

OMEGA MESSAGE

JANUARY 2006

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PROFITABLE OR UNPROFITABLE?

Sister Mavis duCille

July 3rd, 2005

Mahomet, Illinois

Praise God. I am so happy to be here. I can't remember how many conferences I have missed, but I praise God. Although I have not been able to be in all the meetings, I thank God for His grace and His love. God knows where we are and that's what He judges by - our heart in the matter. Although our steps might be slow, He's still seeing our heart and judging us by what we are on the inside. Praise God.

The Lord has been speaking to us from the time we were in Jamaica, the words came many times, about being "profitable" and "unprofitable." The profitable servant and the unprofitable servant. It would seem as if we have to be on one side or the other. We're either profitable or unprofitable. The things that we do, the thoughts that we think, the words that we speak are either profitable or unprofitable; either profitable to God or unprofitable to God. That is how we have to gauge our lives, gauge our walk, gauge our talk, that it's either profitable or unprofitable. So, when you speak, after you have spoken, assess it. Has it

been profitable? Have you sown a profitable seed in the heart of that person or have you left an unprofitable seed sown in that person's heart? Whether you speak in public or in private, have you left a profitable seed or an unprofitable seed? So, all that we do, we should do to the glory of God.

WHETHER YOU SPEAK
IN PUBLIC OR IN
PRIVATE, HAVE YOU
LEFT A PROFITABLE
SEED OR AN
UNPROFITABLE SEED?

I have been trying to read the many places in the Bible which refer to profitable or unprofitable. I haven't been able to go through them all, but you can go through and find out, because it is profitable to us, as we walk, as we go, whether we are being profitable servants or unprofitable servants. Don't wait until the end to hear the pronouncement. Make sure that you are being profitable now.

I was reading in Philemon where Paul said, "Onesimus is profitable unto me" (Philemon 1:11). That was Paul's testimony of him. He must have found the profit in the man, although he said, "At some time he was unprofitable, but now he is profitable." He gained ground in the

PROFITABLE OR UNPROFITABLE?

Lord, hallelujah. He took away, or had been working on his unprofitable way to make it profitable. So, when we find ourselves in an unprofitable position, we can work on it to make it profitable. God does not expect us to remain unprofitable once He has called us and put His mark upon us. There is one word, I am trying to remember it right now, that says that God will NOT leave us in a position where we can say that, "You have not given me the opportunity to be what You want me to be." There is not one person that can put that blame on God because He has given us all, ALL, A-L-L that we need to stand. If we are not standing on both feet, we are standing in our hearts.

So, God wants us to be profitable servants. In all that we say and do, it must bring profit. I have seen many situations where one person would go to talk with another person and it leaves the person all shattered; they can't lift up her head or his head and say, "Praise God, that was a good visit. That was a good talk; I have been blessed; I have been edified; I have been lifted up." That is what God expects us to be if we are to be profitable servants.

Paul, at the end of his life, said, "I have fought a good fight. I have kept up the faith. I have finished my course, henceforth, there is laid up for me in heaven a crown of righteousness" (II Timothy 4:7-8). So, God expects us to walk as warriors of the cross, not as people who are bound to earth and earthiness. Earthiness is not ours. Heavenliness is ours. Amen! We are seeking for a country with foundation whose builder and maker is God, not the devil. We refuse to exalt him. We refuse to countenance the devil in what we say, in what we do, in what we are from day to day.

Let us turn a new page, those of us who find that we are not really glorifying God and holding up the standard of salvation. Let us turn a new page and say, "I will bless the Lord at all times." All times! Just remember that, when you have to deal with one person or speak to a person, when you leave, make sure you have left a good seed. Make sure that you have edified your God, you have glorified your God and edified the church, because we are members one of another. We have to see to it that the Blood flows from one to another to bring life, the life that is in Christ Jesus. So, we must remember to try to be profitable servants, not unprofitable servants. All that we say and do must bring glory to God, profit to the Body of Christ, profit to the church, not pulling down the church, not pulling down our brethren, but exalting one another in the name of Jesus, more so as the day approaches, which is now.

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS...

LOVE

Brother Cecil duCille

July 3rd, 2005

Mahomet, Illinois

Praise God. It is a pleasure to be here. Praise God. We are thankful to God that He has preserved us. Many of us would not be here but for the grace of God and the mercy of the purpose of God to be accomplished in our being here today.

The Lord has been speaking to me concerning our spiritual condition. Where are we really? Are we where we think we are? Is it that we are thinking of ourselves above what we are? God said we should not compare ourselves with ourselves. It is foolishness if we compare ourselves with ourselves. "Look at that church over there, what they are doing; look at that church over there, what they are doing; look at us, what we are doing." Hallelujah. It is foolishness and ignorance. We can only compare ourselves with the Word of God, and then I might as well tell you the result. We're miserable people. We're in a miserable condition before God; but for the mercy of God, we would not make it. In other words, having done all we do, having been all we are is far below the standard that God requires human beings to be. It is far below the standard that we see according to God's timetable where we are.

Now, here is God's timetable, taking man through the tabernacle. You come in at the gate and you are a raw recruit. You undergo the treatment of the Blood of Jesus Christ and the first thing that happens is that your soul is touched and made alive. Now, your soul is not perfected. If the Baptist is right, then we are perfect from the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior, but the Baptists are not right. So, we must not maintain in our hearts that Baptist doctrine which says, "I'm all right." You're not all right. You're in grave danger when you come into the tabernacle and you are touched by the Blood. You are in grave danger. God has given you LIFE! You were dead, you were not responsible. You could have done anything out there, amen. If a man is going for the presidency of the United States, or for some high office, all of a sudden they begin to stir up all these things that he did before he was even an adult, before he was even responsible. If any of us should be judged on that basis, we wouldn't be fit to sit in the chair that we are sitting in

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because we were no good. I mean, we were far from no good. We were bad. ☺ Bad. Some of us were really bad, and as a matter of fact, if God had not saved us, the world would be in a dreadful condition with us being there. Do you hear me? Do you understand what I am saying?

I had no hope for me. I said, "There's no hope, there's no God that could save me, there's no hope," because I was totally unsatisfactory to me and hopeless to my very self. So, we came in through the tabernacle gate and we got touched with the Blood, and what happened is that we got the life of God in an area that was totally without life, that was dead, dead, dead, even worse than the desert, because, you know, there's a lot of life in the desert. Oh yes. Lots of little things living there, but in our desert condition, we were without God's life, and HOPELESS, absolutely hopeless. Now, as we go on as Christians, God requires us to think about those who are in the condition that we were, and to have mercy on them. I notice our judgement on the world, and our judgement on other Christians is very hard, without mercy, as if we did not obtain mercy; as if it were not for mercy's sake that we are here. It is the mercy of God! Amen.

A SON IS SOMEONE
WHO, BY HIS OWN FREE
WILL AND HIS OWN
DESIRE, COMES TO BE
LIKE HIS FATHER!

My wife died three times. It's the mercy of God that she's sitting here alive. Amen! It is the mercy of God that any one of us are here and we should always remember that in our deliberations, in our operations, and in our judgement of one another, and in our judgement of what is happening in the world. Now, in other words, God is bringing up a people who will have mercy. ***Blessed are the merciful...*** what did He say about that? ***...for they shall obtain mercy*** (Matthew 5:7). So, some of us are getting what we give but we don't know it. "Oh, they are bad, they are coming against us, they are this, and they are that, so on..." But blessed be to God, what are you? If you give mercy, God said you shall obtain mercy. Amen.

Now, he comes through the tabernacle door and... God cannot make a son. Let that soak in a little bit. There are some things that God can't do and one of the things that God cannot do is to make a son. If He turns around there and says, "I'm going to make a perfect man," He has made an angel. That's not a son. A son is someone who, by his own free will and his own desire, comes to be like his father! And the Father gives you the tools. He puts the tools out there. The tools are out there for the sinner. They are out there for the sinner! If one person should

say... We have some doctrine teaching, they call it fundamentalist doctrines, that say that Christ did not die for the sinner. He died only for special people. They call it the doctrine of predestination. (A foolish doctrine.) Amen. It is a foolish doctrine that was brought in by one of the learned theologians. The doctrine has pervaded all the churches. Predestination. "God knew you from before you were born, therefore God ordained and predestinated that you should be saved." I have news for you! God predestinated that every man should be saved! (I Timothy 2:4). If God ever made a man that couldn't be saved, God would be responsible. Amen. God made you that you could be lost and because God made you that you could be lost, God had to shed His own blood, take His own life out and give it to you that you could be saved, because the responsibility for your being lost is upon God! Do we understand the equation?

Here we are born lost, couldn't help ourselves. Men like me, born a mad man. Totally unreasonable in my madness. Like John Newton who wrote *Amazing Grace*. Just born that way! Couldn't help myself, but God isn't going to keep that burden on Himself. He's going to throw it on you one day and every sinner out there has a day when God will take the burden off His own shoulder and say, "It is yours now." So, when a man goes to hell, he doesn't go to hell because God sent him to hell for his sins. He goes to hell because he deliberately wants hell. He doesn't want God. He rejects everything that is God and the rejection must come to a point of fulfillment. God could not have put Judas into hell. He could not have put Judas in hell. Judas had to run his course. Judas had to become Judas. He had to reject being the apostle of the Lamb, the highest position that any human being could ever have, an apostle of the Lamb. Twelve of them alone were made, and God Almighty ordained this man as an apostle of the Lamb, gave him all the attributes that Peter, Paul, James and John had, gave it to him and gave him the treasury, and I can see Jesus doing him favors. Every time he saw the man slipping down into hell, He would do him a favor and ease him up. So, God Almighty spoke of Satan, and he said, "You have destroyed all your sanctuaries." That means God tried to save Satan! God tried to stop him and God put barriers to stop him and Satan had to find ways of crossing the barriers that God had created to stop him from becoming Satan. Hallelujah. Amen!

So, a devil is a devil because he WANTS to be a devil! There is no other way. Somebody says that is a cop-out type of argument, but I asked God one day and I never forgot how God answered me. God teaches me sometimes by example. I asked God, "Oh God, how could

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You make a spirit with all the power and the nature of goodness, and that spirit become Satan? How could it be that good could become evil? How can it be possible that good could become evil?" Don't you understand? Because if you are good, you are good and you are so good that you have no evil in you, but how could good become evil? Amen. He said, "It's a mystery. A mystery that the human mind will not be fully able to comprehend, but I can tell you this." He just said I couldn't comprehend it very well, and so, I was on my knees praying and suddenly I saw my door open. The door was opening and a man was coming through the door and I knew the man was a fallen angel. God sent him to me. He was going to teach me the lesson of my life! The fallen angel came in and when I tried to tell him that I didn't know who he was, he said, "No pretense." He said, "Let's get to it. You know who I am. You know why I am here." Amen. So I said, "OK." I said, "God promised me and..." all of a sudden the faith rose up in me. You know that faith is a substance and if you operate in faith, you must receive the substance. You can't just go and say, "I'm going to claim all the land around here, hallelujah, and just march around them and claim because I have faith to get them." Nothing of the kind. God has to put in you a substance that motivates you and anoints you to do that. See what I mean?

