prophet that knew all about her past and yet, He did not run from her in spite of her past and current condition. She asked Jesus a question that had apparently been riding on her mind for some time and she had not received an adequate answer so she asked about where one was to worship. She wondered is it to be on the mountain as her ancestors had or was it to be in Jerusalem as the Jews claimed it was to be.

***"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*** *The woman said, 'I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'* ***Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you—I am he.'*** *Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?'* ***Then leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah? They came out of the town and made their way toward him...Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did. So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'*** ***John 4:21-30 and 39-42***

***That is how you are leaving this fast, Beloved, CHANGED!*** We are like the woman at the well. She had a past and a present that was not all that it should be and one meeting with Jesus changed all of that. She went from a shaded background to a RED COLORED future because of His blood that Jesus would shed abroad for all of those who would believe upon His name and in Him who sent Him. She instantly became an evangelist and spoke to others about the Messiah—Christ.

We are transformed in Jesus Holy Name—to do what He has called us to do! Love the Father with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. We are commissioned to go forth into all of the world, *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of all the age!’” Matthew 28:18-20*

Let us gather together and **call down** in prayer, in Jesus holy name, ‘heavenly opportunities present everywhere,’ here on earth as it is in heaven! AMEN! (So be it).’

Therefore, Go!

Love and Blessings;

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins



### PSALM 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**REFOCUSING ON CHRIST JESUS  
TO REVOLUTIONIZE OUR INNER-SELF  
21 DAY FAST AND PRAYER DEVOTIONAL**

I trust God that this time has been given to us as a perfect gift from Him, our Abba Father God to revolutionize ourselves internally to develop a deeper relationship with Him. *“It is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken.” “Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. **Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away (aging), yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:13-18 NIV**

- 1. We must enter into HIS REST during these 21 days for the redemptive work to take hold of us.** *“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it” (Hebrews 4:1).* The promise that still stands is the promise of salvation through God’s provision—Jesus Christ. He alone can provide the eternal rest of salvation through His blood shed on the cross for the remission of sins. God’s rest, then, is in the spiritual realm, the rest of salvation.
- 2. We must rest from relying on our own works.** *“For whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” **Hebrews 4:10-13***
- 3. We must make every effort to enter that rest by choosing to depend solely on God, to trust Him implicitly, to yield totally to the promises of God through the free grace of His salvation.** *“That no one will fall by following their [the Israelites’] example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:11).* We either trust ourselves to save ourselves, or we trust God to do that for us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. By failing to trust God fully in His promises, we become disobedient and fail to enter the rest that is eternal life, just as the children of Israel became disobedient when they failed to enter the Promised Land.

**HOW DO WE REVOLUTIONIZE OUR INNER-SELF?**

**We stop trusting in ourselves!**

**How do we stop trusting ourselves?** How do we place our full trust in God and His promises?

- We enter into God’s rest by first understanding our total inability to enter God’s rest on our own.
- Next, we enter God’s rest by our total faith in the sacrifice of Christ and complete obedience to God and His will. *“And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief” (Hebrews 3:18–19).*
- Unlike the Israelites whose unbelief prevented them from entering the Promised Land, we are to enter God’s rest by faith in Him, faith which is a gift from Him by grace.

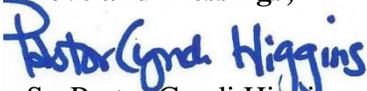
Ephesians 2:8–9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

In the past, I have robbed myself by not completely allowing the LORD to do His Intended Perfect Will in my life, heart, body, soul, mind, and spirit, by fully resting in Him. I found in setting aside 21 days to devote all the extra time I can to getting to know Him more through studying the Word, praying, praising and worshiping, He did in fact perform His Perfect Jubilee Will in me. I know if the Lord did it for me, Beloved, He will do it for you.

If you decide to fast along with this 21-Day devotional, remember I do not set how people fast. Fasting is a personal act of sacrifice and obedience through LOVE between you and the Lord. You decide how you will fast during this 21 Days, it may be 12 hours a day, 16 hours, you may take 1 meal only per 24 hours, you may choose to fast from something that is distracting you from the Lord. It is something that you must discuss with the Lord and do what He and you decide together is pleasing unto Him.

**Let’s Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you in Jesus holy name, in search of your never failing counsel. Lord, as only you are able to search our hearts individually and know our minds completely, we seek to be shown what you would have us do. Lord, help us not deceive ourselves but help us to be very honest with ourselves. It is easy, Lord, to miss the mark of letting go and letting you handle the affairs of our lives. You, Lord, know our truest desires and our hidden fears. We are all uniquely hand crafted by you Father. You know the design of our nature and our personality. You know our internal and external battles, loses, and victories. You can count the hairs on our heads and you can call us all by our right name the first try. You know when we rise and when we sleep. You know the dreams that we dream and the nightmares that haunt us. You are more aware of our surroundings than we are ourselves. You know our voices, you know our good and our bad habits. You know the hang-ups that hurt us and the sins that easily ensnare us. You God have a record of all of our individual weaknesses and our strengths. You have thus far collected all of our tears and kept them in heaven in a bottle. Each promise given us by others that was broken you know it and each promise we have made and kept or broken you have an account of that too. During these 21 Days, Lord, we ask that you heal us, deliver us, regenerate us, and restore us. Meet us in a way unknown to us and not only will we benefit but that our families will benefit and our brothers and sisters in Christ will benefit. Lord, we desire to not only do it your way, but to see it your way, to understand it your way, and without question take ownership of your way and truly and effectively make it ‘our’ way surrendered and subjected to our King of kings, our Lord of lords, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the God of all gods, the Great Creator of all creation. Ancient of Days, Lord of the Hosts, our Abba Father, HALLOWED be your name, your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven! We ask you this day for our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us, not we pray, in Jesus name, into temptation but deliver us from the evil one, for thine is the kingdom, and the glory and the power forever and ever, Amen!

**Love and Blessings;**

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

**DAY ONE: TRUST THE ONE WHO IS ABLE:** Place your trust in the one who created us all, and has the power to either cast both soul and body in hell, or grant eternal life in heaven to all who obey His Word, the gospel of your salvation. (Psalm 100:3 Matthew 10:28; John 6:68-69; Ephesians 1:13-14) *“Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” “Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.’ “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”*

His Ultimate Power ***“Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God!”***  
Psalm 62:11

Satan is called “the prince of this world” (John 12:31), and “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). In 2 Corinthians 4:4 he is called “the god of this world.” John says that “the whole world lies in wickedness” (1 John. 5:19), and Revelation 12:9 attributes this to the fact that “that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan deceives the whole world.” However, Satan does not have equal power with God which is affirmed when of Christ it is said that “one stronger than he” had come to “assail and overcome him” (Luke 11:22). John said, greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). Surely, it is Satan who commands the actions of the wicked, for Satan is the father of all murderers and liars (John 8:44).

The fact is the only three things here on earth that the Devil has no power over is God, His Holy Word which is unchangeable, and the Church (His Children) which Christ is the head thereof (Colossians 1:18). God’s Word was forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89) and not even the gates of hell shall prevail over His Church (Matthew 16:18). Yes, this present world is in the hands of the wicked. This is why the wicked prosper, live in good health, live old, and are mighty in power. Console yourself my beloveds, the ultimate power belongs to God and He is greater than all the rulers of darkness in high places (Psalm 62:11; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 6:12). God promised his faithful servants eternal life (Titus 1:2). God does not call the equipped, he equips the called: **Luke 9:1-2 and 6;** *“When Jesus had called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”*

**Let’s Pray: Lord, let your POWER be known on this earth, in such a way that none can say, it was this or that—but that all will have to admit that it is the work of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** Lord you are the jealous and avenging God; You LORD take vengeance and you are filled with wrath. Lord take vengeance on your foes and vent your wrath against your enemies. Lord we thank you for being slow to anger BUT you are great in Power; Lord we praise you that you will not leave the guilty unpunished. Your way Lord is in the whirlwind and in the storm and the clouds are the dust of your feet. Amen!

**DAY TWO: JESUS IS LONGSUFFERING AND HE IS ABLE:** Let us come and tell Him how grateful we are that He is longsuffering and able and that we need Him to be so with us. We call ourselves found, “I once was lost but now I am found! I was blind but now I see.” Jesus spoke of one sheep being lost of the one hundred He had. He also tells us that a lost sheep from a pen is like a lost coin from a woman’s wedding head-scarf one that was there, but now it has fallen off and it is lost. A young son can be lost, but be found **again.** (Luke 15)

**Cleanse you, again! It would not be like God to say, He saves you once and if you fail and go back to your dog vomit and enter back into a sinful lifestyle in the world, that you cannot ever be found again!** If that were the case why did God send so many prophets and priests to turn the Israelites back to Him, before He took drastic measures? How many times do you think a Christian can walk away and not remain faithful before the Lord Jesus gives up on them? He never gives up, He that has begun a good work in you (he is the GOOD WORK) shall complete it! He is the author and the FINISHER of our faith!

**Hebrews 12:1-3** *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter (finisher) of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

**Philippians 1:6** *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which has begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

**Let’s Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you Father for your holiness and your faithfulness and your righteousness. We praise you our Lord and our King. We truly desire to honor you in all of our ways in every day in all that we think and say and do. Oh, Lord, we desire to bring you pleasure. Help us Dear Jesus to be as you have called us to be forgiving of one another no matter what the offense is regardless of who it is no matter how close they are to us. Oh, help us Gentle Savior, Precious Sacrificed Lamb of God, to lay down our sword of offense and unforgiveness and hatred and resentment and help us to pick up the blood stained nails that were driven in to your hands and your feet so that every sin of mankind was nailed to its final death on the cross of Calvary. Thank you blessed Savior for taking upon yourself my sins and all the sins of whosoever in this world will call upon your name, dear Jesus! We desire, Lord, to forgive our brothers and our sisters. We desire to do as you have taught us to forgive them with sincere hearts and pure minds. Let our motives be a pleasing sacrifice unto you dear Lord. Help us Holy Spirit to be strong in the ways of the Lord and weaker and weaker in the ways of this world. Help us to detach from this world’s system and how it operates holding grudges and hatred and being false in their dealings and being slanderous and murderous with words and thoughts and deeds. We pray that you deliver us, dear Lord, heal us, dear precious Savior, save us, Jesus, for only you are able to save us! We thank you and praise you and bless you! We love you Beloved Lamb of God, Father God, and Holy Spirit. We surrender ourselves to you. You are the Potter and we are merely the clay. Have your way with us Dear Lord, have your way! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**DAY THREE: PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD** *“When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.”* Acts 13:48

**Isaiah 46:10** *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying; My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”* The Lord knows who will say “Yes,” to His Son Christ Jesus and who will reject Him. He knows the end from the beginning and those who said “Yes,” that day and thereafter and up until now, God already knows those who are appointed to eternal life. He knows the hearts and the minds of men and women and I believe He deeply grieves over those who will condemn themselves by not believing.

Beloveds, we **MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD!** We do not know who will say “Yes,” to Christ Jesus but if they don’t hear about Him, how will they know about Him and eternal life? Paul took the Good News every place that he could within the span of his lifetime—we do my darlings need to be about the Father’s business and spreading the Gospel, then making disciples of them and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we must teach them all the commandments and all that Jesus taught the disciples and what is written in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Church is not about a pastor giving a “FEEL GOOD WORD,” filled with promises and no substance. But yet many are drawn to that today. They want their ears itched and they want to feel all emotional and walk out of Church feeling like a giant that can defeat anything by saying “I believe it and I receive it!” Oh, my dears, there is much to the holy lifestyle that God has called all of His children to and it goes way beyond us just putting our hands out and waiting for God to fill them up with what we are praying about. Let us go forth and in longsuffering and in love and good temperament preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Amen!

**John 3:16-18** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whosoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”* **2 Peter 3:9** *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

**Let’s Pray the Sinner’s Prayer together:** Dear Jesus I believe that I am a sinner and that I am condemned without you. I want to trust you and take you into my heart. I want to make you the Lord of my life and the Savior of my eternity. Please forgive me for all the sins that I have committed. Come into my heart and into my life and take control of me, I pray. I give my life to you today. I don’t know what that all truly means, but I want you to be the LORDSHIP of my life and I put you on the throne of my life. Wash me with your cleansing blood inside and out and lead me in the way that you want me to go. Help me to surrender everything to you so that you can work a new work in me. I want to be a new creation in you, Jesus, I confess that you are the Lord and the Savior and the Son of God and I believe the Father is the One who sent you. I put my trust and my faith in you Christ Jesus. Thank you, Amen.

**DAY FOUR: OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND PRAISE THE LORD.** One must open their mouth first and begin to PRAISE the LORD: **“The Word of God” tells us how to praise!** James 3:9(a) and James 5:13, Hebrews 13:15-16 *“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father! Is any among you troubled? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.”* *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer our God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name! And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased!”* **Sacrifice of Praise:** *“The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.”* **Jeremiah 33:11**

**Be like little children to enter into the kingdom of heaven: It also tells us: Psalm 8:2** *“Through the praise of children and infants you (God) have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”* Verse one must precede this verse 2 of Psalm 8: **It is a declaration of whom God is by His established glory!** *“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You set your glory in the heavens.”* **NOW---***“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”* Can you imagine the fierceness and depravity of God’s enemies? They my darlings are way beyond anything or anyone that we could imagine. Yet, God does not have legions upon legions of warring angels as His fortified stronghold. No, God says, in His Word,” that it is simply **‘pure praise,’ from the mouths of children and even infants (babes—suckling). From their mouths they release PURE INNOCENT PRAISE!** Testifying to their faith, their belief, for in their purest form before this **“world’s system,’ corrupted their mind, body, and soul, they are the STRONGHOLD that in their pure praise—perfect praise, designed by God Himself, they silence the foe and the avenger! Amen!** (\_\_\_) added for clarification.

They brought a sacrifice of thanksgiving (praise) into the house of the Lord. We are commanded to do the same, as we read in Hebrews 13:15, *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer our God a sacrifice of praise...”* Beloveds under the Mosaic Law they poured out animals’ blood but we are asked to pour out from our lips sacrificial praise to our Father in Jesus’ name! With our tongues we can speak praises unto God with our tongues we can sing praises unto God. The Word of God says God the Father takes pleasure in our acts of worship and our words of praise! ***“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”*** *“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”* **Matthew 18:3; Psalm 8:2.**

**Beloveds, in the prophetic, God’s movement** includes using sounds and one specific sound being spoken is the ‘Sound of Children.’ Heavenly keys spoken of in the Word, shall be revealed through some of the youngest members of the Household of God! Listen carefully to the children in your midst. God’s voice is distinctive. He promises that we, his sheep, will hear it. The more you pause and listen for his voice, the more you will find that your ears tune in to it—you become familiar with it. It just requires your listening.

**Let’s Pray:** Dear Lord, give us ears to hear You and a heart to respond to You in the way that is pleasing unto You! Help us Lord to Praise You! Amen!

**DAY FIVE: HOW DO WE SEND THE ENEMY FLEEING?** We must not trust in our own strength; we must go out to battle "strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." He will help us, and trusting in The Holy Spirit we are sure to conquer. Even when the temptations are very great, like big giants, we need not fear; God is just as ready to help now as He was in the days of David and Goliath. By prayer we will knock the giant down. Remember, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees;" for he knows that the moment we pray to God the weakest and youngest among us is strong enough to overcome him. Put on the FULL ARMOR OF GOD:

**Ephesians 6:10-18** <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, **be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**—

David speaking to the LORD said, "Send out your arrows, and scatter them. Shoot out your light and discomfit them!" Psalm 18:14

The Lord's Prayer given to us, His disciples; *"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on balling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray. 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Amen!"* Matthew 6:5-13

**Let's Pray:** You, Lord, rebuke the sea and cause the mountains to quake before you and the hills melt away—at your presence the earth trembles and the world and all who live in it. Who, Lord, can withstand your indignation? Who, Lord, can endure your fierce anger? Yet, LORD, we thank you and praise you for you are GOOD and you are our refuge in times of trouble. You care for those who trust in you! Your love is unending. We thank you for your longsuffering and your forgiveness. We thank you Lord for you control all things and you rule with sovereignty. We praise you, we love you, we worship you! There is none like you. In Jesus name, we thank you Father God, who art in Heaven, HALLOWED be your name. Your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven! Lord, we ask you this day for our daily bread, and we ask your Lord to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us not, Lord, into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

(See Nahum Chapter One for the contents of some of the above prayer and Matthew 6:5-13)

**DAY SIX: The Church, the Wife of Noble Character:** Beloveds, we, the church, the bride of Christ have come to the cross-roads and we must get down to serious **REVIVAL BUSINESS!** We must begin with confession and repent and we must turn to God for deliverance. **God's deliverance is an important part of what He is doing in relationship to the revival of the Church. A revival is being loosed over His Bride as we go through these difficult end-time seasons.** How can you and the local church you belong to experience this revival? It must be through deliverance. Be careful though for some of you will expect too little from deliverance and some will expect too much.

If you are a believer who truly wants to continue to grow spiritually then you must understand that every hindrance to your spiritual development must be eliminated. The Bride of Christ is being sought after by the Bridegroom and soon He is coming for her. The Scriptures tell us that His bride must be cleansed. **Ephesians 5:25-27** *"Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*

Therefore, deliverance is an absolute part of the bride's preparations in ridding herself of spots and wrinkles. The church that Jesus is returning for must be holy and without blemish. It is not just up to the Lord to prepare us so that He can present us unto Himself. We must take responsibility; each believer individually and make ourselves ready! Revelation 19:7 *"For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, **and his wife has made herself ready.** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people)."*

Today we must rise up to the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit to better assist the bride of Christ as she undergoes her preparation (2 Corinthians 3:18). *"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (reflect) the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* **This RISING requires** that we depart from many things, people, habits, addictions, behaviors, demons, and Satan himself. We, the church, individually and collectively, must prepare to be ready for Christ's return and that includes deliverance from all unclean spirits we allowed to hinder us individually and corporately as "The Church."

**Let's Pray Who He is:** Lord, I know you are a wakeful and watchful Keeper. You are never weary. You are not weakened by flesh and you do not sleep neither do you so much as slumber. I can sit under your shade with delight and assurance. You are always near your people for our protection and refreshment. Your right hand is the working hand. I shall turn to You and I will find you ready to give me success. You promised that you will take care that your people shall not fall and if we do, you are our Lifter! We shall not be hurt, neither by the open assaults, nor by the secret attempts of our enemies. You, Lord, shall prevent the evil I fear, and sanctify me, and remove or lighten the evil I may feel. You, Holy Spirit, will preserve my soul, that it be not defiled by sin, and disturbed by affliction. It is you, Lord, who will preserve my soul from perishing eternally. Jesus, you promised that You will keep me in life and death; going out to my labor in the morning of my days, and coming home to my rest when the evening of old age calls me in. My Father, my provider for life, I worship you! The Spirit, who is my Preserver and Comforter, shall abide with me forever. Let us be found doing our good works, not growing weary and assured that the blessings promised in the Word are ours. In Jesus Holy Name, Amen!

**DAY SEVEN: I Have the right to do anything BUT not everything is beneficial.** *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.”* **1 Corinthians 10:23-24 NIV** It is true what Apostle Paul said, “All things are lawful for me—but NOT all things are profitable for me. What must we do, Beloveds? We celebrate our liberty. We study the Bible regularly, not as one who is under rules and regulations or restrictions, but as one who understands the law of love grows through the Old Testament’s laws and accounts and the testimonies and Gospels of the New Testament. We need to learn to do life properly so we don’t harm others or even ourselves and we don’t end up like that wild-child living it up in the city until he was living down inside the pigpen.

As believers, we are the freest of all people, for what other religion can you name, or philosophy, or ethic do you know other than Christianity that dares to say, *“All things are lawful?”* *KJV “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient; (moral or proper); all things are lawful for me, but all things edify (benefit) not.”* 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 **LOOKING** at 1 Corinthians 6:12 *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”* **SIN CANNOT RULE HIM, HE IS SAYING!**

In this mixed up mess of a world we are living in, it is no wonder that people are truly confused of what is freedom and what is liberty and where you can access it and really live it. It is hard to understand that it is **HARDER** being enslaved to sin then it is to be a slave to Righteousness! When Paul said don’t be a slave to sin anymore, he wasn’t saying don’t live a joyful happy life having fun. He was saying do all of that, but when you wake up in the morning you won’t be found out by any sinfulness. Satan will let you have all the fun you want, but you will in the end pay a high price for it. Little increments at a time is how his payment plan works. Jesus came to set us free to live life the way it was meant to be lived! It is possible to live that lifestyle because we have His help.

Jesus died for whosoever will call upon His name: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* **John 3:16-17**

**Let’s Pray:** “Father God, in Jesus holy name, please forgive me for my sins. I am sorry, Lord, that I have sinned against you and against others and including sinning against myself. Lord, I don’t want to keep living the lies and the way that I have been. Most don’t know my sin, but God you, do. Someday, though, Lord, if I don’t submit this sin to you and repent of it and walk away from it, it will find me out. Oh, Lord Jesus, help me, the consequences of this sinfulness carry a high price to pay, too high for me. Holy Spirit, I cannot give up this sin without you. By your Spirit which I invite in, I can quit and walk away from it and **COME RUNNING** back to the Arms of the Father! Lord, Rescue me, Save me, Deliver me, Heal me---Lord, nobody but You in Jesus Holy Name can do this—I confess, I repent, and I surrender this once and for all to You. In Jesus holy name I pray, Amen. **Congratulations** if you prayed this prayer meaningfully, your deliverance has been activated from heaven above!

**DAY EIGHT: Bear witness of the LIGHT! John 1:4-9** *“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe. He was not the Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*

The Lord’s ‘seasonal call’ is stop rupturing His finesse (excellence) with dull arrows leaving bent bows rudely puncturing “His Work on the Cross,” with thoughtless chatter about self and ‘personal purpose.’ OUCH! That’s a real blow to the ego—but His Truth pierces with precise accuracy if we allow it to do so. POINT them to Jesus today, tomorrow, the next and the next and the next day. JESUS, not prosperity, not prophetic, not matters of man, not building ministries, planting churches, faith assignments, writing books, fundraising, programs, committees, meetings, steeples and stained glass. **POINT THEM TO JESUS!** *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.” John 12:32*

We, like John the Baptist are sent to bear witness to ‘The Light,’ Jesus Christ. However, in our puncturing techniques of wanting to BE HEARD and wanting to BE SEEN more for who we are as the witness and not POINTING first and foremost to THE LIGHT, we instead have cast shadows on His Work He did on the Cross. A Jury or a Judge in America has to decide if the person on trial is, “Guilty **beyond a shadow** of doubt,” or ‘**beyond a reasonable** doubt.’ If the jurors or judge have no doubt as to the defendant’s guilt, or if their only doubts are unreasonable doubts, then the prosecutor has proven the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and the defendant should be pronounced guilty. *Beyond a reasonable doubt* is the highest standard of proof that must be met in any trial in America.

It is true in a trial a witness may be called, “The Star Witness,” or a professional witness is called, “An Expert Witness.” Nevertheless, the case is not about them, the case is about the defendant being charged with a crime. At the end of the day their witnessing contributed to helping or hurting the outcome of the trial, but at the end of the trial it was not about them, it was about the ONE they were called to be a ‘witness’ for or against! These witnesses either cast light or cast doubt and amazingly many come in to cast light for the defendant but they in fact cast doubt by the clever cross-examination of the prosecutor. Perhaps we should be examining ourselves and making sure it is the CROSS that we are pointing others to and not ourselves or our ministries or our whatever!

***“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” (Revelation 1:17-18)***

**Let’s Pray: Heavenly Father we magnify your name. Great Creator of all creation, majesty and sovereign rule and splendid glory belongs to you! We exalt your name! HALLOWED be Your Name! Your Kingdom come and your will be done on this earth as it is in heaven!** In the name of Your Precious Son, Christ Jesus, we call upon Your Holy Name in perilous times, and we ask You for Your divine protection over our lives and all of the necessities that sustain us, and that we may obtain mercy and find grace in times of need. You are a mighty God, a God Who is not only all-powerful, but the One Who stores our tears in a bottle, and the One Who cried aloud from the heart of Your Son, Christ Jesus, grieving over the lost sheep of Israel with outstretched arms. We will turn to You, Oh Lord, Our God and Father of Jesus Christ for you are our hiding place, our protector and provider, our healer and deliverer and our Savior and Lord of all lords---King of all kings! Amen!

**DAY NINE: Absolutes that go beyond choice:** Who has set the standard for Christian Behavior? That's right, God has set them. Jesus practiced them so that we have the model set before us. In life there are those things that we can choose to do and then there are those things that we must do. For example: A Christian **MUST BELIEVE IN THE CORE TRUTHS OF THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST** as set forth in the Bible. Even Christ Jesus, "God the Word," who became flesh, Himself had to abide by 'absolutes.' When Jesus is speaking look for when He says, "I must!" **Absolute truth:** Whatever is true at one time and at one place is true at all times and at all places. What is true for one person is true for all persons. **Relative truth:** Truth that is true at only one time and at one place. It's true to some people and not to others. It's true now but it may not have been true in the past and it may not be again in the future, it's always subject to change. It is also subject to perspective of people.

The source of our **absolute truth** is set by God. *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."* John 13:15-16 What was the **PROMISED RESULT** if Christians did what He said was 'an absolute truth in Christianity' as He had just demonstrated? *"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."* (John 13:17). This is an 'absolute truth' in **Christian behavior** NOT SET BY MAN nor CULTURE nor RELATIVISM. Our personal standard was demonstrated in the man, Jesus, and He is the standard we are to seek to follow. This of course requires studying Jesus on your own in depth and as you do, you will be very blessed and your life will be transformed as He begins to do the work in you, from the **INSIDE** out!

**JESUS' ABSOLUTE STATEMENTS, "I MUST," AS RECORDED BY LUKE:** <sup>49</sup> *"And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49—<sup>43</sup> "But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." Luke 4:43—<sup>22</sup> "saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." Luke 9:22—<sup>5</sup> "And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." Luke 19:5* **'I must,' means it is an absolute and He does not have a choice in it.** He is God and in His infinite wisdom there are absolutes even in His creation. Take gravity as just one example. No matter where a person lives on planet earth, if they fell 100 feet off from a tall building, they would fall downward! No matter where a child lives if they threw a baseball up into the air, it would come down from the air. Let's learn to look for the "I must," statements that Jesus made and s-t-r-e-t-c-h ourselves into seeing how 'absolute truth' is the only applicable truth that we, Christians, can live by.

**Let's Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you in Jesus Holy Name and we want to thank you Father for your goodness, your mercy, your grace, your unfailing love, your forgiveness, your long suffering and your patience with each of us. You are our Abba Father and we want to tell you that we love you and we do appreciate you. Jesus we thank you for giving up your life for us and we declare that You are our Lord and our Savior and You are the One and Only Begotten Son of God. Lord, we admit that You are so much more involved in our daily lives than we realize. Today, we ask Holy Spirit for Your help so we can become more familiar with Jesus by studying The Word and spending more time just thinking about Him and asking questions. We want to really get to know Jesus the Person, Jesus the Savior, Jesus the Lord. We desire to be more like Him and less like ourselves. Thank You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for EVERYTHING. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

**DAY TEN: You Matter to God!** In the midst of somebody's glory-story, you may be overlooked by the masses, the organization, the board, the employer, the spouse, the sisters and brothers, the children, even the grandchildren, BUT GOD NEVER OVERLOOKS A SINGLE DETAIL ABOUT YOU. What may seem unimportant to most in the midst of the RISE OF ANOTHER be it in Ministry or Business, or Politics, or Family, be aware that God is not only watching, He is moving on your behalf to accomplish that which He set out to accomplish through you. If I said "Elkanah," and this word meant your entrance into heaven, would you know this 'word'?

Your name matters to God. The generation you live in matters to God. Your ethnicity matters to God. Where you live matters to God. Who your ancestors are and where they originated from matters to God. Who your children are matters to God. Who you select for a spouse matters to God. Literally everything about you matters to God. He is highly and very selectively interested in all things about you including what you don't know about yourself that even embraces the time you cannot recall whereas the Bible says, He knew you before the foundation of the world! "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you! And before you were born, I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.*" **Jeremiah 1:5.** If God could say this to and about Jeremiah, Beloved, He also says this to and about ALL of us!

**Did Elkanah know how much he mattered to God?** Did he realize that every function he participated in and those he allowed others to make the decisions about, all mattered to God? His choice of residency and his annual pilgrimage to Shiloh to honor God, did he truly understand the width and the breadth of how each tiny detail of his life mattered to God? **1 Samuel 1:1** "*Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tobu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.*" God tells us a lot about Elkanah, yet he is not the person centered in this glory-story, why do we need to know these things about Elkanah? **1.** The city he is from. **2.** The country he is from. **3.** His name. **4.** His ancestry. No word and no detail given in the Bible is useless information, it is ALL of UPMOST importance. King David said it like this: "*What is man that you take thought of him and the son of man that you care for him?*" (**Psalm 8:4**) **NOT JUST ONE THOUGHT:** "*How precious also are Your thoughts \*to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.*" \*[reads 'concerning me' in the oldest texts]. **Psalm 139:17-18** (NASB)

**Elkanah means "God-Created."** Beloveds, what God creates, He NEVER FORGETS! Created for a purpose for His Kingdom. Romans 8:28 NASB "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" The story all around Elkanah is about his wife, Hannah, who pleads for a child and has Prophet Samuel, the rest is HIS-STORY!

**EVERY DETAIL OF EACH PERSON MATTERS TO GOD:** "*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*" **AMEN!** **Psalm 139:13-16** NIV—**make this proclamation: I MATTER TO GOD!**

**Let's Pray:** Thank you, Lord, that I matter to You and that you know everything about me. Amen!

**DAY ELEVEN: Righting a Wrong brought Hannah a child and God a prophet!** Hannah received the blessing of her womb once she reached spiritual wisdom to discern good from evil. Had she given birth before she reached the level of maturity necessary in her faith, more than likely she would have followed in the misguided steps of Elkanah and Peninnah. This is the same truth for you and me today. Many times we pray and pray about something that only God can do or fix or cause to happen, yet we go day by day without the prayer answered the way we have expected it to be answered. God knows the thoughts of every man's mind and He knows the motives of each individual's heart. His parental ability to know if a child of His is ready for the desire of their heart to be fulfilled is always accurate. Hannah had to get desperate enough to figure out with the aid of the Scriptures why her womb had been locked shut by the LORD. She was the first wife and she was barren. The second wife gave child after child, but the children were kept in the home far away from Shiloh. THEN being the wife of a Levite, she knew the requirement was to give the sons to the LORD for His service at the Tabernacle. Once she righted the wrong that had been done against God—EVERYTHING CHANGED!

**Vow:** *“Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. She made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.’” 1 Samuel 1:9-11—Later affirmed by Priest Eli: “Then Eli answered and said, ‘Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.’” 1 Samuel 1:17*

Hannah's Vow Fulfilled: <sup>24</sup> *“After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. <sup>25</sup> When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, <sup>26</sup> and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup> I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. <sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.” 1 Samuel 1:24-28-- Samuel grew up before the LORD: “Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD, as a boy wearing a linen ephod. And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.” 1 Samuel 2:18-19 “*

God's Blessing on Hannah: *“Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, ‘May the LORD give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the LORD.’ And they went to their own home. The LORD visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before the LORD.” 1 Samuel 2:20-21*

**Let's Pray:** Father, we praise you and we thank you. We lift your name on high! We thank you for your Holiness, your Faithfulness, and your Righteousness. We ask you this day in Jesus name to show us any wrongs we have in our lives or in our generations that need to be righted. We ask you Lord reveal not only the wrongs to us, but give us specific instructions to remedy them. We desire to set our wrongs right under Your Anointing! We humbly bow ourselves before you dear Lord and confess that we fall short of your glory all the time. We are sinners saved by the GRACE of Jesus Christ and we thank you for our adoption into your family. We seek to Love you, Lord, with ALL of our heart and all of our minds and all of our souls and all of our willpower! Be Blessed Lord in all that we say and do. We desire to bring you honor and glory in all the ways that we conduct ourselves—Help us dear Lord because only by your workings within us shall we be enabled to do so. Amen

**DAY TWELVE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH—Pentecost Sunday:** Like any birthday we celebrate, we celebrate the birth and the growth. Remember spiritual growth in every person and His Church belongs to God. I pray you all gather around Communion and partake of the Remembrance of Jesus Christ and celebrate what He has done, is doing, and will do. He is the LORD, who is, who was, and who is to come! The last words Jesus said to us that is recorded in the Bible are the most promising words to all of us who long to see Him: **“Yes, I am coming soon!” Revelation 22:20**

**Psalm 127:1** makes it clear that UNLESS it is built by Him—it will fail. *“Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”* The revelation of this verse alongside of **1 Thessalonians 1:1** is pretty obvious. We cannot build something that looks, sounds, feels, tastes, or smells like ‘the Church of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ’ WITHOUT THEM! If we do it without them, we have done so OUTSIDE of them. The Church was forefront in Jesus and the Father’s hearts and minds when Jesus went to the cross. The Church was forefront in His mind and in His heart when Jesus had His last meeting with His Disciples and Apostles before ascending into heaven, Matthew 28 and Acts Chapter One. His church was first in His mind and His heart when He had the Father send the Holy Spirit to all the first Church leaders, at least One-hundred-twenty (120) of them, as we see in Acts Chapter Two. His church was foremost in His mind and in His heart when He had his last meeting in heaven with one of His disciples, Apostle John. *“I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day, I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet which said, ‘Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Peramum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.’”* Revelation 1:9-11

What we truly plant inside of the confines of Father and Son it’s GODLY GROWTH POTENTIAL exists through OBEDIENCE and SACRIFICE. **Sacrifice is motivated by Love!** Every sacrifice we Christian leaders make should only be prompted by first our LOVE for Jesus Christ and secondly our LOVE for His kingdom people. Christian Leaders sacrifice not for money, or fame, or affirmation, but out of LOVE FOR JESUS AND HIS BELOVEDS. Let us do our part as Paul said and leave the CHURCH’S GROWTH up to God Almighty.