So, I felt the anointing and I said, "I know God has given me the power to put you in heaven. God has given me the power to put you back in heaven." And I said, "I would exercise that power, if you would do one thing. You must repent. You must want to go back to heaven." Remember now, I did not know the nature of the thing that was standing before me. God was going to teach me the nature of an evil spirit, the nature that is the reason why hell is everlasting and eternal. Hell is not eternal because God made it eternal. Hell is eternal because those who are in hell will NEVER, EVER, EVER want God! I didn't know that. The thing stood before me, and the man's countenance changed. It changed to an anger, like when a person has anger bursting out of him, and he stomped his foot on the floor and he said, "That so-and-so!" He was talking about God, talking about the Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, and my ire rose up when he began to talk, but I had to listen, and he said, "If

HELL IS NOT ETERNAL
BECAUSE GOD MADE IT
ETERNAL. HELL IS
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GOD!

He puts me back into heaven, I would go there for one reason – to destroy it!!” and he stomped the floor and I thought I’d had enough. I decided to rebuke him, but guess what? He was a prince. He saw that long ago. He was looking at me and the glory of God began to rise up out of me and he saw long ago that I was going to rebuke him and he was gone. Amen. Hallelujah. Amen.

...THE PLANS [THAT YOU HAVE] FOR YOUR LIFE MUST STOP RIGHT NOW IF YOU WANT TO BE AMONG THE FIRST FRUITS COMPANY.

So then, God is calling us as ministers of the gospel, every single one of us here, from the babe, right to the oldest person. God is calling us today. I don’t mean yesterday, I don’t mean the day before, I don’t mean your plans that you have, I don’t mean what your plans are for your life. I am saying that your plans for your life must stop right now. I am saying something that I

didn’t have the boldness to say yesterday, but I am saying today that the plans [that you have] for your life must stop right now if you want to be among the first fruits company. We don’t have many years left and God wants laborers in His vineyard. Hallelujah. Now, I’d say more about that, because laborers don’t just go and throw themselves into a job according to their size, like going into a vineyard and don’t know what to do, but I’ll say more about that later on.

Here this man comes to the tabernacle and he receives something. The first thing God does to you is to give you something. Without that gift of life, you would be of no use to Him. So, He gave you life and one of the things we should thank God for is, “Lord God, thank You for life. Oh God, I thank You for this way. Not life to kick down the door, but life in my SOUL that makes me acceptable to heaven. I thank You!” He gives us life and because He gives you life, He asks you to respond. Amen! He gave you something. Did you receive it? Do you like it? Do you want it? What will you do with it? What would you like to do with it? It’s yours. Life. Oh God, help us.

I see men take the life and they do so many things. Let me tell you something about the life. I’m preaching from Galatians 6, you know. For fear you didn’t hear. The life that He gave you is going to produce different things in different people. Okay. We put the life into the wires here and we get a fan going, but back in the kitchen there you have something heating up. It’s bringing heat instead of cool. In there you have the air conditioning going, in there you have the camera going, but all of them are receiving the same life, the same energy that was put into

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the light. So are you. You are all different types of things, bulbs with different shades of beauty and radiance and glory coming out through you and you have to be careful that you do what God wants you to do. That's why, if you have a church where everybody is telling you what to do, "You jump when I say to jump, you clap when I say to clap, you shout 'Hallelujah' when I shout." It's nonsense. That's what it is - absolute nonsense. "Shout, brethren! (Amen, hallelujah, yay, yay)!" Which god hears you? Which god hears you? I want you to shout when God sticks you in your side!! ☺ Like the brother over in Bloomington, when God moved him. He was very quiet, you know? And everybody was being moved by the Spirit and when the Lord hit him, all of a sudden he'd jump up and say, "Man alive!"

Yes. That's the way you move in God. You shouldn't be moving in God like, ooh, you feel good, and you're moving in God as you see them on television and they're all waving their arms and shouting praises. We want to see God move in you. Amen. We want to see God move in you and if you are afraid of moving in a congregation, then you respect the congregation more than you respect God. For if God wants you to move, you should move. If God sticks you in the side, you should shout it. You shouldn't hold it back.

The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet and I came in here and saw... Yesterday morning, for instance, when I got in here, what I saw was King David jumping and leaping and praising God. You were singing the song, and I saw David's thousand people just dancing with total abandon. Nobody was caring who was looking at you or if the camera was filming you at the right angle or whatever. They were just dancing with total abandon and that is the tabernacle of David. You hear the talk about the tabernacle of David. I intend to get into it with you, but the tabernacle of David was where they broke away from the strict, legalistic operation and worship of God. They took the covering off the ark and the people of God, when they saw the ark, the Spirit of God got on top of them, because in those days, the Spirit of God didn't dwell inside of people. The Spirit of God overshadowed them and they began to dance and the musicians were praying supernaturally, amen. I listen to your music, brethren. I'm not really criticizing it, but I am looking forward to hearing better. Your music, it keeps on going, "dudoomdudoomdudoomdudoom." There is no explosion in it. There is no explosive, nobody is anointed and just gets away on the instrument. Hallelujah. Praise be to God.

I am talking about David and his musicians. They were anointed! Anointed musicians. Take for instance, a brother mentioned yesterday

about David playing before the ark of the covenant that was going into Jerusalem. He began to dance and play. He had on the short ephod and he was dancing and playing and going into Jerusalem and Michal looked through the window. I mean, everybody else was in the Spirit besides Michal, you see. She saw his flesh. Nobody else was looking. Amen. And it's reported in the Bible (I Chronicles 15:29). Anyway. So, what happened was, all the men took their swords and their shields and were slamming their swords on their shields. They were just crazy, because the Spirit of God was just moving. Hallelujah. That's the picture we see. People totally abandoned, but you are so controlled. You are so controlled. You don't want anyone to say anything about you. You don't want them to say, "Well, you did this in the flesh." Who cares?! Who cares if I'm in the Spirit and somebody says I'm in the flesh? *What does it matter?* Amen. One day that person is going to find out who was in the flesh. There was Michal looking down from the window. She

AFTER YOU RECEIVE THE LIFE
FROM GOD,
YOU MUST RESPOND.

wasn't in the place she should be. Why was she at the window? She should have been down there dancing. Amen. She was looking down from the window and let me tell you, if

you are in the move of the Spirit, you are not going to be one to criticize. It is those who are not in the Spirit that criticize those who are in the Spirit. Amen.

And so, in the movement of God, God wants you to respond. Respond. He wants you to respond. After you receive the life from God, you must respond. Our response, then, is by the covenant of baptism. The covenant of baptism. The baptism is a covenant. Remember now, the first covenant was made by God with you. You were dead. Dead men don't make covenants. I want you to notice it. The life that Jesus gave you, He gave it to you while you were yet sinners. ***For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly*** (Romans 5:6).

So, when you get that life, that life in you is going to respond. The first thing I said was, "I want to make a covenant with this God. I want to make a covenant with Him." That covenant is baptism. You go down into the water and you say, "Death. Death to everything that is in me that is contrary to this God and this covenant. Death to everything in me, and I will rise up in the life of God." This is the covenant, then, that you make. After you make that covenant, God says, "I am going to respond." After you make the baptism covenant in water, God says, "I

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am going to respond to you. What am I going to do? I am going to baptize you in the Holy Ghost.” Amen. “Jesus Christ is pleased with you and He’s going to baptize you in the Holy Ghost.”

Now, I remember once we were in a meeting and we were preaching in Texas and the power of God came down, really, and the people lined up. They were coming for prayer. As we prayed for them, I would see different visions. One girl came up, she held her hand and across her bust there was leprosy. It’s like a light was shining on the awful leprosy across half of her, and I said, “My God. What can I pray for her?” What do you think God said? “Pray that she receive the Holy Ghost.” You would say, “This one has leprosy. That means it’s sin. She’s got sin in her life, therefore, oh God, just help her to repent.” That’s what you’d want to pray. God said, “Pray that she receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost.” When I prayed, the girl received the baptism of the Holy Ghost right there and that was the end of the leprosy. God doesn’t think like we think. We would say, “I have to be a nice person before I get the baptism of the Holy Ghost,” but in God’s books He saw her repentance and gave her the blessing to stop the sin from returning. In our thinking, we look first at the man’s sins and then judge whether we should work with him or not. We would say, “I am not working you. No. You’re a wretched fellow. You smoke and you take a drink in the back. I’m not going to work with you!” No. What he needs is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He needs the Spirit of the living God to cover him over, like waters cover the sea! Amen!

When the brother was talking about the flood and the people in the flood, for the first time, I took a note of it. The song we sing says, “The glory of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). So that means that the water is covering the earth. It is earth that it’s going to cover. Amen! Hallelujah. It is sinful man that is Jacob, not Israel. It’s Jacob He’s going to cover. The waters of Noah came over the highest mountains, covered the highest mountains. That means that when the Holy Ghost covers our mountains of sin, there is not one place dry. The Spirit of the living God is going to take care of ALL the problems. Cover it, oh God! So, because He did that, He called it a baptism. God called it a baptism, and all those who are baptized there in Noah’s flood had the privilege of being saved. So, when Jesus came He went to hell especially for Noah’s congregation, to bring them out of hell because they were already baptized. The Bible said He baptized them in the flood. Can you imagine it taking so long to die? First of all they began to laugh. Then the valley in which the boat was began to fill with water. Why? Because all the water from the moun-

tains was flowing down into the valley. They saw the boat, the Ark, rising, then they stopped laughing. The boat was coming up higher, they were getting up higher in the mountains. Everybody was getting up. Can you imagine? You had men there who were taking money to take people up the mountain. They were charging to take people up the mountain. Oh God! On the verge of death and eternity, and they were still charging. God said, as it was in the days of Noah, so it's going to be... It's right now! Amen. And so, the valley kept filling and people kept going up, going up, going up, until all of the nations were on the top of the mountains. Now there was nowhere else to go. Amen. Nowhere to go and they began to find water gradually rising. Gradually rising. Then people started praying. "Oh God, I wish I had listened to Noah." Amen. Amen. Amen. Time for baptism. They were standing on a big rock and suddenly the rock slid down into the water and the water rose. And gradually they died. Therefore there was ample time for repentance. Ample time for repentance.

I want you to watch with me the tribulation. The tribulation is coming from the east. You see how long it has been in the east? Do you see how long the people have suffered there until the church in China would be purified? I don't think you have one Chinese Christian left who is a nominal Christian. You don't have one nominal Christian there because to be a Christian, you have to put your life on the line! Amen. So it is that the church has been purified and is being kept pure by the constant persecution, and the destruction is creeping across the world. Some in our western world believe that we're going to get the whole world to be democratic. Democratic! So beautiful and democratic a world, but I'm telling you, it is only the means by which the destruction will be coming.

And so, the waters are creeping up. And suddenly big hunks of rock will be sliding down with some of us on them. All of a sudden we will awake and arise to see what God is doing in OUR time! Amen! We're so comfortable. It's hard to believe that this great Babylon will fall. We don't think about it. We are so comfortable. We are comfortable with our money. Brother Wilkerson says, I know, when I say, "Brother Wilkerson," he's not a member of this church, right? David Wilkerson is not a member of this congregation, but what God is doing is, God is speaking to people of different sections, because there is one section of the church... I don't care what we have, it doesn't matter what revelation that comes out in this building or in any of our groups, they would never listen to it. So, God has to get people to whom they will listen. God anointed this man and told him many years ago certain signs

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that are going to follow to the destruction of our money, our dollar. He said one of the nations, I don't know if he said a European or an Asian nation, will, first of all, go into bankruptcy. Amen. And when we see it come to Mexico, we know that it is here. Now, the point is that when it comes to Mexico, what are you going to do with your money? What are you going to do with your money? Even now it might well be too late. Right now, the church, the true bride of Christ, is suffering for lack of certain amounts of money. Some of us know where we could put a hand on money, but no, no, no, no - we have to save it, because, you know, "It's my pension." Brethren, you have no pension. You have no pension. You have no future as far as this world is concerned. God alone is your future! And He alone is going to help us! He alone is going to help us to overcome the circumstances that are going to come upon us and those of us who live by money. Remember now, one time I lived by money and I could not go out into the street, into the world without money in my pocket. For me to go out into the street without anything in my pocket would be impossible. Now I don't even remember that I have a pocket! Amen! If I have money, and somebody wants it, I give it to them. I don't even remember that maybe I would need lunch. Because God trained us in this hard area, we have been able to come and minister to you without thinking of the offering. What destroys most preachers is that they think about the offering. A man expects to get 6 million people to preach to, but he only got 1 million and therefore he complains bitterly. Blessed be to God! Give me the million! I'd preach to them free.

The Word of God is bringing us to the point of awaking. You know, when a man is unconscious, when he is asleep, he doesn't know what is going on. This is what has happened to this generation of people. We are asleep! We don't even understand the significance of two positions for judges being open at once in the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Two positions for judges, for the Supreme Court. We don't understand the meaning. God Almighty said in the Bible that He that letteth will let until the antichrist's time comes to rise up in the earth (II Thessalonians 2:7). So whatever we see around us, is a letting. It's a holy letting. Amen? Who knows if after that four might not die in an accident or something like that and make it wide open? What if that is God's time? So, we who understand and are a little bit awake might be discerning something "through a glass darkly." You know, sometimes you are half-asleep and you talk foolishness. Sometimes you're not fully asleep or you're not fully awake either. You talk a lot of foolishness, but if you are even in that condition, you should know that God is dealing with the people, with us now, as a people!

Now, we have the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the baptism of the Holy Ghost is to lead us into all truth, but why do we want to be led into all truth? So that we might be responsible. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. The more truth you have, the more responsible you are. Amen? The more responsible you are, the more trouble you are in! Amen. The more responsible you are, the more trouble you are in. God showed me that we could speak the Word and get certain things done. We begin to speak the Word, but we also become responsible if the thing is not done. The Lord sent me to Jamaica, and He said, "If my people..." This is the word. "If you who claim that you are called by My name, if you will humble yourself, and realize that you are nothing, and pray, I will heal the land, I will heal the land if you tell Me to do it" (II Chronicles 7:14). "Brother, I'll heal the land if you'll tell Me to do it!" Oh yes! Our brother said the corn was all blown down, but when he came back after prayer, he saw the corn had come up, the corn had resurrected. No matter how he tried to put back that corn to stand it up, it was going down, but then, the corn came right back up. I can believe it. You know why? The storm came and blew my orange tree completely out. Threw the orange tree from here where it was planted out to there where Brother Burt is sitting [several feet away], and the storm came and turned the other way and came and planted back the orange tree and the orange tree is right there now. I can take the picture for you if you want! So, when he was talking about the corn, I thought of the orange tree! Oh, sorry, it was a grapefruit tree. You might go there and say, "Oh, Brother duCille said an orange tree, there's no orange tree there." And that's the way some people say, "Oh, you were lying because you said it was an orange tree when it was a grapefruit tree." Anyhow, praise be to God.

So, the Holy Ghost comes in you now, amen? Remember now, with the tabernacle of Moses, the Holy Ghost didn't go into the people. The Holy Ghost was upon them, outside of them. So they couldn't help themselves. I don't know if you notice the difference between the ancient prophet and the modern prophet. The ancient prophet couldn't help himself, but the modern prophet, the Spirit is subject to him. "The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet," (I Corinthians 14:32). You prophesy... You didn't have to. If you didn't want to, you could have swallowed it. Maybe some people have it down in their bellies now, they swallowed what God was saying to them. Some of you did swallow what God was saying to you. So, the difference then between the ancient prophet and the modern prophet is that God would fall upon the ancient prophet. The prophet didn't have to be righteous. God would

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fall upon some of the wickedest people.

There's a man with murder in his heart. His intention was to kill David at all costs. He sent out three groups of men and God stopped them and he said, "I'm going myself. I want to see which God is going to stop me from using my sword on him now." And there he went, and the Spirit fell on top of him. The first thing he did was take off his clothes. He was a naked prophet now. And then he started to prophesy. Was he prophesying lies? No! He was prophesying the truth, but he couldn't help himself. He was completely gone. Amen. Like when a man has too much liquor and then he does things he doesn't want to do. He's gone, he doesn't know what he's doing. And Saul prophesied, but after he finished prophesying, he put back on his clothes and he went back to hunt down David to kill him. So, the prophecy didn't do anything to his heart. It didn't stop his heart from being wicked. Are you with me?

So therefore, now it is different. God gives the word of prophecy to the prophet, inside the prophet, and the prophet prophesies. Those who are preaching the Word, they preach the Word. Those who are cleaning the garden, they clean the garden. The same power, the same destiny. If you don't do one, you are as guilty before God as the other. If God said, "Come over here and work in First Fruits," and you didn't, you are as guilty as those who didn't prophesy when they should. This is a different thing now. You are the boss now. God puts the thing into you and you better do it. Amen. So, the Spirit of the prophet became subject to the prophet, but after he finished prophesying, God said, "If you have not love, you are nothing." We are walking a tightrope. We are walking a tightrope because no longer will your works plead for you before God. Here is a little child and the little child has the love of God in his heart and he is greater than the minister who is doing mighty things without the love of God, but we miss it! We take it the other way around.

...NO LONGER WILL YOUR
WORKS PLEAD FOR YOU
BEFORE GOD.

I remember, as a young man, I worked some time with A. A. Allen, this mighty evangelist. Billions of people listened to him. As I told you yesterday, he took a man's hand, the man's hand was chopped off. He took the hand and slapped it back on, "In the name of Jesus," he said. The man has two good hands. If you saw a man do that, wouldn't you say, "This man is great, this man is a mighty man of God!?" Not necessarily. God wanted to put on the man's hand and God just got a

donkey out there to come put on the man's hand, and it did nothing to the heart of the donkey. He didn't get saved. He preached a message and when he was finished preaching the message he was still a donkey. In Jamaica we would have called him a jackass, so, don't you understand what God is doing in the church? God wants to bless the church, and anybody who comes in His way He's going to use them, but beware and make sure that some of that blessing remains with you after you have blessed others. How do you measure the blessing?

Let us look at Galatians 5. Verse 17, *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* ¹⁸*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.* This is a very important fact that I want you to see. If you are led of the Spirit, you are not under the law. There is no law, no church regulation, are you with me? NO CHURCH REGULATION, NO CHURCH LAW, NO LEGAL SYSTEM can condemn you if you are led by the Holy Spirit.

I will tell you a story about Brother Wigglesworth, about one of the greatest regrets in his whole life. He died with that regret. He never got over it. One day he was praying for the sick, as usual. A woman came up to him with cancer. She had cancer in her stomach or somewhere like that. The Spirit said to him, "Give her a whollop with your right hand." He pulled back and boom! He hit this little woman and the woman dropped out there and her husband rushed up, the crowd had to hold him. He wanted to fight, but when they looked around, there was the cancer lying on the ground, and the woman was free. She did not feel anything, but this great regret in his life now came. He was ministering another day and there came another woman with a cancer and he, I don't know what happened, but he thought he heard the Lord say he should hit her in the stomach as he did previously. He wholloped this woman, but they had to take her off to the hospital. It wasn't God. Do you understand what I am saying? He that is led of the Spirit, YOU are the sons of God, and that means you are matured. What the Spirit did yesterday, He might not do today. For every case, He has a cure, and it might well be different from the cure He gave yesterday. Wigglesworth regretted that action for the rest of his life.

These men that I told you about, I've seen all of them, from Oral Roberts coming right along, all of these men, they lost in judgement. You know why? If you see me do a great miracle, wouldn't you think that I'm a great person? And you would be totally, absolutely wrong. The greatest one is the one who acts, lives, moves in love. He might not do a miracle in his life, she might not do a miracle in her life, but we

WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE HIGH IN THE LORD UNLESS WE ARE HIGH IN LOVE AND THE COMPASSION OF GOD IS WORKING THROUGH A PEOPLE. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU ARE GOING TO REALLY SEE GOD MOVE IN THIS PLACE, WHEN YOUR LOVE HAS EXCEEDED THE LOVE OF THE WORLD.

have put love on the back burner and put miracles and preaching and everything else on the top burner. The Word says he that walks in love walks in God and God in him, for God is love (I John 4:16). Don't let anyone deceive you, brethren. We cannot believe that we are high in the Lord unless we are high in love and the compassion of God is working through a people. That's

the only way that you are going to really see God move in this place, when your love has exceeded the love of the world. Our love is not up to the standard of our family relationship, and our social operations, love, connection, joining and togetherness. Amen?

For that reason, God put women in the church. Now, women represent the other side of man and this side of man is emotional. He puts within the woman a thing that you call "mother's love," which no man naturally has. He can have "father's love" but "mother's love" is something that we need to have a woman to teach us about it, and I'm not going to tell you, but they will manifest it. Amen. If that boy is the worst man on earth, a mother won't say, "Kill him." Mother's not going to say, "Kill him." Mother feels deep down somewhere, the Bible calls it the womb, the bowels of compassion, and that kind of feeling is something beyond what men feel. Men will have a mighty masculine compassion, amen? But they will want to smash the enemy that, "He pushed my brother," or my child, or so and so. However, this connection, it is a divine construction that is within the woman that gives her a feeling for her child and that feeling God describes as the racham (Strong's H7356), the womb. He said, "The womb, the bowels of compassion." He said, "As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him" (Psalm 103:13).

So, we find that we lack something. We might have other great abilities, but sometimes if you are legalistic, you are not at the same time godly. Can we understand it? We have got to go beyond legalism to find godliness, because all of us are worthy of death. Every one of us sitting here, we are worthy of death, and God is saying, "But I plead for you. I

give you mercy.” So, we are not where we think we are. If it comes to prophecy, we are above many of the other churches and groups, right? If it comes to revelations, we would say, “Oh, we are above a lot of people in revelations of the Word.” But we didn’t do that for ourselves, did we? And then, if it comes to love, we are not showing much. We are not showing much. God said to me one day, “If you can’t love the man, have compassion on him.” When I began to think of the man being dead, and going to hell, without my having even tried to save him, and instead of trying to save him, I was hating him, then you realize your condition and where you are, where we are.