**Let’s Pray:** Dear sweet Jesus our Lord and our Savior, what is it we can say other than Bless You and we thank You! For through You we are saved! Through You we have an assembly of like-minded and Spirit led family members to walk this journey with us. We thank You for Birthing the Church. We praise Your Holy Name. We thank You Father that we meant so much to You that You would send Your One and Only Begotten Son to die on the cross of cruelty for us, to redeem us and reconcile us back unto You! We praise Your Holy Name. Father God thank You for sending to us the Holy Spirit. Without You, Holy Spirit, we could do nothing in the spirit as we are bound in this natural world that is filled with darkness. But by You and through You, Holy Spirit, the Church is being lead in the direction that she should go! We praise You, Holy Spirit, just your very presence on this earth holds the lawless one back and keeps restraints on the enemy of our souls. We praise the name of our Father who is in heaven, HALLOWED be Your Name! Your kingdom come and your will be done on this earth as it is in heaven! We thank you LORD CHRIST JESUS for without YOUR Completed Work—we would still be consumed by darkness and slaves unto sin. We thank You Holy Spirit, for we are not orphaned but we are in the comfort of Your company! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we lift our voices unto you and we say, “We love you and We Praise Your Holy Name!” Amen

**DAY THIRTEEN: FATHER GOD REQUIRES PREPAREDNESS.** I am a teacher of proactive and not reactive; before something happens I'd like to know in advance how to respond instead of react! Christians are NEVER to be defensive but operating understanding proactive-offense. How do you learn characteristics with their corresponding responses? In football the coaches TEACH field maneuvers that each player understands within their 'zone' according to their 'call—position.' They are taught over and over and they practice it over and over how to move a certain way within a precise time, calculation, speed or harshness to execute against the opponents assigned to them. I'm not crazy over football, but I admire that the set-rules established in the late eighteenth century still apply today.

Why is it humans commit to such rigorous training and accept so readily the proactive policy of commands to be a part of a football team, dance team, softball team, volleyball team, soccer team, etc. YET we grumble and resist as we fudge and smear and rearrange the manifesto of the Creator of our life rebelliously so, defaming the consecration of our temple and holy lifestyle? Beloveds, we are not designed to be so shallow minded or so one-dimensional in our spiritual walk with Jesus Christ.

**RULES APPLY TO EVERYTHING and CHRISTIANITY IS NO EXCEPTION:** Populating the earth in the way that the Creator of ALL Creation designed it to be, a man takes a woman to be his wife and within the confines of their marital bliss and bed, children are conceived, to populate the earth! **NO NOT EXACTLY:** God doesn't NEED the earth populated with people, just any random people! He is seeking GODLY Offspring—that develop their spiritual keenness accompanied with a soul placed inside of a human body. Exactly why He made and signed the Abrahamic Covenant! Additionally, why the Lord Jesus made and signed and executed the Blood Covenant! Beloved's it is ALL about growing the population of the Kingdom of Heaven. Beyond just birthing children and raising them up in the House of God in the way that they should go, which is in fact A RULE for every Christian, whether it be mom and dad or just mom or just dad—the rules apply. **Ideally** we would have all been raised with parents who brought us up with Christian love and education; however, life on earth in this broken world of darkness is not ideally meant for many of us destined by God for His Kingdom purpose—so we have to strive harder, be broken more, and be deprived longer BEFORE our breakthrough manifests—the whole idea is not to give up—but to get up over and over and over!

Another purpose of the “Church Gathering and Assembling” is to help RAISE up these “Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, and Apostles as well as saints strong in the faith!” **Ephesians 6:4** “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” **2 Timothy 1:5** “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.” **1 Timothy 5:8** “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

**Pray that the Lord will help you with this healing and deliverance through prayer:** If your parents did not have the knowledge to raise you in the way that you should go in Godly Matters—**Forgive them!** If your parents did not love each other or even you the way they should have—**Forgive them and move forward!** If you were orphaned or lost your mother or your father when you were young—**Remember Father is the Father of the fatherless—so rise up!** You are able to overcome ALL things with God and as you obey Him and live within the RULES as you learn them, all will go well for you. **The Holy Spirit is with you and He will teach you alongside of and through men and women of strong faith that you surround yourself with, it helpful to go to Church every Sunday, Beloved.**

**DAY FOURTEEN: “WE ARE WHAT WE SMELL LIKE.”** In Springtime many flowers blossom and the smells are co-mingled but the closer you get the easier it is to separate the smells of one flower from the other. There are noticeable differences to the eye as well as the touch and the taste. What about the fragrance of a Christian? How are we to smell? If Christians were a flower in the Garden of Life on this earthly foundation, what flower would God choose us to smell most like? Jesus is likened to the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley—I would assume that if I am to be likened to Him that I should therefore smell as such. *“I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.” SOS 2:1*

**Christ said of Himself,** I am the Rose of Sharon. Sharon is a valley in Israel between Mount Tabor and Lake Tiberius (1 Chronicles 5:16). The beautiful Roses of Sharon grow there. Not planted by the hands of man, BUT by the hand of God. The Rose is considered the Queen of all flowers. She is considered the one with the greatest virtue. Christ Jesus expresses His own excellence to draw the souls of those that love Him to long after Him. The Son of God—God incarnate is not the work of man but the Work of God! As quickly as the rose buds, her blossom is already dying. Jesus was born to die and RISE AGAIN and HE DID! **Christ also said, ‘I am the lily of the valleys.’** The Lily is a sweet and fragrant flower with a strong scent that human’s senses are easily overturned with the sweet odor of them. It is a white and very beautiful flower and within it are seven grains (seeds) of the color of gold and so good-natured in their simple beauty and sweet smell—Jesus said of them, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like the Lilies (Luke 12:27) *“Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”* It is a very fruitful flower whereas one flower can put forth in time fifty (50) bulbs. Although it is a tall plant and its leaves are very vibrant with a deep green leafy, its white heads’ hang downward. Like the humble servant of God. Jesus was the humblest man to walk earth and He calls us to humble ourselves as well. Its natural whiteness exceeds all other flowers.

The Rose applied to Christ Jesus as Royalty and the white lily depict the lowliness of His humble personhood. See 2 Corinthians 8:9 *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”* Therefore, both the Rose and the Lily answers to the white and ruddy of the Bridegroom of Song of Solomon. SOS 5:10 *“My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.”*

**We, beloveds are called to prepare ourselves in His righteousness** to wear garments of white linen at the Lambs Wedding Supper (Rev. 19:7-9). **Then the Lord says of His Bride** *“As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”* (SOS 2:2). He says of the bride that she is likened to a lily among the thorns. She is to be a sweet odorous white life-spreading flower herself, but she would be among the ‘Thorns.’ Thorns are equivalent to the wicked as well as ‘the world’s system.’ **Martin Luther said:** *“If thou art the lily of Jesus Christ, take heed lest by impatience, rash judgments, and pride, thou thyself become a thorn.”*

**Let’s Pray:** Lord, the world is out of control. Sin is running wild. We ask you, Holy Spirit to help us with our Christian aroma as we evangelize and minister reconciliation taking the Living Gospel forward in this darkened and dying world. Our officials are making very bad and ungodly decisions and their many new laws are causing great negative effects on us and our children and the Church at large! *“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma that brings death; to the other, the aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.”* 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

**DAY FIFTEEN: LEARN CHRIST JESUS, YOUR BRIDEGROOM.** Study Him, ‘The Living Word,’ **Learn Him** so you can love Him the way He desires! There is a difference between learning about some person or learning them. To learn them, you must spend time with them, studying them, listening to them, asking them questions and asking them for explanations. You learn from the type of surroundings they prefer and those they stay away from. Study their mannerisms and their style and their conversation style and how they respond and react. What they love and what they hate. When you get married and begin to live with your spouse, that is when you learn them not learn about them.

**The Bride says of Him,** *“As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was LOVE.”* (Song of Solomon 2:3-4) We now see how our Bridegroom is described as ‘An Apple Tree.’ A Tree of good fruit. A Tree that gives sustaining life fruits. We must subscribe to the truth that these descriptions although naturally describing Solomon it is also spiritually describing Christ Jesus the Bridegroom of the Church as well as His Beloved—the Church. Even to the place of where the Rose of Sharon lives is depicting the idea of “lowliness.” The Rose of Sharon’s and the Lily of the Valleys’ royalty, beauty, delicacy, and lowliness are all those attributes of a humbled servant. Christ Jesus, the Royal-Servant cast the same shadow of identity to us His bride. Whatever spiritual or natural attributes we find in Him; within His human and spiritual makeup, can also be found in us. For as Apostle Paul said, “I no longer live—But it is He inside of me.” **Galatians 2:20** *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life that I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* He rules rightly (Proverbs 25:11).

**Jesus alone is ever fruitful and His Rule is Higher than any other: Psalm 89:6-8 and Hebrews 1:9**—Among all the trees of the forest—His Beloved eagerly sits under His shadow! That is our position as well, my Beloveds! In Hebrew it literally reads, “I eagerly desired and sat.” Psalm 94:19, Mark 6:31, Ephesians 2:6, 1 Peter 1:8-9. **Our Lord Jesus Christ is The Tree of Life,** Beloveds! Let us be sitting under His shadow and in great delight. Let Him feed us His sweet fruit—A good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. Let Him prepare you with the washing of His Word. We are in a SEASON of REPENTANCE and CONFESSION and the Spirit of Salvation and Reconciliation have been released from heaven over planet earth! Now, is the time to STOP all useless activities. STOP all things that bear bad fruit. Beloveds, the Lord loosed over His backslidden children and His lukewarm children a Spirit of TURNING! It is NOW, my darlings, that we must STOP, DROP, PRAY, and TURN back to Our Lord! In my spirit, I believe the Lord has spoken He ‘Has Adjusted Time.’ I trust these to be His very words, yet, brothers and sisters, I do not have a full understanding of their implied meaning. Beloveds let us not delay in getting right with the Lord. All the signs of His return are on the heavenly horizon and I pray you have the spiritual eyes to see the hosts coming to harvest the fields of the Lord! The Bible says we are His fruit and we see the first fruits in the proper order of procession in Jesus’ triumphal glory (James 1:16-18 and 1 Cor. 15:20-24).

**His banner of Love** seats us at the banquet under a banner inscribed with His name, LOVE (Hebrews 2:10 and 1 John 4:8). We are drawn into His banqueting house. The Heavenly feast type of a banquet can be seen in Isaiah 25:6-9. We are only there through His triumphed sacrifice on the cross and we are forever under His ever-lasting Arms (1 Cor. 15:57; Rev. 3:21; Deuteronomy 33:27).

**Let’s Pray:** We thank you that every morning you send new mercies unto us, your children. Lord, we ask that you would strengthen us in our weaknesses and we ask you Lord to show us our weaknesses that are our stumbling blocks. We ask you Lord to point out those things unlike you so that we can confess and repent all of our sins unto you. In Jesus holy name we pray, Amen.

**DAY SIXTEEN: DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY THAT?** *“Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymanaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those who are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.’”* 2 Timothy 2:14-19 Interestingly enough today’s topic is somewhat offbeat in the sense that it is not specifically centered on a particular Scripture, but rather a particular set of ‘misunderstandings of Scripture.’

Individually and corporately we do find ourselves defending the Bible when somebody misquotes it or bases an action of what they believe it says. **1 Timothy 1:3-7** *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith. The goal of this commend is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.”*

One thing I heard as a child and I still hear it to this day, “The Lord helps those who help themselves.” We have groups of people and organizations and even political parties that use that phrase over and over and they truly believe that it is actually in the Bible. How did they arrive at quoting it like it is Biblical Scripture? “God helps those who help themselves” is probably the most often quoted phrase that is not found in the Bible. This saying is usually attributed to Ben Franklin, quoted in *Poor Richard’s Almanac* in 1757. In actuality, it originated from Algernon Sydney in 1698 in an article titled *Discourses Concerning Government*. Whatever the original source of this saying, the Bible teaches the opposite. God helps the helpless! Isaiah 25:4 declares, *“For You have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat...”* Romans 5:6 tells us, *“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

**WARNING!** Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32 say that we are not to add or take away from any of God’s Holy Word. *“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.”* *“See that you do all that I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.”* ALSO in Revelation 22:18-19 there is a WARNING! We can easily believe things that are NOT TRUE. We must ask the experts when it comes to Biblical issues. We must be sure we are hearing from Christ Jesus. Also diligently study the Word yourself with the help of Holy Spirit. Join a Bible Study at your Church or with those approved by God Almighty! Attend Church regularly!

**Let’s Pray:** Father, let us thank you for GIVING us all the answers to our many questions in Your Word! Lord forgive us for those things that we believed were in Your Word, but they are not. Forgive us, Lord, for misunderstanding Scriptures and repeating it to others. Forgive us for anytime we have been misled by others or even by ourselves about Scriptural matters. Help us, starting today, to truly seek Your Counsel and go running to Your Holy Word and diligently seek You with our pressing questions. Thank you Father for being a Loving Father who has the ability to correct His children with true love and compassion. We Praise Your Holy Name! In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

**DAY SEVENTEEN: TESTING THE QUESTIONABLE**—Why do Christians assume good or evil currently in their lives is of God? Even if He didn't bring it on us—He will use the situation for our good. *“And we know that in ALL things God works for our good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)* Sometimes we believe we hear from the Lord but too often we act before we ask the Lord if it is truly Him giving us the assignment. Are we asking the right questions and WAITING upon the LORD to see if a “Questionable” we have received is really from Him? Shouldn't we consider questioning the LORD a little longer and deeper to make sure that some of the things we think He told us to do, really came from Him?

Gideon tested what he believed he heard God tell him to do. It was not God being tested it was ‘the questionable thing’ being tested. **GIDEON SAID TO GOD:** *“If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—look I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.”* And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.” **THEN GIDEON SAID TO GOD:** *“Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew. That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.”* **Judges 6:36-40**

Yes, the sheep of Christ Jesus know His voice, but I am here to tell you, the enemy can truly make you think you are hearing from God when you are not. He can easily disguise himself and how many times have Christians really desired to do something or start something so they convince themselves that God told them to do it? Let's use the Scriptures as our guide and see what lessons we can learn that will assist us in “Testing the Questionable.”

**HEZEKIAH** *“What will be the sign the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to temple of the LORD on the third day from now?”* Isaiah answered, *‘This is the LORD’S sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised; Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps? (changed time) ‘It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps,’ said Hezekiah. ‘Rather, have it go back ten steps.’ Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.”* **2 Kings 20:8-11**

**Paul’s WARNING:** *“For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then tolerate me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting.”* **2 Corinthians 11:13-16.** **Beloved’s we must be very careful** when somebody tells us the Lord said such-and-such. We are not to rebuke it, but we are to test it against the Word of God. *“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”* **Acts 17:11 AND** *“Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.”* **1 Thessalonians 5:20-22**

**Let’s Pray:** Dear Lord, help me not to be quick to think that everything that comes into my life is ordained by you. Forgive me when I thought it was you but it was not you. Forgive me Lord for blaming you for sicknesses and financial struggles and relational problems, believing that you ordained difficulties in my life, when it was the devil robbing me and I failed to understand that I was not to accept it as from You, BUT I was to ask you and then Battle in Prayer! Amen.

**DAY EIGHTEEN: COME SUP WITH ME!** <sup>15</sup> *“Now upon hearing this, one of those dining with Jesus said to Him, ‘Blessed is he who eats bread in the kingdom of God’ “But Jesus said to him”, ‘A certain man was hosting a large banquet, and he invited many. At the time for the banquet, he sent his slave to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, everything is already (NOW) prepared.’ ‘But every one of them began to beg off. The first said to him, ‘I bought a farm, and I’m obligated to go out to see it. I’m asking you to have me excused.’ Then another one said, ‘I’ve purchased five teams of oxen, and I’m going to check them out. I’m asking you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I’ve married a wife, so I cannot come.’ So the slave came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house got angry and said to his slave, ‘Quickly go out into the squares and alleys of the city and bring here the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Master, I have done as you instructed, and still there is room.’ So the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the thoroughfares and fenced areas, and press them to come in so my home will be filled. For I’m telling you none of those men who were invited will taste my banquet.”* **Luke 14:15-24**

Jesus is speaking about the Lamb’s Wedding Supper in this parable as well as in **Revelation 3:20** which is experienced in **Revelation 19:6-10**. The bridegroom does not take His meal with His guests and leave His bride by herself. He sits with His bride and she sups with Him and He sups with her. They drink of the fruit of the vine from the cup of wine that is the second cup they drink that solidifies their marriage. **Revelation 3:20** *“Here I am! I stand at the door and I knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with that person, and they with me.”* The word for sup is *‘deipnon’* and it refers to the evening meal, **the last meal before dawn of the next day. He is inviting people to the last meal before the dawn.** He is calling people to join Him for fellowship before night falls and it’s too late, for the dawn will only break for those who had their last meal with Christ. For others, the night is eternal. **And so, He knocks waiting to be invited into hearts.**

**Believers, Let’s search our hearts and make sure we have not become a complacent bride who is bored in our betrothal with Christ Jesus. READ THE WEDDING PROGRAM:** *“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, ‘Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he saith unto me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”* **Revelation 19:6-10**

**Let’s Pray:** “Dear heavenly Father, we come to you in the Name of your One and Only Begotten Son and our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Forgive us dear Lord if we have become complacent and so mediocre in our love toward you and in our love toward the worldly people we are to call into the kingdom of God. Lord, help us we pray to develop a true keen thirsty love for you. Deliver us we pray from the malice of pride. Lord help us to understand that we have no salvation within ourselves and we have no resource within us separate from you that will bring us to the Lamb’s Wedding Supper. Today Lord etch inside of our minds, souls, and spirits that there is no highway to heaven built by man and there is no byway that bypasses salvation through Jesus Christ that will bring our lost loved family members and friends into Heaven. Deposit in us we pray an awakening that pricks our flesh and deflates its stronghold over our spirit so that we can live our life daily in LOVE with YOU and truly expecting that in any moment you are COMING for us! Help us to be about our Father’s business going to the ends of the earth spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples of them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name we pray—Amen!

**DAY NINETEEN: “I AM MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?”** As children of God, which we become through Christ Jesus, we forfeit ‘our identity’ and we take on ‘Christ’s identity.’ We are no longer an individual; but a true member of One Body—the Body of Christ Jesus, and this transition can cause us to be too critical of ourselves! Jesus is the head of the Body and we are all living members of a live organism called, the Church (Body of Christ). Now in addition to this transformation, Father God said before time, that we would become the “EXACT IMAGE OF HIS SON, CHRIST JESUS.” **Romans 8:29** “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” We must give room for our spirit to teach our soul and our mind the supernatural undertaking of this transformation that in the natural seems impossible. **2 Corinthians 3:18** “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Father God said ALL people are made in His Image! **Genesis 1:26-28** “Then God said, **‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,** so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. **So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.** God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” **Genesis 3:22** “And the LORD God said, ‘The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” **Genesis 5:1-2** “This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them ‘Mankind,’ when they were created.” **Genesis 9:6** “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” **James 3:9** “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness.”

We have an ‘image spirit,’ that is not a defect but a Godly attribute built in our GNA (Godly Natural Attributes) because we are made in His Image! **Romans 8:14-16** “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves so that you live in fear again; rather the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to son-ship. And by him we cry ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” **Romans 6:18** “And I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty!” “Jesus said, ***‘Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’***” **John 20:17** We have His GNA inside of us just as our children have the DNA of their father and mother inside of them. He built into us His GNA (in His image). He has granted us according to our ability some of His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as well as intuitions, thoughts, and ways.

**Let’s Pray:** Thank you God Almighty for adopting us through Christ Jesus. Abba, Father, we seek Your binding up and casting out of us anything not in alignment with You. We ask that You realign those Godly Natural Attributes that went rogue and regenerate them for Your intended depository purpose. We ask in Jesus Name that You loose over us and through us Your purposeful GNA. Enable the destiny that You planned for us before the foundation of the world so we can be effective in the Kingdom’s work that You have planned for each of us. Thank you for Your unfailing Love! Amen.

**DAY TWENTY: “FAMOUS LOVE”** Wherever Jesus went, people gathered to hear what He had to say. Some came because they knew that He was truly “The Bread of Life,” and they wanted to sit at the Father’s table and eat life, the life of abundance. Others pushed toward the front of the crowd to hear His words because they desired to know who He was and why was He so different. Then there were the scoffers who railed Him and rode His words like they were wild asses as spoken of in the book of Job. Lastly in the crowd were the religious leaders some curious enough to dare secretly to believe He could possibly be the Messiah or at least, “The Prophet.”

Jesus knew that He spoke to a crowd so diverse that some hailed Him, some loved Him, some hated Him and wanted to kill Him. Others believed in Him and wanted more of Him, while those He came to touch believed Him to be a fake and a fraud and wanted to rid themselves of Him. Some came hungry for His word; others came full of themselves pushing away His word. Jesus understood they came from different backgrounds and they watched Him and listened to Him from their personal perspectives. With all these various emotions of love and hate toward Him along with honor and respect overshadowed by dishonor and disrespect, **He NEVER FAILED to deliver that which He is MOST FAMOUS of yet today, HIS UNFAILING LOVE!**

Jesus’ love language could be summed up in one word, LOVE. However, that wouldn’t be enough as a lot of us have a ‘messed up view’ of what love is because we measure it based on our experiences both good and bad when it comes to the ‘emotion of love.’ I’d like to use this word as a ‘reference’ word to shape His LOVE that has been since before the beginning of time—I would use the word, **LONGSUFFERING** to describe Jesus’ love language.

**When we read, Romans 2:4, 9:22, and 2 Peter 3:9, we see how Christ Jesus did bear and continues to bear long with sinners in His slowness to execute judgment on them.** The LORD said of Himself as He passed by Moses, “*And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.’*” **Exodus 34:6** “*The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third or fourth generation.*” **Numbers 14:18** “*But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*” **Psalm 86:15** “*Or despises thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*” **Romans 2:4** “*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given him hath written unto you.*” **1 Peter 3:20, 2 Peter 3:9 and 3:15**

**Let’s Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father we thank you for being longsuffering and merciful. We Praise Your Holy Name! We come to you this day and we ask in Jesus Holy name be our strength that we would not forget Christ Jesus in the testimony we owe Him by boldly speaking when it is needful to maintain His honor and the authority of His Gospel. Holy Spirit, when we see other Christians suffering for the cause of the Gospel, encourage us to join them and bear with them their affliction. Let us not be shaken by the enemies that arise. Let us always remain constant in our kingdom purpose. Father, help us to stand as witnesses for our Lord and Savior and Your One and Only Begotten Son, Christ Jesus, seeing He is so gracious to us and so longsuffering for us and those who have rejected Him. Amen!

## **DAY TWENTY-ONE: THE LAST DAY OF OUR 21 DAY FAST AND PRAYER ASSEMBLY:**

Beloveds, fasting and prayer is LABOR INTENSIVE and a Christian must be willing to violently move all obstacles through fasting and prayer out of the way to receive breakthroughs for themselves as well as for others. One must forcefully BREAK through the earth's air and atmosphere and through the strongholds in the first and second heavens to reach the third heaven that Paul spoke of; where the Throne of God is and where He is. The Lord answering these types of prayers is likened to a lawn mower, the mower does not push itself nor does it steer itself. It needs fuel to operate, gas or electricity, it needs a driver to maneuver it. Our prayers are the fuel and the drivers behind God. We must engage Him into the 'Battle,' regardless of the nature of it, sickness, relationship trouble, finances, diseases, barrenness, slander or insult, salvation of loved ones, deliverances etc. We must MOVE the Hand of God through fasting and praying. Only through prayer and then WAITING upon the Lord can we grab ahold of His powerful iron rod and His royal scepter and be comforted in knowing The Good Shepherd has heard our laborious cries and He has been moved to respond by our mournful humble posture before His Majesty. **I am grateful that the reality of Christ Jesus strengthened you to move you into your prayer closet and SHUT THE DOOR! I know you will NEVER be the same again!**

### **A PRAYER-LIFE OF ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING GETS IMPOSSIBLE THINGS**

**DONE!** *“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say; ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him. And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything. I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you bread because of a friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.’ So I say to you; Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **Luke 11:1-10***

Not only do we pray shamelessly with bold audacity but also with determined forcefulness. Once John the Baptist came, the heavenly beings, both good and evil, knew he was the Elijah who would prepare the way for the Messiah. When he came into earth's atmosphere the evil ones in the first and second heavens began to war more violently against God and His chosen people and His children through Christ Jesus. However, we are not to cower BUT we too, with violent prayer lives, are to violently breakthrough their line of defense and get our prayers through force to the Altar of God. ***“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.”*** (Matthew 11:12)

Some are losing faith in Jesus because of unanswered prayers, but they give up too easily and they don't fight violently against the enemy. Beloved go boldly before the Throne of Grace and don't stop asking, seeking, and knocking! In Greek these words and the measure in how they are used, ask, seek, knock, what is implied is 'continue to ask, seek, and knock—'keep on keeping on until the prayer is fulfilled.' **PULL OUT THE EVIL ROOTS and GET YOURSELF BOLDLY BEFORE THE LORD'S THRONE.**



Matthew 14:22-33 New King James Version

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. <sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

<sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."**

<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

<sup>29</sup> So He said, **"Come."** And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, **"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"** <sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

<sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

# 40 Days of Reflection

“A Sacred Seasonal Fortification”

## INTRODUCTION

During these forty days, we shall embark on an encouraging journey with the breath of the Holy Spirit reviving you and building up your most holy faith in Christ Jesus. In these forty days, we will be visiting the Holy Bible and eating upon the flesh of the Word of God, Jesus Christ. We shall fill ourselves with the pouring in of His blood bringing life into our dry spiritual bones. In times of preparation, as led by the Holy Spirit, you will be encouraged to enter into short term Holy Fasts to seek very specific answers and directions that can only come from fasting and prayer. Through Jesus Christ you shall enter into the Father’s Throne Room and seek His face and His favor.

Clear yourself a special place to meet daily with the Lord to concentrate on the Matters of God and give to Him your ‘Matters of man.’ This forty-day devotional is designed to bring into view the image of the true and living Savior and Master, Lord and King, Christ Jesus. Let the eyes of your soul seek the manifestation of the Risen Savior in a way that has escaped you in the past. Press into the Lord and He shall press into you. Rise above the aggravations of this world and the desires of the flesh and seek the Glory of the LORD while He can still be found. Set aside your time and a space and be a bondsman or a bondswoman of God Almighty.

We are prisoners of Christ Jesus. Let Him rise within you as you withdrawal yourself and He deposits Himself. Discipline yourself for the workings of the Holy Spirit to take authority in nurturing the seeds of goodness planted in your heart by the love, mercy, and grace of God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. The Word of God says, people plant, people water, but only God can make it grow. We are a spring garden tilled and ready for the seeds of Godliness and His glory to take root and establish an ever-after we cannot comprehend. Your part is simply giving Him your undivided attention during this forty days allowing Him opportunity to command over your life that which has been thought by Him for each person to make itself known unto each of us individually in the fullness that He designed it to be. You shall be bound in chains of love and grace and freed in the Presence of God!

Now is the time, beloved, that you are to set yourself aside for the LORD. Not a date in the future nor when you enter into Heaven’s Gates or upon the Return of Christ Jesus! Now, my fellow Kingdom brother or sister, is the time to shackle the enemy of noise, chaos, confusion, busyness, materialism, fleshly desires, over-indulgence, and the matters of man which so easily ensnare us. Contemplate within the confines of your spiritual consciousness that which so easily besets you and sets you up for failure. Take captive the thoughts and make them obedient unto Jesus Christ. Handcuff the fingers of distractions. Sequester the mouths of the lips of ancient, present, and future tongues licking at the door of your soul. Let us together, beloved, humble ourselves before the Lord and allow Him to pass over us again and again shadowing us in the silhouette of His Glory.

Come and see what the Lord has done. Rejoice and be glad in the day of the Lord for this is the day that He has made for each of us and we shall be glad and rejoice in it. Oh taste and see that the Lord is good and His bountifulness is overflowing in boundless-baskets along the seashore of His unfailing love. Oh reach for the heavens my child of God and pull down the promises of God that He has perfectly and abundantly reserved for you. Cast all your cares upon the Lord and walk under the simplistic beauty of His pulling yoke.

This period of forty days is not by accident but preplanned by the Lord before the foundations of the world for this generation. We are living in such reprobate mindedness that we barely dare to open up our curtains and peek into the night or in the broad of daylight. He said to His people long ago, you sin openly and you do not even blush. The heart of God cries for the souls of this generation which are roasting in the evidence of fleshly lusts.

Make it your desire to shake off the old man and put on the new man. Bury that which is old and tread it under your feet. You shall not visit these graves again, but as Paul said you shall put all things behind you and run toward the Good Prize, Christ Jesus. Embrace this truth; all things have passed away and you are a new creation in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. We, believers, are bought by His blood and cleansed by the washing of the Sacrificed Lamb of God's precious blood. Come and join me now and let us take up our cross daily and march into the highways and byways of our life's call and walk in His authority and His boldness to do that which He has commanded us to do.

Make disciples of them. Teach them my commandments and all that I have taught you. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You shall never be alone, take courage and know that the Lord promised to be with us to the end of the age. Our Father sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide and our protection and our provision is in Him. Let us grieve Him no more but be obedient children of God and seek the wonders of the mysteries of God Almighty, our Father who art in Heaven Hallowed be His name! His Kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven! Amen.

Love and Blessings;

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

## Day One "The Virgin's Conception"

**Miracle One:** Ten is viewed as a complete and perfect number. **The Passover lamb** was selected on the 10th day of the 1st month (Exodus 12:3). The 10th day of the 7th month is the Holy Day known as the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-28) —Jesus is the Sacrificial Lamb and our Atonement for all of our sins. He died once for all who will receive Him as Lord and Savior and they too shall rise upon His calling and receive eternal life.

There are forty days left to our Devotional that will bring us to our fiftieth day and the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, "The Birth of the Church." I would like to spend the next forty days sharing some of the many familiar miracles of Jesus and how they impacted people of that day and how they impact us yet today. The very first miracle that relates to God the Word here on earth as Jesus is His very conception leading to His birth in Bethlehem.

**The Virgin Conception:** <sup>26</sup> *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,* <sup>27</sup> *To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.* <sup>28</sup> *And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.* <sup>29</sup> *And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.* <sup>30</sup> *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.* <sup>31</sup> *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.* <sup>32</sup> *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.* <sup>33</sup> *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.* <sup>34</sup> *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?* <sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.* <sup>36</sup> *And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.* **For with God nothing shall be impossible.** <sup>38</sup> *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:26-38*

**For with God nothing shall be impossible!** These were the words of the Angel named Gabriel to Mary. Jesus' birth was foretold and it was foretold He would be born of a virgin and History and the Scriptures give the proof that He was. More than thirty years after Angel Gabriel spoke these same words of nothing is impossible for God to Mary, Jesus spoke them to the disciples and you and me about Salvation. *"The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, 'Who then can be saved?' And Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'*" Mark 10:26-27----What about you beloved? Does it seem to be an impossibility to walk out the Christian lifestyle? Are you willing to turn your life over to the LORD so that He can make it possible?

**Personal Declaration:** My Christian life is to be a continuous proof that God works impossibilities made possible and real by God's almighty power. I do not need just a little of God's power mixed with my willpower, I need the whole of God's omnipotence to keep me right. I tried to do it on my own with some of God's help, but it is not working. Lord, help me to become helpless before you, so you can work inside of me. When Moses led Israel out of Egypt, he depended upon the God of all possibilities as he knew in and of himself he could not accomplish the faith assignment. When Joshua brought them into the land of Canaan, he also counted on the full power of God to do everything seemingly impossible to man. Lord, you are the same today as then and shall ever be; help me, Lord, also. I can do nothing without You Lord! By your grace, show me what an impossible God I have. The Lord Jesus said, "Amen; the things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

## Day Two

### “Water into Wine”

**Miracle Two:** The wedding that Jesus attended in Cana of Galilee probably was a relative’s wedding because Mary His mother was also there and she was the one the servants told when they ran out of wine. Wine is extremely important and necessary at a Jewish wedding because it symbolizes life! She told Jesus by simply saying, *“They have no wine.”* Jesus’ reply was thoughtful due to the nature of the situation. He was in the natural but now after God’s words and the Holy Spirit coming upon Him during His baptism and the 40 days of temptation, His words and deeds were subject to what God the Father told Him. It was not His hour to begin a miracle ministry, therefore His answer was accurately understood by His mother. She in return understood that Jesus could only do as His Heavenly Father now directed. Mary did not insist that Jesus do anything and nor did she appeal to Him or somehow intercede on behalf of the parties in need. She simply said all that she could, *“Whatsoever, he saith unto you, do it.”* (John 2:5)—This miracle is recorded in John 2:1-11

**Turning the water of earth into wine from heaven.** Jesus spoke and told them to gather the water-pots used for purifying the guests by the washing of their hands. Ordinary water in ceremonial cleansed pots was used. Jesus could not use old wineskins that had held wine processed by humans. Jesus asked for the containers whereas all the guests already had their hands washed when they arrived at the wedding. They had been ceremonial cleansed because daily life to the Jew caused them to be unclean and thus this was a necessary cleansing ritual bearing great importance at a wedding banquet. Although the common water-pots had water left in them, Jesus ordered the servants to fill the pots and they did up to their brims. Therefore, there would be no room in the pots to pour wine into the existing water and make a diluted drink for the guests. It was to be pure and undiluted heavenly wine. Regardless of where they drew the water from, water comes from one source and that source is God the Creator of ALL things both in heaven and earth. Earthen vessels made from the elements of God now held His water of earth and soon by Jesus’ word the pouring forth would become heavenly divine wine.