I do not know if you can see it this way. We have had a lot of preaching and preachings that lift us up and sometimes casts us down, but God wants one message to get to our hearts. Love one another as I love you (John 13:34, 15:12). I heard us singing the other night about “I love You, Lord.” I just felt ashamed. I feel ashamed when we start singing “I love You, Lord,” because if we don’t love those people who we see around us, there’s no way that God will listen to us when we tell Him that we love Him. So probably we should stop singing “I love You, Lord,” until we really feel love for those around us. Not only those in the congregation, but those outside there, those sufferers out there, those sinners out there, amen, who will end up in an eternal hell, but for the grace of God. Amen.

And so, verse 17, *the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* ¹⁸*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.* ¹⁹*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* ²⁰*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* ²¹*Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* Those are not Christian traits. They are not Christian traits.

...THE FIRST PLACE THE LOVE IS
GOING TO MANIFEST IS AT HOME.

²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love.* Amen. We could stop right there. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love.* It means to say that, if I am baptized in the Holy Ghost, and I do not find love growing in my spirit and in my life, I am resisting the Holy Ghost. Are you with me? And the first place the love is going to manifest is at home. Amen. It’s going to

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS...LOVE

manifest on the one that God has given you as a partner. It's going to manifest on your brothers and sisters, your children. It's going to manifest at home. That's where love starts. Amen. Amen. You have a child that is out in sin, that's where love is. A child you have that is in sin, that's the one you must reach out to more than anyone else because love thinketh no evil (I Corinthians 13).

The fruit of the Spirit is love, and then, in that love, if you have love, you have joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Gentleness was not a quality of mine anyhow. I just had to submit to God to have a little bit of it. See. Gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness... "I'm so hept up about doing God's will, doing what God wants me to do, I forget to have some love for those who are around me." So, we are doing exactly what the church has been doing for some time now. Mighty works. Mighty works. Healing the sick, cleansing the leper, doing this, doing that. Where's the love? Amen.

Praise be to God. I think I'll leave it there.

Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I (Chorus)

*Love lifted me, love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, love lifted me
Love lifted me, love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, love lifted me*

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best song
Faithful, loving service, too, to Him belongs (Chorus)

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves,
He will lift you by His love out of the angry waves
He's the Master of the sea, billows His will obey
He your Saviour wants to be, be saved today (Chorus)

SEEK THAT ABOVE

Brother Burt Asbill

August 21st, 2005

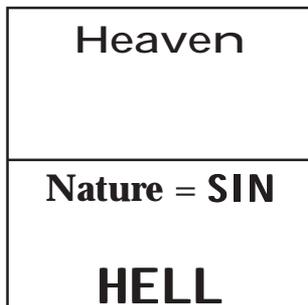
Mahomet, Illinois

I thought Melissa was going to preach the word this morning. I thought she was just going to go right from the children's word into the congregational word, but she stopped a little short. So, praise the Lord, let me pick up where she left off, if I may. I want to put her diagram back on the board, but I want to put it in a little different perspective. Let's put it in this perspective. Instead of it being side by side, let us make it one above the other, and we will call this hell, and we will call this heaven. Hallelujah. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and I think it fairly well demonstrates to you and me a perspective that we



need to have with regard to where we are, what we are, and the goal or the dimension to which God is calling us.

First of all, you might want to turn with me over into Romans. We are all born in the same position, at the same place, on the same level. We all have the same propensity or the same nature, and though it may vary from family to family, or from ethnic origin to ethnic origin, it's basically one and the same thing. It is in Romans where this thought is made very plain. I believe it's the 5th chapter that I want to read from, where Paul is beginning to bring forth the revelation of sin and death and its position of preeminence. He starts out by talking about Christ and the reason for which He died. Verse 7, *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.* ⁸*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* ⁹*Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.* We are all naturally born in the same place, with the same destiny, coming forth out of the same position; we were all born dead. We are all in need of a savior. There has to be some sort of consciousness and an acknowledgement



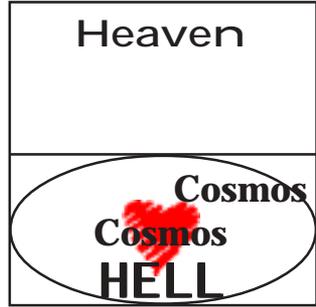
of that condition in order for there to be any change. Is there anyone here who got saved without the conscious awareness that they were dead? Or that you were going to hell? Hell is death. Death and hell are one and the same thing. It all has the same objective, and that is total, absolute, complete separation from God. What God says is that if you are separated from Him, you are dead.

Is there anyone here who was feeling, at the time of their conversion, that they were alive and still needing a Savior? Or did you feel the hopelessness of your situation, and the total futility of your circumstance, and in that need, and in that awareness, you reached out for something that was greater than what you had and greater than what you could do? And in your desperation you reached out to God! Hallelujah. We are all born with the same disposition, with the same nature. That nature is dead and it is called sin. Dead nature equals sin. It's not a thing, it's not an act, it's not a deed. The act, the deed is derived and finds its strength in that dead nature that promotes it, that generates it. Romans says that because of one man's sin, all have died (Romans 5:12). Salvation does not deliver us from the situation of death that we are in; salvation brings life into the midst of death. So, the environment that you have is life encapsulated by the nature of sin and death. The Scripture says that death is to be swallowed up by life (I Corinthians 15:54). So, salvation in its entirety is not just the new birth that we experience, but it also entails the development of that life as it displaces the nature of sin within us with the nature that is the new birth. I hope that you are following what I'm saying.

It's not a matter of just being good. God doesn't want us just to be good. God doesn't want us not to do certain things because we're Christian and we can't do them. What God wants us to do is to resist and overcome that nature of sin that we are born with, overcome it by the Blood that He gives us and the fact of our new birth. That is really what being born again is all about. It's really not a matter of going to heaven. It's really not a matter of working to get into heaven, because the Bible tells us that when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, heaven comes inside of us. Heaven comes inside of us. Isn't that what the Bible says? Heaven comes inside of us. A man wrote a song, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul." There comes an awareness of the reality of another realm, another nature. We become cognizant of another position of existence that heretofore we were ignorant of.

Do many of you remember your initial conversion? Were you aware, or did you have the sense or the reality of eternity prior to that position? Or was it just that you were aware of your trouble, your con-

sternation, your conflict, and your inability to cope? Were you just wanting some sort of relief from that position of frustration? I don't know, maybe your conversion was different than mine. I got saved within a system that had a theology that said you had to hang on until the end to make it into the place that was called heaven. Quite frankly, brethren, that is not Biblical. It is not a spiritual concept, nor is it the intent or the will of God.



The Bible says that we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5,8). The Bible also says that you and I, when we receive God, we are translated. We are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light (Colossians 1:13), though our natural environment remains the same, and the people around us remain the same. They can be just as provoking, just as irritating, just as aggravating, and just as obstinate as they've always been. Of course, it's always them and never us. But that isn't the point, that isn't the place, that isn't the concept, that isn't the reality of what God is talking about when He talks about salvation. Hallelujah. What happens when you get saved is that there is something of God that comes down into your soul. He doesn't lift you up, He comes down - He comes down into your personal hell realm. You have the cosmos out here that is a hell realm, but you also have the cosmos in here that is also as much a hell realm and as compatible with hell as Satan is with the hell that he created. It is into this environment that Jesus comes down. There's something of an understanding that the Lord is giving me with regard to some of these things. There is a verse in the Bible that talks about "He that descended and ascended" (Ephesians 4:9-10). I was thinking of a song this morning, "After two days, death's hold is broken;" first and foremost, something is broken, then it says that "on the third day," He what? "Raises up" (Hosea 6:2). Raises up where?

Let us look first at the verse found in Ephesians 4:1. Paul is talking about being a prisoner of the Lord, and he is talking about the nature that is needed for that position. He talks, in verse 2, about the quality and the substance of that nature, and in verse 3 he begins to speak about the tenacity and the determination that is needed to maintain the unity of the Spirit. In verse 4, he talks about the Body and the place that it's in, and the fact that it is our hope. He then says that there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism (verse 5). He goes on then, in verse 7, ***But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*** Every one of us is given grace. Grace is the ability of

SEEK THAT ABOVE

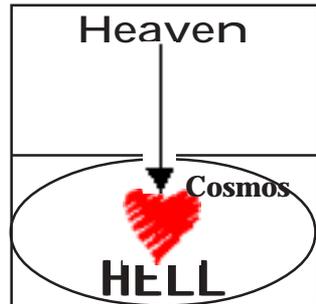
God's nature in us to circumvent the situation of our natural set of circumstances, both internally as well as externally.

You see, in the beginning the devil had a plan. The devil had a plan to usurp the position and the place of God's desire and make of himself the preeminence that was God's alone. God wanted a son. So, the devil took his position in the realm of darkness, thus creating an environment that is called hell. It was out of this environment that the devil began to administrate the work of rebellion and lawlessness. It was not to produce sons of God, but in opposition to the will of Elohim, he began to produce sons of hell. He thought that he had a decisive victory when he took that which God created to fill the position of authority, and caused them to move contrary to the will of Yahweh, to do what God told them not to do. Hallelujah. Stupid devil. Yet, sometimes I think we're just as dumb as the devil, because we do not seem to understand the ramifications of the outcome of some of the things that we do that are not consistent with heavenly thinking. Hallelujah. You and I have to be heaven oriented in our thoughts. Can you say that God is in control or in a position of supremacy and authority in everything in this realm, cosmos speaking? Now, I'm not talking metaphorically, I'm talking subjectively. In actuality, I am aware that the grand finale hasn't yet arrived, that day where the sons of God have risen up and taken that position of authority. That day has not yet come to a position or a place of fullness. What we are living in is in the day of the supremacy and the manifestations of the gods of this world who are working to compromise the plan of God in you and me. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ (Ephesians 4:7). Hallelujah.

Let me tell you, your position of tribulation is always going to be tougher, it is always going to be harder, there's always going to be more for you to overcome. The devil is going to be more conscious of you on the basis of the word that you and I are hearing, because you are a threat. If you ever grasp the reality of what I am telling you by the Spirit, if you ever come to a place where you begin to understand it, not in your mind, but in your heart before the Lord, you become an effectual, fervent weapon against hell. This is the truth, because you have a desire, because there's something in you that causes you to want to listen, or makes you come back again and again and again, and makes you want to know something more. There is a potential that you have that a lot of people don't have. You know, there are a lot of people who have heard this word, and for whatever reason, there are a lot of people that have rejected this word. They are not a threat to the devil. They aren't, they have been neutral-

ized. Those that are a threat to hell are those that hear the voice of the I AM and something that they have heard stirs them to know more about Him. They begin to wrestle with the fact of who they are in this natural realm, wrestle against that something that is in opposition to who the I AM wants them to be in the spiritual realm. Hallelujah.

Therefore, it is necessary for you and me to be people of vision, and we have to be people of faith, because the I AM is not going to take us out of this realm in order to perfect us. The Bible is quite specific in saying, "They (the heavenly host) cannot be made perfect without us" (Hebrews 11:40). It is not the desire of Elohim for us to be raptured out of this realm of darkness. Do you hear me? That would defeat the whole entire purpose of the plan of Yahweh. Yahweh is not interested in delivering you and me from a set of circumstances. What He wants to do is destroy the circumstances that created the problem in the very beginning. He can't do that if He removes you or takes you out of it. Hallelujah. You know, we are really rapture oriented in our thinking because we are always looking for that easy way, the avenue of escape, it seems, that pathway of least resistance and less pressure. But you can't overcome in this world without overcoming strong men, and to overcome strong men, you have to be strong in the Lord; you can only get strong if there is a program of exercise with due diligence that you apply in the midst of these cosmos situations.



He says, *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ*. So, in the midst of this environment, the I AM speaks a word to us, a word that comes out of the midst of heaven. Heaven comes down, and glory fills my soul. God condenses Himself into a Word and drops it into the midst of my eternal environment of sin and hopelessness. He brings this Word down and drops it right in the middle of my personal hell and it has the capacity to procreate Himself within this entity of sin with the potential of creating an entity of righteousness. Now, tell me, does this picture tell you something? I don't only have to overcome the world, but I have to overcome me. Unfortunately, when God saved me, He didn't deliver me of me. Have you ever found that to be true?

Let me tell you a little story. You've probably heard it before, but some of you may not have heard it. You know, I was very much involved in the world. One of the things that I had a problem with was that I was a very heavy smoker. I'm going to deal with the smoking

thing because that's what the Lord is bringing to my mind. I was a very heavy smoker and I had tried everything that I knew to quit. You know what I mean. First you quit buying, but then you start bumming. I tried everything to try to stop. Now, they didn't have the patches and the shots and all those things. They had little tablets and pills and stuff of that nature, and I did all of those things that they had at that time. None of them worked. So, the more I was aggravated by this situation, the more desperate I got. I began to talk with different people, (this was before I had my baptism in the Holy Ghost) and they said, "Well, what you need is the baptism in the Holy Ghost." Well, I didn't say, "Praise the Lord." I just said, "Well, okay." You know, that wasn't something that was in my vocabulary at that time. I said, "Okay, let's see about this baptism of the Holy Ghost." So, I began to earnestly seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But I want to tell you something. When I got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, do you know what? It did not deliver me of cigarettes. Now, some people have gotten the baptism of the Holy Ghost and, I suppose, have been delivered of their bad habits. I am sorry to say, maybe my baptism wasn't as good as theirs or as great as theirs, because I was just still me. I was still me, and "me" was a vexation to the me that was inside of me! So, I had to go to God and I had to begin to understand and get some information from God as to what was wrong with my scenario. Now, the devil came and he said, "Well, you really didn't get the baptism. Oh, if you did, you wouldn't do this, you wouldn't think that. Oh, you're not even really saved." You know. All of these things are talking to me about the place of my frustration with regard to the condition that I am in. The funny thing is, it wasn't until I began to cry out to God in the midst of my dilemma, that God brought me deliverance. I found that I had to come to a conscious conclusion that if God was not able to do something concerning this problem, I was not willing to live with it any longer. I had to come to this conscious conclusion. I said, "God, I don't want to live in this condition." Now, it wasn't only the cigarettes. There were a lot of things going on in my life at that time that were a lot of trash. I had made up my mind, "I don't want to live in this condition. If You can't do something about it, then I don't want to live; You take me. I cannot live in this condition." It was on that basis, at that place that God came into my life. Now, He delivered me of that insatiable desire. Those of you that never smoked, you probably don't know what I'm talking about. I want to tell you, though, there are other things that are just as bad as cigarettes and create just as much of an appetite as what I had for cigarettes. But God delivered me of that propensity.

There was also something else that I found out. There are things

that always go together. Do you know that? Coffee and cigarettes, oh my. Hallelujah. The devil was always putting me into situations that were conducive to smoking. Hallelujah. But there was always a covering that God gave me in those situations, because He delivered me. Now,



**God
doesn't want
us just to
hang on...**

He began to strengthen me, and as I began to grow in the Lord, to expand my experiences in God, and as God began to reveal Himself to me in this arena, it developed a desire within me to please God. The more that I desired to please Him, the easier it became to resist the devil. Now, you know, I could draw a great big heart and put little hearts all around it. You understand. Because this is only one area of my soul that God is dealing with.

As God began to deal with me, and I began to get strengthened, I began to come to a position of a realization of my heavenly destiny.

The church says it is just heaven and getting into it at the end of the day is the only goal. That's what the church says, and that's why the church has so much time and trouble getting there. Heaven is not a place or a destination; heaven is an entity. Heaven has a personality. Heaven has an authority. Unless you and I understand the concept of heaven in relationship to the God that is heaven, then it is not something that is of much value to you and me from this natural position of cosmos. "Oh, pray for me that I can hang on to the end!" You ever feel like that? "If I can just make it through the day." "If I can just get through this situation." "One more day, Lord!" Or how about, "One more step, God!" "One more minute, one more second!" Well, that's all well and good if it gets you to the next second and the next second, but there is something more of a reality that you and I have to come to grips with regarding the intent and the desire of God! God doesn't want us just to hang on, God wants us to be overcomers!

**...God wants us
to be overcomers!**



God wants us to be sons. Not... What do they call it? Pseudo-sons. He doesn't want us to be pseudo-sons. He doesn't want us to be imaginary sons. He's not like humans in

that He takes pleasure in teasing us. You know how they get these old donkeys to move, or these stubborn horses? They put that little carrot or that piece of hay out there on a stick. There's no hope of obtaining the promise of the thing that is out before them: that donkey will follow that stick all day long, or that ox will be chasing that carrot all over everywhere and never get it! That is not God, that's not the thought of God, and that's not the mentality of God. God wants to give you every good thing. God wants to give you every opportunity, every chance and every ability to manifest the thing that He wants to see. In fact, God wants us to be sons more than we want to be sons!

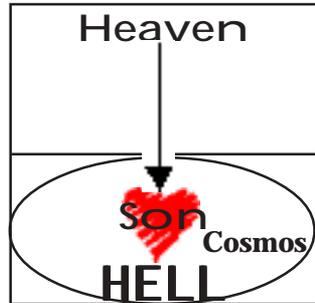
The problem is not the devil, if you can see it from God's perspective. In reality, it is the fact of who we are in relationship to the devil, because we're all born with the same nature. Do you understand me? We're born with the same nature. It's the nature that is called sin. Come on, brethren, it's not that I didn't love my mom and my dad. It wasn't that I had this vendetta against them or that I am part of their progeny. That has nothing to do with it. I have come to a conscious reality that this spiritual destiny, this magnificent desire that God has for me is more of a reality than this natural position of flesh. If God used this natural realm to bring forth the reality of the heavenly disposition, then this reality has had something imbedded, impregnated, injected into the substance of its being that desires something more than what I see around me. I don't care how you dress it up. I don't care if you give it a good house, a good car, good clothes or good food. I don't care how you dress it up, there's nothing about this realm that is comparable to the realm that is out here, because of what God has put in my soul, put in your soul. If it weren't for that, every one of us would be out there in the cosmos doing something other than what we are doing right at this moment. You are here this morning because of an entity of life that has been issued forth out of God into you, and it stirred something of a conscious recognition within your soul that there is something out there in front of you that is more important. Well, at least at this point in time.

However, the purpose of God is a progressive one, as heaven came down and filled my soul. As glorious as that is, God does not want this kind of environment to remain. What God wants to do is to illuminate the area of hell in which you were born, so that death is swallowed up in life. What does Isaiah 60:1 say? *Arise, shine; for thy... what? ...light is come, and the glory... what? ...of the Lord... is where? ...is risen upon thee.* Well, unfortunately, the glory of the Lord is more or less on the inside of us in many situations and many circumstances than it is upon us. The intention of God is to get Himself from the inside of

you to the outside of you. The Bible also says if that happens, what happens? The Scripture says kings shall come, to what? *The brightness of thy rising* (Isaiah 60:3). You know, He's talking about this place of existence that you and I are in, both familiarly and naturally. Oh, hallelujah!

All right. The Bible says, in Ephesians 4:7, *Every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of God*. By the way, if you were to go into the Greek and begin to examine that verse, you would find out that that measure, that gift, has an expandable capacity. Expandable in the manner which one would exercise like a muscle. I've got this muscle, and it is this little puny thing, and as I begin to work it, and work it, and work it, it gets stronger and stronger, and it expands in its bulk, doesn't it? So, there is an effect that is visual. You begin to change in the physiological arena, but you also find that you are able to pick something up that you weren't able to pick up before, lift something higher than you were able to lift it before. There is also a physical change in the aspect of the body with the exercising that you're doing. So it is also in the realm of the Spirit with regard to the salvation that God has given us. We are still waiting to get to heaven. Well, some of us are. Maybe not all of us, but some of us are still waiting to get to heaven, and that isn't the plan. That isn't the plan at all.

You know, it is amazing, but the vision that Jacob had at Bethel when he saw angels, doing what? Ascending and descending (Genesis 28:12). There was a means of traveling in the Spirit. There was that activity going on in the realm of hell into the realm of heaven, and vice versa. Aren't you so glad that God didn't leave us in darkness? It's not an afterthought. It was something that was in the mind of God from the very beginning, that gift of Christ. Now, you could say, "What is that gift of Christ?" It is the thought and the intent of God to have a son. So it is a SON nature that God wants to give us in lieu of the nature that is given to us at birth. But that thought and that intent of God is always in a position of conflict with the nature of Asbill. Hallelujah. Now, there is no camaraderie between these two people [God and Asbill]. I've got both of them inside of me. You talk about schizophrenic. I've got both of them in there. You know, the cartoonists, they were really more accurate than you think. You've got the little devil on this shoulder, and the little angel over here on this shoulder, and they're talking back and forth and bickering and fighting. The devil is



SEEK THAT ABOVE

trying to make him do this, and the angel is saying, “Oh, no, you don’t want to do that. That’s not good, that’s not what you want to do.” And you always see the little devil kicking the angel out the door or something. Unfortunately, that’s what really happens. Do you want a scripture for this? Romans the seventh and the eighth chapter. Both chapters



give an in-depth description as to what flesh is. Very simply put, it is, “Asbill = flesh.” I’d put some of your names up there, but you’d probably get offended with me. (Laughter) Oh, my goodness. Flesh is one of the attributes of Asbill. Asbill and flesh are synonymous! Another verse you could put up there is, “Inside of Asbill dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18). Yes, one of you is saying, “Amen.” Isn’t this great? Inside of Asbill there is nothing, there is no good thing. It’s flesh. It’s dead. Another attribute. It is flesh, and it is also dead flesh. Have you ever smelled dead flesh? Have you ever smelled it? Nasty, nasty stuff. That’s what we are, but we don’t think that, because when we look in the mirror we don’t see putrefying flesh. We see, well, somebody that looks pretty good, hair’s all fixed up, nice, clean-shaven, right? Clothes on straight, tie’s right, shoes shined, ooh, ahhh. Really looking sharp, sharp, sharp. We don’t see dead, dead, dead flesh! How about some of you girls? You know, combing your hair, putting on your perfume, fixing yourselves up to look nice and pretty and presentable. Looks pretty good. Of course, you probably don’t think that, right? You look in the mirror and say, “Yuck!” If you really thought “yuck,” you wouldn’t be here this morning! It all equals dead, dead, dead flesh and it’s dead! Do you hear me? Dead! All this can be labeled “the mind of man.” Hallelujah.