**Jesus told them what to do and they did it:** *“Then he told them, **Now, draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.**”* They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom and said, *“Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”* *“This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”*

**The wine that Jesus made was pure:** The purifying water-pots were used for symbolic purposes. Suddenly they were drinking something supernaturally derived which represented heavenly joy. This joy is truly the best, for it represents the Redeeming Blood of Christ Jesus and the Living Waters of the Holy Spirit. The old wine represents the worldly ways, the new wine is the spiritual joy that only Jesus gives through His purifying and redeeming blood. *“**And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.**”* Matthew 9:17

**Personal Declaration:** Jesus works from the inside outward. That day He took a common vessel that under Jewish Law held cleansing water for the ceremonially purification of the wedding banquet guests. There was no need to change the outside of the common vessel only that which was inside of it. When the heavens touched the content it was transferred from purifying water to holy communal heavenly wine. He commanded that we eat His flesh and that is His Holy Word as we read and study it, we are fed by Him God the Word. He commanded also that we drink of His blood that means as we consume and digest in meditating upon His Word, we drink in His very nature and His essence. I have been washed by His blood and set aside for His purpose. I desire to be filled with **His Fullness of Joy** by walking in His ways and not my own.

## Day Three

### “Second Sign, Thy Son Liveth”

**Miracle Three:** *“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.”* John 3:31-34

- We humans are earthly and we speak, think, and believe in the matters of man and the matters of God in accordance to our earthly understanding and experiences.
- Jesus testifies to what He knows from what He has seen and heard during His eternal existence.
- Those who can go beyond their earthliness and accept what He testifies to, have certified that God is truthful. Many could not accept His testimony without the accompanying signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Jesus only speaks and spoke the words of God.
- He had the Holy Spirit without limit and He promised us baptism in the Holy Spirit and with fire!

**The Samaritan woman at the well** in John 4:1-42 was a purposed appointment that Jesus could not miss, *“He left Judaea, and departed again to Galilee. And **he must needs go through Samaria,**”* (John 4:4). This ‘must needs’ is explained in Isaiah 30:18 [God waits for us and when we come, He is merciful and gracious unto us]. We also see the ‘must’ action of Jesus when He said to Zacchaeus *“**I must abide at thy house,**”* (Luke 19:5). Jesus was on His way to Galilee and He did not have to pass through Samaria, most Jews avoided it. However, He had a divine appointment with an unlikely character witness *‘many Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.’* Two days later, He went back into Galilee where He had already testified, *“That a prophet hath no honor in his own country.”* John 4:44. Nevertheless, He had to return to Galilee for a divine healing appointment. The Galileans received Him for they had seen all the things He had done in Jerusalem. Jesus then arrived into Cana of Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. He was greeted by a nobleman whose son was dying at his home in Capernaum. **He besought Jesus that he would come down and heal his son, for he was near death.** *“Then Jesus said unto him, **‘Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.’** The nobleman saith unto him, ‘Sir, come down ere my child die.’ Jesus said unto him, **‘Go thy way; thy son liveth.’** And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, **‘Thy son liveth.’** Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, **‘Thy son liveth,’ and himself believed, and his whole house.**”* John 4:48-53

**Personal Declaration:** I have decided to follow Jesus. Although I might be an unlikely character witness for Jesus according to the sins of my past, I know that all those unsavory past events are behind me. I can go forward and be a witness for Jesus for I am living proof that I did not die in my sins and I have ‘life eternal’ in Christ Jesus. I believe that Jesus is the Lord and the Master. He is the Deliverer, the Savior, and the Healer. I have a history that He wants to make His Story. I surrender to Him the matters of earthliness that hold me from believing such as the nobleman did. He had asked Jesus for help and Jesus did not deny him nor did He scold him for asking. He said, ‘except you see signs and wonders, you will not believe.’ I know that the Lord is able to do all things and He does them exceedingly well. I believe that I am a part of His end-time plan. My belief will not only take me into sweet encounters with Him but also my whole house. I proclaim that all of those I am praying for in Jesus holy name will be saved, healed, and delivered **in the hour that Jesus speaks it**—for He speaks the **truthful words of God!** I hereby join other kingdom kids accepting Jesus’ testimony thereby certifying that God is truthful in ALL THINGS!

## Day Four

### “Shut Up and Come Out!”

**Miracle Four:** We have to see the setting of this miracle. It is inside the Synagogue, a house of God. This demon did not run away when he recognized Jesus Christ. He questioned Him. The demon did not have to scatter because the Christ had arrived. No, he stayed inside the possessed man and challenged Jesus' presence. Jesus travels where darkness is so that His light can expose them. The Bible says it will be His Brightness in the final battle that puts an end to the enemy. Evil lives in darkness. Although they may possess a person, their existence is darkness and their environment is darkness. They cannot live in light because if they did, they would be overtaken by the light. Just take a candle or a flashlight and wait until it is dark, very dark. Now light it and see what happens to the darkness. In its closest vicinity, it disappears and even the outer edges faintly touched have a subtle glow. Therefore, in their total darkness, they can see the light of Jesus even inside of you. They won't run because you came into the room, rather they will challenge you with questions.

**What evil words or thoughts keep speaking to you and questioning you?** Did you think those were yours? No, my beloved that is not you, that is the enemy. He is trying to get you to doubt God. Brother James told us to be careful, if we were double-minded we are like a boat without a paddle and we shall just drift about. There is an American Country song that says, “If you don't believe in something, you'll fall for anything!” How very true that is. If your belief system can be tampered with and distorted, the enemy has put his foot on you and that should not be. For you are the head and not the tail and you have the enemy under your feet not the other way around, so pick up your authority and use it as Jesus has taught us to do. Resist the devil and he will flee.

**Let's look at the miracle** and see how our Lord had authority over this demon and simply told him to shut up and to leave. Did you know He gave you and me the same authority? *“They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the Law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’ ‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of him!’ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.’ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.”*

Mark 1:21-28—In verse 34 we see that even after sunset people came to Peter's house—it says **all the city was gathered together at the door.** *“And he healed many that were sick of various diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.”* Oh how I pray for those Christians that still refuse to understand that there are millions if not more devils and demons, unclean spirits etc. that are lurking about in darkness even in the presence of Jesus Christ. Although, they knew who He was they still challenged Him but He permitted not them to speak. He did not let them speak to Him or about Him and this is the same for us. We should not let them speak to us or to us about us! It is bad enough they speak lies about us to other people, we certainly don't need to entertain them and let them have a foothold in our consecrated hearts or minds.

**Personal Declaration:** Father, I come before you in JESUS' name, and I thank you for giving me all power and all authority over all demons. I cover myself in the blood of JESUS. I cover all my family members in the blood of JESUS. I thank you for your giant warring angels that are surrounding us, protecting us from all harm of the enemy. I take authority in JESUS name and I bind the strongman over my mind, will, emotions, and over my home! I command you to leave this area now in JESUS' name. I bind up every demon that was sent to me, transferred to me, or followed me, and I command you to come out of my conscious, subconscious, unconscious mind, all parts of my body, will, emotions, and personality, in JESUS' name. I loose over me the Peace of Jesus Christ—AMEN---

## Day Five “Great Fever”

**Miracle five:** *“And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. And Simon’s wife’s mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her; and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.”*

Luke 4:38-39      1. He stood      2. He rebuked      3. It left      4. She served

Notice the Bible says that this was a **great fever**. The physicians of the day categorized fevers in two segments, great or small. A small fever was a minor ailment. A **great fever** might include malaria or some other serious illness—even life threatening. It was severe enough that the family and their friends were quite concerned by her fever-stricken condition. Aware of the **miracles** Christ had begun to perform, they pleaded with Him to intervene on her behalf. In the authoritative posture of standing over her and what afflicted her, **Jesus rebuked the fever!** This is the same word used when Jesus rebuked the demon earlier that day in the synagogue. There may have been demonic activity behind it as in some sicknesses that Jesus would rebuke it, other sicknesses are due to the fact that we live in a fallen world and we are subject to sicknesses and diseases. The fact is that Jesus has authority over demons and diseases and that is all inclusive of His purpose of coming, “To destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8. However this one needed rebuking and then it was commanded to take action: **‘it left her.’** In other healings listed in the Bible, Jesus laid His hands on them and they were healed.

**Immediately she arose and ministered unto them.** That is insightful information that the Lord wants us to know and understand. She is so thoroughly healed that she gets up and immediately waits on them. The Greek word is deacon {diakoneo} in its simplest form it means to ‘wait on tables.’ We see this same service in Acts 6:2. It does not mean to wait on tables as a job, but rather to wait upon your family. Nevertheless, the fact that she was able to immediately begin to serve them is another important phenomenon in this miracle. If you have ever had a high-fever, you understand that when you are healed even with the help of medicine, you have no energy and you are weakened to the point of being light-headed and dizzy. The Lord wants us to see that His healings take immediate affect and the body is able to respond immediately to the fullness of the healing and deliverance performed.

**Interestingly some people only take a partial healing from Jesus.** Yes, it is true. In her case if she had the mind-set of, “Oh it’s just a small fever, it will pass,” with Jesus standing over her and rebuking the fever, she could have received just a partial healing. He wants to give full healings, but we too often only accept a partial healing. The blind man that He healed with His spit and touch, only received partial sight at first. Jesus asked, “Can you see?” He said, “Yes, but people look like trees.” Jesus touched him again, and he was then fully healed. I hear coughing and sneezing people say, “Oh, it is okay, Pastor, it’s just a common-cold.” How do they know? Did you know that tuberculous and bronchitis seems at its onset to be just a common-cold? I remember when I received my physical healing in 2009. The Lord began at the bottom of my feet and slowly worked up my legs until my arms were reached and even the top of my head. However, when the healing tremors and heat began to penetrate the bottom of my feet first, I said, “Lord, it is my arm that needs healed.” I heard Him speak audibly and He said, “You do not know what you need healing of.” How foolish of me. My arm had been extremely painful and useless for almost six months. I do not know to this day what He healed me from, but I am completely healed because I relaxed and received the whole healing! Amen.

**Personal Declaration:** I will tell Jesus my symptoms and then I will let Him heal me completely of the sickness or disease or rebuke the unclean spirit of affliction. He can begin inside my body, or my mind, or my spirit, wherever He determines and how He chooses. If it needs rebuking, so let it be. If it needs touched, spoken to, mud or spit upon it from the Master, so let it be. I am not the Healer, He is. I am not the deliverer, He is. If He chooses to use me as an instrument to heal or deliver others, I will not do it my way, but I will quietly listen for Him to tell me what to do or say. I will only do what He tells me to say and do. For my desire is to trust Him and to obey Him in all things.

## Day Six “SUNSET MIRACLES”

**Miracle Six:** Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon (Peter). *“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers (various) diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, ‘Thou art Christ Son of God.’ And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak; for they knew that he was Christ.”* Luke 4:40-41

Capernaum was a fishing village in Jesus’ day. I have stood in Capernaum at the foundation of that which archeologists and historians believe is the remains of Peter’s house. From there one can see the ruins of the synagogue that is built on top of the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus Christ had taught. The distance is not far. One can look from both locations and see the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, yet the place of healing and deliverance would be at Peter’s house and not the synagogue and not during daylight but after sun-set.

**Peter’s house became a place of assembly** that night for the followers of Jesus Christ needing His healing and His deliverance. Many of them that came did not believe in Jesus, but they were desperate for a healing or a deliverance and He was the only one able to do these miracles. By the time Jesus had arrived on earth, all Jews were influenced by Greek culture. The Greek language was as well-known as the native Aramaic. The Jewish leadership changed from the God-ordained priesthood to the Sadducee-controlled Sanhedrin, and the law of the land more closely reflected Grecian laws than those given through Moses. The hyper-conservative Pharisees had added unnecessary laws that most were impossible to keep, and the Jewish people had mixed together several beliefs which hardly resembled the Law of Moses. They had adopted all sorts of Baal worship and Pagan practices and the neglect of proper shepherding of God’s people was sadly more noticeable than not. The Bible says that Jesus had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. *“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”* Matthew 9:36. Apostle Matthew wrote this incident down as well in Matthew 8:16 *“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: **“He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”** Isaiah 53:4*

**SUNSET** was the proper time because the people in need at least knew according to Jewish Law, they had to wait until Sabbath ended at sunset to ask another to work on their behalf. The whole town gathered at Peter’s door for a touch or a word from the Lord who pardons all iniquities and heals all diseases. (Psalm 103.3). Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 53:4-5 that all who believed would have forgiveness and reconciliation to God (spiritual ‘wholeness’) alongside wholeness in body and mind. Not only was Christ pierced for our sins, but He also bore our sicknesses, and by His scourging we are healed. Many may have come in unbelieving but I am certain once they received that which they sought, they knew they had been with the Messiah. John 10:38 ***“But if I do, though ye do not believe me, believe the works that ye may know and believe that the Father is in me and I in him.”***

**Personal Declaration:** Dear Father, in Jesus name, forgive me my sins as I forgive those who have sinned against me. Lord Jesus, I know that you are available all the time and I am able to come to you for everything regardless of the nature of it, you will listen to me and help me sort it out. If it is sickness of my heart and I am broken, you promised to bind up the broken hearted. If it is sickness of body, you promised by your stripes I am healed. If it is sickness of my mind, you said that all thoughts could become subject to you and you would make them be obedient to you. If it is sickness of spiritual matters, you said where I am weak, you are strong. I have believed a lie that miraculous healings were of the past. I have doubted that healing and deliverances still work, but I renounce that lie in Jesus Name. I believe, Jesus that you are able and want to heal me and deliver me and those that I care for. I do not want to doubt you anymore, Lord Jesus. Help me with believing that you can and you want to touch me today where I am sick and where I suffer and your touch is all that I need to be whole.

## “Day Seven”

### Do It, Again!”

**Miracle Seven:** Have you ever challenged a professional in his or her own field of expertise? Did they give into your idea easily or did they resist your novice opinion? Simon Peter was a commercial and professional fisherman. He knew how and when to take the boats and nets out unto the Sea of Galilee to fish. In time, he learned the movement of the fish according to seasons and species. He articulated and mastered the art of catching fish based on his gained and taught knowledge. Perhaps his father had also been a fisherman and he learned the trade from him. Although a skill can be handed down from one generation to the next, a personality of each person factors into the success or failure of the profession. Imagine with me how frustrated Simon must have been to have been dealing with a catchers’ drought. How did he feed his family and pay the creditors that he owed? Then there were the tax collectors always demanding money for the Romans as well as the required festivals of the Law of Moses which meant purchasing proper sacrificial animals, wheat, wine and the like. Have you been in Simon Peter’s position before? Of course, we have all gone through difficult times and most of us have dealt with financial droughts whereas the needs continue but our ability to pay for those needs dries up just as if there has been a drought and the crops cannot grow.

**One late morning on the Sea of Galilee with the bright sun reflecting off the water,** we find Simon Peter graciously hosting Jesus inside his fishing boat. Jesus had asked to use the boat pushed out from the shore a little way, so He could speak to the crowd and be heard well using the water as loud speakers and the boat as a stage to avoid being trampled by the throngs of people wanting to touch Him. Not that Jesus was not touchable as we know otherwise. However, in large throngs of people, the touching becomes pulling and pushing and in time somebody gets injured. We don’t know the real in depth reason for Jesus using Peter’s boat as the stage but He did. *“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee), the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. **But because you say so,** I will let down the nets.’ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, **‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.’** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.”* Luke 5:1-11

**Personal Declaration:** I know I am walking through a drought right now and I have tried to do what I have been trained to do. I have used the same techniques and practiced the same procedures and policies, but yet I cannot break out of this drought. In my finances I am like a field sowed with seeds of potential but no growth comes because no rain falls. I pray for rain from the Lord, spiritual rain, and yet the heavens stay closed above me. I have nowhere to go but to the Lord. He is where all my help comes from. I have cried out to Him and fasted and prayed yet the results are the same. I am still in this financial drought. I need my mind renewed today by the grace of God Almighty. Therefore, I set my mind over to Him and if He says fish in the hot of the day, I will not argue with Him. If He leads me to a place in a position I have never been and tells me to fish there, I will. If He takes what I have and remakes it into something that looks nothing like what I have been holding unto, I will still worship Him. For I know, “Though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for the Lord my God is with me!”

## Day Eight

### “Be Thou Clean!”

**Miracle Eight:** *“And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils. And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, ‘If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.’ And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, ‘**I will; be thou clean.**’ And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. And he straitly charged him, and forwith sent him away; And saith unto him, **“See thou say nothing to any man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”** But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places; and they came to him from every quarter.”* Mark 1:39-45 **The leper worshipped Jesus** by saying, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.” He said, “Lord, I know that I know that I know you can make me clean. Lord, if you will it—to make me clean---so I will be clean, healed, whole, complete in and by your will! Worship includes believing Jesus can heal you and others. This leper worshipped Him by believing Jesus could heal him if Jesus willed. Jesus put forth his hand and touched ‘the unclean leper.’ And Jesus said, **“I will thou be clean.”** Jesus’ perfect will **“Be thou clean”—meaning be thou healed---be thou whole!**

**Immediately he was cleansed!** According to the Law the leper would have gone to the priest to be examined and to present the proper sacrifice. The priest would prescribe the proper cleansing according to the Law. The man would have to be away from people for seven days and then returned to the priest for the priest to examine him and make sure he was truly healed of the leprosy [Lev. 14]. Then he could have gone out and publish it abroad that the Lord Jesus had healed him. Now, we do not know if he did this or if he immediately began to broadcast what the Lord had done. If he believed that Jesus could heal him and He did and then he was given specific orders from Jesus, I think out of reverence he would have followed procedure according to the Law and Jesus’ command. However, he was unable to not testify to Jesus’ being the healer of his condemned and incurable disease.

**The key to this healing and wholeness** lies within the belief of this leper that Jesus’ will could heal him if he willed it to be so. In other words, according to the ‘will of Jesus.’ Unbelief in Jesus’ healing power stops the flow of God’s divine healing power. Jesus experienced that in Nazareth (Mark 6:5-6). The people of Nazareth limited Christ’s power to heal because they saw Him as a man and not as ‘The Healer.’ They saw Him as a carpenter and the son of Mary and a brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon. The same today with many Christians who don’t believe Jesus heals the same as He did then. Many Christian groups say the miracles do not apply today. Many think that by God’s authorization, He simply uses doctors and medicine to do what He used to do with one word or one touch.

**When I was a child** and got hurt, I would run to my mom and she would kiss the spot where I was hurt and say, “All better!” Then I was fine and I went back to playing. I did the same with my children when they were small. Just yesterday our young grandson bumped his forearm and he came to me and pressed it against my lips for my kiss. I kissed it and said, “All better!” He smiled and went back to playing. We possess no healing power, but childlike belief gives assurance and soothes the pain.

**Personal Declaration:** Jesus said those who are childlike in their trust and belief in Him would inherit the Kingdom of God. I am a child in the care of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I believe it is His will to touch me and speak healing over every part of my life. His calm reassuring voice is needed in my life. I reclaim my innocent belief in His promises. Dear Jesus, I know that you can make me whole in every area of my being, my soul, my heart, my mind, my body, and my spirit. I, too, Jesus need to be cleansed. Forgive me Precious Savior for every time I doubted you and looked upon you as a man and not as the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Great Physician. Wash me with your powerful blood and remove every sin-stain on my soul. Speak “Cleansed” over me and declare over me into the natural and supernatural, **“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”** Acts 10:15

## Day Nine “Centurion Faith”

**Miracle Nine:** *“When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ‘Lord, he said, ‘my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.’ Jesus said to him, ‘**Shall I come and heal him?**’ The centurion replied, ‘Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But **just say the word,** and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant ‘Do this,’ and he does it.’ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, ‘**Truly, I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’ Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘**Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.**’ And his servant was healed at that moment.”*

Matthew 8:5-13

**Faith in ‘Words spoken by Christ Jesus.’** Jesus taught us in John 6:63 that the words that He speaks are full of the Spirit and life and so are ours. Proverbs 18:21 *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”* The centurion tells Jesus of his servant’s medical condition and Jesus asked him if He should come and heal him. Jesus did not have to ask this question, as he knew the heart of the centurion. However, He asked so that the crowd could hear from this Gentile employed by the Roman Government that he did in fact want Jesus to heal his servant. Nothing about Jesus was reserved for the Jews only and here it will be made plain. Those who believe and ask Him shall receive what they believe about the promises of Jesus Christ. He wanted his servant healed. He valued himself as nothing before the Messiah and he knew that the power of Jesus’ words held the healing. He equates his understanding of the power of the Lord’s words with the natural setting of him being an officer over others and yet he, too, had to answer to those above Him. His faith in Jesus developed over time as he learned more of what Jesus of Nazareth was capable of doing. In Luke 7:1-10 we learn more facts about this centurion but none of them important to Jesus for the healing. The centurion loved the Jewish Nation and he had built the synagogue there in Capernaum. The elders even said to Jesus, “This man deserves to have you do this.” My beloveds that is an error for any of us to believe that any human being deserves anything from the Lord. We do not deserve anything from Him and if we think we do, then my darlings we are in grave error. Everything the Lord does for us is a FREE LOVE OFFERING from Him regardless if it is healing, deliverance, salvation, blessings etc. He does it from the bountifulness of His love for us—from the riches of His glory!

**The centurion did not ask out of entitlement** for Jesus’ help. He said, “I am not worthy,” to have you come under my roof. He recognized who Jesus was, the Christ. He knew he was a sinner and he fell short of the glory of God and his position, his title, his money, or even his godly works did not make him more worthy to receive Jesus’ help than any other who believed **Jesus’ will** is to heal. What he had that was most valuable was FAITH. His faith VALIDATED Jesus’ limitless abilities to do anything by just speaking a word. He exercised his faith by professing with his mouth and believing it in his heart!

**Personal Declaration:** Jesus, I know that I am not worthy nor entitled to the blessings that flow from heaven downward to me and those that I love. I know that your love for me is unfailing and unconditional. Your words are powerful and they can speak that which is not into existence and they can cause that which exists to scatter. Your words are LAW and once spoken they are irrevocable. Lord, I desire to have Centurion faith. I desire to live knowing I am unworthy of all the goodness and all the abundance of the glorious riches of your love, however, because YOU are WORTHY, I have inherited that which is yours. Lord, I trust that Your Word is all I need to turn-around every situation to bring it into alignment with Your Perfect Will! I want my faith to SOAR like the Centurion’s so that it testifies for the Lord’s limitless love He has for all those who believe in Him!

## Day Ten

### “Forgiven—Now Walk”

**Miracle Ten:** *“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, **and he preached the word to them.** Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **When Jesus saw their faith,** he said to the paralyzed man, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”** Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ‘Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, **‘Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier; to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven; or say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’** So he said to the man, **‘I tell you get up, take your mat and go home.’** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’” Mark 2:1-12*

**Does your circle of friends have bed-dropping-faith?** When Jesus saw their faith, he knew the paralyzed man had faith, too. A bond called friendship cannot adhere people to each other flawlessly like these friends without faith-ties. JESUS was ministering the Word to them, meaning it was a faith meeting where those who believed in the ONE God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was being taught. Many of the Jewish people in that day had ‘real faith’ in God Jehovah and they practiced their faith as handed down to them and they lived the life of ‘faith in God’ and did unto their neighbor as they would have done unto them. Like any religion there are some who are devout practitioners and those who are lukewarm and some even less than room-temperature. What did Jesus see in these men? Faith—He saw the element of faith first in His Father and secondly in His ability to heal their friend. Now, Jesus instantly knows that these four faithful friends are not hanging out with an unfaithful Jew, so if they had this level of faith, why was their friend so sick to the point of being paralyzed? The answer was plain to Jesus, unconfessed sin of the man on the mat. A well- hidden sin that the friends were unaware of and the Lord knew the man needed forgiveness **before** the healing.

**Barriers prevent healings and deliverances even today:** The crowd represents **human barriers**. Others may speak unbelief or doubt and fear to you and it stops your quest to reach Jesus for a healing. **Physical barrier** is shown within the physical inability of the man to get to Jesus on his own. The bed dropping in the middle of the assembly represents **traditional barriers**. When the man was lowered into the house, the service as planned ended. **Logical barriers** like the roof had to be torn apart like our mind-sets so that our reasoning is no longer valued above the thoughts and ways of God. Furthermore, we have to eliminate all preconceived ideas and expectations of what and how we expect the Lord to heal us. These friends only knew their friend was in great need of a healer and they made sure he met Him. Their friend was physically sick, but there was also a spiritual sickness that was caused by sin a **spiritual barrier**. Sin had erected a spiritual barrier between their friend and God. Therefore, Jesus dealt with the spiritual sickness first in this particular case. We can be sure that the Lord Jesus knows how, when, and why healings have to be handled in each person’s situation. We can confidentially say, He is the healer and He will heal according to His Perfect Will.

**Personal Declaration:** Lord you know everything there is to know about me and I do not have to pretend to be who I am not. I am thankful that with your help all barriers blocking my healing regardless of the nature of my need can be destroyed by your words including bringing me to repentance. Thank you, Jesus, for your forgiveness. Help me Lord to see any barriers keeping me from surrendering fully to you. I know Lord you have the will and the power today to heal, deliver, and set the captives free of sickness and disease including spiritual sickness. Thank you for loving me as I am and helping me in becoming who you designed me to be—before the foundations of this world.

## Day Eleven “Stretched--Restored”

**Miracle Eleven:** *“Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ He said to them, ‘If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’ Then he said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.”* Matthew 12:9-15 (see also Mark 3:1-6 and Luke 6:1-5)

**Sometimes we feel as if we have been stretched beyond ourselves.** This is true in many instances as we walk through life. It is not healthy to stay still in our spiritual walk because we will become stale and hardness can begin to grow. The Lord stretches us beyond ourselves to strengthen our spiritual understanding. The recording of this miracle in Mark 3:1-6 says that Jesus was challenging their spiritual discernment in order to stretch their minds far enough for the truth to fall into their hearts. Jesus knew He was being watched so that a charge could be brought against Him. When Jesus saw the man with the shriveled hand, he told him to stand up in front of everyone. Jesus then asked them which was lawful on the Sabbath; to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill, none of them answered Him. Jesus then, *‘Looked around at them in anger and deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.’*

### **Mark 3:5**

**What is a stubborn heart?** Hardness of heart is a voluntary state of mind. It is a state of mind that continually resists the Holy Spirit; it is a self-justifying cruel state of mind. It grieves and dishonors God and ruins the souls of men. While the heart is hard, the soul will not appreciate the guilt that is involved in neglecting to labor for the souls of others. Jesus wanted to JOLT them out of their state of stubbornness and melt their hearts with the compassion and mercy of God that even on Sabbath, God would not withhold doing good and saving lives. Sabbath was to be a day of rest in the Lord and not restlessness in the soul trying to avoid offending God.

**The law of the heart is love above all else.** Therefore, the day of the week is less important in comparison to the need of goodness granted freely unto others. A hardened heart is curable if the person desires it. If they can recognize that loving others and feeling empathy and sorrow are missing in their emotional design, they can repent and tell the Lord they are sorry for they do not feel compassion or passion toward others and their hearts ache to do so. The Lord will begin to soften their hearts and bring in His flesh and His blood and fill that void with His loving self. The question is, ‘do we want to be stretched and restored?’ The man took a risk by obeying Jesus because by law the Religious leaders could have banned him from their synagogue forever. Under excommunicable threats would we have the faith in Jesus to publicly stand before our critics and spiritual leaders so that the divine power of God through a healing would break their hardened hearts and glorify God?

**Personal Declaration:** I want to be pliable in the hands of God. I know I am hardened and bitter in some areas of my heart. My mind is blindly set on issues without complete data because of my stubbornness. I do not want the passions and affections common to human nature to any longer be restrained in me or subordinated to the logic of my harden heart. I confess unto Jesus I have sinned by allowing my bitterness to rule my ideas and my opinions instead of Christ Jesus. I want the Holy Spirit to assess everything that comes into me through my ear-and-eye-gates that causes my soul and mind to be restless. Before I say what I think or share an idea or an opinion, I ask you, Lord Jesus, to shed your brightness upon it and filter it through the Father’s perfect love before it leaves my lips. Rein in my tongue dear Lord and capture my mind and hold them hostage to your redemptive blood. Stretch me, Lord, where I am weak and easily ensnared in the sins that entrap me. Destroy the bondage of the hardness of my heart. As did the Synagogue Man and Moses I *‘choose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.’* Hebrews 11:25.

## Day Twelve

### “Young Man, Rise!”

**Miracle Twelve:** *“Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out---the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. A great prophet has appeared among us, they said. ‘God has come to help his people.’ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.”* Luke 7:11-17

**This mother’s heart was broken over her son’s death.** In addition to this Jesus knew following the death of her husband, this widow’s best hope for security would have been her son’s ability to provide for her. The loss of her son was thus an even greater tragedy for this widow. Because this widow is now left without any means of financial support. The psalmist said the Lord is "a defender of widows" (Ps. 68:5, Deut. 10:18). Scripture reveals that God's compassion goes out to them because of their difficult situation. *‘When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t Cry.”* The large crowd following Jesus stopped as well as the large crowd that was with the grieving widow. The pallbearers stood still. I can almost imagine the scene. Immediately upon Jesus stepping toward the dead body and touching the stretcher holding his body, both crowds become silent. Possibly whispered objections filled the air as His hand touched the unclean object holding the defilement of death. He boldly stated into the quieted deafness, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” How could it be the crowd wondered? Jesus is commanding a DEAD MAN to arise! Not since Elijah and Elisha had such a miraculous event taken place. SUDDENLY exactly IMMEDIATELY upon Jesus releasing His spoken command, “The dead man sat up---AND---began to talk.” What do you mean, he talked? What did he say? Was he curious about the funeral? Did he know he had been dead and now he lived? Did he ask his mother what was happening? We do not know because the Scripture does not tell us about his conversation other than, he talked. Jesus takes action and gives the son back to his mother. What does this mean? He gave death no victory and the plunder of the enemy, the devil, was given to the widow. **Not every miracle is the result of somebody asking for it:** Not one person in the crowd told Jesus the woman’s status of widowhood. It says when He saw her---looked at her with His piercing eyes, His heart instantly went out to her. His love leaped from Him and landed on her. Why? It is the very nature of God. *“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”* Ps. 68:5 He did not do this to keep her from starving or to relieve others from potential burden, He did it because His supernatural essence is to defend the widow. God the Word in the flesh as Jesus felt the troubles of this world and the emotions of the human being causing Him to be more merciful than He could have been otherwise as our Most High Priest. *“For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”* Hebrews 2:17

**Personal Declaration:** You Lord are my hiding place and my Rock of Salvation. In you all things are possible. Lord, there have been premature deaths in my life that I believe were not authorized by you. I had relationships, good health, calls on my life, promises, anointed ministries, financial health, and joy in my life prematurely die. I did not know how to revive them, Lord. I just left them in their graves and sadly walked away. However, now ***I don’t want to cry*** because I know that you are able to call forth from death those things the enemy wrongfully took from me. I trust you Lord God that the ones legally dead by your will shall stay dead. However, for those that the devil devoured, stole, or destroyed DECLARE WAR on my behalf. *“Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, ‘I am strong!’”* Joel 2:9-10

## Day Thirteen

### “Where is your Faith?”

**Miracle Thirteen:** *“Now it came to pass on a certain day that he went into a ship with his disciples; and he said unto them, ‘Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.’ **And they launched forth.** But as they sailed he fell asleep; and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, ‘Master, master, we perish.’ Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water; and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, **‘Where is your faith?’** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, ‘What manner of man is this for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him!’”* Luke 8:22-25

**They cried, ‘Increase our faith!’** Jesus had told the disciples regardless of how another sins against you and how many times, you must gently rebuke them and if they repent you are to forgive them. However, when the disciples heard this they knew of their personal inability to do so and thus lacking in living up to His standards. Therefore, they asked Him to increase their faith. Luke 17:3-6 *“**Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.**”* The apostles said to the Lord, **‘Increase our faith!’** He replied, **‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it will obey you.’”**

**When we obey the voice of the Lord, storms come!** Jesus said, ‘Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.’ The disciples immediately responded to His order—**they launched forth.** Once we launch forth from the Lord’s orders, doubtless the storms will rise against us. Seemingly so when the storms rage against us it feels as if the Lord has fallen asleep. We wonder why He did not intervene before the storm came to our ‘faith assignment’s shoreline.’ Often, we fail to recognize where the storm is coming from as it advances toward us. Frequently, I find we begin to make excuses in the natural such as; “the economy is weak, people don’t care anymore, we are just too small etc.” We are just reporting what we think by natural assessments of our environment. I have noticed in the ministry, we mistakenly hold on with our natural minds and we begin to pray and ask the Lord to correct the situation and help us to rise above it. We go to Him and we cry out just like the disciples did and we say, Lord how can you not respond to this accusation or this assault of the devil? Still, nothing seems to change in our favor **and the boat fills with water.** The more it seems the ‘boat’ will sink the more we row and throw out pails of water and the entire time we cry to the Lord. **Now we have gone beyond launching and have taken authority over the boat— “It will NOT SINK!” We declare and nor will we or those with us drown.** It is not until we grasp that it is the enemy launching an attack against the Lord, that we begin to seek the proper help that we need from the Lord of Hosts. Suddenly we are clinging to the promises of God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We feel empowered by the Holy Spirit as we row and pitch and pitch and row. Promises begin to manifest on the shoreline. We see hope waving at us reminding us we have been grafted into the Abrahamic Covenant through the Blood Covenant of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 14:1-4 declares that those who worked against us in darkness will serve us according to the Lord of Hosts. For He has promised, *“And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, ye shall say, ‘Oh how the oppressor has ceased!’”*

**Personal Declaration:** I will walk with my head held high. My eyes will be opened and I will cleave unto the Lord. I am hemmed into His heavenly promises. I shall rise on the shore of His land. I will not die before the Lord has completed His good work in me. Though the enemy may attack at times, I know that the Lord is not blind. He sees and He knows what is best for me including storms from the raging sea. I will not fear for I know the Lord has brought this storm not to dash my life or end my joy but to build an aircraft carrier in me able to launch warfare prayers and build up my resistance against the enemy **increasing my FAITH to see the Lord’s face and not the raging waves of attack!**

## Day Fourteen "Demons Bow!"

**Miracle Fourteen:** Luke 5:1-20 *"They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. <sup>3</sup> This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, **he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.** <sup>7</sup> He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." <sup>10</sup> And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. <sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." <sup>13</sup> He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. <sup>14</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. <sup>17</sup> Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis [ten towns] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed."*

**A ghastly figure takes center stage in this miracle.** He's possessed and his strength is such that no human can bind or control him. From his first encounter with Jesus, there is no question who is in control. Jesus is the strong one with the upper hand; the demoniac cowers and asks that he be left alone. **The Kingdom of God refuses to operate like the world.** We see the demoniac had been dealt with by the townspeople who had found a way to marginalize him. He lived among the tombs out of sight and out of mind. Humans including Christians hinder the in-breaking of God's kingdom more than it advances it. The way the Kingdom of God breaks into the world in this miracle seizes control from humanity. Their way of "dealing" with the demoniac was casting him aside, however that is not acceptable in God's Kingdom. The Holy Spirit comes with power to do things that humans cannot do on their own. He transforms humans to perceive the truth that God's kingdom best takes root in the marginalized, the outcasts, those seemingly most insignificant. The seed clearly has taken root in the demoniac, the least significant and least likely place imaginable (like a mustard seed). His change comes about through no human intervention. The gospel-seed takes permanent root in the last place anyone would expect. The man earnestly asks Jesus if he can go with him. Upon Jesus' answer the former demoniac does what Jesus sends him immediately out to do. He goes on a preaching mission, which is widely successful. With no option; **Demons have to bow before Jesus Christ.** What was left after the deliverance was an Evangelist spreading the Good News, and all the people were amazed! **Personal Declaration:** Although I do not understand mental illnesses, I understand that Jesus shows it is demonic and He is the STRONGMAN that can cast the demon(s) out of people. I confess that casting the demonically possessed out is the way of society and not the way of the Lord. I will not look down on these ones that demons have overtaken. I will seek the Lord's way for these beloveds with compassion and understanding and in Jesus' Name take authority in casting out the demons and saving and preserving the person. He or she might very well be the next man or woman of a Decapolis that all the people will be amazed by their testimony and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior as a result of the demons being cast out and not the person by opening our hearts and Church doors to all.

## Day Fifteen

### “Who Drained Me?”

**Miracle fifteen:** “*And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any. Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment; and immediately her issue of blood stopped. And Jesus said, “Who touched me?” When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, ‘Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, ‘Who touched me?’ And Jesus said. ‘Somebody hath touched me; for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.’ And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, ‘Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace.’*” Luke 8:43-48

**Jesus asked, “Who drained me?”** Let’s take a closer look at this woman for she too had asked, “**Who drained me?**” She had become sick and sought the help of doctors but she was not cured though she was **financially drained**. The blood did not stop flowing. **It drained her physically, and emotionally.** Of great importance she was **drained spiritually** because women could not enter the synagogue during their time of blood! Under the Levitical Law a woman bleeding was so unclean she could not touch even her family members, she was also **drained relationally** (Lev. 15:19-30). **Drained of good health, relationships, money, and dignity.** Oh, yes, **her dignity was drained.** Every single time she stepped outside of her empty house, by law she avoided large crowds. If somebody got close she had to say of herself “UNCLEAN!” For twelve long years this woman had to say of herself, I am UNCLEAN!” *So she is crying out “Who drained me?”* Oh, she knew the sickness had drained her, but who was behind the sickness? She needed far more than a physical healing—her miracle would require epic virtuous glory from a source of Divine grandeur and splendor.

**The day came when she heard that Jesus the healer was coming.** She vowed to make her way to Him for she had heard *the whole multitude sought to touch him; for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.*” [Luke 6:19] Her opportunity came and she took it. Many people touched Him, why did He ask that day who had touched Him when she was the one? ‘*Somebody hath touched me; for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me (heavenly goodness has drained out of me).*’ Surely by now thousands had touched Him and His virtue had left Him and healed them. He had not stopped before. **WHY NOW is He asking, “Who drained me?** God says Life is in the blood and so is atonement. (Deu. 12:23; Lev. 17:11) **She had been bleeding for twelve years why isn’t she dead?** Why is Jairus’ daughter who is only twelve years old now dead? Why did she die while at the same time the woman of blood is immediately healed? Why did Jesus feel the draining of His virtue with her and not enough so with others that He had never asked or mentioned it before? The miracle she needed came at Jesus like a train running away on a mountainous slope and with desperate and radical faith in the Healer she pushed through the crowd and reached for His garment and her miracle that day could not be hidden but Jairus’ daughter’s miracle would be hidden for a time. **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

Eph. 2:10. There was great work for both of these women. Age does not exclude you from service of the Kingdom. Youth and old-age do not qualify a Christian’s active duty. Sickness and death do not quantify a person’s faith either. Since we do not know when either may strike, we should be more like these two females believing we can be healed and lifted from our death bed and get on with the Lord’s good works that He prepared for each of us in advance. Your despairing need for Jesus’ touch must outweigh your logic and recklessly believe in His Divine Virtue that was drained for us on the Cross.

**Personal Declaration:** I am not too old or too young or too sick to do the ‘good works’ that the Lord prepared for me in advance. He designed a ‘work-plan’ for me before He wonderfully knit me together in my mother’s womb. My name is on the Heavenly Employment Register and so it shall remain on both sides of Heaven for this I look to my Lord in faith! I believe He is the healer still today and He still lifts people from their death beds so when I ask in faith for wholeness, I accept His answer wholly!

## Day Sixteen “Oddly, God”

**Miracle Sixteen:** *“Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.” Luke 8:40-42---* **“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”** *While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. ‘Your daughter is dead,’ he said. ‘Don’t bother the teacher anymore.’ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, **‘Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.’** When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. **‘Stop wailing,’** Jesus said. **‘She is not dead but asleep.’** They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, **‘My child, get up!’** Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.” Luke 8:48(b)-56*

**Jesus leaves one finished healing work and walks into the next healing need.** We see that this becomes more than a healing, it has now become a resurrection for her death was made public by the individual that came from Jairus’ house to tell him that his daughter had died. Jesus assured him, **‘Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.’** Jesus says that she will be made whole even though she is dead. Our spirit and our soul are made in His image and likeness. Our body is a temporary tent housing our soul and spirit. Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We are human and we are attached through the physical body with love, need, and want for each other in many types of relationships. The relationship of parent and child in a crisis like Jairus’ is the most beautiful relationship in the natural that reflects the Trinity most. Jairus’ and his wife’s incredible heartbreaking pain at the loss of their daughter speaks compassionate empathy to all of us. Jesus who saw things from His spiritual perspective and all knowing His Father’s works, knew she would live. He had already spoken it to Jairus’ before they left the crowd and entered his child’s room. Jesus’ words are life and spirit and they are irreversible. He went to the dead girl and said, **‘My child, get up!’** Her spirit returned to her body and life came back into her temporary tent. To prove she was alive and well, He told them to feed her—the most natural human act to see healthiness is eating!

**Jairus was a synagogue leader.** As desperate as he was, the oddness of the ‘unclean’ woman’s healing took precedence. By Jesus demanding to know who touched Him, it exposed the *“unclean”* woman publicly. He was doing this, to make her **“CLEANSING”** public so there could be no question of her acceptance back into society and at the synagogue which Jairus was the leader. Jesus never leaves a work unfinished. Jairus being a synagogue leader indicates he is faithful to the Law and the Jewish traditions. Did it take him getting desperate for his daughter’s life to bring him to Jesus and bow before him? Was the whole purpose of his daughter’s fatal sickness to bring Jairus to Jesus and for his life to intersect with the woman of blood he had banned from his synagogue for twelve years? **God at times uses odd methods.** Sometimes God’s miraculous nature manifests in the most odd and peculiar ways. The Holy Spirit stirred both of their hearts to come to Jesus that day, at that time, at that precise location to receive the miraculous glory of God odd to nature and oddly out of order according to man. **Personal Declaration: When man’s abilities failed,** faith in Christ Jesus was born in Jairus and many others that day. Closed synagogue doors opened to the newly ‘cleansed’ woman and the town of Capernaum repented of discrimination. If my miracle or my need intersects with another’s, I will believe that this was His intention regardless of how God oddly it seems. Although situations and decisions by those I am powerless to overturn seem hopeless, I am going to lay down my opinions on how I think God should correct them. For me and those around me including my Nation and the International Community and the Christian Family, I will trust God regardless of how odd His methods seem. His is the Perfect Way painting the “Bigger Picture” that I do not understand.

## Day Seventeen

### “According to”

**Miracle Seventeen: Jesus leaves the house of Jairus** *“As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David!’ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you;’ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, ‘See that no one knows about this.’ But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.”* Matthew 9:27-31

**‘According to your faith, let it be done to you!’** What is faith? Can we limit faith? In addition, what is the reward of faith? Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* **Oliver Green describes faith this way: “Faith is the hand outstretched to receive the gift of God. Faith is the eye that looks into the unseen beyond man’s reason. Faith is the heart’s response to the call of the Lord. Faith is soul’s reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ.”** How do we get faith? Romans 10:17, *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* Hebrews 11:6 says, *“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* Mark 11:22, *“And Jesus answering them, ‘Have faith in God.’ Faith must become more than what you know.* Faith is more than a mental or an emotional state. Faith embellishes sincere intentions with complete trust in something or somebody where there is NO PROOF and remaining loyal regardless of how we think or feel from one day to the next! So we look at these two blind men and with all of our privileges of having the New Testament and having these promises and all these examples before us, we have an advantage over these two blind men. They are blind and the Gospels have yet to be written and Jesus has yet to be proven to be the Savior of the World, He has not yet died and rose again! **Jesus said, “According to your faith, let it be done to you!” He is testing the quality of their faith. Is it faith in the Impossibilities of the God of the Impossible?** Proportionately He is saying so will your healing be according to the quality of your faith. Why did Jesus test them like this? Because **our faith is the instrument through which God acts and works.** Romans 12:3 *“For by grace given me I say to every one of you; Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* It is written in verse six, that God gives a measure of faith to every believer to walk by faith and carry out the will of God. Our stewardship is a proportionate response to God’s blessings likewise **God’s opportunities and blessings come proportionately according to the quality of our faith.**

**Faith honors God and His Word.** Beloveds God honors all faith but He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him with the warhead of faith. Many of us can testify that relentless faith has given us opportunities that would not have existed otherwise. Faith darlings is a REAL BATTLE, this is why Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”* He also told Timothy *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* Paul uses fighting language because the enemy will come in with a sneak attack to demolish your faith. Lastly faith does not judge and real faith will not surrender to offenses. Psalm 119:165 *“Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them.”* **Faith is the LAW** that even commended the ancients. Hebrews chapter eleven is often referred to as the “Hall of Faith.” Many of the **heroes of faith** are listed and we read what distinguished them from others to hold a place in the museum of greatness.

**Personal Declaration:** I want to give God every opportunity to respond to the quality of my faith! Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and this is how it also grows beyond the first measure that the Lord gave to each one of us. Therefore, I shall discipline myself to believe that what I put in truly is what I get back. I stand on His promises that those who diligently seek Him are rewarded. My reward is in proportion to the quality and consistency of faith. I will faithfully submit myself to God.

## Day Eighteen

### “Unmuted!”

**Miracle Eighteen:** Just as soon as Jesus healed the two blind men another comes for His help. *“While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.’ But the Pharisees said, ‘It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.’”* (Matthew 9:32-34) Imagine you have never had the ability to speak before in your life and suddenly you can articulate the words that have often been in your mind but were not communicable because of a demon holding your tongue. He has gone from muted to unmuted—just like the button on our telephones or our remote controls, we can mute and we can unmute them! He for the first time in God only knows how long is able to speak and be heard! What a gift Jesus gave him that day! I praise Jesus for knowing and loving each one of us individually and giving us words of His to speak into this dark world. Let’s hold unto the Light spreading His light abroad as we speak about His love, His mercy, His grace, His Saving Power, His Forgiveness and His Powerful Blood!

**Do you wonder what that was like for this man?** What do you suppose were the first words he spoke? Quite possibly it was words of thankfulness to Jesus for his miraculous deliverance and healing. I would like to hope so as it would have been appropriate to thank Him before any other words were spoken into existence. But then again, how many times have I neglected to thank Jesus? Although I have the ability to speak, do I always speak what I should? The Word warns us about our words and that they are powerful for the good and the bad. One verse says we will dine and digest our own words. God desires we have the gift of spoken communication, yet He commands us to rein in our tongues and cautiously speak in every setting while here on earth. Up to this very moment had his tongue ever been used to sin? **Proverbs 21:23** *“Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.”* **Proverbs 17:28** *“Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.”* We do not know for sure, because we do not know when this demon possessed him. It could have been as a young child, a baby, or as a young man.

**I find it fascinating that at the exact same time that his tongue is set free to praise and worship the Lord and testify on His behalf,** the Pharisees are using their gift of speech to wrongfully accuse Jesus perhaps not realizing they are condemning themselves. **Matthew 12:37** *“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”* The others are stating their amazement with their tongues. **Luke 6:45** *“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”* Godly advice is the best advice but it is most excellent from the Bible itself and when it comes to the ability to use our tongues to speak we need Father God’s undiluted advice: Amen? **Colossians 4:6** *“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”*

**My beloved brothers and sisters we have all said things we regret but we can be forgiven.** Once words come out of our mouths, they cannot be retrieved. Words are like a knife that can slash another’s heart into a million pieces or like a warm blanket on a cold night. **Proverbs 12:18** *“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”* The words we speak the Bible says are to ‘matter.’ Have matter---a reasonable purpose.

**Personal Declaration:** Lord, this is my opportunity to confess to you for things that I have said that was not appropriate according to your teachings and commandments. I am sorry Lord for these words that I spoke to others or about others or even against myself. Cleanse me Lord with your Powerful Redemptive Blood and wash away all the stains that sin has left behind on my soul. I want to be made New again in you, Lord Jesus. Help me to find the appropriate time to make amends with those that I have hurt with my tongue. Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love, your long-suffering, and your forgiveness. I love you, my Lord Jesus, but I want to love you more by surrendering all of me including my tongue to You today! Amen

## Day Nineteen

### “Well Again”

**Miracle Nineteen:** In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate was a pool called Bethesda. Many who were sick and diseased and disabled would lay there hoping for a healing when the Angel of God would come and stir the water. *“From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, **“Do you want to get well?”** Sir, the invalid replied, ‘I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.’ Then Jesus said to him, **‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’** At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, ‘It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.’ But he replied, ‘The man who made me well said to me, **‘Pick up your mat and walk.’** So they asked him, ‘Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?’ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him and said to him, **‘See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.’** The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.”* John 5:4-15 **[including verse 4 which has been omitted in some versions of the Bible]**

**This is the healing of an older man.** Once he had been a healthy man but he had been an invalid for thirty-eight years, because Jesus said to him, you are well again. Meaning at one point in his life he was a healthy man but for thirty-eight years he had not been well. It is not important for us to know what the nature of the sickness was that made him an invalid nor what the sin was that Jesus told him to stop doing or something worse may happen to him. I believe the variety of healings and deliverances that the Gospels record are purposeful to show us the many facets of Jesus’ healings as well as the many types and causes of the sicknesses and possessed. This is one of the times that Jesus healed a person who did not know Him or about Him and therefore could have had no faith in Jesus. The man did not solicit a healing or help from Jesus. If you have been in some of the types of crusades I have been at, you see unbelievers being healed as well as believers. We don’t know how the Lord chooses to heal and whom He chooses to heal, we just know that He does. The only question Jesus asked this man before He healed him was, **“Do you want to get well?”** There are some people, believe it or not, that have become comfortable in their infirmities and they truly do not want a healing, so Jesus asked him the question. This helps us remember as well, we cannot force any person to accept Jesus or to accept His healing or His deliverances. The man answered Jesus indirectly by stating that he could not get to the pool when it was stirred on his own and because he lacked assistance, others were able to get in ahead of him. This was a ‘yes’ in a round-about-way because he had the desire to get to the pool. God said to the Jewish people after the exodus, "I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26).

**We can presuppose that the sickness was in direct correlation to a sinful behavior.** We believe this because Jesus warns this man to stop sinning or something worse may happen to him. We all know it is not difficult to sin against our body, so let’s be sympathetic always toward others. Additionally, we must remember that not ALL sickness or diseases is the result of sinfulness. We should never condemn any other human being in this way of thinking. Let us bring the love of Jesus to others.

**Personal Declaration:** I know the Lord is the same today as He was yesterday and so shall He ever be. He is STILL in the HEALING BUSINESS! He did not shame that man before or after his healing nor will He shame me! I am grabbing unto my healing today and I declare in Jesus Holy Name, I will be made whole in His name because He said by His stripes I am healed. I shall stand on the promises of God. He is my Rock of Salvation and where all of my help comes from. He is my refuge, my shield, and my buckler. Father God promised His people shall never be shamed, again! I am His child adopted into His household through Christ Jesus and sealed by the Holy Spirit. I am FREE INDEED in Jesus!

## Day Twenty

### “Spiritually Hungry”

**Miracle Twenty:** *“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ So they went away by themselves in a boat (to cross the Lake of Gennesaret) to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. By this time, it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. ‘This is a remote place,’ they said, ‘and it’s already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.’ But he answered, ‘You give them something to eat.’ They said to him, ‘That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?’ ‘How many loaves do you have?’ he asked. ‘Go and see.’ When they found out, they said, ‘Five and two fish.’ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.”* Mark 6:30-44 (\_\_\_\_) added for emphasis by Pastor Cyndi Higgins.

**Beloved is your life too complicated today? Are you feeling stressed over fulfilling natural needs?** We oftentimes complicate our lives because we allow our ‘wants’ to morph into ‘needs.’ We become slaves to the ‘needs’ and before we know it, we are bowing down before them and making every sacrifice necessary to feed the god of need and the goddess of want from a heart of self-absorption. Jesus was not concerned that day about the people’s natural need for food. He fed them what He knew ALL people need, “Himself.” **He is the Bread of Life and the Good Shepherd.** *“A voice says, ‘Cry out.’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ ‘All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. He tends his flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.* Isaiah 40:6-8; 11. Life is too short to stress over complications we cause. **“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** (Matthew 6:33) Satan mocks the simplicity of following Jesus and distorts the truth of what God expects His shepherds to do. Thomas Kelly said, “Our deepest need is not food, clothing, and shelter important as they are, it is God!” **The people ran ahead of Jesus to hear the Word of God.** *“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the Word of God.”* Jesus went there with His apostles to rest, the supernatural need of spiritual food by the crowd caused His compassion to supersede His natural needs to feed them spiritually. He fed them the Word of God for hours late into the day. He did not stop to feed them naturally or even consider it, the disciples did. They said send them away so they can take care of themselves BUT Jesus said, ‘You feed them.’ Immediately they reported they could not and He asked why not for He knew if they would bring Him something in the natural to work with, a seed, He could superpose it in the spiritual realm and multiply it.

**Personal Declaration:** I will live Matthew 6:33 for it is not an optional lifestyle it is the only lifestyle that can simplify my life and reduce my stress as it sorts between natural needs and wants so that they must bow to my spiritual needs as I seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I stand on His promise that He will give unto me ALL that I need and plus some if I put Him first and trust Him!

## Day Twenty-One

### “Waves of Love”

**Miracle Twenty-one:** Right after feeding the five-thousand men and the women and children Jesus went to the Father in prayer: *“Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.”* Luke 6:45-52

**This entire day has been disrupted and His plans changed by events.** Matthew writes it was when Jesus heard John the Baptist had been beheaded, he withdrew by boat and then the crowds followed and He feels so compassionate toward them, He forgets the solitude and fills them up first spiritually and then physically. With a grief-stricken heart over John’s death, He compassionately taught.

**Jesus stayed behind and dismissed the crowd without the help of His disciples.** He attended to the people apparently fearless of being mobbed by them for His disciples were not there to guard Him, they were resting on the Sea of Galilee inside the boat. This was a large crowd of people possibly as many as fifteen thousand and yet this one man, Jesus, dismisses them without a recorded incident. They did not throng Him and try to touch Him for healings and deliverances. All the people seemed to have left orderly because it says he then went alone on the mountainside to pray.

**Finally, Jesus is able to go to His Father and grieve and receive His Father’s comfort.** Later that night when the boat is in the middle of this huge lake, Jesus a lonely figure standing on the seashore looks out and with piercing eyes, He can see they are struggling. He does not immediately depart and go to them, it says not until just before dawn did He go out to them. Jesus allowed them to fight the wind as a boat crew of men working together. They were fearful for their lives, yet Jesus did not rush out to them to calm their nerves. He simply stood alone on the land and looked out and saw their distress as the Holy Ghost winds tossed them to and fro. We all know that God is in charge of all weather and He was the wind blowing them about on the lake that night purposefully.

**Makes us wonder why?** They had put in a full day of ministering, distributing and picking up all that bread and fish. They too were crushed over John’s death. Between exhaustion and grief, their emotions were raw. Did they need the wind against them also before a good night’s sleep? Beloveds, we have all been right where these disciples were and we have wondered just that, “Why, Lord, tonight of all nights, don’t you know how tired I am. Oh, Jesus, you know how sad I am tonight, I can’t fight one more battle right now!” If you have never been there and said these types of things, I confess I have.

**Finally, Jesus launches out onto the waves and walks upon the water and plans on passing them by.** Their hearts were hardened so they did not recognize Him as He walked alongside them. In the height of the miracle of feeding the five-thousand men, they failed understanding that He is the Bread of Life. When He stepped into the boat, they worshipped Him and they said, ‘Truly you are the Son of God!’ He was going to pass them by, but their cries interrupted Him. The Lord is always next to us but often we do not recognize Him or we have become complacent and take Him for granted.

**Personal Declaration:** I know that the Bible says Jesus is a Man of Sorrows and He suffered a lot for me and those who will receive Him as their personal Lord and Savior. I apologize Lord if I did not recognize you when you came to me. Lord, I am sorry if I have become complacent and am taking you for granted and missing opportunities to PRAISE and WORSHIP you. I want to be your dance partner on the waves of life and I know I won’t go under, because you have ahold of me. I desire to interrupt you, Jesus, for you have shown me your compassion and your longing for me to understand you and who you are in me and who I am in you. I want to be in the boat with you, Lord, all the time.

## Day Twenty-Two "Marketplace Touch"

**Miracle Twenty-two:** This miracle is an introductory to the many miracles that continued throughout Jesus' time on earth. For it did not happen just one day in one particular setting. These are the miracles that happened wherever Jesus was and Beloveds continue to happen today. Would you open your heart to believe He is the same healer today as He was yesterday and shall continue to be forever more? We just left off where Jesus had walked on the water and entered the boat with the twelve disciples and we find them landing on the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee that same morning. *"When they crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout the whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went---into villages, towns or countryside---they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed."* Luke 6:53-56

**Galilean fishing villages and their marketplaces had a huge impact on Jesus' locations of operation and "acts of power."** Jesus' proclamation, *"The Kingdom of God has come near you,"* had its primary audience in Galilean fishing-villages and towns. Jesus drew large crowds from the fishing regions such as of Tyre and Sidon. Jesus moved to and established His ministry headquarters in the fishing village of Capernaum. From there He traveled up, down, and across the Sea of Galilee. His whereabouts was always known and always intersecting with the lives of these real fishing families. Moreover, they knew He was the Promised Messiah and I am sure they were secretly shocked that He humbly lived among them. He moved in and out of their towns, villages, countryside, and their marketplaces.

**Although we would like to romanticize these fishermen and fishing villages, we cannot.** Under Roman occupation, the myth of fishermen being free as the wind is a lie. There were tax booths everywhere, fish police, land taxes, water taxes, road taxes, practically taxes on taxes everywhere they turned. The rich and the politically corrupted system owned even the nets and boats most of them fished with. The fishing industry included many other industries because of the preservation of fish, building boats, making nets and more. Herod Antipas and others including rich illegitimate priestly families lurked over the common fishing families and treated them as slaves. Can you imagine the insult that their bank accounts encountered the day that Jesus made fish literally appear out of thin air while sitting with close to fifteen thousand people feeding them fish that taxes did not get collected on and the CEO's of the fishing industry did not receive dividends for?

**Jesus brought hope to those in hopelessness.** He did not construct large buildings or found institutions that required money from the masses to operate; instead He walked into their place of residence and businesses. He purchased food and supplies from their marketplace booth and as His robe moved with His gaited walk those needing a healing be it physical, spiritual, or emotional touched His cloak upon His body and they were healed. He stopped and taught them and He ate with them and stayed with them sometimes two or three days before moving along. Without current modes of instant communication, all in the region knew where He was and where He was heading and they would rush to get to His 'place of operations' and bring their sick ones to be healed. They saw it and believed it without suspicion. He was pure and true then and He still is today and it's time for us to believe it.

**Personal Declaration:** I am uncertain about many areas of my life, but my belief in Jesus must always be consistent with His Word not my past experiences that try to sway me. I proclaim today that the Man of Galilee who said, *"I will make you fishers of men,"* was talking to me, too. I surrender my life to Him who still walks from village to town to countryside to marketplace looking to heal any who will believe He is the "Great Healer." **Where He is, I want to be. What He says, I want to hear. What He does, I want to see. Where He tells me to go and take the Good News, I will go. What He tells me to say, I will say, and what He tells me to do, I will do, even though I do not have a clue of what that is yet. I surrender to the touch of His Hand and the covering of His Garment!**

## Day Twenty-Three

### “Keep Crying”

**Miracle Twenty-Three:** *Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, ‘Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon possessed and suffering terribly. Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, ‘Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.’ The woman came and knelt before him. ‘Lord help me! She said.’ He replied, ‘It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.’ ‘Yes, it is, Lord,’ she said. ‘Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.’ And her daughter was healed at that moment. Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, and crippled, the mute and many others and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.”* Matthew 15:21-30

**The disciples said to Jesus, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us!”** Her cries were from the pit of her heart, the pit of the heart of a mother desperate for His healing hand to deliver her daughter from demonic possession. Jesus did not answer her and she kept crying after Him. The disciples were annoyed with her crying, after all she was not a Jew she was a Gentile. The Master had ignored her but she kept up her wailing before Him. Although they probably wanted to get rid of her, they did not dare send her away so they told Jesus to send her away! Therefore, Jesus bluntly said, for the disciples to also hear him, that He came for the Jews not the Gentiles. She was not insulted by His answer for she knew the Messiah prophesied was to come for the Jews and not the Gentiles. However, she knew He was the Healer so she persisted while on her knees agreeing with Him but insisting that He help her. Jesus adds salt to injury by calling her a dog and that it was not appropriate for Him to give the Jews’ bread to dogs. In that era Gentiles were considered dogs. Again, she was not offended enough to stop persisting He heal her daughter. She challenged Jesus by saying that He was right, but everybody knows that crumbs fall from the Master’s table and dogs were always around waiting to lap up the crumbs dropped. She was there dog or no dog willing to lap up what the children of Israel were carelessly dropping from the table of heaven! After all many Jews did not believe in Him. Can you just see the disciples? At this point their jaws dropped, ears ringing, eyebrows peaked, and eyeballs enlarged waiting for the Lord Jesus to instruct them to pick this woman up and throw her out!

**Then Jesus says the God Oddest thing—He praises this rude woman and delivers her daughter.** *‘Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.’* Mercy triumphs again! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord oh my soul! Just when you think that the devil has won and Jesus is going to IGNORE your request---Mercy hears and sees FAITH and she jumps to action and the Master speaks and the healing and the deliverance comes in and destroys the enemy’s victory! Truth is always truth rather we believe it or not—TRUTH will always WIN! We might be too short-sighted to see it and that may be our problem, our near-sightedness and our easily injured feelings. We take a little insult and say how wounded we are and we back down and let the enemy take what we could have had. Oh No my Brother---Oh No, my Sister—Don’t you dare back down—you stand against the enemy and you keep on standing Paul said in Ephesians six. You resist the devil, Jesus said---and he will flee! Time for the flea to flee! Amen we dogs got the flea where he needs to be under our flea collar—called Mercy!

**Personal Declaration:** It doesn’t matter to me what the devil thinks about me or who I am or who I am not, what matters to me is what the Lord says about me. He says I am the child of the Most High God the Only God! He says even if I am so weak and barely believing Him and under the table like a whipped little puppy, all I got to do is KEEP CRYING out to JESUS. Sooner or later, He is going to look under His Father’s table and see me licking up crumbs here and there from the crumbs other saints have dropped for me to survive. When the Master sees my faith that I have not left the floor of adversity but I have remained under the roof of the Father, He is going to lift me up from under that lowly place and prepare a table for me before my enemy and He is going to feed me milk and honey!

## Day Twenty-Four

### “Tongue-Untied”

**Miracle Twenty-Four:** We learned yesterday not to give up but to keep crying unto Jesus. History tells of many famous politicians and evangelists who stuttered and had speech impediments. Some had a condition called being tongue-tied whereas their tongues were restrained by an un-attachable ligament. In the early days, doctors refused to cut the ligament which left many forever “tongue-tied.” However, some went on to become famous eloquent speakers some Christians and some not. With God, beloveds, “All things are possible.” He chooses who He uses to move His History forward.

**Today we learn about Jesus healing a man with a speech impediment.** *“Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis (Ten Cities). There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, ‘Ephphatha!’ (Which means ‘Be Opened!’) At this, the man’s ears opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he said so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. ‘He has done everything well,’ they said. ‘He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.’ Mark 7:31-37*

**Moses said to God in Exodus 4:10-12 that he had a speech impediment.** *“Moses said to the LORD, ‘Pardon your servant, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue. The LORD said to him, ‘Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now, go I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.’ We know Moses insisted he could not do the talking so God used Aaron as well, but the Lord was angry against Moses for not trusting Him. (Exodus 4:13-17) **Prophet Samuel had a similar situation.** He was fearful of King Saul when the Lord told him he had to go to Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint a new king. *“But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.’ The LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ (1 Samuel 16:2-3) We learn that Samuel did as God said and all went well according to God’s Perfect Plan. Psalm 37:31 “The law of their God is in their hearts; their feet do not slip.”**

**Do you find yourself unable to speak about the things of God?** Do you get nervous and tremble when asked Godly or Biblical questions? Well, my dear ones, many people do. However, the remedy is the LORD Himself! He puts His words in our mouths if we allow Him to as He did with Prophet Ezekiel. *“Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe. And he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll.’ So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He then said to me, ‘Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.’ So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. He then said to me; ‘Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.’” Ezekiel 2:9-10 and 3:1-4*

**Personal Declaration:** Proverbs 12 says, *“From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward. Honest witnesses tell the truth and the tongues of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever and those who promote joy have peace.”* I will not be afraid as I use my mouth for the Lord and what He puts in my mouth through His Word as I meditate upon it, He will bring to my memory and back out my lips into the earth’s atmosphere for His Kingdom purposes. I will not be concerned about what I will say, but I will let the Holy Spirit speak through me as Jesus promised all of His disciples and that includes me. *“When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11-12*

## Day Twenty-Five “Remote Provisions”

**Miracle Twenty-Five:** *“During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.’ His disciples answered, ‘But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?’ ‘How many loaves do you have?’ Jesus asked. ‘Seven,’ they replied. He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.”* **Mark 8:1-10**

**Jesus said, “I have compassion for these people.”** He explained His compassion for them, it was because they had been with Him three days listening to God’s Word and had not eaten. Their spirits’ desperate for spiritual food had subdued their bodies involuntarily into fasting from food and instead their spirits, bodies, minds, and souls were feasting on *The Bread of Life*. Three days had slipped by and Jesus knew when He left, His glory would go with Him and they would then feel their physical hunger. Some Jesus ‘knew’ were from faraway places and He did not want them collapsing on the way to their homes. In attending Conferences, I too have found that an entire day evaporates when the presence of the Lord is heavy. The momentum of the Holy Spirit in the teaching, the miraculous and the signs and wonders bar all hunger-pains. However, when we leave, I am weak from hunger and thirst. How easily an entire day and sometimes part of the night in the presence of the Lord disappears without our mind, or soul, or our body dictating their needs and wants.