Okay, Romans the eighth chapter. Eight is the number of new beginnings. I’m sure glad he put in the eighth chapter, especially after the seventh chapter. You could really get depressed reading the seventh chapter. Hallelujah. But here we have the eighth chapter. And he says, let’s try verse 10. *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead*, hallelujah, *the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness*. Two entities, right? We have the nature of sin. Let’s just do it this way, if I may. The nature of sin. But over here we have life. It is Christ in Burt. May I use me, or would you like me to use you? It is life. Hallelujah! Are you getting the point?

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin... It’s

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Heaven | |
| Flesh | Dead |
| Mind of Man | |
| HELL | |

Spirit of Life

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| Heaven Nature of Life |
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| Nature of Sin HELL |
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Spirit of Death

still there. It's still all around you. It's still encapsulating something that is in you. Now, you think dead is dead, right? (No reaction.) But this is active death. Death is not something that is passive, did you know that? Death is something that is always working, because it's not a thing, it's an entity.

It's not an abstract thought. Do you understand what I'm saying? It's an entity. It's got a personality! Go into Revelation where it talks about death and hell riding. It says death was riding and hell followed after him (Revelation 6:8). It's an entity, it's a personality. It's got a nature and a mind of its own. It's got a destiny to fulfill. Do you think that that is a passive position? Do you think that it's a position of lethargy? Absolutely not. There is nothing passive or lethargic about death! He has a job! He's to snare you and me through the nature that is compatible with him! Loose 'em! Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The body is dead because of sin, but the spirit, the spirit! We're talking about the spirit of the thing. How many of you knew that when it talks about the spirit it's talking about the original thought of God? It is talking about the intent of God in the beginning. We put these little spiritual terms on things, and we really don't comprehend the magnitude of what is being spoken. ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*** Nothing in the world was created without the Word, who was God. And the Word ***was life; and the life was...*** what? ***...the light of men*** (John 1:1-4). Come on. We're talking about the entity, the reality or the thought of God manifesting itself in the midst of humanity. Can anybody convince you that you're not alive in God? Can anybody tell you, "Well, you really aren't saved. You really don't have an experience in God." Can somebody tell you that? And do you believe it? Maybe it's just a figment of your imagination, it's pressure, it's psychological drivel.

I read this testimony about this man who was an atheist and he always took pride in his ability to destroy a Christian's faith with regard to their salvation experience. He had this little girl working for him, she must have been a teenager, I think, or early twenties maybe. I don't know, I don't remember entirely. But he began to work on her. One day he said, "Well I'm going to give her the coup de gras, I'm going to give her the final blow." He said something to the effect of, "If Jesus is real, how do you know He's real?" And very simply, in a child-like manner, she said, without hesitation, "Well, because He lives in here" [her heart].

Her reply was immediate. She didn't have to stop and think about it. It was on the basis of her testimony that the man got saved. Because of her wisdom, though simple, no theological conjecture there, "Because He lives in here." "He lives in here." It confounded the atheist. There was nothing he could retort or retaliate verbally that would change the fact of her confidence, and her simplicity, and her sincerity with regard to the living reality that was in her. Because when she spoke it, she spoke life and liberty, and he felt the life! Hello! There was a projection of life that penetrated his darkness and struck a responsive chord, do you hear me?



Not only is it life, but it is also righteousness. Righteousness. All right, Romans 8:11, *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Christ from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if you live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit... We're talking about the ministration of heaven,

...do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Hallelujah. Now that I have read all that, I want to go preceded it. Verse 5, *For they mind...* Now, that word is in-it's not only indicative of a position of focus, but it's also about things. Aren't you compartmentalize things? At it's like taking off your



back up to the verses that *that are after the flesh do* tententionally there, because sition of focus, but it's also about things. Aren't you partmentalize things? At it's like taking off your

Christian hat and putting on your work hat. Or taking off your work hat and putting on your politician hat. Or you take off your politician hat and you put on your father hat, or your mother hat, or your grandfather hat or your grandmother hat. Or you take off all of those hats and you put your hat back on. That's really what it is. One minute I'm in me, and the next minute I'm in God. The next minute I'm out of God and I'm in me, back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. Paul talked about it in Romans the seventh chapter. He said, *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is...* where? Come on!



...in my members (Romans 7:23). What does that say for your members? It says that it is an environment of hell. You cannot separate things that pertain to sin out there and sin in here. It's all one and the same thing. The struggle that we have is not between you and the devil.

The struggle that you and I have is between what is in me that is sin, and what is in me that is God and the desire that God has for us to move in a particular direction. The sin that is in us wants us to be contrary to that move in that direction. We say, "We rebuke you, devil." It's all right to rebuke the devil if you know what devil you're rebuking. It was not by chance that when Jesus was addressing the religious organization, the hierarchical system, he called them what? **O generation of vipers** (Matthew 3:7, 12:34, 23:33, Luke 3:7). So much for the religious environment.

There was a thought that came forth this morning around my table. I love those little sessions that we have at my house around the breakfast table. Here we are, you and me. We've got this path that we're walking on, right? We're born in this condition. (Laughter) Oh, I love it. I'm sure that when you look in the mirror you don't see that, right? Well, nevertheless, Jesus comes into our heart, and our heart that was dead, now, all of a sudden, is alive. Maybe for some of us, the manifestation that is seen is... Oh boy, watch this. Maybe we get dehorned. Maybe some of your deliverances are bigger than other people's, and maybe you lose them both. The nature inside of you that caused that manifestation is still just as belligerent, still just as obnoxious, still just as anti-God, still just as contrary to righteousness, still just as self-willed as it ever was, and still just as "me" oriented as it ever was except for there's been a little fluctuation in the harmony of your body because

something went on inside of you that developed another consciousness, and now you're in trouble. Why are you in trouble? Because, there is now present within your being another law. Over here in our original condition of sin and death, we have certain hopes, aspirations, and desires that have set for us certain

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| Hopes Aspirations Desires Goals | Heaven Spirit Romans 8:4-10 |
| Hopes Aspirations Desires Goals | HELL Flesh Carnal Mind = Death |

goals, right? The goals are both immediate and futuristic. Do you understand what I'm saying? At the same time, over here in this arena of the newness of life, we find that the other me also has hopes, aspirations, desires that have an objective, as well as goals, both immediately and futuristically/eternally. Now, whatever is going on in this realm, it is working for this realm as well. Hello! Do you hear me? Whatever is happening in this realm, as far as goals are concerned, is working for this

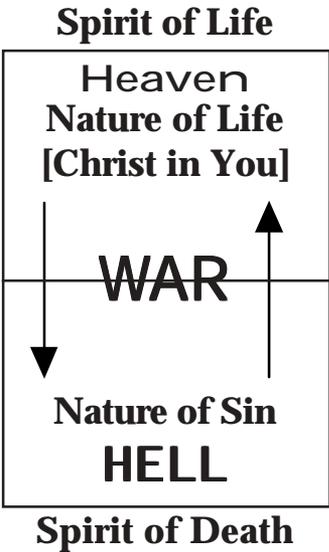
SEEK THAT ABOVE

realm. This is all hell. This is all heaven. I guess I should have reversed them, but that’s not the order in which they are presented to us when we meet God.

Now, let’s read about it. What I am doing is diagramming for you Romans the eighth chapter, verses 4-10. Let’s read it. Verse 4, *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* All right, we just got two more terms, *spirit* and *flesh*. Hallelujah. *5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.* Hallelujah. *6For to be carnally...* We just got another word, *carnal*. *...to be carnally minded is death.* Now, you might just as well put that verse from Revelation that talks about the rider into your reference list on this page of your Bible. Is it the pale horse? Is it the pale horse that goes forth with hell following after? You see, brethren, what this tells me is that for every action, there is an occurring set of circumstances. Are you following what I’m saying? It’s not that we just do something wrong, it’s that, the wrongness of our doing it creates a scenario that works out the intent that the action intended to do from the very beginning. Hallelujah.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because, what? The carnal mind, that mind, is at enmity against God, *for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* Most of us want a spiritual remodel. We want to keep the frame of the old and maybe just redo a few things in the old and call that Christian, or call that the will or the intent of God. God never intended for you to remain stagnant in the position of being saved. Hallelujah. God doesn’t want heaven to be up here somewhere. God wants heaven down here. He wants to displace the old.

7Because the carnal mind is enmity against God. There is a war going on right here. War, war, this is war. This is war. No quarter given. Do you know what it means, by “no quarter”? It means no mercy. I’m talking about this side in opposition to this side. Do you want a scripture for that? *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows* (Psalm



45:7). Hallelujah. There is no quarter given... This is war, this is war. No compromise. There's no compromise. The devil does not understand the word *compromise*. What the devil understands is that, if you compromise, he wins, because the devil is a liar. "Oh yes, you just do this, you can do that and it will be all right."

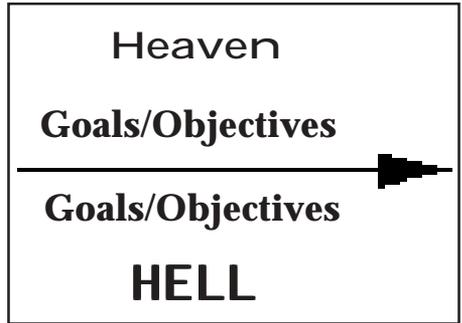
Many of you probably read Brother Martin Kluson's testimony. When he was a young man, we were there in the Czech Republic, I think it was either the first or second time we were there, and we were at a conference. We began to preach about the end time, about the overcomers, about the sonship message. Brother Martin was very confused or somewhat betwixt the devil and the deep blue sea, I guess. Maybe I'm putting words into his mouth, I don't know. But he took a walk out into the forest that was around the place that we were meeting in and there was this messenger from hell that met him. The messenger said to him, "You know, if you want to be a Christian that's okay, be a Christian. I won't bother you." He said, "If you want to be a preacher, that's okay. Go ahead and be a preacher, and I won't give you a lot of trouble. But if you want this message, if you begin to pursue after this message, I will kill you." Aren't you glad it was Brother Martin and not you? Why? Because the devil knows the reality of this set of circumstances. There's no quarter given, no quarter. No mercy in the devil. How many of you believe the devil is a merciful fellow? "Aw, surely you won't die. God knows that in the day that you eat the fruit you're going to be wise, and you're going to be good looking, and you're going to be prosperous and you're going to have all the things you ever wanted. You're going to be just like Him! You're not going to die!" (Genesis 3:3-4).

Do you know it's the same thing that the devil comes and tells you and me? In the midst of our circumstance, we're faced with a situation, a circumstance. Hallelujah! The carnal mind is enmity against God. There's no compatibility! Do you want another verse? John, the 17th chapter in the prayer that Jesus was praying, or the conversation that He was having with God. We're only getting one side of the conversation, you know. He said, "They are in the world, but they are not of the world (verse 14)." He says, "I pray that You deliver them not out of the world, but You deliver them from the temptation that is in the world! From the evil that is in the world (verse 15)!" How do we work out that position of deliverance, in the aspect of rising up in the Spirit to resist the flesh?