**Our spirits are designed to have dominion over our souls, minds, and bodies.** *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” “You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”* **John 4:24; Psalm 8:5-6**

- **The spirits of both God and the born-again are directly compared to the wind in John 3:5-6** *“Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ‘The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’”*
- **Our spirit knows our thoughts—not our mind.** *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”* **1 Corinthians 2:11**
- **Our spirit is God’s light inside of us illuminating our most inner-person.** *“The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one’s inmost being.”* **Proverbs 20:27**

**Personal Declaration: Father God** I confess I have been in Remote places and I failed to seek you LORD for Spiritual Provision whereas I allowed my body, my soul, and my mind to dominate my spirit and therefore neglecting the Matters of God for which I am designed for. I am to love the Lord my God with all of my heart, all of my mind, all of my soul, and all of my willpower EXACTLY as my spirit from Him does. Forgive me dear Lord and please ‘Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” **I ask in Jesus Holy Name—Amen----** (Psalm 51:10-12)

## Day Twenty-Six “Outside the Village”

**Miracle Twenty-Six:** *“They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, ‘Do you see anything?’ He looked up and said, ‘I see people; they look like trees walking around.’ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home saying, ‘Don’t even go into the village.’”* Mark 8:22-26

**Why did Jesus take the blind man outside the village of Bethsaida?** Jesus took the blind man’s hand and led him outside the village before He healed him. This healing included spitting on the man’s eyes and then Jesus applied His touch on him. After that the man responded and told Jesus he could see people but they were not clear. The second time Jesus put His hands on the man’s eyes. Jesus touched the man the first time and then the second time, He touched the man’s eyes---where the blindness was. Afterward the man’s eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. **We can look at this from the physical healing as well as a spiritual healing.** We know for a fact the man had previously opened his eyes and could not see clearly. Now, it says, “his eyes were opened, his sight restored (meaning he had been able to see once before). Restoration means something existed and then fell into bad repair or was broken or due to age it is not in its best condition, therefore it is restored. With restored and opened eyes, he can now see clearly. We do not know what caused his blindness and we cannot speculate on it as the Bible says we are not to add or take away from the text. I am reading it literally and seeing the threefold outcome of this healing.

**Why did Jesus tell the healed blind man not to go back into the village?** It seems an odd request that Jesus did not want this man to go back into the village of Bethsaida to those people who had brought him to Jesus. Wouldn’t his friends wonder where he had gone to? Beloveds, I do not always have answers, but I have a lot of questions. When we read the Word of God it is a conversation with the Lord. We can ask, “Why did you take him out of the village, heal him, and tell him to go home and not into the village? KJV says ‘and don’t tell it to anyone.’ Unless the Holy Spirit reveals the reason, we will not know it, but the Word should spike your curiosity and provoke you to ask questions and have a two-way conversation with the Lord. Many times when we pray, we do all the talking and then we leave the prayer closet. What about not going back into our busy schedule right away and stay after we have talked and talked and wait to see if the Lord has something to say?

**Have you ever been ‘outside the village’ with the Lord Jesus?** If you set yourself aside and make just a place and time for you and the Lord and you have an encounter with Him, the last thing you should do is go right back to the ‘village.’ I have been in large crowds and as the Lord takes me into worship and I forget all people exist around me and I am caught up in the Spirit, I am spiritually outside the village. Unfortunately, the time comes in a crowd when the Kingdom presence decreases and insensitive crowd members begin to talk, make noise, move chairs, and cause chaos around you. Better to have left the crowd while still in the Spirit of the Lord than to be rudely jolted out by ‘the villagers.’ Beloveds, when you have experienced the Lord such as this blind man had and with his eyes opened and him seeing everything clearly, he understood He had been with the King of kings. Going home to quiet to meditate upon the experience and savor the memories of the Lord’s smell and His touch and the sound of His voice gave him undisturbed time to enjoy the essence of Jesus’ nature.

**Personal Declaration:** I want to spend undisturbed time with the Lord so that I can not only speak to Him, but so that I can hear from Him. I will ask Him questions and be satisfied even if He does not give me the answers immediately. I am willing to wait to have another conversation with Him to find out if I am ready for those answers I am searching for. When I need a healing, I will allow the Lord to heal me according to His terms even if it takes more than one touch from the Master Physician. I will wait upon the LORD and enjoy my strength being renewed in Him as I stay outside of the village.

## Day Twenty-Seven

### “Glorify God”

**Miracle Twenty-Seven:** *“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ **‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’** said Jesus, **‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’** After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. **‘Go,’** he told him, **‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’** (this word means ‘Sent’). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, ‘Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?’ Some claimed that he was. Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ But he himself insisted, ‘I am the man.’ ‘How then were your eyes opened?’ they asked. He replied, ‘The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.’ Where is this man?’ they asked him. ‘I don’t know,’ he answered.” John 9:1-12*

- **There were the narrow-minded:** Who sinned, him or his parents that he is blind?
- **There were believers:** Some claimed that it was the same man.
- **There were unbelievers:** No it’s not the same man just one who looks like him.
- **There was the healed:** He insisted that he was the blind man now able to see.
- **There were the doubters:** If you were blind, how then were your eyes opened?
- **There were the suspicious:** Where is this man (Jesus)?

It is quite the mixture in this crowd surrounding this miracle. In every miracle, God is to be glorified, but it seems at times there almost has to be a wrestling match between the proponents and the opponents. Everything is parallel between the natural and the supernatural in whatever is happening on earth is happening in a broader sense in the supernatural. God’s enemy does not want God to be glorified in any situation therefore he uses whatever methods necessary to try to stop or discourage the glorification from manifesting. Satan could not stop Jesus from performing miracles, but he could try to pervert the healing by causing people to speak doubtful, unbelieving, and suspicious words into the crowd to cause confusion and disagreements.

**Jesus explained that his blindness was a set-up.** Before the foundations of the world this day was on the calendar when this blind man would encounter the Lord in the flesh. Not only would there be a meeting but also a healing for the purpose of glorifying God the Father. God’s miraculous works would be displayed in the blind being able to see as it had been prophesized. *“Say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”* Isaiah 35:4-6 **John the Baptist now in prison sent his disciples to Jesus.** *“John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’ So he replied to the messengers, **“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”*** Luke 7:20(b); 22-23

**Personal Declaration:** I thank the Lord for His love and I cherish His goodness even when I don’t see it as quickly as I want. I am a walking testimony to the goodness of the Lord. You don’t know my story and what He’s brought me through. I once was blind, but now I see. I was deaf to His voice but now I hear. I could not walk with my head held high for the troubles I had caused, but He came and lifted me above the ashes of my shame. I will bless His name and tell the world what He has done for me. I will leap with the JOY of the Lord and when I sing, I will sing like never before, for the Lord has delivered me. I will GLORIFY His Name. You cannot stop me from GLORIFYING HIS NAME!

## Day Twenty-Eight "Rebuking Demons"

**Miracle Twenty-Eight:** *"And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Then Jesus answered and said, 'O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So Jesus said to them, '**Because of your unbelief (lack of faith in some older manuscripts), for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.**" (NKJV) Matthew 17:14-21*

### **Strong's Concordance:**

**Rebuke:** *In the New Testament "to rebuke" is most often the translation of "epitimaō." Meaning: to express sharp, stern disapproval of; reprove; reprimand and reprehend sharply and immediately.*

**Demon:** Evil spirits or the messengers and ministers of the devil. There are different ranks of these evil spirits that are demons and Satan (the devil) is the prince of them. They are said to enter into (the body of) to vex him with diseases and madness (Luke 8:30) Jesus asked the demon its name and it replied, "Legion," because many demons had gone into the demon possessed man who lived in the tombs. The apostle Paul, though teaching that the gods of the Gentiles are a fiction (1 Corinthians 8:4; 1 Corinthians 10:19-20), thinks that the conception of them has been put into the minds of men by demons, who appropriate to their own use and honor the sacrifices offered to idols. Those who frequent the sacrificial feasts of the Gentiles come into fellowship with demons. **Destructive errors are propagated by demons even among Christians, seducing them from the truth,** *"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."* **1 Timothy 4:1.**

**What is needed to cast out demons?** One word... authority! Who has such authority? God's children... the believers! How do we exercise our authority? Through a spoken command of faith and in the name of Jesus' Christ directed at the unclean spirits. Luke 10:17-19, *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power (translates to AUTHORITY) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

**Does every believer have authority over demons?** Yes! We are all seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 2:6), which means we are above the demons in rank of authority! Mark 13:34 also tells us how we are given authority to carry out the work that is laid before us. Mark 16:17 tells us that them who believe will be casting out demons.

**How did Jesus' disciples go about casting out demons?** Through Jesus' name, Luke 10:17. **How did the early church go about casting out demons?** Through Jesus' name, Acts 16:18. **How are the believers today supposed to be casting out demons?** Through Jesus' name, Mark 16:17.

**Personal Declaration:** Mark 16:17 tells us, *"These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils."* As a believer, I have been given authorization in Jesus' name to drive out demons. Faith is my access of sanctioning to exercise my authority with a spoken command in Jesus' name directed at the unclean spirit. As Paul clearly demonstrates in Acts 16:18 *"Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."*

## Day Twenty-Nine

### “Don’t Swallow Every Hook!”

**Miracle Twenty-Nine:** *“When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?” He said, “Yes.” And when he had come into the house, Jesus, anticipated him, saying, ‘**What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers**’ Peter said to Him, “From Strangers?” Jesus said to him. **‘Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for me and you.’**” Matthew 17:24-27*

**This was the voluntary temple tax of one half-shekel (Exodus 30:13-16) paid annually by male Jews twenty years of age or older into the Temple treasury.** Collectors who were appointed to collect it opened stalls in every country town for the reception of the money. Although a voluntary tax, it was presumably expected. Kings and their sons, Priests, workers in the temple, and Rabbis were exempt. By every definition Jesus was exempt from paying the temple tax. However, Jesus, the King of Kings, paid the temple tax to avoid trivial conflict with the religious authorities. Furthermore, He set an example to not take Satan’s bait and that we too must at times go beyond the call of duty to avoid conflicts to Glorify God and not disgrace Him in trivial quarrels.

**This is Jesus’ only miracle manifested by precise Godly timing between the sea-world and mankind.** Simultaneously He instructs ‘the fish’ and Peter to go to Capernaum’s shoreline. Then at an exact moment and exact place ‘the fish’ picks up the coin while swallowing Peter’s hook. We remember that God had instructed a whale to swallow and later throw up Jonah at the right place and at the right time. It should not surprise us that Jesus could instruct a fish to do something of this nature. Imagine the possibilities for us knowing God has given us dominion over the fish of the seas. Perhaps if we spent more time fishing for God’s wisdom and less time aimlessly casting our hooks and lines for our own personal gain, we too would pull in real godly discernment beneficial to the entire ‘Body of Christ.’ Today we lack the spiritual gift of “Discernment” in the Church. Many do not know how to judge between good and evil spirits and continuously get caught up into the nets of evil spinners. Peter did not discern too well that day. He was asked if Jesus pays the temple tax. Although Peter quickly answered them, it is doubtful that he discerned the trap they were setting. He did momentarily avoid their trap with his quick answer, but his answer lacked discerning substance.

**When he walked into the house, Jesus gave Peter no opportunity to ask Him about the tax.** The spiritual gift of discernment grants wisdom to know what is coming in the spiritual realm before it arrives in the natural realm. Jesus knew what was coming before it did. He prepared for it by calling forth a fish to be ready at an exact time for a coin and a hook. With the gifting of “Discernment” the apostles anticipated many things before they happened and recognized Godly remedies before they needed them. Paul did not go to certain places because his discerning spirit directed by the Holy Spirit said, “No. At other times said, “Go.” His discerning spirit knew the girl following them and declaring they were servants of the Most High God was possessed by a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16-18). *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1” “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” Matthew 7:15.*

**Personal Declaration:** I want an increase in spiritual discernment. God is the only one who can increase my wisdom. I will pray for it (James 1:5; Phil. 1:9). Wisdom to distinguish good from evil comes by training and practice, I will go to the Bible to learn the truth and meditate on the Word, reinforcing the truth. I want to know the authentic so well that when the false appears, I can recognize it. By knowing and obeying the Word of God, I can be trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. I will know God’s character and will be able to distinguish the voice of the world from the voice of God, to have a sense that “this is right” or “this is wrong.” Spiritual discernment fends off temptation and will allow me to “hate what is evil; and cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9).

## Day Thirty

### “With Him or Against Him?”

**Miracle Thirty:** *“Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. But some of them said, ‘By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.’ Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, ‘Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left. When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.’” Luke 11:14-26*

**Jesus is making a point with this deliverance and by these teachings all in one key verse. “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”** He knows that not only within groups of people rather it be kingdoms, households, assemblies, or an individual, if their belief system is divided, they will fall! An individual delivered from demonic possession, oppression, or influences does not have time on his or her side. They must immediately believe it was Christ Jesus that delivered them and immediately gather themselves to Him or be at risk of being tormented by demons taunting their frail belief system. I have been inside of Churches where some of the saints believe in deliverance and healing and some do not---it is sad because these divided houses reek of decaying slow death. One practical way to protect the saints is being certain all leadership members are of the same mind, heart, and spirit because Jesus said, “Whoever is not with Me, is against Me. Whoever does not gather with Me, is a divider!” Throughout the Gospels we witness healings and deliverances, miracles, signs, wonders, and works that make NO SENSE to our logical minds---all performed by Jesus. You must decide are you with Him or against Him? Do you agree with His methods, His Words, His works? Beloveds, you cannot be divided in your belief or faith or in your Biblical views. We can’t mix Biblical views with Worldly views that equals compromise and our downfall as the Salt and the Light of the earth which Jesus has left us here to be until He returns!

**Where there is NO UNITY and there is DIVISION—the house will fall! Romans 16:17-19 NIV**  
There is one Christ in whom all believers hope, and one heaven we are all hoping for; therefore, we should be of one heart. The apostles knew they all had one faith in Jesus. They all believed He was the Son of God. They were baptized with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, as the sign of regeneration and believed they were born again of the Spirit.

**Let’s Pray together:** Lord Jesus as we pray, give us a sincere heart for healing and unity. Point out the selfish appetites in our own hearts, and bring us to a point of repentance. Thank you for your purification, Jesus. Thank you for the pains that we go through as we become more like you, Jesus. Thank you for scraping away the junk to reveal the Christ-like image that you, Father, created us in.

**Personal Declaration:** Holy Spirit, thank you for your wisdom and your guidance. Make me a peacemaker in the body of Christ. Protect me, and help me to remember that with you as my protector, I don’t need to be the aggressor in any conflict. Help me to be obedient; to swallow my pride, and to pray for them instead. *“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:2-6*

Day Thirty-One  
“His Name is Jesus”

*Ascension Day it is the 40th day since Easter Sunday.  
Commemorating Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven!*

**Miracle Thirty-One:** “On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, **‘Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.’** Then he put his hands on her, and immediately **she straightened up and praised God.** Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, ‘There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.’ The Lord answered him, **‘You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?’** When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.”

Luke 13:10-17

**We learned yesterday from Jesus that,** “**When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.**” I pray you hear what He is saying. Satan’s possessions Jesus refers to are ‘people’s souls.’ In addition to souls, their prosperity, relationships, health and much more. However, when Jesus overpowers Satan, Jesus takes away the armor of Satan, his lies and deceitfulness, and Jesus divides up Satan’s plunder (people set free). The division is made within the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A delivered person is not literally divided up, but they are simultaneously at all times in the care of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and under God’s watchfulness, provision, and protection.

**Now, beloveds, we come to this bent-over woman inside the synagogue on the Sabbath.** Jesus instantly knows this is bondage by an ‘evil spirit of infirmity.’ Ignoring any gender rules the synagogue may have had, Jesus calls her to the front. Bent over beside Him and before all the men. I am sure, she is grateful that finally after eighteen years of attending Church Sunday after Sunday---**oh come on just let me preach---now.** Suddenly, there is somebody in the house that believes that she can be delivered and that she can be healed. Come on somebody give me an Amen! How is it that the hypocrites said if she wanted to be healed she could come any day but the day of Sabbath? Come on Church, you don’t have to believe me just read the Bible. Is it easier to untie your ass and take it to water than it is to believe that Christ Jesus still heals today just like He did then? He set this woman free of a dirty demon of Satan’s that had locked her up for eighteen years. Imagine this woman so bent over that all she saw was the ground all the time; when she stood, when she sat, and when she walked. She probably got to the synagogue because religious Jews helped her on the Sabbath to get there. One day the Son of God came into the Church and commanded that the perverse spirit of infirmity sent from Satan take itself out of that dear little woman. **She was healed and she stood up TALL and she PRAISED GOD!** If somebody doesn’t break out into a Holy Ghost dance now, I just don’t know if the Lord will do for us what He did then, still does, and shall ever be doing---Breaking down Satan’s door; Plundering his armor; Stealing back from Satan what’s His, Setting Free and Healing His People!  
**Personal Declaration:** Jesus I know you are the same today as yesterday and shall ever be the same. I know that you ascended into Heaven and **You are Coming Back** because the angels said to the apostles, “*Men of Galilee why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.*” Until then I am yours to be used by You to Deliver, Heal, and Save Your People! When I go into a battle, I am going looking for PLUNDER; “The people of God.” You chose them like You chose me, before we knew You. It is time to pick up the AXE and go after the ROOT and bring down the tree of adversity and bring the people to the **Living Water and the Tree of Life, His name is JESUS!**

## Day Thirty-Two “Faithful Blessings”

**Miracle Thirty-Two:** *“One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of one of the chief Pharisees, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body (dropsy). Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?’ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. Then he asked them, ‘Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath day?’ And they had nothing to say. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Luke 14:1-15*

**Jesus never wastes an opportunity to teach God’s Truth.** Once again aware of His surroundings, He spoke to the falseness of honoring religiosity, self, and group-affirmation for the reward is earthly. If we are willing to defer self-acclamation and friendly-reciprocal adoration, our blessings of heaven will compound daily a great return and we will benefit from heavenly blessings here on earth.

**There are Seven Blessings in the Book of Revelation.** *Blessed means, “Favorable circumstances granted by God to a person.”* The fourth blessing of Revelation is Heaven’s confirmation to the man’s statement in Luke 14:15 as written above. *“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”* (Revelation 19:9)

Psalm 1:1-3 *“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night? That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither---whatever they do prospers.”* The ninth blessing of the beatitudes Jesus spoke during the ‘Sermon on the Mount,’ says, *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:11-12)

**Listen carefully and respond to Jesus properly.** *“Whoever has ears let them hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people. This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes’ says the Spirit, ‘They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”* Revelation 13:9-10 and 14:12-13

**Personal Declaration:** I walk in favorable circumstances granted by my Father through the Holy Spirit. Even when I cannot see His hand of favor releasing abundant goodness over me, I agree that His perfect will in heavenly proportions for me is according to His calendar. I will not dishonor Him by fleshly impulses. I know my best interest is in the center of His unfailing love and through Christ Jesus, I will arrive on schedule fitting into the Kingdom Destiny He wrote before I ever knew Him.

## Day Thirty-Three “Taken for Granted”

**Miracle Thirty-Three:** *“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’ When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”* Luke 17:11-19

**Based on this parable who do you believe is least likely to take the Lord for granted?** Jesus asked his dinner host a question, *‘Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?’* Simon replied, *‘I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.’ ‘You have judged correctly,’* Jesus said.” (Luke 7:41-43). Think about your children. If they live their lives forgetting what you taught them disrespecting and dishonoring your parental position, will you always let them take you for granted and bail them out whenever they get into trouble? Of course, you will forgive them, but will you forever pay for their consequences?

**I have heard many times that parenting is the most thankless job on planet earth.** I wonder does Father God ever feel the same pain in His heart when His children forget to thank Him? He said to Noah that he regretted he had made human beings on earth because their evil ways had deeply grieved His heart (Genesis 6). He stopped calling the delivered Israelites His people after they made the golden calf. When He spoke to Moses about them, he referred to them as ‘Moses’ people.’ He was so angry with them for worshipping idols, He wanted to wipe them entirely off the earth, but Moses intervened (Exodus 32). Jesus became frustrated and upset and asked how long must He bear with them. There was nothing more frustrating to Jesus, I am sure, than having taught His disciples all this time, He saw that they were still spiritually weak. They were now coming to the end of their period of training, Jesus was about to be offered up for the sins of the world, and they still lacked faith (Matthew 17:14-21). We also know that Kingdom Kids can grieve the Holy Spirit for we have been instructed to not do so. **You see beloveds, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have feelings and emotions just like us.** In that day of the ten lepers all being healed only one returned to Jesus, first PRAISING God and secondly throwing himself at the feet of Jesus thanking Him and he was not a Jew. Not a Jew among the other nine raised knowing God heals and knowing they should THANK GOD and PRAISE HIM came back to Jesus. I believe Jesus was grieving and not for Himself, but for Father God and the Holy Spirit (Luke 5:17) for He asked, *‘Has no one returned to give praise to God but this foreigner?’* *“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”—Ephesians 4:30.* Dr. Spurgeon said, “The love of the Spirit can only be spoken of in words of song. He loved us without beginning in the eternal covenant of grace. All that can be said of the love of the Father, of the love of the Son, may be said of the love of the Spirit—it is eternal, it is infinite, it is sovereign, it is everlasting, it is a love which cannot be dissolved, which cannot be decreased, a love which cannot be removed from those who are the objects of it.”

**God forbid that we may have stopped thanking the Holy Spirit for His constant teaching, companionship, unfailing love and all the more too great to list.** God forbid we may have ceased thanking Jesus for being our Redeemer and Savior, our healer and deliverer. God forbid we may have stopped thanking Father God every day for life and everything in it.

**Personal Declaration:** Dear Lord, I thank you for this gentle correction that I too have been like one of those other nine lepers not coming back and thanking You and praising You. It made me realize how many times I have taken You for granted. I am sorry for every time I have been thankless and failed to praise You. Please forgive me in Jesus Holy Name, I pray—Amen.

Day Thirty-Four  
"The Glory of God"

**Miracle Thirty-Four:** Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

- **Beloved, whatever this is, do not rush-wait and let the Lord be glorified.**  
*"Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "**This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.**" John 11:1-4 -- "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "**Let us go to Judea again.**" John 11:5-7*
- **Beloved, you shall recover and you will believe even deeper than you do now in Jesus Christ**  
*"After saying these things, he said to them, "**Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.**" The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "**Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.**" John 11:11-15*
- **Have faith in Jesus, the Most High Priest, who continuously intercedes for you, Beloved.**  
*"So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." John 11:20-22*
- **Beloved, do you believe with God ALL things are possible?**  
*"Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." John 11:25-27*
- **Beloved, He weeps for you, for He is the Man of Sorrows who is moved deeply in His spirit.**  
*"Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "**Where have you laid him?**" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. John 11:32-35*
- **Beloved, has He not told you that you would see the glory of God? Don't hinder Him-Believe!**  
*"Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "**Take away the stone.**" Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**" John 11:38-40*
- **Beloved, your Heavenly Interceder says to The Father, "Father I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me!"**  
*"So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.**" When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**" John 11:41-44*

**Personal Declaration:** I love you, Lord, and I believe you and I believe in you—be glorified Son of God, my Lord and My Savior. "For it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

## Day Thirty-Five

### “Cheer Up!”

**Miracle Thirty-Five:** *“Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means ‘son of Timaeus’), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, ‘Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘**Call him.**’ So they called to the blind man, ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ‘**What do you want me to do for you?**’ Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘**Rabbi, I want to see.**’ ‘**Go,**’ said Jesus, ‘**your faith has healed you.**’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”* Mark 10:46-52

**Wow! I wish I were there that day when Bartimaeus received the gift only Jesus could give him, his sight.** Bartimaeus begging just outside the city gate was nothing new, many beggars were stationed just outside the city during Jesus’ day. For Bartimaeus that would not be an ordinary day of collecting a coin here and one there. Greater things were going to happen. He was blind but yet he was keenly aware of what was happening in his un-gated community. He must have heard of Jesus of Nazareth and His miraculous works. Perhaps he knew much more than the common resident of Jericho and its surrounding villages and countryside. After all, he sat all day near the city gate, where court took place and much talk between the Jews of Jerusalem and the Religious leaders had not escaped any ear of authority willing to dampen Jesus’ cause.

**“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** He is then rebuked by many others. Why? What is his offense? What law has he broken? Jesus has passed him as he had to stop and tell them to bring Bartimaeus to Him. Who is sneering at him to be quiet? The crowd or those sitting with him begging also? Why is it when Jesus is leaving the city of Jericho that Bartimaeus is calling out to him? Is it possible he had heard that Jesus was in the city and he knew that eventually he would be passing by his begging station? We may not have accurate answers to our questions but we do know the facts stated and we know that this blind man was not going to stop crying out for Jesus’ help. He shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

**Jesus stopped and told those with him to ‘call him.’** The man is blind but Jesus did not go to him, rather he had him called. This man is ready to throw off the coat of a beggar and blindly rush toward Jesus. He heard Jesus say, “Call him.” He knew where the voice came from. He also knew whose voice it was. Jesus said My sheep know My voice and when they hear Me, they will follow only Me. However, they will run away from a stranger. Here comes Bartimaeus blind and possibly clumsy on his feet running and grasping the air until his hands land on Jesus, Son of David. Oddly, Jesus asked this blind man what he wanted Him to do for him. Doesn’t Jesus know? He is blind surely he wants to see! Be careful beloveds, we never know for sure what a person wants or needs from Christ Jesus—we cannot assume these things. Jesus wanted the crowd to hear what Bartimaeus wanted from Jesus. He said, ‘I want to see.’ Jesus said, **“Go, your faith has healed you.”** That’s it? No mud, no spit, no pool water? **Bartimaeus did not have to see to believe. Faith is not blind!** Jesus said to Thomas after His resurrection that he only believed because he saw Him. He said, though, **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

**Personal Declaration:** I have been called by Christ Jesus and I shall arise and get on my feet and regardless of what I have or have not yet seen, I am going to CHEER UP! *Psalm 36:5-6 “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the Heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord. Psalm 119:50 – “This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.” Zephaniah 3:17 – “The Lord your God is in your midst; a mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.”*

## Day Thirty-Six

### “All Leaf and No Fruit!”

**Miracle Thirty-Six:** *“Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, ‘May you never bear fruit again!’ Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed, ‘How did the fig tree wither so quickly?’ they asked. Jesus replied, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea, and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.’”* Matthew 21:18-22

**To understand the purpose of Jesus’ cursing (judging) the fig tree we need to know some facts about fig trees in Israel.** Commonly, the fig tree produces fruit within three seasons each year. This tree growing alongside the road meant it was not owned by anybody as it was a voluntary tree and travelers could eat its fruit. Generally, the fig comes on the tree (green) before the leaves do; blending in their green camouflage just before ripening. From a distance Jesus could see the leaves, therefore it would only indicate that figs would be on the tree as well. Lastly, we must understand that in the Bible often the fig tree is used symbolically to represent Israel the nation. This fig tree has all the outward signs of being with fruit, but it was just a ‘show.’ In the USA we have a saying, “He is all talk and NO show!” Meaning a person talks a good talk but they produce nothing. Jesus said a good tree **produces** good fruit and a bad tree **produces** bad fruit. We can fool others by looking godly on the outside but God looks on the inside and knows what type of tree we truly are. Jesus left the *judged fig tree* and went to the Temple and did some serious damage to the immoral swindling in the Temple courts. All of this took place in the last few days of Jesus’ earthly life. Time was running out and the heat of teaching was amped up to a higher degree.

**Everything that glitters is not gold!** Jesus a Jew came for the children of Israel first, yet He is cursing a fig tree that symbolically represents the nation of Israel because of their hardened hearts. They rejected Him. There shall be no favoritism in the Body of Christ. *“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here’s a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there,’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”* James 2:1-4

**Jesus warned His followers to beware of flaunty performances done under the deception of Godliness.** *“While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, “Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”* (Luke 20:45-47) **You do not always get what you see! This is why Jesus cautioned us:** *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. By their fruit you will recognize them.”* Matthew 7:15-17; 7:20

**Personal Declaration:** I am ready to recognize false teachers and false prophets exist and not just on television. They are a real threat and danger and have penetrated the Christian family. The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit, I will learn how to use it by studying it. I will prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit’s help. I will not give up gathering myself with others and giving and receiving encouragement of the Lord. With the Lord’s help, I will review and analyze 2 Peter chapter 2 and follow the guidelines of Apostle Peter regarding protecting myself from falling into the traps of false teachers and prophets. I realize I need to be prepared to protect my soul from the lies of the devil and those he uses to take advantage of God’s children leading them astray.

## Day Thirty-Seven “The Hour of Darkness”

**Miracle Thirty-Seven:** “Jesus went out as usual to Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you will not fall into temptation.’ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Why are you sleeping? He asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.’ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, *Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*’ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords? And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, ‘Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour---darkness reigns.” Luke 22:39-54

Jesus spoke of His hour several times BUT now He has spoken Satan and man’s hour! “The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, *“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.” “How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” “I am going to the Father where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”* “Dear Children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. *“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted Him authority over all people that He might give Eternal Life to all those you have given Him. Now this is eternal life; that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, WHO YOU HAVE SENT!”* Luke 10:18-19 and Isaiah 14:12; John 12:31-32; 16:11; 1 John 3:7-8 John 17:1(b)-3

**Personal Declaration:** “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this; God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.” “Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? As no one has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has power over the time of their death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.” “Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.” There is a time for everything; and a season for every activity under the heavens, a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.” **“God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.”** Ecclesiastes 7:14; 8:7-8; 9:12; 3:1-8; 3:11, 3:15 I declare that I know that God so loved the world He gave His Only Son, Christ Jesus, and I have received Him as my Lord and Savior, I do not know what tomorrow brings but I know where I will spend my eternity in Heaven beneath His Golden Wings!

## Day Thirty-Eight “The Hour of Brightness”

**Miracle Thirty-Eight:** *“Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying?’ ‘They have taken my Lord away,’ she said, ‘and I don’t know where they have put him.’ At this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize it was Jesus. He asked her, ‘**Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**’ Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘**Mary.**’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘**Rabboni!**’ (Which means Teacher). Jesus said, ‘**Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.**’ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.” John 20:11-18* Later in Jerusalem Peter during his first sermon tells of Jesus’ resurrection to the thousands listening! *“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.” Acts 2:22-24*

**Mary and the other women, the angels, the guards, John, and the empty tomb reported it. They Reported what? His Resurrection!** *“...Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee; **‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’** Then they remembered his words (Luke 24:4-8).” “There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightening, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen just as he said. While the women were on their way some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened (Matthew 28:2-6(a); 28:11).” “Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying (John 20:6-10).*

**Personal Declaration:** I believe these things about the Lord and the Savior, Christ Jesus. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was **the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light** that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-5; 9-14*

## Day Thirty-Nine “Galilean Fisher of Men”

**Miracle Thirty-Nine:** *“Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ‘I’m going out to fish,’ Simon Peter told them, and they said, ‘We’ll go along with you.’ So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, ‘**Friends, haven’t you any fish?**’ ‘No,’ they answered. He said, ‘**Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.**’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, ‘It is the Lord,’ he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, ‘**Bring some of the fish you have caught.**’ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘**Come and have breakfast.**’ None of the disciples dared ask him, ‘Who are you?’ They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.”* John 21:1-14

**What about you, child of God, bought with the blood of the Galilean fisher of men,** would you know it was Jesus if He fixed you an early seaside breakfast? What would tell you that it was Jesus? What familiar sight or sound? Could you confidently sit down with Him? What would be the first thing that you would want to say? Would you be concerned about everything else in your day? Sitting at the Master’s side and waiting for His smile, I tell you child of God, stay and long with him awhile. Don’t be anxious to leave because the clock says so. Put yourself in park and refuse to go. Others may rush by the windows of your life but they will never understand you like the Lord can. Sip and drink the Savior in and know He has come just for you. Even though you were short and didn’t follow through with the things you told Him that you were going to do, He has not come to shame you but to set you free. At the table of the Master many things are solved. When we wonder what to do we often are too closely involved. If you could learn to set the things that have you bound upon the altar of the Lord, the truthful answers would much quicker be found. **I wonder what it was like that day sitting along the shore.** Smelling grilling fish and bread and looking at the Lord. I do believe I would have stayed until the Lord said Go. I just believe it is possible to have a time with Him. A time of bliss, a time of joy, and time of good fellowship. A moment would be quite enough to fill up my cup again. Do you often hear an empty sound inside when you have ministered to those all around? My beloved, believe with me. He is waiting to fill you to overflowing until it is spilling on the ground. Our Lord never gives too little leftovers will always be found. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us every day of our lives. We have a key and it fits a door in the heavens above. We shall dwell within His house forever and ever more. He has gone to prepare a place and soon He is going to knock upon our door. Beloved be ready for Jesus Christ when He comes with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. We shall all arise. First the dead and then the live, perishable becoming imperishable and mortal becoming immortal. Apostle Paul wrote, “Comfort one another with these words.”

**Personal Declaration:** Peter thought he had let Him down, but Jesus said, “Not so!” He warned Peter what would come. However, Jesus promised He had already prayed so that when Peter came back with steady faith that he should strengthen all the others. Peter rushed through the water and unto the shore to Jesus. He loved Jesus and he truly understood the resurrected power of Jesus’ perfect love, unconditional forgiveness, and His Deity. Like Father, like Son and now so do I!

## Day Forty

### “The Ascension of Jesus”

**Miracle Forty:** *“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty-days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift of my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ Then they gathered around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”*

Acts 1:1-11

**Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after he was resurrected. During those forty days He appeared to His followers and continued to teach them.** We have just read the detailed account written in the book of Acts. We recall that a group of about one-hundred-twenty gathered together in an upper room in Jerusalem where they had been staying. It was exactly ten days later from Jesus’ ascension marking the fiftieth day, being the Day of Pentecost, the Promised Holy Spirit descended upon them just as Jesus had promised. We shall elaborate on that tomorrow, Pentecost Sunday! Before Dr. Luke wrote the book of Acts, he wrote the book of Luke which is the former book he refers to in Acts 1:1. Here in Luke 24:50-53 Dr. Luke briefly wrote Theophilus this about Jesus’ ascension. *“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.”*

**We see that the disciples were not sorrowful but joyful and they worshipped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem and continually praised God at the Temple.** They now had a deeper understanding of God the Father and how Jesus had said He had to ascend to His Father, their Father, and unto His God, their God. He had breathed the Holy Spirit unto them and he had opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. The ascension creates in our hearts a sense of expectation as we realize that He will return, just as He departed: *“... This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven” (Acts 1:11).* And so it is that we come to the importance of the ascension to Christians today. It is not primarily to be viewed as the conclusion of our Lord’s life and ministry, but as the introduction of a new phase of His ministry through His church, empowered by His Spirit. The assurance of His return and the measure of His presence and power in these intervening days is to be found, to a great extent, in His ascension. **What a Savior!**

**Personal Declaration:** Jesus is now in heaven at the right hand side of the Father. However, the ministry of Jesus did not cease to exist when He went to heaven. Rather its new phase is the Church age which I am now a part of. The ascension serves as the connector between the work of Christ in salvation and that in our sanctification; between the gospels and the epistles; between what has been accomplished by Christ and what is still being done through His Spirit. I too have the promised Holy Spirit residing inside of me. I have been clothed with the power through the Holy Spirit from on high! I choose to live my life by the leading of the Holy Spirit, Lord help me! Amen.



## INTRODUCTION AND DAY ONE OF A 50 DAY DEVOTIONAL

During these 50 days, we shall follow the prophecies about Christ, those fulfilled and those yet to be fulfilled. Pentecost Sunday, is our Christian Holy day when we celebrate the birth of His Church. The Western and Jewish Calendar are not the same therefore, we could be celebrating Pentecost days or weeks ahead of Israel. Use a Judeo-Christian Calendar and follow its dates.

**Day One: John 10:17-18** *"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it up again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."*

From sunset of Passover to Pentecost there are fifty days. Pentecost is a Jewish holiday that God commanded by counting off fifty days from the day after the first Passover Sabbath. The Greek word "Pentecost" translates the word "fifty." Significant to Israel for it was the "Feast of First Fruits," called *Shavuot*. It begins with barley harvest then 50 days later it concludes with wheat harvest.

The Church was born the year of Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and then accession. Exactly ten days after Jesus rose to heaven as disciples waited in the Upper Room in Jerusalem with the apostles, suddenly the HOLY SPIRIT came with a great wind and licking tongues of fire baptizing them all.

Before Jesus' Ascension, He told the disciples to wait (or tarry) in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit would come. Jesus commanded the disciples to *"not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 1:4-5). **The Church of Jesus Christ could not even exist without the Holy Spirit and so on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given to the church and the church was begun.** Acts 2:1-4 *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them."*

It was the day that the Holy Spirit was made available to humanity in general so that they could be drawn by the Father and see their need for a Savior (John 6:44). The Holy Spirit empowered believers to overcome and to have power to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. This day also revealed that the Body of Christ was not about nationality or religion or gender, but about a relationship with Jesus Christ. *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28).

The Church is the Bride of Christ and she is preparing herself for the Lord Jesus Christ's return. During these fifty days we shall embark on a devotional journey, whereas we focus on the renewing of our minds so that we can be transformed and to not have this world's mindset but the mindset of our Savior and Lord! Let's join hands and hearts and seek the face of the Bridegroom and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as we reside under the wings of Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be His Name as His kingdom has come through His Son and His will shall be done on this earth as it is in heaven!

Love and Blessings;

  
Sr. Pastor Cyndi Higgins

**Day Two:** *“From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.”* **Leviticus 23:15-16**

This is the ‘Feast of Weeks,’ whereas they give unto the LORD the first fruits of their ‘wheat harvest, upon the fiftieth day.’ We shall look at the prophecies of Jesus Christ and their fulfillments as our devotional foundation and build from there. We shall work our way backward from the day of His Ascension to the Garden of Eden, where we find God telling Satan there shall be One coming through the ‘Seed of the Woman.’

You would find 55 prophecies spoken and fulfilled if you were to number the prophecies spoken from the first prophetic word God spoke of the ‘woman’s ‘seed’ to the sign placed above His head on the Cross, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS,” fulfilling Psalm 2:6 **“I have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion.”** *“Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, ‘**Are you the King of the Jews?**’ ‘Is that your own idea,’ Jesus asked, ‘or did others talk to you about me?’ ‘Am I a Jew?’ Pilate replied. ‘Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?’ Jesus said, ‘**My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.**’ ‘**You are a king, then!**’ said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘**You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**”* John 18:33-37 NIV

- If you numbered them the prophecy of “King of Zion” would be prophecy #55 fulfilled. Prophecy #54 fulfilled, is **“Conversion of the Gentiles.”** Prophesied in Isaiah 11:10 (487 BCE) *“There shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.”* Fulfilled and written down by Dr. Luke in Acts 10:45 (41 AD) *“They of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
- Number 53 being the **“Chief Corner Stone,”** prophecy of Isaiah 28:16 (487 BCE) *“Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation.”* Fulfilled and written down by Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:4-6 (60 AD) *“As you come to him, the living Stone rejected by humans but chosen by God, and precious to him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”*
- Number 52 being that Jesus would **“Exercise Priestly Office in Heaven,”** as prophesied in Zechariah 6:13 (519 BCE) *“He shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”* The Holy Spirit had Apostle Paul tell us what Jesus is doing right now for those who belong to Him, *“It is Messiah who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”* Romans 8:34 (60 AD).
- Number 51 tells us where Jesus would be and is, **“Sitting on the Right Hand of God,”** as prophesied in Psalm 110:1, *“The LORD said unto my LORD, sit thou at my right hand.”* The author of Hebrews tells us in 1:3, *“When he had by himself purged our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

**Day Three:** Prophecy number 50, “**His Ascension.**” It was prophetically spoken in Psalm 68:18-20 that “**When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious, that you LORD God might dwell there. Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.**” Fulfilled, “Luke 24:51 (33 AD) “*While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up to heaven.*” **He ascended!** That’s not the Holy Spirit being spoken of and that’s not the Father being spoken of---that’s not even “The Word,” being spoken of. Only one of the God head is able to ascend in human bodily form because He had a mortal body—it perished yet His body became imperishable. Through the physical death and the resurrection, Jesus Christ arose with a ‘spiritual body’ that is flesh and bone, but no blood!

1. “A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘*Peace be with you!*’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘*Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.*’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God’ Then Jesus told him, ‘**Because you have seen me** you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:26-29
2. “While they were still thinking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘*Peace be with you.*’ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, ‘*Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. **It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.***” Luke 24:36-39
3. “After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going,** when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**” Acts 1:9-11
4. “I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands **was someone like a son of man,** dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest...” “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘*Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*” Revelations 1:12-13; 17-18  
 Father God, Beloveds, is Spirit---Jesus told us so—John 4:24 “*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*” The Holy Spirit is spirit. Jesus said He can be described as the Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Holiness. Like the wind He told Nicodemus (John 3) you cannot see---you cannot see Him you just must feel Him and believe! He is the breath of life. God told Ezekiel to ask the Spirit to breath on the bones and give them life and He would live in them.  
**I’M RISING TODAY:** I give permission to my spirit to rise up and take over my soulish behavior, my mind and its attitude, and my lustful flesh demanding its own way! Today, I declare, I shall do good deeds in Jesus Name and seek Him first, His Kingdom, and His righteousness! I am putting down what’s not of God and picking up what is of Him so I can be buoyant in my spiritual ascent!

**Day Four:** Prophecy number 49, ‘**His Resurrection.**’ Before ‘God The Word’ became the ‘Holy Seed’ and was born as God’s Son, yet a man-child, it was foretold in Psalm 16:10 that He would die and be placed in a grave, however, He would not stay there as a dead and decaying man. *“Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”* Dr. Luke wrote in 24:6, 31, and 34 (33 AD) that exactly as the Psalmist prophesized it happened! *“He is not here, but is risen; remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee? And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. **Saying the Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.**”*—

Here we see God’s Holy Anointed One, His dearly beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We see His deity as God’s Son and we see His dynasty – his throne is forever and ever – Christ’s dynasty will never end. He will rule with a scepter and govern by the constitution of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. *“But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.’”* (Hebrews 1:8-9).

Why did Jesus have to live as a man, die as a man, and then raise from the grave as the overcomer of death? It was prophesized in Matthew 12:40; 17:23 *“For just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.”* Luke 4:18-19; 21 *“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PREACH THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”* *“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* While still alive as a man He basically told them, **“I Am That One.”**

Many Godly and great men and women have come and preached and led many to the Cross of Jesus. Their words were inspiring and their evangelic gifting was superb with pastoral care that puts most pastors in the back of the heap---yet, beloveds many of them have died and yet did not raise up from their casket or grave. ONLY JESUS has been resurrected and not died a second time. Jesus is the Resurrected Christ. He suffered for us and is sorrowful for us and He understands our human frailty because He, too, for a while was human. Hebrews 4:14-16: *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** I will no longer tolerate sinfulness in my life. I am giving up any sins, habits, hang-ups, addictions, person(s), activities, hobbies, or ideas that gets in the way of my relationship with the Lord. Jesus sympathizes over my weakness, BUT, I cannot hang out with demons and come to Church on Sunday expecting things to be okay with the Lord, because it does not work like that. It says in 1 Cor. 10:21 *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons!”* I refuse to mock His crucifixion and His resurrection and the work He did on the cross by living like a heathen believing I am heaven bound!

**Day Five:** Prophecy number 48 **‘FLESH NOT TO SEE CORRUPTION.’** So it was written by the Psalmist 16:10: *“For thou will not leave my soul in hell.”* The day of Pentecost in 33 AD, Peter addressed a somewhat confused, angry, and curious crowd from diverse places converged now in Jerusalem around the Upper Room where the noisy baptism of the Holy Spirit had brought throngs of people running to see what had happened. Peter continued speaking, *“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this; God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”* Acts 2:29-38

*“So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.”* 1 Samuel 16:13. When we study what the Bible says about Jesus, we learn that there are many references to King David and the promises made to him. Jesus is to fulfil these promises and therefore to understand them is to appreciate what God’s purpose through Jesus Christ is. Consider the following: (1) *“For unto us a child is born... there shall be no end, upon the throne of David...”* Isaiah 9:6-7 (2) *“...He raised up unto them David to be their king... Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:”* Acts 13:22-23 (3) *“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”* Revelation 22:16

When Samuel poured the oil upon young David, the Holy Spirit came upon him and in power. David is anointed next king, yet Samuel gave no other prophetic word to him. No explanation to David that during the next twenty-years Saul was going to try to kill him, but he will live. No advice on how to prepare to be a king. Nothing! For twenty-years, David’s life is brutal and many unkind and dangerous things happen. His brothers turn on him and he becomes an outcast living in caves and barely getting by with a rag-tag group of outcasts that God turns into men of valour. David kills a giant, plays the lyre for King Saul, becomes a great Army Commander, marries the king’s daughter, is best friends with Jonathan, King Saul’s son. He loves the Lord, he sings for him, composes music for Him, dances for Him, worships Him and is always praising Him, yet---this prophetic word still does not manifest. David’s endurance and longsuffering is a great lesson for us that we cannot give up on doing the Lord’s Good Works, He assigned us just because it seems the prophesy spoken over us will never manifest!

**I’M RISING TODAY: I will not allow the devil to corrupt and devour nor decay the prophecies spoken over me.** I have a Destiny not meant for me, but meant for God and His Kingdom purpose! I will NOT grow weary of doing Good Works! The Lord has prepared a seat for me alongside of Him and until I reach that seat, I will do what David did! I will serve with lionheartedness and dance with fearlessness and sing praises unto the LORD with boldness because of the Holy Spirit inside of me!

**Day Six:** Prophecy number 47 **‘BURIED WITH THE RICH.’** In 712 BCE, Prophet Isaiah prophesized that although the Messiah would die like a criminal, His tomb would be that of the rich *“He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.”* Isaiah 53:9. The Messiah was put to death as a criminal. Under Roman law, the bodies of executed criminals were normally handed over to their next of kin. However, it does not appear possible for any of Jesus’ disciples or family to secure His body and give it a proper burial. The Jews never refused to bury any executed criminal, but instead of allowing the bodies of such sinners to be placed in family tombs, where they might desecrate those already buried, they provided a burial site for criminals just outside the city. And to make the situation even more difficult, time to give Jesus a proper burial had virtually run out. By the time Jesus and the two men beside Him had died, it was getting late. The bodies must be quickly buried, before dark, when the Sabbath began (Luke 23:54). Matthew tells us immediately after He was taken off the cross, He was properly buried by the rich and in a tomb meant for the rich. Matthew 27:57-61 (33 AD): *“As evening approached, **there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.**”*

Joseph from Arimathea was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin (Mark 15:43; Luke 23:50), but he opposed their plans to put Jesus to death (Luke 23:51). *“Joseph of Arimathea, a highly regarded member of the council, who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, **went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.**”* Mark 15:43. Joseph of Arimathea was not alone in his efforts to obtain the body of Jesus and to give Him a proper burial. He was working with Nicodemus, another very prominent member of the Sanhedrin. *“He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs...”* John 19:39-40

Nicodemus had sought to speak a word on Jesus’ behalf. *“**Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before and who was one of the rulers, said, ‘Our law doesn’t condemn a man unless it first hears from him and learns what he is doing, does it?’** They replied, “You aren’t from Galilee too, are you? Investigate carefully and you will see that no prophet comes from Galilee!”* (John 7:50-52) Here was a highly respected teacher of the law, a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, and yet he was rudely dealt with. **“You are not a Galilean, too, are you?”** This was like saying, “How could you be so ignorant implying that his grasp of the issues was shallow and superficial. Are we bold enough in Christ Jesus to be like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus? Let’s ask ourselves, “Am I bold enough to stand up against the many compromising believers and large compromising congregations? Am I willing to give up my seat in the church to vote against compromise inside the church?” I may lose my membership and become an outcast if I don’t go along with the compromising cultural changes.

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Satan, you can no longer convince me that *it’s okay to compromise!* I will not separate God and life. I am putting the One who gave me life before everything else including my decisions and choices. There are a lot of church members, but now it is time to be a real Christian! I prefer to live a lowly life before the Throne of God seeking those things above and not those from this earth. Although an outcast because I don’t belong to this world, I am buried in the RICHEST, Jesus!

**Day Seven:** Prophecy number 46 ‘**PIERCED.**’ Prophet Zechariah (in 487 BCE) foretold by the workings of the Holy Spirit that the One they pierced would return to them and the mourning would not be comprehensible. *“A prophecy; The Word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares...On that day, when all the nations on earth are gathered against her (Jerusalem) I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves!”* Zechariah 12:1, 3, This part of the prophecy has yet to be fulfilled, but when Christ Jesus returns He says, *“On that day I will set out to destroy all nations that attack Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.**”* 12:9-10. That is the second coming of the same, namely **Jesus Christ, He is the One Pierced!**

*“Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; **they pierce my hands and my feet.**” “But **He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.**”* Psalm 22:16, Isaiah 53:5. When the soldiers realized that Jesus was already dead, they did not break His legs as they did the two thieves hanging one on each side of Him. *“**Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled; **they will look on the one they have pierced.**”*** John 19:34-36(a), 37. *‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, ‘**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**’* Luke 24:37-39 Thomas was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them, so when He came again, He spoke to Thomas, *‘**Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.**’* John 20:27

Roman Crucifixion did not have to be described to the Jewish people or the Gentiles during the First Century, everybody knew that Roman Crucifixion meant being beaten beforehand and then nailed to a cross with spikes through the hands and feet. In other words, we don’t have to watch for ourselves to understand each tiny medical detail nor carefully examine the deceased to make sure the death was in the details. What matters to God and our faith is we scrutinize doctrine to be sure it is of God and not demons through false teachers, false doctrine, and false prophets. This requires being led by the Holy Spirit, studying the Word, being prayerful, and belonging to a Bible Teaching Church.

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Without you, Holy Spirit, I can’t understand the Bible, my prayers and my Christian life is powerless, and I wouldn’t know if my church teaches Biblical Truth or not. In Revelation, Jesus said we have to be able to examine those claiming to be an apostle of Christ. An apostle is one sent out from a body of Christ anointed with spiritual gifts, redemptive gifts, and the mastering of teaching, pastoring, evangelizing, and prophesizing. Father, I ask in Jesus holy name that you anoint me with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as I study your Word prayerfully! Amen.

**Day Eight:** Prophecy number 45 **‘NOT A BROKEN BONE.’** *“He keepeth all his bones; not one of them is broken.”* Psalm 34:20 Even during the Exodus, the coming Messiah was being prophesized and God gave prophets particular information that would help the generation that He came into identify Him as such. The Passover Lamb was a prototype of the One and Only Sacrificial Lamb that would atone mankind’s sins once and for all. Leviticus 23:5 *‘In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD’S Passover.’* *“The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* *“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion.”* John 1:29 Matthew 26:2; Mark 14:12

*“On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”* *“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter; And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.”* *“But coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. **For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN.”** “Clean out the old leaven {Sinful behaviors} so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”* John 19:33-36; Isaiah 53:7; 1 Corinthians 5:7. {\_\_\_\_} added for clarification. Leaven or Yeast in the Bible refers to ‘sin.’

*“It was necessary, then for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. **But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.** Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him!”* *‘Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.’* *“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* Hebrews 9:23-28; Revelation 5:6; Revelation 7:17

**I’M RISING TODAY:** *“You may wonder, ‘How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the LORD?’ If a prophet speaks in the LORD’S name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the LORD did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.”* Deut. 18:21-22. I am doing Spring-Cleaning! I rid myself of false prophecies spoken over me that have hindered my spiritual growth and grieved me emotionally and physically! I am breaking ties with sinfulness, unclean, and evil spirits in Jesus Holy Name! I plead the blood of the Sacrificial Lamb, Christ Jesus, over me from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. AMEN!

**Day Nine:** Prophecy number 44 **‘DEATH.’** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *“For I delivered to you as of first importance, what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”* The Old Testament promises and prophecies declared, **‘He should pour out his soul unto death (Isaiah 53:12 {712 BCE}).** He was stricken and cut off in a judicial way, and that for sins; not his own, but for the sins of His people. Every promise, type, and prophecy recorded in the law, in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning his sufferings and death, had their fulfilment in Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 1:4** *“Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”* **1 Peter 2:24** *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”* **Matthew 26:28** *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

**Romans 3:25** *“God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.”* **2 Corinthians 5:21** *“God made Him who had NO SIN to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

**JESUS DIED!** Matthew 27:50-52 *“And when Jesus had cried out again in a LOUD VOICE, he gave up His spirit.”* **AT THAT MOMENT:** *the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs of many holy people who had died were raised to life.”* The curtain of the temple was torn: This curtain was a massive 60 feet (18.288 meters) high, 30 feet (9.144 meters) wide, and 10 inches (0.254 meters) thick. It was made of seventy-two braids, each consisting of twenty-four cords. The curtain was so heavy that it took three hundred (300) priests to hang it. Behind this curtain was the Holy of Holies—a small room only the high priest could enter and only on the Day of Atonement. The Holy of Holies contained the Ark of the Covenant. Covering the Ark was the mercy seat, and filling the Holy of Holies was the shekinah glory of God. Suddenly this curtain was torn like a piece of paper from the top to the bottom and all the priests standing there could see into the Holy of Holies! Can you imagine their fear? Death to anybody but the high priest that looked inside of there and even he had strict rules on the Day of Atonement administering the sacrifice prescribed by God. Just like the body of Christ was ripped for us so was the curtain. Jesus Cried, “It is finished!” **Meaning the atoning work He came to do was completed.** *“Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)* **Romans 4:25** *“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Jesus, nobody took Your life. You gave it away for me. When the curtain was torn in the temple that day of Your death, the Holy of Holies, God’s earthly throne of Grace opened for anyone to come into the presence of God the Father through You. I am not WORKING my way to heaven. Through, You, Jesus, I am ALREADY a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. You came to earth and did the Atoning Work and now you are Working on my behalf in Heaven—I too must do the Good Works you have begun in me. You said those who hear Your Word and do what it says, are like the wise man who built his house upon the Rock! I am standing on the Rock of Salvation and I’m not wavering in the storms, the troubles and persecutions—I’m Standing and I am working hard like you said for us to do in Revelation 2:2. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I’m Rising Up Today! Amen!

**Day Ten:** Prophecy number 43, “**INTERCESSION FOR MURDERERS**” *“Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. **For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**”* Isaiah 53:12 (712 BCE). *“Two other men, both criminals, were also lead out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, ‘**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”* Luke 23:32-34 NIV (33 AD).

Saul, a murderer of Jesus’ followers becomes Paul, the one called to Preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, he who once, harassed, imprisoned, harmed, and murdered those who believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, would die after a long and very difficult Missionary’s life as Apostle, Pastor, Prophet, Teacher, and Evangelist for the Gospel of Jesus Christ! (Acts 9:1-22 read it all) We are told about this incredible conversion from the hand of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples...He headed to Damascus to take Jesus’ followers to prison in Jerusalem...As he neared Damascus a LIGHT FROM HEAVEN flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ “Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked. ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ He replied. ‘Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”* The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they lead him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything...In the meantime Jesus had spoken to one of His followers, Ananias of Damascus and had told him about Saul and he was instructed to go to him, anoint him with the call! ***‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name!’***

We all need a Savior like Jesus because we are all guilty of murder. Jesus made it very clear HIS STANDARDS ARE VERY HIGH: Matthew 5:20-22: ***“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”***

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Thank you, Jesus, for being my INTERCEDER! Please forgive me for murderous thoughts. I have had bitter and sometimes hateful thoughts about others. I have held unto anger and refused to forgive those who have hurt me or my family or my friends. I know now that according to Your Standards whereas my spiritual maturity is measured and not by my or the world’s standards, I have miss the marked as Apostle Paul said! I confess I have sinned not because I was angry because that is an emotion given to me from My Father in heaven, but I failed because I sinned in my anger. I am rising up today to the bar of glory to glory that You have set which includes enduring hardships not to harm me but to prosper me and to bring me into the glorious plans you have for me which you determined before the foundations of the world. Thank you Jesus for being my High Priest!

**Day Eleven:** Prophecy number 42, “**NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS.**” *“Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”* Isaiah 53:12 (712 BCE). The Holy Spirit made it clear to all of us through John Mark when He had him write, *“And with Him they crucified two thieves. The Scripture was fulfilled which sayeth, ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’”* Mark 15:27-28

Beloveds, Jesus did not hide His face from these two hanging alongside of Him. He hung there with His blood dripping and as He was dying, He ministered to others even while on the cross. *“Two other men, both criminals, were also lead out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left...One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him; ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Jesus answered him, **‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’**”* Luke 23: 32-33; 39-43

Our Lord and Savior suffered afflictions of all sorts. Jesus, the Son of God was born among animals and He died hanging between two criminals in the midst of a sea of sinners. Yet from His birth in a stable to His death on a cross, He showed deep compassion for mankind. Jesus lived with sinners and ministered to them. He showed great compassion for them, He touched them, healed them, delivered them, corrected them, guided them, and fed them all the while He was suffering afflictions Himself.

These criminals that hung one on each side of Him didn’t offend Him. He had mercy, love, and compassion for them, too. One died found and the other died lost. How did the one criminal recognize what the other did not? How did he suddenly understand that Jesus’ kingdom was supernatural and eternal? How did he get saved? Only through the sovereignty of God. God knows everything. He said of Jacob and Esau, I love Jacob, but I hate Esau while they were in their mother’s womb. How could God say that before they were born? His foreknowledge of everything and everybody at all times! Read Genesis, did God make a mistake between which of these boys would serve the God of Abraham and Isaac? No, He did not. Jacob wanted God’s blessing so much, he wrestled with The Angel of God all night long to get it. Esau for a quick meal sold his birthright! It is not that God elects one over the other, He knows which ones will say, “Yes,” to His Son, Jesus Christ!

**I’M RISING TODAY:** I am condemning any false beliefs that I am somehow better than other people. I did not do anything special to have God choose me. In His sovereignty, He knows all things and by the faith He gave me with the ability to say, “Yes,” to Jesus, I did at the exact moment what He knew I would. By GRACE I am saved through faith from Him. *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,” Paul declared, “and thou shalt be saved.”* Acts 16:31. This did not usher me into a trouble free, or affliction free life—quite the contrary, but the student is not above the teacher or the servant above the Master! I walk gratefully through the joys and the sorrows of life going from glory to glory in Him!

**Day Twelve:** Prophecy number 41, “**CLOTHING DIVIDED AND CAST LOTS FOR MY GARMENT.**” Jesus submitted to that extremity of shame and humiliation, and hung there naked. In Psalm 22:18 centuries before Jesus’ crucifixion. He spoke through David’s pen during one of his darkest hours, *‘They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.’* John 19:23-24 (33 AD) *“When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, ‘They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.’ So this is what the soldiers did.”* A distinction is made in the New Testament Greek between the *himatia* (literally “over-garments”) and the seamless robe, which is *chiton*, (literally “tunic” or “coat”). Theologians and Bible Scholars say the seamless garment tells us that Jesus was acting as High Priest. The High Priest wore such a consecrated garment (Exodus 28:1-8; called an ephod. (Ezekiel 44:15-19; 1 Samuel 22:18) when administering priestly duties before God. Josephus (Antiq., b. 3 chapter 8, Section 4) says of the garment or coat of the high priest that "this vesture [tunic] was not composed of two pieces, nor was it sewed together upon the shoulders and the sides; but it was one long vestment [tunic], so woven as to have an aperture for the neck.”

The soldiers who had been given the grisly task of executing the condemned men were granted the right of taking whatever clothes or articles the victims possessed at the time of their execution. Beloveds, this seamless garment is a costly garment and we know Jesus endured poverty during His ministry. How is it He had this garment? Luke 8:3 seems to give a clue- *“And Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”* Wealthy women helped others fund Jesus’ ministry; this garment was probably a gift made or bought for him. His disciples’ reactions to feed the crowds and how they reacted to Mary pouring out expensive perfume on Jesus to anoint Him is more evidence that He was not wealthy nor was His followers or the ministry itself.

*Eddie Cloer said: “The implication of this small event of the dividing up of Jesus’ clothes beneath the cross must not escape our notice. In the context of His Son’s death at Calvary, God was saying through this fulfillment of the prophecy, “All who pass by this scene should look, listen, and take notice—for something is happening here that towers above all the events of history and all the events of the future. Here, before the eyes of the world, the second member of the Godhead is dying for the sins of the human race!”*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Jesus exchanged all the rights He enjoyed in His Godhead for the very things we find repulsive. He came and left this world lowly and poor. BUT now in heaven, He is dressed in imperial majesty and His name is written above ALL names! If Jesus was not financially set while He was here, why must I think, I have to be? *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich...Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. The gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.”* 2 Cor. 8:9; 11-12—**I have Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I am Rich!**

**Day Thirteen:** Prophecy number 40, “**PATIENCE AND SILENCE UNDER SUFFERING.**” “*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*” Isaiah 53:7 **HE DID IT FOR LOVE:** “*This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his One and Only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*” 1 John 4:9-10

**As Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin** the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “*Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?*” **But Jesus remained silent.** The high priest said to him, “*I charge you under oath by the living God; Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.*” “*You have said so,*” Jesus replied. “*But I say to all of you; from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.*” Matthew 26:62-64--**As Jesus stood before Pilate** the governor asked him, “*Are you the king of the Jews?*” “*You have said so,*” Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, “*Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you? But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.*” Matthew 27:11-14

**Romans 5 says that we shall suffer, too,** and we should understand **suffering has a job to do.** It is a fruit-producer. Suffering produces perseverance and perseverance produces character; and character produces hope! “*And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*” Romans 5:5-8

**Jesus said the greatest commandment for we Christians is** “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself.*” Matthew 22:37-39—Apostle Paul was slandered for many things. He basically said sometimes if I seem out of my mind it is for God but when I seem normal it’s for you. Then he explained what he meant, “*For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer! Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God...*” 2 Corinthians 5:13-18(a)

**I’M RISING TODAY: I am dumping the “Whining—Woe is me—stuff today!** The Word says those who suffer according to God’s will commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good! Apostle Peter said if we are insulted because of the name of Christ we are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on us. If we suffer it shouldn’t be as a criminal or a meddler but for being a Christian. Shamelessly, I shall praise God because I love Him and I bear His name!

**Day Fourteen:** Prophecy number 39, “**SUFFERING FOR OTHERS.**”

Isaiah wrote 53:4-6 (712 BCE) “*Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*” About 745 years after Prophet Isaiah prophesized it, we see Jesus standing as he gestures for the three disciples he had taken to the garden of Gethsemane with him to have a seat. “*Sit here while I go over there and pray.*’ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.*” (Matthew 26:36-38; 20:28) The time that Jesus had spoken of earlier in His ministry to the disciples had arrived, “*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,*” and He was grieving in his soul and He needed to be with the Father and speak with Him while these three waited, watched, and prayed.

On the way to Mt. Olive that night before they reached the garden called Gethsemane, He had explained to all the disciples that He was going to be struck and they would all scatter. Confidently, Peter replied, “*Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will!*” But Jesus broke the sorrowful news to Peter that before the rooster crowed this very night, Peter would deny Him three times. “*But Peter declared, ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’ And all the disciples said the same.*” (Matthew 26:33;35) Peter so sure of himself to defend Jesus for he knew who Jesus truly was and he could not fathom the Son of God dying and truly Peter believed he would die for Jesus before he let anybody harm Him. It is true that Peter went after the temple guard that night with a sword and cut off his ear, but Jesus told him—that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. In time, Peter would do his fair share of suffering for Jesus’ name sake and inaugurate the Christian Church and lay its first foundation on Christ Jesus as we see on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. But this particular day, the evening of Jesus’ arrest, would not be the day Peter would die for Him, but rather Jesus would die for Peter and all of those who believe in Him.

Jesus, the Son of God, endured unspeakable suffering. He, God the Word, who came in the flesh to this earth He had created suffered unfathomable injustices. He was spared no torture or humiliation as they spit on Him, slapped and then beat Him, dishonored Him by mocking His Kingship, and then nailed to the cross. Jesus’ suffering and death exposed this world of its obscene unfairness and its extreme negligence of the oppressed. The injustice of the cross made it clear that God endured unfairness. Without exception, Jesus came to share in the sufferings of the world and to free humanity from the slavery of sin. John 3:16 says it ALL: “***For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.***”

**I’M RISING TODAY:** “**Lord,** thank You for the many precious promises in Your Word that reassures me any sufferings that I might face are but for a short time, and are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in Your children in the eternal ages to come. All glory be to our Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort that we ourselves receive from you, Lord. How we praise Your holy name. Thank you, Jesus, for being our encourager, comforting us, and urging us to live lives worthy of God, whereas you have called us into your kingdom and your glory! Amen.

**Day Fifteen:** Prophecy number 38 **“INTENSITY OF HIS SUFFERING.”** *“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou has brought me into the dust of death.”* Psalm 22:14-15—Luke 22:39-46—He went to *Gethsemane*, which comes from the Hebrew *Gat Shmanim*, meaning *“oil press.”* *“Oil”* is used in the Bible to symbolize the Holy Spirit; it may be said that the garden of Gethsemane is where *“the Spirit of God was crushed.”*

**“Jesus went** out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, *‘Pray that you will not fall into temptation.’* He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed. *‘Father, if you are willing take this cup from me; yet not my will; but yours be done.’* An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, **he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow!** *‘Why are you sleeping?’* he asked them. *‘Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.’*

When I think of the things Christians disagree about it is appalling and reckless to say the least. What are we commissioned to do? Introduce everybody we come in contact with to Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior, make disciples of them, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teach them His commandments. Rather than go out and reach into the lives of others and let the power and the peace of the Savior overtake their lives, we spend our energy disagreeing about things that doesn’t carry the salvation message. Hebrews 12:2 tells us TO FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS!

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* What a tragedy that Christ Jesus suffered such agony for us. The Greek word for agony means to be *“engaged in combat.”* Imagine the horrific last hours of our Savior’s life on this miserable earth. Can you see Him? Can you hear Him? Gasping for air. Groaning as his ribcage remained expanded. The smell of death in the air as the buzzards fly overhead. Vinegar mixed with His blood dried in His mouth? In comparison to what intense pain and suffering He bear, does it truly matter whether you agree on the fringes of doctrine when we all agree that JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE LIFE, AND THE TRUTH—THE ONLY WAY TO FATHER GOD? Not one tittle of what is disputed among brothers and sisters is worthy of what the Lamb of God did for each of us that accept Him. Let’s pick up the Sword of the Spirit and war after that one roaring to devour, destroy, and murder! AMEN!

**I’M RISING TODAY: To rise,** I must decrease **as Jesus INCREASES in my life.** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Jesus, use me, in any situation to surrender to be used for Your glory. I want to spread the Christian story of God sacrificing His Son, Christ Jesus, to restore a relationship that was broken. Jesus gave up His life to pay for the sins of mankind and taking the punishment for the sin upon Himself. Because He gave His life on the cross, anyone who believes in Him will have a restoration of a personal relationship with God. Jesus Himself claimed to be the only way to God (John 14:6) and only by the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ can man have a meaningful and purposeful life (John 10:10).