All right, I started all of this on the basis that we all have goals and objectives. Hallelujah. We all have goals and objectives. Right? This was something of an understanding that was coming to me this

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morning. The goal of this objective runs parallel with the goal of this objective. Did you know that? I'm not talking in just a futuristic sense, I'm also talking in the temporal realm. Like today or tomorrow, or the next day, or two days down the road, or a week down the road. I'm talking about the goals and objectives that we have that can work together because they're not in conflict with one another. All right, let me just use me as an example. As I did this morning, I'll share it with you. I wanted to go to Africa. I could think of all sorts of reasons that are spiritual, righteous reasons for me to go to Africa. So, here I am talking about going to Africa. I'm



walking along this pathway, right? I don't know how you'd illustrate that, but I'm walking along that pathway and there's no conflict. But the Word of God comes to me: I'm not to go to Africa. "But I want to go to Africa." "But you can't go to Africa." "But I want to go to Africa." There's no conflict until the goal here in this parallel is for me to stay. Over here in this parallel, the goal is to go. You notice I put it in black. "But I could do good. Oh, I'd probably prophesy, I'd probably preach, I'd probably see people delivered, I'd probably see order set in. I'd be involved in all of the counsel of God with regard to those that are going, and ministry and all of those things that are going on, and plus I'll be where I want to be!" But it isn't the will of God. Hello! So, what was good, and what could be good, and utilized as good or presumed as good, becomes what? Evil! Why? Because it's not in the will of God for my eternal destiny. Now, I don't know what it is that God works in the realm of me staying in this position, but whatever it is, I can trust Him that ALL things work together for good (Romans 8:28). Hello? And you know, there are so many things we do every day, every day, that have a similar set of consequences, either good or bad. The fact is that in our obedience to Him, it creates within us something that is un-erasable that would not have been there had we not submitted to Him.

I'll give you an example. You've heard it many times. Abraham was told to go up on the mountain and sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1-3). Do you think he wanted to do that? Do you? No, sir. Do you think that it was an easy thing for him to do? No, sir. Yet, he did it. He could have told his wife and let her persuade him not to do it by her emotional dependency, mental and otherwise; she might have even persuaded him

not to obey God upon the fact of the promise of God that had come forth from her. But he didn't. He did what? He stayed the course. He stayed the course. It was only when he stayed the course to the fullest that God gave him a release. It wasn't his thought, it wasn't his mental perception or his spiritual sensitivity to the fact of what the will of God was, other than the fact of what God told him to do. As he did it with all of his heart, all of his might, and all of his strength, it was God that intervened and stopped him! The word that He spoke to him was, "Now I know you (verse 12)." "Now I know you." Why? Now, all of a sudden, the omnipotent, all-powerful, first and last, Alpha and Omega suddenly knew the reality of who this man was! Because something in him at that moment, at that point in time was created. He did not have it before. Now, what would have happened if he had gotten up there and had decided he wasn't going to do it? He would have lost out. It's the same with you and me.

I'm going to close, but I want to take you back into Colossians, because that's where I started. I really was preaching to you out of Colossians. Colossians, the third chapter. I believe, now, this is my personal belief, but I believe it's God that each and every one of us have a destiny in the plan and the purposes of God. I believe that that destiny can be attained and achieved on a daily position of experience. It will not be without conflict, not without trouble, not without tribulation. It will not be without making some decisions that are uncomfortable and sometimes totally in opposition to everything that we desire or want. But I believe that we have that ability, that authority.

Chapter 3, verse 1, ***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.*** What we're talking about are goals, both temporal and futuristic. ***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*** ²***Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*** That's what we're talking about; your job, the things that you encounter in your home, all of the things that are going on personally and privately have an eternal purpose if we are looking at them with the right thought, through the right mind, using the eyes of the Spirit. ***...seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*** ²***Set your affections on things above, not on things on this earth.*** We're talking about goals. ³***For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*** ⁴***When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*** If you meet the qualifications. Verse 16, ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in***

your hearts to the Lord. That does a lot for a grumpy countenance. Verse 17, *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed...* Oh, *whatsoever.* That means cooking dinner, washing dishes, doing your laundry, sweeping the floor, going to work, talking to the people on the job, on the street, in the restaurant, the bill collectors. *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name...* Hmmm. ...*do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.* Well, if we're doing it in the name, we have to do it in the realm that is called heaven. Giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. All right. Then he covers, ¹⁸*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.* ¹⁹*Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.* ²⁰*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.* ²¹*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.* ²²*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart...* Singleness of heart! My goodness. ...*singleness of heart, fearing God:* ²³*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily...* Heartily. Don't you like that? Heartily. As what? ...*as to the Lord, and not unto men.* That's a mouthful. ²⁴*Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of your inheritance:* You remember talking about Abraham? His obedience to the Word of God, and his fulfilling of it, walking it out, step by step, day by day, in situation by situation, in circumstance after circumstance, until he came to a position or a place, to the culmination of all his deeds, all his actions, and the one final act of obedience? It's a little like Jesus Christ, don't you think? It says, "He learned obedience by the things that He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). Well, it also has the connotation of allowing. That means He had the power and the strength to not allow them. What does it say? Romans 8:3-4, *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled...* in where? ...*in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after...* what? ...*the spirit.* Hallelujah. Colossians 3:24, *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.* Oh, you thought it was some man you were working for because he had his name on the bottom of your check. That had nothing to do with it. ²⁵*But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.* I think we have an awesome responsibility. I also think we have a glorious opportunity. God bless you.

Precious Fruit of the Earth

Brother Hubert Manilla

September 18th, 2005

Mahomet, Illinois

We are very happy to be here. We have not been to this fellowship before, but we know quite a lot of people here through the Keeping in Touch. When I go to read it, it's like we kind of find ourselves in the Mahomet fellowship, and this is a good opportunity to meet some of the brethren whose names we find in the K.I.T. Bulletin. Brother Barak Asbill, we have never met before. Brother Femi, we have had opportunities to read a lot of your messages. I've known Brother Peter for quite some time. Sister Nancy, it's a pleasure to meet with you again. We want to use this opportunity to commend the K.I.T. team. In fact, the magazine has been a great blessing to us. We have been challenged by the dedication of those who have participated in its publication; we never miss a copy. When I was in Hungary, I first subscribed to it and started receiving the Keeping In Touch Bulletin, and it has been the desire of our hearts to contribute somehow in the production of this magazine, but we have not been able to do so. We never miss a single issue, and it always gets to us on time. I also would like to say that the brethren in Nigeria enjoy it very much. We commend you for the magazine, and ask that the Lord will bless you and strengthen you. You are doing a good job, and it is blessing God's people. Praise the name of the Lord.

I want to use this opportunity to introduce my wife, Oju. She's a nurse, and also, my sister-in-law, Ibi, who invited us to come to the States. She has been living in the United States with her husband, in Birmingham, Alabama. I think they have been here for more than 10 years. I tried once, I think about 6 or 7 years ago, to come to a conference in the United States, but I wasn't given a visa. So, this time around, she invited us to come. I said, "Well, let me just try." We prayed about it, then I went to the embassy with my wife; those of us from Nigeria know what it takes to go through the American embassy in Nigeria to get a visa for the United States. Well, we picked up all the documents, we had everything; in fact, you have to show proof that you will return to Nigeria. When we got there, the guy said, "I don't need all those papers, put them aside. Put them aside." He just took our thumbprints, and within 3 or 4 minutes we were gone. So, we really believe that God was giving us an opportunity to come.

We didn't know we were going to be here in Illinois, but as we

got to Birmingham, we called Brother Asbill and we told him we wanted to come around. We called Brother Cecil. We didn't know that there's a way that the brethren here have of working together. Brother duCille told us, "We are going to work it out," but we never waited. So, we tried to work it out our own way. We started trying to make a booking and all that. We said, "We'll come to Champaign first," so we made a booking on the internet. Immediately after we paid for it and made the booking, Brother David called and said, "You aren't going to Champaign any longer." Fortunately for us, it was one of these tickets that you can get a refund on. So, we got a refund, and Brother David said that he was going to make arrangements for us to visit Champaign and all that. We are very happy and we thank God for the brethren. I mean, I believe that within this short time that we've been here, we have learned so much from the brethren. So much.

You know, when you talk of love, you don't really understand what it means until you see love in action, and then you are able to appreciate it. We see the love of God in the midst of the brethren, and we see it working. At times, one impression we have is that it is difficult to love because of the hard times that we are in. The scripture says, ***And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold*** (Matthew 24:12). So, you find the pressures and the tribulation coming upon you, and you find out that you don't have much, even to take care of yourself, yet God expects you to love. At times you look at your situation, and you think it is really difficult, but here we see love working, we see it working, we see the life of it. We thank God for we have been very much blessed by the brethren. We pray that God will give us the grace to be able to pass this across to the brethren, not only just in words, but also in practice. Praise the name of the Lord. Amen.

So we are really very, very happy to be here, and, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share with you this morning. I have a word that I want to share with the brethren. I pray that God will grant you the grace to be able to understand me with my accent. Let's just begin with a prayer together.

Father, we thank You for every opportunity You give to us to fellowship with You and one another, and every opportunity You give us to look at Your Word, to hear You speak to us. We pray this morning that You will grant us ears to hear, and hearts to understand, that we not be just hearers only, but we'll also be doers of Your Word. We pray, Lord, that You will anoint our spiritual ears, Lord, that the trumpets will make a certain sound. We ask for bread for the eater, seed for the sower. This is our prayer this morning. I ask for utterance and ability to express that

which You have made in my heart this morning. Blessed be Your name. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Well, I have a lot of scriptures that I would like to use and I will try, as much as possible, to let my interpretation be very minimal, so that God can minister to each and every one of us as we share the scriptures. We are going to be reading a lot of scriptures and I don't know whether you are used to that, so it will be kind of like a Bible study. What is in my heart to give is a prophetic word; it's not new, but it's just to remind us that there is a rain that is coming, there is a time of refreshing that is coming for God's people. The scripture says that it is the former and the latter rain (Joel 2:23). Another scripture says that on the second day He will revive us and on the third day He will raise us up (Hosea 6:2). We are coming into the third day, and it is a day of raising up, not just a day of revival. Do you know what revival means? It is like when somebody has fainted or has lost consciousness and you have to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. You revive him and he starts breathing again. Life comes into him. He's still lying down there, but we are rejoicing that he's up. The third day, brethren, is a raising up time. The rain that is going to come, the former and the latter rain, is going to come at the same season, and it's not only going to revive us, but we are going to be raised up!