**Day Sixteen:** Prophecy number 37 “**GALL AND VINEGAR GIVEN TO DRINK.**” “*They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* Psalm 69:21. “*Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.*” Proverbs 31:6. Before the crucifixion, they tried to give Him a mixed drink meant to help deaden the pain. However, our Lord and Savior REFUSED SEDATION accepting the full measure of His sufferings on our behalf! “*And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when He had tasted thereof, **He would not drink.** And they crucified him!* (Matthew 27:33-34) “*Can you **drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?**” (Mark 10:38) “*But I have a **baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!** (Luke 12:50) “*Father, if you are willing, take this **cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.**” (Luke 22:42) “*Jesus commanded Peter, ‘Put your sword away! Shall I not **drink the cup the Father has given me?**’” (John 18:11). Gall and myrrh are both painkillers. Mark 15:23 “*And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh; but he received it not.*****

They offered him wine mingled with gall a stupefying liquor, a strong narcotic, made of the sour wine mingled with bitter herbs; administered to dull the sense of pain. He would not drink it to seek alleviation of the agonies of the crucifixion by any drugged potion which might render him insensible. He would bear the full burden consciously. The second occasion on which drink was offered to him was after he had been some hours on his cross (between noon to three), and when the end was drawing near; and it was then given in answer to his exclamation, “**I thirst.**” This drink was simple soured wine. (John 19:28-29) “*After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, “**I thirst.**” Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar (sour wine); and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “**It is finished,**” and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (His spirit). Jesus suffered tremendously for us, but He never complained. He said, “I thirst,” and as He had said through David in Psalm 69:21, they gave Him vinegar (sour wine) to drink in His thirst!*

The cross in all its horror and in its redemptive power to bear the sins of the world hung heavily on Jesus during his last days in the flesh. His struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane was the climax, the point at which he surrendered ultimately to the Father's will. And now the cup had been drunk, the baptism completed. **It is finished.** It is clear from Matthew and Mark that just before Jesus breathed his last, he “**cried out again in a loud voice**” (Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:37). **John gives us the content of this loud cry: “It is finished!”** Those who are defeated go out with a whimper, **but the victor announces his victory loudly and broadly: “It is finished!”** The victory shout of Jesus echoed across the small flat hilltop and to the world beyond. **“It is finished!”**

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Without a purpose, Jesus loudly crying, “It is finished!” wouldn’t mean anything! I have a purpose. The Bible says; God works ALL things together for good for those who LOVE HIM! The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. He works it all together for good according to His purpose for those He foreknew and did predestine to conform to the image of His Son—He being, Jesus Christ, the firstborn among many kingdom kids! We kingdom kids are not only predestined by His foreknowledge, but called, justified, and glorified. I have a purpose, but it’s not for me. It is for My Abba Father’s purpose, and if God be for me, who can be against me? Who shall charge God’s elect? After all it is God that justifies through Jesus and there IS NOTHING that can separate me from the love of Christ! Amen and Hallelujah!

**Day Seventeen:** Prophecy number 36 “**MOCKED!**” Jesus speaking through David centuries before He was born foretold by His foreknowledge that He, the Messiah, would be insulted and mocked. Psalm 22:7-8 “*All they who see me laugh at me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ‘He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.’*” “**Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.** They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” Psalm 69:20 These two verses together make me weep for our Lord and Savior as His broken-heartedness spills from His lips. He NEVER utters a word about the physical agony, but before the foundations of the world, His heart is broken, and He cries, “My heart is broken.” The Man of Sorrows speaking from the cross from eternity past to you and me in our present eternity and He narrows in on what broke His heart, reproach (criticism, accusation, reproof, rebuke, blame, ridicule, mockery, insults). Beloveds, let us never be a part of this ‘heart-breaking’ unfaithful or unbelieving insulting crowd. ‘Grieve not the Spirit of God!’

**Sadly, along with many of the other prophecies about Jesus’ rejection and crucifixion this too was fulfilled and recorded in three of the Gospels.** “*Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and built it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on Him.*” Matthew 27:39-44

What about you Beloveds, have you found yourself to be ‘Hung Up’ in a location or a spiritual phase that is hard to bear and to make matters worse others are mocking you? Did they hear of a prophecy spoken over you that has not yet manifested? People may not insult you to your face but it gets back to you that others are insulting you and mocking where you seem to be stuck at in your spiritual journey. Perhaps your ministry did not grow as fast as you believed it would. Is your marriage, your kids, your business, or your job the subject of mockery among others? Many of us have been ‘Hung Up,’ and some have felt they are left there on their own, “To Dry.” Don’t dry—Beloved. Do not let your spirit dry up on you. You have to oil that spirit inside of you with the Promises of God! Jesus’ heart WAS BROKEN and His heart WAS HEAVY—He looked for someone to pity Him (have compassion) and He looked for someone to comfort Him, but He said, “I found none!” We have not been left as orphans, though, He had our Father send the Holy Spirit to be our COMFORTER.

**I’M RISING TODAY: Jesus made a promise: “*Love me and keep my commands and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another COMFORTER to help you and be with you FOREVER—The SPIRIT OF TRUTH. The world cannot accept Him for it does not see or know Him for He lives with you and will be in you!*”** I will turn to Him for my spiritual comfort and be oiled by His Truth and Mercy. Our Father God said that shame is not His children’s portion. My heart might get broken and it may be heavy at times with sadness, but instead of sulking and retreating, I will seek the comfort of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to guide me from ‘HUNG UP’ to “RISEN UP.” Hallelujah!

**Day Eighteen:** Prophecy number 35 **“FORSAKEN BY GOD.”** Psalm 22:1 *“My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?”* *“From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ (which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’)”* Matthew 27:45-46. Mark also testifies to Jesus crying out in this dialect of Aramaic which was one of the common languages often spoken in Jerusalem and surrounding areas in Jesus’ day. When Jesus bore the sins of the world, the HOLINESS of God had to temporarily abandon Jesus—sin separates us from God. UNTIL this moment, Jesus had always called Him “Father.” Now with the devastating gulf of sin separating Jesus from His Father, he could only cry, My God, My God! Prophet Habakkuk in 1:13 explained the purity of Father God like this, *“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.”* Paul paints the full picture in 2 Corinthians 5:21 *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* With GREAT PAIN, Father God had to turn His back on His Beloved Son momentarily. What is momentarily in an eternal existence? Jesus felt the agony of this isolation and I believe not only from the Father but also from the HOLY Spirit. Up to this point the three Godheads had always been in complete fellowship and now, Jesus separated and alone, completely abandoned by God and completely rejected by mankind.

I cannot imagine all the NOISE in the realms of darkness as Satan and all his evil followers celebrated believing they had accomplished putting the Son of God to death and to hear Him cry out like that for God had abandoned Him made the enemy even more celebratory! ***“The LORD is in His Holy Temple; let all earth be silent before Him!”*** Quite possibly even heaven became completely silent as these words of the One and Only Begotten Son of God cried out, ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*** His mother, Mary, was near the cross. As Jesus cried out in such pitiful anguish did she remember the angel’s words he had spoken to her that day when he told her she would conceive the Son of God? *“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* Luke 1:30-33. As Mary heard her son, Jesus, crying out to God did her mind race back to the day in the temple for purification when Prophet Simeon said to her *“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”* Prophetess Anna also THANKED GOD and told others the redeemer was here. Luke 2:34-35 and 38.

**I’M RISING TODAY:** The Angel of the Lord came to Joseph saying, that what Mary had conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will birth a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, (Yeshua), because he will save his people from their sins. (Matt 1:20-21). Jesus lived and died and rose from the grave for all who will believe in Him. I will remain true to Him and to His name! Jesus WARNED us ***“If anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is!’ DO NOT BELIEVE IT. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man!”*** Thank You Jesus, you were abandoned so that we shall never be; ‘take courage for Your Lord your God will never forsake you or abandon you!’

**Day Nineteen:** Prophecy number 34 **“NAILED TO THE CROSS.”**

*“They pierced my hands and my feet.”* Psalm 22:16. *“Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.”* (John 19:16-18) Roman crucifixion was the cruelest of all those practicing it. It was their adapted form of an ancient practice of capital punishment, however, they took it to the extreme desiring to cause excruciating pain and bitter shamefulness for the crucified. The Jewish people were not unfamiliar with this form of punishment for the LORD God Almighty had much to say to them about it. *“If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole, you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God’s curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.”* Deuteronomy 21:22-23. The Jewish people did not practice crucifixion as capital punishment. Their familiarity of being hung on a pole was that after a criminal was punished by death, then the body was displayed by being impaled on a pole. See what Joseph told Pharaoh’s chief baker about a dream he had and asked Joseph for an interpretation.

*“This is what it means,’ Joseph said. ‘The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh.”* Genesis 40:18-19 Verse 22 tells that is exactly what Pharaoh did. Hanging on a pole was public humiliation and unquestionable proof that the criminal had been divinely judged and rejected by God Himself. Jesus Christ became sin for all of us and therefore becoming a curse for us. Galatians 3:13-14 ***“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written; “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*** Acts 5:29-32 ***“Peter and the other apostles replied, ‘We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him! Peter said, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by His wounds you have been healed.’ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”*** 1 Peter 2:24-25

***I’M RISING TODAY:*** Jesus died a terribly cruel death that was not His portion for what He had done, but it was His Baptism He said He had to follow through with for it was the purpose Father God sent Him to earth. Apostle Thomas said he couldn’t believe He had risen from the grave unless he saw Him. A week later resurrected Jesus stood among them and he said to Thomas, ***“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”*** Then Thomas believed! Then Jesus blessed us! ***“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!”*** John 20:27, 29. GOD SAID IT and I BELIEVE IT and that’s good enough for me! I live in His presence every day and I’m rising HEALED by His stripes and walking higher in His Light and His Fullness of JOY by His authority! PRAISE HIS NAME!

**Day Twenty:** Prophecy number 33 **“SPIT UPON AND SCOURGED”** Isaiah 50:6 *“I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.”* This was the prophecy Prophet Isaiah spoke in 712 BCE and it was fulfilled in 33 AD by our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. He was arrested and taken to Caiaphas the high priest where all the teachers of law and the elders had assembled. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so they could have Him put to death. Finally, two came forward as witnesses against Jesus and testified He had said He was able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days. Jesus, although urged, did not answer to their testimony. At last Jesus answers the charge of being the Messiah, the Son of God, because He was asked under the oath by the Living God, the chief priest tore his robe and declared he had spoken blasphemy! *“He is worthy of death,”* they answered. *“Then they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him and said, ‘Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?’”* (read all of Matthew 26:60-68) You may wonder why they told Jesus to tell them who was hitting Him as a form of mockery—Luke tells us it is because Jesus was blindfolded! Luke 22:63-65 *“The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating Him. They blindfolded Him and demanded, ‘Prophecy! Who hit you? And they said many other insulting things to Him.’”*

*“They all condemned Him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, ‘Prophecy!’”* And the guards took Him and beat Him.” Mark 14:64(b)-65. *“Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged (flogged)”* John 19:1 *“Crucify Him! They shouted. ‘Why? What crime has he committed?’ Asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify Him!’”* Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. *He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified”* (Mark 15:13-15) After they flogged Jesus the Roman soldiers led him into the palace to a place called the “Praetorium” the whole company of soldiers gathered around Him. Mocking His Kingship. They put a purple robe on Him and a twisted crown of thorns on His head and said, *“Hail, king of the Jews!”* Again and again they struck Him on the head with a staff and spit on Him. *Falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify Him.”* (read Mark 15:16-20) They used a whip made of many strips of leather and on the ends of those whips were pieces of bone and lead so it stripped the person’s flesh off each time they were hit. Now the Jews only allowed a maximum of 40 stripes, however in case of a miscount they reduced it to 39. Jesus was not only scourged, He was physically abused before and after the scourging. All the time, He stood and took it for you and for me and for anybody that will call upon His name as Savior! Beloveds, I have stood on the ‘Praetorium’ where Jesus’ blood dripped as they continued to unmercifully abuse Him. I could not control my tears and the wailing coming from inside of me overtook me with a profound grief. Immobilized at that place my tears flowed uncontrollably where His blood had spilled!

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Thank you, Jesus! By your stripes, I am healed. By your blood, I am redeemed. Although my life through Your sacrifice is a creative mixture of love and joy, I lacked appreciation. Forgive me, Dear Lord, for minimizing what it cost You for my salvation. I shall arise and build a memorial in my heart, mind, soul, and willpower of Your Perfect Love so that I can, with your help, love you with all of my heart, all of my soul, all of my mind, and with all of my willpower.

**Day Twenty-one:** Prophecy number 32 “**SMITTEN**” *“They shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod, upon the cheek.”* Micah 5:1 (710 BCE). *“They took the reed and smote him on the head.”* (Matthew 27:30) Pilate did not want to crucify Jesus. He tried to talk the Religious leaders out of it. The more he resisted them the more they cried, “Crucify Him!” After Jesus was flogged, the gospel writers tell us that the Roman soldiers mocked Him and put a purple robe on Him and a crown made of thorns and bowed before Him saying *“Hail the king of the Jews.”* And they slapped him in the face.” Finally, the Jewish leaders insisted, *‘We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.’* When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. *“Where do you come from?”* he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. *‘Do you refuse to speak to me?’* Pilate said. *‘Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?’* Jesus answered, *‘You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.’* From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders...” (John 19:7-12) When Jesus said this, He was saying God gave Pilate the authority over Jesus at this moment in time. Jesus also referred to Caiaphas, as the one who handed Him over to Pilate.

Before Caiaphas the high priest had sent Jesus to Pilate, Annas had questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. *“I have spoken openly to the world,’* Jesus replied. *‘I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.’* When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. *‘Is this the way you answer the high priest?’* he demanded. *“If I said something wrong,’* Jesus replied, *‘testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?’* Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.” (John 18:20-24) *“Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.”* Mark 15:1

It can be hard to understand how Jesus as a man was able to endure what He endured and that at the same time, He knew He was the second person of the Godhead and that He was going to allow those that He created to crucify Him. Yet Apostle Paul tells us, mere humans, to be of the same mindset as that of Christ Jesus! **“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus!** *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross.”* Philippians 2:5-8

**I’M RISING TODAY:** I choose to live my life pleasing unto the Lord. Apostle Paul instructed us to surrender to the Lord for He is working in us. If God is working in me to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose, I have to fully submit myself to Him. One way to accomplish this is as he said, *“Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God’ without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.”* Philippians 2:14-16(a) Lord help me to use my tongue to sing of your righteousness and help me to guard my tongue as if it were your prisoner!

**Day Twenty-two:** Prophecy number 31 **“PRICE GIVEN FOR THE POTTER’S FIELD.”** “...*They paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter,’ the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD.*” Zechariah 11:12(b)-13 {487 BCE}. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave in ancient Israel times. “*If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull is to be stoned to death.*” (Exodus 21:32) “*Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?’*” (Matthew 26:14—33 AD).

*“Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, and led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas (Iscariot), who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty-pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned,’ he said, for I have betrayed innocent blood.’ ‘What is it to us?’ they replied. **‘That’s your responsibility.’** So Judas (Iscariot) threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said, ‘It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is **blood money.**’ So they decided to **use the money to buy the potter’s field** as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called **the Field of Blood** to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ‘They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they **used them to buy the potter’s field**, as the Lord commanded me.’” Matthew 27:3-10. Read Jeremiah 19:1-13 and 32:6-9 for information about it being the ‘field of blood.’*

After Jesus ascended into heaven the apostles and the other disciples of Jesus went back to Jerusalem and waited for the baptism of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had instructed them. “*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, ‘Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.’ With the payment he received for his wickedness Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, **Field of Blood.** ‘For,’ said Peter, ‘it is written in the Book of Psalms (Psalm 69:25, 109:8); ‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, ‘May another take his place of leadership.’” Peter continued: “*Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.*” Acts 1:12-22*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Heavenly Father, I need the Spirit of Discernment combined with True Biblical knowledge so that Your Wisdom leads me along the paths of righteousness. God forbid that I would discount Your Value in anyway. Holy Spirit, I submit myself to You. You make the crooked roads straight as Jesus Christ is the lamp unto my feet. I submit my mind, my logic, and reasoning to You so that all decisions are seasoned with the saltiness of Heaven’s Judgment. Thank you, Dear Lord.

**Day Twenty-three:** Prophecy number 30 **“SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER”** *“I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.”* (Zechariah 11:12 [487 BCE]) The scales are tipped here. God being the Good Shepherd was valued at only thirty shekels of silver, yet Abraham bought a field which included the cave of Machpelah for his family burial ground for much more than that. *“Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife (Sarah) and spoke to the Hittites. He said, ‘I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead...Abraham agreed to Ephron’s terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver (10 lbs. of silver), according to the weight current among the merchants.”* (Genesis 23:3, 16) *“Then one of the Twelve the one called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you? So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.”* Matthew 26:14-16 (33 AD)

The Lord said through Prophet Zechariah that He was sold out by His own people at such a low value as thirty pieces of silver. The LORD had shepherded the flock, marked for slaughter (Israel). He led them with two staffs one called ‘Favor’ and the other called ‘Union.’ However, in time the flock detested Him and God grew weary of their rejection and disobedience. Finally, He said, “I will not be your Shepherd any longer.” He took the staff called ‘Favor’ and He broke it, revoking the covenant He had made with all the nations. He told them to give Him His pay (symbolically through Prophet Zechariah) to finalize their working relationship. What was given? He was given thirty pieces of silver. Then He took the staff called, ‘Union,’ and broke the family bond between Judah and Israel. Zechariah was a prophet and a member of a priestly family. He had been born in Babylonia during the Jewish exile. In time he, too, came back to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua. Now, after many years, he sees that after all they have been through many still resisted the Lord God Almighty. Beloveds, God always reserves a remnant of His Chosen People. **God does not have an Identity Issue.** Even when many reject Him, He will always retain a remnant of His people regardless of the hearts’ condition. *“So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.”* Romans 11:5

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord, search me and purge me and reveal to me anything rather it be possessions, wealth, relationships, ideas or opinions, traditions, habits, Internet, my time, my social or employment status, EVERYTHING! Lord, FORGIVE me, I confess that I am guilty of valuing others and things OVER You! It is true there are times I have felt devalued by how I am treated and how it seems that things do not come my way. All the time in my self-pity—I NEVER ONCE thought of how I have disgraced you, because I did not VALUE YOU, LORD, as you deserve. I may be the least in the remnant, both small and weak, but You know my name and how many hairs are on my head. You are BIG and STRONG! You are worthy to be praised and worshiped—ALL THE TIME. By grace, the grace of Jesus Christ, I will rise up today remembering FIRST, You Lord—I shall sing, “This is the day that the Lord has made and I shall rejoice and be glad in it! Oh, taste and see that the LORD is Good!” Secondly, I shall magnify Your name and declare who I am. I am the child of God. My adoption papers have been signed and I belong to the Household of God. I am a citizen of Heaven and my name is in the Lamb’s book of Life and not by my doing, but by Yours, Dear Lord! AMEN

**Day Twenty-four:** Prophecy number 29 “**DISCIPLES FORSAKE HIM**”

Zechariah 13:7 (487 BCE) “*Smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered.*” Matthew 26:49-56 (33 AD) “*Going at once to Jesus, Judas (Iscariot) said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed him. Jesus replied, ‘Do what you came for, friend.’ Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ‘Put your sword back in its place,’ Jesus said to him, ‘for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?’ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, ‘Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophet might be fulfilled.’ Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.”*

*“Then everyone deserted Him and fled. A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.”* (Mark 14:50-52) REWIND: Hadn’t Peter said that even if all the other disciples fled and left Jesus by Himself, he wouldn’t and he would even give his life for Jesus? Talk is cheap! Some of those strengths that we, Christians, think we have might actually be a strength but what we need to remember is Satan does not only use our weaknesses against us, he oftentimes uses our strengths against us. There is no doubt when we read of Peter and study him that he was truly a strong individual. He was a leader and as a leader he took risks. He sometimes stuck his foot in his mouth and he did jump to conclusions occasionally, but a leader is not a leader if they are not willing to take risk and sometimes walk where others will not walk—Peter had to learn he could not depend on his natural strength when it came to Matters of God. There is probably no better way known to mankind to really learn a good lesson and never forget it than trial and error. Many strong leaders had to try and fail and try again and fail again. In the USA we have a saying ‘Practice Makes Perfect.’ None of us should ever shame Peter or any of the disciples for fleeing. Jesus told them that’s exactly what they would do because Jesus knows the end back to the beginning of all time, including every detail of each of our lives.

**I’M RISING TODAY:** “*Then Jesus told them, ‘This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:’ ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.’ Peter replied, ‘Even if all fall away on account of you, I NEVER WILL.’*” (Matthew 26:31-33) I wonder how many of you reading today’s devotional had believed at one time in your life that you would never fall away from Jesus. There are more reconciled runaway brides of Christ than we would imagine. Jesus was fair in His understanding of this; that is why He told the parable of the Prodigal Son. Peter even compared himself to the other disciples, ‘well they might run off, but I will not.’ Oh my beloved, reconciled brides, if you only knew inside the local church you attend how many of those sitting with you, were once too a runaway that has returned. Some of us reconciled runaways feel inferior to other Christians but in reality if we were to have conversations and all brothers and sisters were honest, in short-order we would find out statistically we are a large group. Now, the art of rising up today through this conversation is to be willing to lose your holier-than-thou mask and exercise acceptance of ALL others and relating to them with LOVE.

**Day Twenty-five:** Prophecy number 28 **“BETRAYED BY A FRIEND.”** *“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”* (Psalm 41:9) This we all understand was fulfilled when Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. **John chapter 13** tells us many things about that evening including the fulfillment of the prophecy; Jesus would be betrayed by a friend who He ate with and trusted. *“The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God so he got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him [2-5]. He knew who was going to betray Him, and that is why He said not everyone was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place [11-12] ‘I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me [lifted up his heel]. I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me, accepts the one who sent me.’ After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, ‘Very truly I tell you one of you is going to betray me.’ [18-21]*

*“His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which one of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, ‘Ask Him which one He means.’ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked Him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.’ Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, **Satan entered into him**. So Jesus told him, *‘What you are about to do, do quickly.’* But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.” [22-30]*

Beloveds, Judas Iscariot made himself available to Satan to do his dirty work, because he was a thief. Looking at **John 12:1-11** Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus had just poured expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. *“But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected. ‘Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.’ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag he used to help himself to what was put into it.” [4-6]*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Judas knew where Jesus often gathered with His disciples at Mt. of Olives, so he led the soldiers and officials from the chief priest and the Pharisees to Him. When Judas reached Him, Jesus said, **“Do what you came for, friend.”** Lord, I have been betrayed by family, friends, business partners, co-workers, spouse, ministry partners, to name a few. I know holding a grudge is sinful and unlike what you require. Help me, Lord, to forgive them and pray for them and bless them as you have taught us to do. Thank You, Jesus! Amen. **“I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”** Matthew 5:44-45(a).

**Day Twenty-six:** Prophecy number 27 **“JEWS AND GENTILES COMBINED AGAINST HIM.”**

*“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed.”* (Psalm 2:1-2). Israel as a whole did not fail God’s Messianic Plan in a universal sense whereas their rejection of Jesus as the Son of God thrust them into a united effort with Rome, per say through Pilate to have him crucified for their religious beliefs and for Rome’s purpose to prevent a riot while Jerusalem’s population was swelled with thousands of Passover visitors. *“Fellow Israelites, listen to this; Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you **by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”* Acts 2:22-24.

After Jesus’ death and resurrection, Peter and John praised God, *“You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David; ‘Why do nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against His anointed one. **Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.**”* Acts 4:25-28—Some say, well they only did what God predestined. In His sovereignty, He knew their hearts. Jesus speaking to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees calling them hypocrites when He said their generation would be held accountable, *“**You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?**”* He said He would send prophets and sages and teachers that they would flog, kill, crucify, and pursue. Therefore, upon ‘that generation’ He would put upon them all the righteous blood spilled from Abel to Zechariah. *“**Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.**”* Matt. 23:29-39 and Luke 11:47-51.

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.”* (Isaiah 42:1) Jesus had said He was a Servant. *“**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”* *“When He had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ He asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”* Mark 9:45 and John 13:12-17

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Peter and John as told in Acts chapter 4, were persecuted and threatened not to speak or teach in Jesus’ name, but they said they would only listen to God! They prayed, first praising You Lord for who you are, the Creator of ALL Creation, Sovereign, and how everything You foretold in the Old Testament came true. Knowing the danger, they were in, they ALL prayed, *“Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform great signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant, Jesus.”* Lord, I pray this same prayer! Amen

**Day Twenty-seven:** Prophecy number 26 **“REJECTED BY JEWISH RULERS.”** *“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.” “He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured. Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples.”* (Psalm 118:22-23; Isaiah 8:14-15) *“Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures; ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.’ Therefore, I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.’ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest Him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.”* Matthew 21:42-46 (33 AD) JESUS WARNED His disciples that it would get much worse before His work was finished and His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming! *“For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”* Luke 17:24-25

**Jesus looks and says to His disciples (that’s you if you are following Jesus)** *“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”* (Luke 6:22-23) Oh, my beloveds, I know that some of your hearts have been cut deeply from the rejection of others. Dearest ones, most of us have that wound in common. In the margin of my Bible at Luke 6:22-23, I wrote a thank-you-note to the Lord regarding an Affiliation’ in my city that I had assisted in several ways. However, when they turned on the Man of God over them, I separated myself from this group. Sharp tongues began speaking against me and then the blatant rejection. It was painful! I prayed and prayed and the Lord helped me forgive them and love them, but the pain lasted until one day, He took me to this Scripture. It literally set me free!

Nobody understands rejection more than Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.”* (Isaiah 53:3-4) *“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in order of Melchizedek.”* (Hebrews 5:7-10)

**I’M RISING TODAY:** I am elevating understanding above my emotions. Trials are just tests of my faith which produces perseverance. James said perseverance has a job to do that is to bring me to spiritual maturity. I know this is easier said than done, but with the Holy Spirit inside of me, it is totally possible! I will sing this song, “I’m trading my sorrow, sickness, and pain for the Joy of the Lord!”

**Day Twenty-eight:** Prophecy number 25 **“HATED!”** *“They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs on mine head. This is what the LORD says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred (hated) by the nation, to the servant of rulers; ‘Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.’”* (Psalm 69:4; Isaiah 49:7 [712 BCE]) **Jesus said:** *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”* – *“Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’”* (John 15:18-19; 23-25) {world=human system that opposes God’s purposes}

The hatred then and now toward Jesus is venomous. King David described it in Psalm 35:16 like this, *“Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; **they gnashed their teeth at me.**”* We see this kind of hatred in the New Testament at the stoning of Stephen. Stephen was an evangelist and a member of the church in Jerusalem where he was one of seven men chosen to help distribute food for the widows of the church community. Stephen was described as a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. *“Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, ‘We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.’ So they stirred up the people and the elders and teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, ‘This fellow never stops speaking against the holy place and against the law.’”* (Acts 6:8-13)

Stephen gives all those present a history lesson back to Father Abraham. He concludes with the same integrity and truth as he lived and spoke which brought his death by their hands. *“Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it. When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, **they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. At this they covered their ears and yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’”*** Acts 7:52-60

**I’M RISING TODAY:** I shall hate what God hates, all sin in me. I shall not partner with sin any longer. We do not war against flesh and blood but against the forces of the kingdom of darkness. *“These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren”* (Proverbs 6:16-19).

**Day Twenty-nine:** Prophecy number 24 **“REJECTED BY BRETHREN”** *“I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother’s children.”* (Psalm 69:8) Jesus had brothers and sisters (Matthew 1:24-25). Luke tells in 2:1-7 that she gave birth to Jesus, her firstborn, a son. *“Coming to his own hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then does this man get all these things? And they took offense at him.”* Matthew 13:54-57 *“Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind.’ ‘Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent someone in to call him.”* (Mark 3:20-22, 31)

King David had been rejected by his brothers, remember he had seven brothers (1 Samuel 16:6-13). The Lord said not any of them had He chosen as King, so Samuel asked Jesse are these all the sons you have? *‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”* Jesus is oftentimes referred to as the Son of David throughout the Bible. Jesus like David was rejected by His brethren as well. Not only natural brothers through Mary but also those of Father Abraham, the Jews. David’s brothers mocked him and so did Jesus’ *“When the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, Jesus’ brothers said to him, ‘Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world. For even His own brothers did not believe in Him. Therefore, Jesus told them, ‘My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. The world does not hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.’”* (John 7:2-7) His brothers traveled with Him (John 2:12).

In time His brothers did believe He was the Son of God, the Messiah. We find James and Jude both His brothers, writing in the New Testament, (Judas is Greek for Judah and Jude is another form of the Hebrew name Judah). Paul tells us that resurrected Jesus appeared to His brother James (1 Corinthians 15:7) *“Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”* We also learn his brothers were with His mother, Mary, in the Upper Room in Jerusalem waiting with the other 120 disciples of Jesus for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised them and had instructed them to wait in Jerusalem together. Acts 1:14 *“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”* Jesus suffered rejection from family members and I am certain many of you do as well. Our Lord had even said He did not come to bring peace but the opposite as there would be division in families because of Him (Matthew 10:34-39). Jesus knew how it hurt to leave loved ones behind when Peter questioned Him as Mark 10:28-31 and Luke 18:28-30 tells us and He knew how it felt when they rejected Him. He is the Man of Sorrows also, Beloved.

**I’M RISING TODAY:** It is true, Lord, some of my family members reject me and I have had to leave some family members behind to be a Christian and pursue You and my faith, but I do not count it a loss. **I’m holding on to Your Promises:** *“Truly I tell you,’ Jesus said to them, ‘no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”* Luke 18:28-30.

**Day Thirty:** Prophecy number 23 **“BEARING REPROACH”** *“I am a foreigner to my own family, a stranger to my own mother’s children; for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.”* (Psalm 69:8-9) **Jesus had a REAL ZEAL for the Father’s House (The Temple).** This is evidenced by occasions in the Bible. When he was twelve, His family had traveled to Jerusalem along with thousands of Jews from all over to celebrate Passover. He had traveled with a large company of people; family and friends. It was at the end of the first day heading home, that Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus, their 12-year-old was not with them. They rushed back to Jerusalem and after three days they found him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers. He was listening to them; he was also answering their questions. *“His mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ ‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked, ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’”* (Read: Luke 2:41-52) Just before Jesus was crucified, *“He entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”* (Matt 21:12-13, Mark 11-15-18, Luke 19:45-47) He loved the Temple, but He told them that the entire building would be destroyed and it was in 70 A.D.

Prophet Ezekiel in a vision saw and heard God in the temple. *“The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. He said, ‘Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever...”* Ezekiel 43:4-7. Paul explained to the Gentiles they were now members, through Jesus, of the household of God. *“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”* Eph. 2:20-22

*“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, **‘Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!’** His disciples remember that it is written: **‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’**” (John 2:13-17) Paul spoke it also, Romans 15:3-4 *“For even Christ did not please Himself but as it is written; ‘The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. “For everything that was written, the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”**

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Proverbs 13:12-13 *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life. The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.”* It’s really a no-brainer! If the Word is written for guidance, encouragement, and hope, To Rise, I must study the Bible. Living the Word, I will gain spiritual ground, have rewarding relationships through Jesus, and live joyfully even if insulted due to my faith.

**Day Thirty-one:** Prophecy number 22 **“WITHOUT GUILF”** *“Because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”* Isaiah 53:9 (712 BCE). Apostle Peter reminded all of us in 60 A.D. how Jesus remained true to His loving spiritual nurturing nature even under extremely difficult conditions. He made it clear if we had seen Him or heard Him, we had seen and heard the Father. *“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”* 1 Peter 2:22-24.

When I was in Ministerial School, one of the professors I had was in his mid-seventies. He taught Spiritual Formation. I recall how he had us draw a circle and then a circle inside of a circle and another circle inside of that one until we had four circles (three within the largest one). The most inner circle, the smallest one, he said represented the glory of God. This is a secret chamber that communicates only with the Lord and on the highest spiritual level—your first love. His is the embedded knowledge of God and the concept of eternal life. *“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”* (Ecclesiastes 3:11) *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”* (Psalm 139:13) The next circle around that one was the spiritual realm that responds to the Lord, prayer, worship, etc. Then the soul (will, mind, and emotions) and finally our body—the largest and outer circle.

I remember thinking as this gentle, loving, and reassuring elderly professor taught us, that he was the first person I had ever met that I summed up as, “Guileless.” I told the Lord that before my life was over, if He tarried, I wanted be like this professor, reassuringly gentle regardless of what went on in the other outer circles of my personhood. Jesus operated from the ‘seat of glory,’ even though He took upon Himself flesh. Even when He was frustrated and even angry, He operated within the confines of the spiritual realm continuously remembering His first love was His Heavenly Father.

**The Command:** *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* Proverbs 4:23 **The Warning:** *“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”* James 3:6

**The Reason:** *“Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”* Matthew 15:17-19

**I’M RISING TODAY: Paul wrote with confidence** *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 11:1 **And** *“Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”* Philippians 3:17. Lord, this is my prayer that You will bring into my life a mentor as a true Christ-like example that I can imitate genuine and sincere God fearing Christian behavior. I desire to live in such a manner that I walk in the way that You would have me to go. Help me to be more prayerful about all matters. Amen.

**Day Thirty-two: Prophecy number 21 “WORKING MIRACLES”** “*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.*” Isaiah 35:5-6 (712 BCE) “*When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’ Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.*” Matthew 11:2-6 “*As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’* After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ‘Go,’ he told him, *wash in the Pool of Siloam.*’ (this word means Sent). **So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.**” John 9:1-7 “... While Jesus was in the region of Decapolis, some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, ‘*Ephphatha!*’ (which means “*Be opened!*”). At this, **the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.**” Mark 7:31-35

**What’s easier to do? Forgive a person’s sins or miraculously heal them?** “*Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.*”<sup>2</sup> Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “*Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.*”<sup>3</sup> At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “*This fellow is blaspheming!*”<sup>4</sup> Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “*Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?*”<sup>5</sup> **Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’**<sup>6</sup> **But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**” So he said to the paralyzed man, “*Get up, take your mat and go home.*”<sup>7</sup> **Then the man got up and went home.**<sup>8</sup> **When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.**” Matthew 9:1-8 **What did Jesus do, attend a funeral or raise a young dead boy from his casket?**<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.<sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.<sup>13</sup> **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”**<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “**Young man, I say to you, get up!**”<sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.<sup>16</sup> **They were all filled with awe and praised God.** “*A great prophet has appeared among us,*” they said. “*God has come to help his people.*”<sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.” Luke 7:11-17

**I’M RISING TODAY: ‘They were all filled with awe and praised God!’** My Lord Jesus, I know about these miracles written in the Gospels and You healed me and others in my family. I have witnessed others healed by You and You have used my very hands to do so, BUT I admit I need a renewed AWE in Your miraculous healing power. Thank up, Lord! AMEN

**Day Thirty-three:** Prophecy number 20 **“TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION”** *“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom...that are with young.” “A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench; he shall bring forth judgement unto truth.”* Isaiah 40:11; 42:3 (712 BCE). *“Then he said to him, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.’”* (Matthew 12:13-21 [31 AD] {Matthew quoted Isaiah 42:1-4}) The bruised reed refers to an ill person, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, or a weak Christian. The smoldering flax refers to a person barely seeking Him or barely holding on to faith or a new believer just beginning his/her walk. Jesus’ compassion is beyond our comprehension. Beloved, He even cares about your hurt feelings.

Jesus had just learned King Herod had John the Baptist beheaded so He went to be alone to grieve, BUT on His way, *“John’s disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”* (Matthew 14:12-14) The author, the Holy Spirit used for Hebrews, reminds all of us that Jesus is not out of touch with the feelings of we humans. *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”* Hebrews 4:14-16

Yesterday’s devotional included the telling of the dead boy and his widowed mother that Jesus happened upon. He was not asked to do anything, but remember what happened? **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”**<sup>14</sup> *Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!”* (Luke 7:13-14) His heart went out to her means His compassionate tenderness embraced her and He responded. Beloveds, Jesus many times performs miracles without somebody praying or seeking it, because of His passion for people. *“On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.”* (Luke 13:10-13)

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Jesus said of Jerusalem’s residents He had desired to pull all of them under His wings like a hen covering her chicks, but they refused Him. **HE LOVES US!** This is the first day of the rest of my life I am going to sing this song and believe every word of it, no matter what! “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so, little ones to Him belong, we are weak, BUT He is Strong! Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so! AMEN.

**Day Thirty-four:** Prophecy number 19 “**MEEKNESS AND UNPRETENTIOUSNESS**” *“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.”* Isaiah 42:1-2 (712 BCE) *“Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed Him, and He healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah. [42:1-2 quoted above] Matthew 12:15-17. “When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, (Greek word Peter means rock). And on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then He ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.”* Matthew 16:13-20

**Many times Jesus warned demons not to tell who He was** or He did not allow them to speak. Luke 4:40-41 *“At sunset the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sicknesses, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.”* The Lord would not allow demons, known liars like Satan, to disclose His identity. They knew His authority over them, Luke 8:26-39 tells when Jesus delivered the demon possessed man who lived among the tombs when the demons saw Jesus, they shouted at Him, *“What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you don’t torture me!”* In fact, the demons (Legion) begged Jesus not to order them to go into the Abyss. However, this time Jesus told the delivered man, *‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’* (Luke 8:39)

Other times, Jesus told the healed not to tell what He had done for them. “And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, *“See that no one knows about it”* (Matthew 9:30). Jesus healed the Leper and said to him, *“See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them”* (Mark 1:43-44). He raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mark 5:43) but he told them not to let anybody know. When Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute, he charged the entire crowd to tell no one. “But the more he charged them,” it says, “the more zealously they proclaimed it” (Mark 7:36).

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord Jesus, you didn’t seek fame, you sought THE SINNERS. All the miracles you did were so people understood that Father God had sent the Messiah. Yet, you remained meek and modest. You were not self-indulgent for you always said I say and do what the Father tells me to say and do. I do this to glorify the Father. Shortly before your death, you said “Be witnesses unto Me.” This song bears witness to who I want to be, “I’m coming back to the heart of worship, It’s all about You, Lord, I’m sorry for the things that I’ve made it! It’s all about you, Lord, all about You!”

**Day Thirty-five:** Prophecy number 18 **“POOR”** *“He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had not beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”* Isaiah 53:2 ‘Not beauty’ isn’t about His looks it means ‘no elegance.’ The description means that the Messiah would not appear on earth with the noticeable emblems of a king. He came as a commoner. He was a poor Rabbi. **“This article is from Bible Scholars and authored by: Roy B. Blizzard and David Bivin.** The term “rabbi” is derived from the Hebrew word *rav*, which in biblical Hebrew means “great.” The word *rav* is not a title in biblical Hebrew. By the time of Jesus *rav* had come to refer to a master, as opposed to a slave, or as opposed to a disciple. In Jesus’ day, the rabbi almost always had an occupation from which he derived his livelihood. The rabbi had to travel from place to place if he wanted to communicate to the masses his teachings and interpretations of Scripture. These rabbis did not hesitate to travel to the smallest of the villages or the most remote parts of the land. They would often conduct their classes in the village square or out under a tree or in somebody’s home. They were willing to teach as few as five people at a time. According to custom, one could not charge for teaching the Scriptures, so the itinerant rabbi was dependent upon the hospitality and generosity of the community. Many rabbis carried their food with them – a pouch of meal and a few olives. From such they subsisted, not wanting to be a burden to their host. The rabbi’s stay in the community might last from only a few days to weeks, or even months. However, for the long term student (“disciple”), learning from a rabbi meant traveling, since the rabbi was always moving from place to place. If one wanted to learn from a rabbi, one had to “follow after him.” Implied is the further exhortation to open one’s home to rabbis and their disciples. The rabbi (and his disciples) would naturally need to eat and sleep near where he was teaching. In Rabbinic literature there are many passages which call on the people to show hospitality to the sages. It is now easy for us to see the reason. If the people had not been hospitable, opening their homes for teaching and providing food and lodging for the rabbis and their disciples, it would have been impossible for the rabbis to teach and for the students to learn. **LINK AT <http://www.biblescholars.org/2013/05/study-shows-jesus-as-rabbi.html>**

Let’s recall how Jesus described his living conditions: *“As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’* Jesus did not look like a king or talk like a king or even travel like a king—he looked normal and his hometown people said he was. *“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph (Greek Joses), Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him.”* Mark 6:3 ALSO Jesus then admitted that this was his home town—again not a king living in a palace. *“Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home. He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.’* Mark 6:4-6

**I’M RISING TODAY: Jesus lived within His means.** I, too am going to live within my means. He did not dress like a King nor surround Himself with influential people to promote Him. He’s the King of kings, but He didn’t use His kingship to attract attention. He simply lived and taught the TRUTH. He took off His Godly Robes and came to earth and didn’t put them back on until He returned to the right hand side of His Father. Jesus didn’t preach prosperity. No He walked in hard times and said, *“Follow Me.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* He said times would be TOUGH but we’d OVERCOME like Him!

**Day Thirty-six:** Prophecy number 17 “**ENTERING PUBLICLY INTO JERUSALEM.**” Zechariah 9:9 (487 BCE) “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.*” In the Old Testament donkeys were ridden by Kings and wealthy people. Kings rode them at times of peace but horses when going into battles. Christ Jesus is the Prince of Peace, no better fitting triumphant entrance. He came to save the world and not to condemn it. Riding a donkey; a sign of humility, peace, and Davidic Royalty. **Trust Jesus, Darlings, He is coming back and Apostle John wrote in Revelation 19:11-13 He shall be upon the back of a white horse; and He is called, “Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a robe dipped in blood: and his name is called ‘The Word of God.’” He’s returning on a horse as “Captain of War.”**

Prophecy fulfilled in 33 A.D. as Matthew writes: 21:1-11 “*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet; ‘Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’*”

“*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is give: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*” Isaiah 9:6-7 “The literal meaning of Everlasting Father, ‘abid’ is **‘Father of Eternity.’ Jesus alone is the source of eternal life!** It says, “*Peace there shall be NO END UPON THE THRONE OF DAVID.*” Hallelujah!

**I’M RISING TODAY: Some asked who is this? Others knew the Scriptures.** The Prince of Peace of the Throne of David. The Davidic throne had disappeared, but the Scriptures had promised their King was coming with Justice and Salvation. All they had to look for was the One who knew The Perfect Timing between Peace and War. Hosanna; “SAVE” the expression of PRAISE—Lord, I can hear them chanting, “*Hoshia-na to Ben David! Baruch ha-ba b’shem ADONAI! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Hoshia-na in the highest!*” Jesus, you are returning, peacefully to usher the saints into the Lamb’s Wedding Supper. Afterwards in WARFARE on a White Horse! By STUDYING the Scriptures, I’m RISING, so I know You when you come and when you speak! Amen.

**Day Thirty-seven:** Prophecy number 16 “**MINISTRY COMMENCING IN GALILEE.**”

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. **In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**” Isaiah 9:1-2 (487 BCE) fulfilled in 27 A.D. “When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. From that time on Jesus began to preach, *‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’*”

**He was a Recognized Rabbi (Teacher):** “Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘**Teacher**, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’ “That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ‘**Teacher**,’ they said, ‘Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow (v 29) ‘Jesus replied, *‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven...’*” Matthew 19:16; 22:23-24

Not only did He teach, He required His students to answer His questions: “When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.’ Jesus answered him, *‘Simon, I have something to tell you.’* ‘Tell me, **Teacher**,’ he said. *‘Two people owed money to a certain moneylender: One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?’* Simon replied, ‘I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.’ *‘You have judged correctly,’* Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, *‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.’* Then Jesus said to her, *‘Your sins are forgiven.’* The other guests began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ Jesus said to the woman, *‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’*” Luke 7:39-50—“After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God, the Twelve were with him.” Luke 8:1

**I’M RISING TODAY:** “Good Teacher,” asked a certain ruler, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” *“Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. ‘No one is good—except God alone.’* “Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, *‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’* PRAISE YOU LORD JESUS! Not only your disciples called you TEACHER, but Sadducees, Pharisees, Rulers, The Rich and the Poor, Men and Women. He said, *‘You are not to be called Rabbi, for you have one Teacher and you are all brothers...Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah!’* Lord, YOU ARE THE LIGHT, THE LIFE, THE TRUTH, AND THE WAY! I will ask You FIRST from now on!

**Day Thirty-eight:** Prophecy number 15 “**ENTERING PUBLIC MINISTRY**” “*The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me; To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted; To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to the prisoners.*” Isaiah 61:1 (698 BCE). Fulfilled in 27 A.D. “*And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written, ‘THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF THE SIGHT OF THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.’* And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “*Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*” Luke 4:16-21

**He ministered with such authority!** “*And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.*” (Luke 4:31-32) Early in His ministry Jesus took to foot and traveled from city to city and village to village to proclaim the good news. He cried, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*”  
**With such authority that even Pharisees came to ask Him to explain difficult concepts to them.** “*Now there was a man of the Pharisees, name Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’* Jesus answered and said to him, ‘*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘*How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he? Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*” “*Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can these things be? Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?’*” John 3:9-10

**I’M RISING TODAY:** “*Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.’* But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘*Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*” Luke 10:38-42 “*Dear, Lord, I want to let what can wait—WAIT. Make the distractions distract themselves; so that I take the better seat; the one at Your feet—let me sit in Your Presence through the Word, Prayer, Worship, and Silence as the Holy Spirit grants me intimate understanding pressing me to gasp with awe of reverence as I see You as Mary did at Your feet!*”

**Day Thirty-nine:** Prophecy number 14 “**A PROPHET LIKE UNTO MOSES.**” “*The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him...*” “*The LORD said to me (Moses), ‘What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death. You may say to yourselves, ‘How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?’ ‘If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.’*” Deuteronomy 18:15; 17-22 (This is a prophecy with more than one fulfillment intended). It is talking about Joshua and all other prophets God would send and finally it points toward the Messianic expectation which is uniquely fulfilled in Jesus Christ. (John 1:21, 25, 45; 5:46; 6:14; 7:40; Acts 3:20-26; 7:37).

**John the Baptist was questioned** by the Jewish leaders for they wanted to know who he was. He told them he wasn’t the Messiah. They asked are you Elijah, he said *‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’* (John 1:21) The Religious leaders and most of the Jewish people expected “The Prophet” spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:15 who they believed would come in association with the Messiah’s coming. Most everybody of the day believed that John was indeed a prophet, some wanted to know exactly who or what ‘prophet’ he was. They continued questioning him, “*Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?*” (1:25) **However**, the next day John testified to whom Jesus was, “*I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.*” (1:34) **Philip said** to Nathanael when he found him: “*We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*” (1:45).

One Sabbath day the Jewish leaders began persecuting Him because Jesus healed a paralyzed man. Not only were they angry that he had broken the Sabbath requirements but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God for this reason they desired to kill Jesus. **Jesus said** many things to them and He concluded with, “*But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?*” John 5:45-47 “*In your own law it is written that the testimony of two is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.*” John 8:17-18

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Have you ever felt like you had to bring witnesses to testify on your behalf over a claim that ‘you did hear such-and-such from God? The Holy Spirit stopped Paul from going where he wanted to and then told him where he had to go! Jesus had said a Prophet seemingly is honored all places but close to home or family. Therefore, it is awkward when yoked-saints are using time and resources for ministerial purposes that God hasn’t spoken directly to you about. RISE ABOVE your emotions and accept you don’t know everything the LORD says. If Kingdom work is being done by your fellow-saints, they are working for the Lord and not against Him nor against you.

**Day Forty:** Prophecy number 13 **“ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT.”** *“Your throne, O ruler, is forever and ever, for the scepter of equity is the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore, has God, your God, anointed you, with oil of joy, from among your peers.”* Psalm 45:7 *“Then the shoot (David) will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. **The <sup>1</sup>Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him.** The spirit of <sup>2</sup>wisdom, and <sup>3</sup>understanding, the spirit of <sup>4</sup>counsel and <sup>5</sup>strength, the spirit of <sup>6</sup>knowledge and the <sup>7</sup>fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD. And He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.”* Isaiah 11:1-5[713 BCE—**noted 7 spirits of God**]. **“The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me,** *Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD.”* Isaiah 61:1-2(a)

**Fulfilled in 27 A.D.** Matthew 3:16 says as soon as Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove. We now recognize the “Dove” as the symbol of the Holy Spirit. *“And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written, **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF THE SIGHT OF THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”**’* And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, *“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”* Luke 4:17-21 {27 A.D.}

Apostle John was caught up into heaven **by the Spirit** to write what he heard and saw: *“And one of the elders said to me (John) ‘Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals. Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, **which are the seven spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.”* Revelation 5:5-6 *“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you testimony for the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.**”* Revelation 22:16 *“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.”* Revelation 22:17

**I’M RISING TODAY: Jesus,** you came from heaven and You Are Above ALL! While you were here, John 3:34 says the Father put the Spirit upon you without limit! You declared the works you did that we, too, would do and even more. You used the Holy Spirit and Power upon you to do good, healing people and casting out demons! **To RISE UP,** I ask what David asked for: *“A pure heart create for me, O God, and steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not away from Your Presence, and **Your Holy Spirit** take not from me. Restore to me the joy of Your Salvation, and **with a generous spirit sustain me.**”* (Psalm 51:12-13) **Thank You! I receive the JOY given by the Holy Spirit!**

**Day Forty-one:** Prophecy number 12 **“PRECEDED BY JOHN THE IMMERSER (BAPTIST)**  
*“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.*” Malachi 3:1 (397 BCE) Zacharias was a priest from the division of Abijah and his wife was from Aaron’s family, her name was Elizabeth. Luke tells us in chapter one, that they were both righteous in the sight of God, yet they had no children and they were now well advanced in age. When Zacharias was chosen to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense something amazing happened, an angel of God met him inside the temple and announced his son’s birth, John the Baptist.

*“And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHER’S BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* Luke 1:11-17 (B.C.E) When the angel visited Mary six months later and told her she was favored by the LORD and she would conceive His Son, through the Holy Spirit, the angel told Mary that Elizabeth in her old age was now six months pregnant. Mary went to her and found her indeed six months along.

When John was born, his father, Zacharias filled with the Holy Spirit prophesied saying, *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us; In the house of David His servant...”* *“And you, child,”* he said speaking to his newborn son, John, *“will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; to give His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, Because of the tender mercy of God, with which the sunrise from on high will visit us.”* Luke 1:68-69; 76-78. FULFILLED in 27 A.D. Listen to John the Baptist’s words: *“In the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘THE VOICE OF THE ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT. EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH; AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.’”* Luke 3:2-6

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord, I see that patience along with trust worked innovatively through Malachi, Isaiah, John, and You. I believe though, You, are the most patient and most long-suffering. You always knew John before the foundations of the world yet You had to patiently wait for him to be born! You waited for the perfect generation, couple, and location. RISING TAKES PATIENCE!

**Day Forty-two:** Prophecy number 11 “**COMING INTO THE TEMPLE**” Solomon’s Temple was called such for he is the one who God chose to build the temple in Jerusalem, but it was **God’s Temple!** Completed in 959 BCE (2 Chronicles 5:3). The Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Temple with celebrations that lasted for seven days. Here the Divine Presence of God was manifest. It was absolutely stunning and NOTHING compared to it. However, later the Holy Temple was set on fire and destroyed in 586 BCE (2 Chronicles 36:19), but only after all the gold and silver and Temple’s belongings were plundered and carried off to Babylon. Then Ezra, Zerubbabel, and Joshua with the help of many others rebuilt it and completed it in 516 BCE. It was much smaller and less stunning as it had been in the past. Those present who had been alive and remembered the grandeur of Solomon’s Temple wept at this newly built but much smaller and less grand temple. But the LORD told them to take courage and remain strong. He told them to work and to know that He was always with them and that His Spirit remained among them and they had nothing to fear. *“I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Almighty. The silver is mine and the gold is mine;’ declares the LORD Almighty. The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house; says the LORD Almighty. And in this place I will grant peace, declares the LORD Almighty.”* Haggai 2:7-9 (520 BCE)

Furthermore, the LORD said, *“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.*” Malachi 3:1 (397 BCE) Yesterday’s devotional showed us it was John the Baptist that was the messenger that came to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus is the messenger of the covenant, His Eternal Blood Covenant! *“Now there was a man named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”* Luke 2:25-32 (4 BCE).

Herod renovated and expanded Zerubbabell’s Temple to feed his egocentric appetite, but God used Herod for His Purpose! He had it built, rebuilt, and renovated; each time directing and using the people of His choice to do so. It began in 19 BCE and Herod died in 4 A.D., while incomplete. Only priests could go certain places, so they were trained to be skilled workers so Gentile workers did not desecrate those areas of the temple while renovated and expanded. Josephus says it was completed in 63 A.D. seven years before the Romans destroyed it. **Jesus knew the Temple was His Father’s** and He was the Lord they had all been seeking (Messiah) and He came into His Temple: *“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’”* Matthew 21:12-13 (33 A.D.)

**I’M RISING TODAY:** We, the believers, are the temple of God. We are called to keep our temples pure, holy, and healthy for the Lord dwells within us. Also, the Lord has collectively brought believers together as a “Body of Christ.” We meet in buildings to assemble ourselves together and worship Him, pray, receive instruction, healing, deliverance, and fellowship. RISING UP includes taking care of our ‘gathering structure’ as well as our ‘physical body.’ **Time to RISE UP and HELP OUT!**

**Day Forty-three:** Prophecy number 10 “**GREAT PERSONS COME IN ADORATION**” Psalm Chapter 72 is called a “Messianic Psalm.” It is written by King David for not only his son, Solomon, but it prophetically foretells of “The Messiah.” King David, a man after God’s heart, saw spiritually into the Messianic Rule of Jesus Christ as well as he desired that his son, Solomon, would be greatly blessed by the LORD God Almighty! He wanted more for his son who would take the Throne than power and riches. His heart’s desire was that Solomon would be righteous all the days of his life and that he would be joyful and rule with ‘true-justice.’ The Scriptures record that in time Solomon turned from the LORD and began to follow the gods of his many wives.

Anointed by the Holy Spirit, David wrote about the Messiah: “*They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass; as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from rivers unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. **The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him.***” Psalm 72:5-11

“*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi (wise men) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born **king of the Jews?** We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. (Matthew 2:1-2) “Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. (7) After they heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **On coming into the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.” (Matthew 2:9-12). Magi are not kings, Beloveds. They are those who study the cosmos, astrology, and astronomy and much more. When a new star was born they believed a “New King,” had been born. Perhaps they knew the writings of Daniel, who in time past had been a chief of the court seers in Persia: “*Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.*” (Daniel 2:48). Daniel 9:24-27 includes a prophecy which gives a timeline for the birth of the Messiah. Many knew the Israelites expected their Messiah. The Jews studied the Old Testament prophecies, as did others interested in prophecies and other things including new stars, and new kings, creation and such.*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord, you said everything must be shaken that can be shaken. You shake to shake loose those things not of you and re-arrange matters of God in the minds, hearts, souls, and spirits of people. For generations believers have sung about three kings visiting baby Jesus at the stable.” Does this notion mess with my salvation? “No.” However I may have doctrinal beliefs tied to my salvation that trip me up and cause others to stumble and possibly keep unbelievers from coming to salvation. To RISE UP, I must allow You to SHAKE Me Up! You, Lord Jesus, told the Pharisees and scribes, “***Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.***” Mark 7:8.

**Day Forty-four:** Prophecy number 9 **“BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA”** *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah; Too little to be among the clans of Judah. From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of Eternity.*” Micah 5:2 (710 BCE). *“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times (generation) and the boundaries of their habitation (nation), that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **for in Him we live and move and exist**, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’” (Acts 17:24-28) God determined John the Baptist’s birth and the place of birth (a hill country city of Judea). He was six months older than Jesus. He was a relative of Jesus’ through Mary’s and Elizabeth’s relationship (Luke 1:36; 39; 57). *“And the child (John) continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.”* Luke 1:80. Jesus’ date and place of birth were predetermined as well before time.*

*“Now in those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. **Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David**, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged (betrothed) to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”* Luke 2:1-7

*“Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.’ Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, **‘You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me...**” Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, ‘This certainly is the Prophet.’ Others were saying, ‘This is the Christ.’ Still others were saying, ‘Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? **Has not the Scriptures said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?**” “No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?’ ‘But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed.’ Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, ‘Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?’ They answered him, ‘You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.”* John 7:26-29; 40-42; 48-52

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord I pray for an unquenchable thirst for Your Word. Some didn’t know the Scriptures told Messiah would be from Bethlehem. Those who knew ASSUMED Jesus was born in Galilee because He came from Nazareth. To RISE UP, I have to WISE UP! The Word Answers All!

**Day Forty-five:** Prophecy number 8 “**BORN OF A VIRGIN**” Prophet Isaiah prophesized in 742 BCE that a boy would be born of a virgin and His name would be ‘Immanuel’ which means “God is with us.” *“Therefore, the LORD himself will give you a sign; The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him ‘Immanuel.’”* **The genealogy of Jesus, the Messiah:** Matthew 1:1-16. 1:1; 16-17 *“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham...And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.”*

**Fulfilled in (5 BCE): Joseph visited by an angel of the Lord:** Matthew 1:18-25 *“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about; His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,” (which means “God is with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”*

**The Lord’s angel visits Mary:** Luke 1:26-38 *“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.’ ‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.’ ‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her.”*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord, I have been like Joseph and looked at things wrongfully; immediately suspecting foul play. This happens when I don’t take time to get all the details before I react. I have been like Mary, too. I hear prophecies from you, but then I try to figure out how it can be by using my logic. That’s why you said; *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”* My spirit must RISE UP grab the Truth and in Faith submit my mind to You, Lord!

**Day Forty-six:** Prophecy number 7 “**THE MESSIAH WOULD COME THROUGH DAVID.**” God had promised David, the first rightful king of Israel, that his throne would be established forever. “*And when the days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of His kingdom forever.*” (2 Samuel 7:12-13 KJV—1042 BCE) The Jewish people longed to see this promised Greater Son of David’s. “*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*” (Matthew 1:1 {5 A.D.}). Apostle Paul affirmed that Jesus was the humanity of Christ and His human lineage as prophesized in 2 Samuel 7:12-13 and Jeremiah 33:17. “*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy Scriptures). Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*” Romans 1:1-4 {60 A.D.}

Oftentimes Jesus was called, “Son of David.” The blind men knew Him as Son of David when they asked Him to have mercy on them (Matthew 9:27; 15:21-28; 12:22-23; 20:30). The Canaanite woman that Jesus referred to as a dog because she was not a Jew, knew Him to be ‘**The Son** of David.’ She cried after Him, “*O Lord, **though son of David**, my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*” Many in the LARGE Crowds questioned: “*Then was brought unto Him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, ‘**Is not this the son of David?**’*” Jesus was born in David’s city – Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-2). Only Jesus had the Messianic Title; the Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and they said, “***Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.*” **HEROD** was **TROUBLED**: “*When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all of Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and the scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.*” (Matthew 2:3-4)

**Jesus corrected** the Pharisees He was not just from the lineage of David, but that He was the Lord of David. David prophetically had spoken. JESUS asked, “*What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?*” They said unto him, ‘*The son of David.*’ He saith unto them, ‘*How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, **THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU ON MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL?** If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And NO MAN was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.*” (Matthew 22:41-46) Peter answered Jesus’ question when He asked who did they (the 12) say He is: “*And Simon Peter answered and said, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.’*”

**I’M RISING TODAY:** “*All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The LORD upholdeath all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.*” Psalm 145:10-14 **TO RISE UP; I MUST bow down to You, Lord!**

**Day Forty-seven:** Prophecy number 6 “**TIME FORETOLD BY DANIEL.**” Daniel wrote, “*While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, ‘Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision.’ ‘Seventy sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes there will be ‘seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks;’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in troublous times. After \* the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood. War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.*” **Daniel 9:21-26 NIV—After \*** This implies the seven weeks (7 years) have already happened:  $62 + 7 = 69$ .

**The Anointed One, the ruler, is Christ Jesus. He was put to death (will have nothing means not for Himself).** Hebrew for weeks *shabua* can refer to any period of seven (i.e. days, weeks, years).  $70 \times 7 \text{ years} = 490 \text{ years}$ ; this began with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and then from that date to the Messiah’s death: there will be seven weeks (years) **and** three score **and** two weeks (years)  $7 + 60 + 2 = 69$  weeks (years);  $69 \text{ times } 7 = 483 \text{ years}$  whereas then Messiah would be cut off (crucified) and He was in 33 A.D. **FULFILLED:** “*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.*” Mark 15:37 (33 A.D.)  $490 \text{ years} \text{ minus } 483 \text{ years, leaves } 7 \text{ years}$  (the tribulation period). We are in that period that the Word said, “***War will continue until the end and desolations have been decreed.***” The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D. as Jesus had said. We are living in the ‘Pause Period,’ (Church Age) of Daniel’s prophecy between the first 69 weeks which have past until the 70<sup>th</sup> week begins.

**Paul straightened out some wrong teaching:** “*Do not become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teachings allegedly from us, whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God (Antichrist). Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way (The Holy Spirit). And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*” 2 Thess. 2:2-8--(His return on the white horse—Rev. 19:11)

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Through dedication to the Lord and His Word, Daniel knew the 70-year exile for the Jews was finished. He prayed; “*We have sinned against thee, but to the Lord our God belongs mercies and forgiveness though we have rebelled against Him.*” (Daniel 9) **TO RISE UP, my FOCUS must be to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, then all I need will be added unto me.**

**Day Forty-eight:** Prophecies numbers 3, 4, AND 5 “**HE WOULD COME AT A SET TIME; ALSO HE WOULD COME THROUGH ISAAC, JACOB, AND JUDAH**” “Then Jacob (renamed Israel by God) called for his sons and said: ‘*Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel...’*. ‘*Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until He who to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be His.*” Genesis 49:1-2; 8-10 {1689 BCE}. A Lion’s Cub is symbolic of sovereignty, strength, and courage. Judah’s Most Famous Descendant; Jesus Christ is called “The Lion of the tribe of Judah.” “*Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.*” Revelation 5:5 “*This is the **genealogy of Jesus the Messiah** the son of David, the son of Abraham, Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers-Matthan the father of Jacob and Jacob the **father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.***” Matthew 1:1-2; 15 (c)-16

**The scepter which is the symbol of government was taken away when Judea agreed to pay her first taxes to Rome.** “*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria). And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.*” (Luke 2:1-4) WHILE there, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Shepherds in nearby fields were told at the same time “*But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*” Luke 2:10-11. The scepter will not depart from Judah nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet **UNTIL** (5 BCE) Jesus was born, **the government was TRANSFERRED TO JESUS**; Unto us a child is born...And the government shall be on His shoulders (Isaiah 9:6-7)

**THE SET TIME** is recorded in the Scriptures Genesis 49; It would not depart from Judah until He to whom it belongs shall come. He would come **THROUGH ISAAC, JACOB AND JUDAH**: “*But God said to him (Abraham) ‘Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’” “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said that in Isaac shall thy seed be called; Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which also he received him in a figure.”* Genesis 21:12 (1898 BCE) and Hebrews 11:17-19 (64 A.D.) “*In thy [Jacob’s]seed shall the families of the earth be blessed.*” Genesis 28:14 (1760 BCE) “*For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah.*” Hebrews 7:14 (a) (64 A.D.) “*Jacob begat Judah.*” Matthew 1:2 (5 BCE).

**I’M RISING TODAY:** Lord, all these prophecies came to pass proving their truth! Now, to RISE UP; I must study the prophecies about YOUR RETURN and continue doing the good works and living a holy lifestyle. You told us “*Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*”

**Day Forty-nine:** Prophecy number 2 **“THE MESSIAH WOULD COME THROUGH ABRAHAM”** *“Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you. Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance...When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’** Abraham looked up and there in the thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place **‘The LORD Will Provide’** And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.’ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, **‘I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring ALL Nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.’** Genesis 22:1-4; 22:9-18 (1898 BCE) In the oldest manuscripts it says, ‘A ram [who?] was behind him.’ **Fulfilled:** *“For verily He[Jesus] took not on him the nature of angels; but He took on him the seed of Abraham.”* *“If ye be Jesus’, then ye are Abraham’s seed.”* Hebrews 2:16 (60 A.D.) and Galatians 3:29 (68 A.D.)*

Mosaic Law required a **Burnt offering** morning and night: In Hebrew it means, ‘going up,’ symbolizing worship and prayer before the Lord. Burning the entire animal speaks of the dedication and complete devotion to the LORD. **Abraham took two of his servants:** Jewish Law requires two witnesses. They witnessed Abraham going without a lamb, but also the aroma and smoke of a lamb. *“He said to his servants, ‘Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, ‘Father?’ ‘Yes, my son?’ Abraham replied. ‘The fire and wood are here,’ Isaac said, ‘but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’ Abraham answered, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ And the two of them went on together.”* 22:5-8. It took three days to reach the place God sent Abraham: In Scripture the number three represents that which is solid, real, substantial, and something in its completeness. The number three always identifies an important event in Salvation History. Jesus referred to three days in reference to His crucifixion and resurrection in Matthew 12:40; *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*

**I’M RISING TODAY:** My consistent prayer life is pleasing unto You, Lord. With adoration latitude and worship longitude guided by earnest and authentic prayer, I WILL RISE UP before You, Lord!

**Day Fifty:** Prophecy number 1 **‘SEED OF THE WOMAN’** “*And the LORD God said unto the serpent; Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life; And I will put enmity between thee and thy woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*” Genesis 3:14-15 Prophesized through Moses in 4004 BCE and fulfilled when Jesus was born in 5 BCE. Moses recorded all that the LORD told him. Under Moses’ lead in the third month from escaping Egypt they came into the wilderness of Sinai whereas Mt. Sinai also called Mt. Horeb is near the southern tip of this desert peninsula connecting Egypt to Israel. This is still a very rugged terrain and politically unstable area, but near Serabit El-Khadem which revealed copper and turquoise mining it also produced the famous Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions, which provides the earliest evidence of a Semitic alphabetic script. These finds clearly prove the existence of writing during this period of time of Moses and the Israelites.

Beloved, if you did this devotional from Passover to Pentecost, then on day fifty, you are celebrating Pentecost (the way the Jewish calendar shows it). If you started this devotional on Easter Sunday evening, then you are celebrating Pentecost Sunday—the birth of the Church (the way the Western calendar shows it). If you used this devotional for a fifty-day time away with the Lord, then you are celebrating something new that the Lord has spiritually birthed through you and for you and for His Kingdom purpose. “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*” **Romans 8:28-30**

Exodus 19&20 “*For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above ALL people; for ALL the earth is mine. **And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come** down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And all the people saw the thundering, and the lightning and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they removed and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, ‘Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.’— “And Moses wrote ALL the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.” Exodus 24:4*

“*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law.*” “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*” Galatians 4:4 (5 A.D.) and 1 John 3:8 (90 A.D.) Prophecy: Moses was right, Lord. You do care about mankind. I believe with all of my heart, Lord, you still wish to communicate to people exactly what you care about. Prophecy is a matter of tuning into the process of creation, the past, the present, and the future. Moses was one who could get to the very meat of it. Beloveds, God is always speaking in all creation around us. However, to hear Him clearly one must rise above the clamor of this world’s system and enter through the gates of High Expectancy where the sound frequency emits such as

Moses described, “*And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightning, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.*” Exodus 19:16

**Declare, I have RISEN UP! I HAVE OVERCOME SPIRITUAL OR PREMATURE DEATH! My portion is LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS MY LORD!** When Jesus died and when the Church was born there was a DARK CLOUD, there was earth quaking; “*Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (12:00-3:00 PM). At his last breath; the temple veil ripped from top to bottom, the earth quaked; rocks broke, graves opened, saints arose! Fifty days later on Pentecost Christ Jesus’ Church was born: “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing-mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*” Matthew 27: 50-54; Acts 2:1-4.*

**The Prophecy of the return of Christ Jesus, the Lord and Savior, the King of kings and the Lord of lords:** “*But about the day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. **Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day the Lord will come.** But understand this; if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **So you must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.**”*

**Matthew 24:36-44**



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