I am sure if we look into our lives we would see a lot of limitation. We are not what we want to be for God. That is

THE RAIN THAT IS GOING TO COME, THE FORMER AND THE LATTER RAIN, IS GOING TO COME AT THE SAME SEASON, AND IT'S NOT ONLY GOING TO REVIVE US, BUT WE ARE GOING TO BE RAISED UP!

why we keep on crying and crying and crying to God. But brethren, times of revival, many of us have not really seen corporate revival. We have read of it, we have read of the Azusa Street revival, and almost all of us here who are born again have experienced a measure of revival, but we have not experienced the mighty moving of God's corporate revival. You know, Brother David was telling me about his testimony, how God met him, how he got born again. There was an instant change. He couldn't do the things that he did before; there was grace. The things that we are addicted to go in just one second. That is the power of revival, that is the spirit of resurrection life, of the power of the Blood that Jesus brings into our life.

We know that, as Christians, there are still a lot of things that we

struggle with. It is like what our Brother Barak was praying, there are things that come through our ancestry that have to be dealt with, for we know that the scripture talks about besetting sins (Hebrews 12:1). At times we try, we work hard, we struggle, we cry to God and all that and God helps us in a measure. But we still know that we are not really where we ought to be. Even Paul expresses that place. He says, “The things I want to do, I cannot do, but those things I can’t do, those are the things that I find myself doing” (Romans 7:15). But brethren, there’s coming a revival from God. There’s coming help from God in the time in which we are in, a special grace from God that will lift us up and bring us into the place that God wants us to be. It says, “For the elect’s sake there will be a cutting short” (Matthew 24:22), there will be an enabling, something that eyes have not seen nor ears have heard what God has in store for His people (I Corinthians 2:9). Praise the name of the Lord! That is what is coming.

That is why we should be encouraged to press on, to follow on to know the Lord. To hold on, like our sister was sharing with us about tribulation. *Tribulation worketh patience* (Romans 5:3). We need to be patient. We need to hold on. We need to look up to the Lord. We need to believe Him. We need to have faith. It says some didn’t enter because of unbelief (Hebrews 4:6,11). When we read through Hebrews 11, we see these great men. Some of them never saw the hope of their salvation, but they saw a city that had foundations. They never entered into that city, but they held on because they knew that even beyond this life

THE SCOFFER SPIRIT COMES
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here, there’s a city. They were persuaded. We need to be persuaded, brethren. Beyond a reasonable doubt, beyond the thing that we see, beyond the circumstances of life, beyond the pressures, we need to be persuaded.

God is going to be sending us out. He says, “I’m going to send rain to every grass in the field” (Deuteronomy 32:2). Brethren, you see, when I think of it, I’m excited. I’m excited. There is a revival that is coming. There’s help that God is about to send to His people. You know, the scoffer spirit comes around and says, “Where is the promise of His coming?” Many have backslidden because they have tried and waited, waited on the Lord, waited for His coming, waited for grace, waited for help and they didn’t find it, and have said, “There’s no hope, I can’t make it.” And they backed out. But brethren, there is a time of revival, there is a time of refreshing that is ahead of us. That is why,

brethren, we should hold on. Now, this time, this rain, this time of deliverance is coming.

The scripture says that He is going to give the former and the latter rain at the same time. Well, I'm an agriculturist, as is Brother Barak. There is a lot of farm work going on here. But the Bible says that there are two rains, the former rain and the latter rain. In Nigeria we have two rains. Whenever the former rain comes, it softens the earth, the field, and then the crops can be planted. That is the seedtime rain, the rain that

prepares the earth and the soil for planting. You folks that are in agriculture know that when there is a drought, like you have now, here in Illi-

IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME, IF WE DON'T HAVE THE SEED OF THE WORD IN OUR LIVES, IF CHARACTER IS NOT COMING FORTH IN US, WHEN THE RAIN COMES ON EVERY GRASS IN THE FIELD, IT WILL BE THE SEED THAT HAS BEEN SOWN IN OUR HEARTS, IN OUR LIVES, THAT IS GOING TO GET MATURED.

nois, when it comes at the time when the corn is about to put on seeds and come to a place of maturity, there needs to be another rain. That is why, if you look at the big fields, when the weather is so dry and the corn is up, they will now start a massive irrigation process. That second water that comes is to mature the seed that is in the cob. I mean, it helps the cobs to fill up. That is what I call the ripening rain, or the maturing rain. Its purpose is to mature that which has already been formed, that which has been sown, to bring those seeds to maturity. That is what that second rain is all about. The seed of the Word, which God has been sowing in our lives, the character that you find within us, is what God is going to bring to maturity.

We all know about the virgins (Matthew 25). The foolish ones didn't have oil in their vessels, but the wise ones had oil in their vessels. When it was time, those who had oil in their vessels were able to enter. So, brethren, if we are not prepared at this time, if we don't have the seed of the Word in our lives, if character is not coming forth in us, when the rain comes on every grass in the field, it will be the seed that has been sown in our hearts, in our lives, that is going to get matured. If one has let the seed of anger and envy and all that in, that is what is going to come forth. In fact, in Nigeria we had a problem that brought a division in the church. There was a brother who preached a message about the

beast in us, about the beast nature that is in man. Well, some brethren felt, “How can you say a born again child of God has a beast?” The brother didn’t actually say that, you know, that we are beasts. But he said there is a nature in man which, if not dealt with by the Word of God, if left and fed with the things that we see in the world, can regenerate and get the man into a place of submitting to that nature of the beast. This, in turn, can cause that person to become an anti-Christ, when they submit to that spirit. It was this word that brought a division, but some brethren felt, “Oh, you are born again and that’s it; you don’t need to do anything, God has done it all for us.” We grappled with that and some brethren left the fellowship, there were some other carnal fightings and all that which was out of context with Christian behavior. But thank God, God sent us Brother Cecil. We didn’t tell him about this doctrine and this word. We all know he likes question time, so the questions came here and there, and he dealt with every one of them. He said, “What is wrong with a beast?” He gave scriptural backing for that. That answer kept that issue on the side. They brought out all their questions and everything was sorted out.

So, we are finding that God expects us to keep our eyes on the mark. God expects us to remain focused upon Him. It says the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force (Matthew 11:12). We have to press on. If not, we will actually find ourselves outside of the closed door. This rain, when it comes, will be upon every grass of the field. Every grass. The wheat will grow and the tares will also grow with it together (Matthew 13:30). Hallelujah. Brethren, that is why we need to hold on, we need to press on.

This morning, I want us to look at the Word on the harvest of the Lord and the precious fruit of the earth. The scripture says that the husbandman is waiting patiently for the precious fruit of the earth (James 5:7). Let us, first of all, turn to Isaiah 61:1, He says, ***The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; ³To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. ⁴And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.***

Now let's turn to Isaiah 5:1, *Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: ²And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. ⁴What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? ⁵And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: ⁶And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*

Let's also read from John 15. That is the passage on the vine. Verse 1, *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

RIGHT FROM CREATION, WHEN
GOD CREATED MAN, GOD'S
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Right from creation, when God created man, God's purpose for man was that he would bring forth fruit. Well, when we talk of fruit, what we're talking about is the spiritual fruits that God expects. This, our earth, is to bring forth fruit unto Him. He said to man when He

PRECIOUS FRUIT OF THE EARTH

created man, “Be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it” (Genesis 1:28). I look through the Bible and find that all the men that God selected, men like Adam and Noah, when God was blessing them, He also commanded them, “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 9:1). Abraham, too (Genesis 35:11). In the case of Abraham, there was also established the principle of circumcision. And we know circumcision has to do with reproduction and fruitfulness. I mean, our hearts need to be circumcised so that we can bring forth fruit. Jacob also had that same command from God: be fruitful and multiply. So, brethren, it is God’s purpose that we be fruitful and multiply.

If we look at John 15, we read that God wants us to bring forth much fruit.

IF THERE IS NO FRUITFULNESS, THERE
WILL BE NO DOMINION.
NO FRUITFULNESS, NO OVERCOMING.

God expects us, as His planting, to bring forth much fruit. He said we are the planting of the Lord. That is why Jesus Christ came, because we are the trees of righteousness and the planting of the Lord (Isaiah 61:3). We must bring forth fruit, because the husbandman is coming. All that is happening in Louisiana with Hurricane Katrina, and all the things we see, famine in Africa, troubles, war, we all know this is the indication of the return of the Lord. He’s very close. Brethren, we talk about the feasts and the ingathering. We know that that is the final feast and if the husbandman is going to come for the fruits, then that means that the rain will come before then, to ripen or mature the fruits, for the husbandman is waiting patiently, He’s just by the corner. Well, it’s good to say patiently, but I think that He is waiting impatiently. He wants to come into us. He wants to be revealed in us. He wants to have a people.

So then if we know that, brethren, we need to look at ourselves. It says to examine ourselves and see if we are in the Lord (II Corinthians 13:5). We need to look at our earth, look at the plants. Yesterday, we went around looking at the plants here on the farm. The peppers are doing very well; we see God is blessing this land. If you look at the land itself, the original soil, you find out that it’s very, very deficient and dry. Then you see the way the crops are growing, and it shows that the Lord is there. Moreover, you have irrigation; a lot of water is going in there, which matures the fruit. So, brethren, we need to look at our lives. Hallelujah. It’s only me that can know what is going on in my earth, and what amount of fruit or crop that I will bring forth. God’s purpose is that we will bring forth fruit, not just bringing forth any fruit, but much fruit.

Why is this essential? Why is this very, very essential? It’s

because if there is no fruitfulness, there will be no dominion. No fruitfulness, no overcoming. An impatient man bears no fruit except that of thorns and thistles. If you are not patient, if you are always murmuring, if you're complaining, if you're not steadfast, if you don't have this fruit of the Spirit, patience, coming up, then there is no way that you can overcome. I had the opportunity of reading through our Brother Femi's series on fruitfulness (Love and Joy 10/7/00, Peace 10/21/01, Longsuffering 11/18/01, Kindness 12/2/01, Goodness 12/16/01, Faith 12/30/01, Meekness 1-27-02, Love 3/3/02 in Keeping In Touch). You dealt with each and every one of them - joy, peace, longsuffering, etc. and it blessed us. I think that that is the Word of the Lord for us. We need this thing, because if we're not fruitful, we cannot overcome. The man who does not have self-control cannot overcome the pleasures, the lust of the flesh. I think that's the problem that young people have. So, without fruitfulness, there is no way man can exercise dominion over this earth. So He says, "Be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it."

By the way, I believe that marriage is overcoming. God brings two people together; two shall chase ten thousand (Deuteronomy 32:30).

WHEN TWO PEOPLE COME TOGETHER,
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It's overcoming. But we find, in our own environment and all over, people who get married have a lot of things to take care of. There is no time together for fellow-

ship, there is no time to do the will of God because of your marriage. That marriage is under attack. A marriage that is under God... When two people come together, they have the ability to overcome the things that they have not been able to overcome up to that point of getting married. They have the ability to overcome the ancestral spirits on both sides and all the things that they carry. The two come together and are able to overcome for those who are coming after them. They will even be able to overcome for the families from where they came. I think there's a purpose. So, fruitfulness brings that. We also remember Genesis 3:15 where it says the seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent. The seed of the woman, the man-child that comes from the church, is going to bruise the enemy. The seed is the fruit of the church. That is what is going to be with the man-child.

We also know that in Matthew it talks about the Kingdom of God. Let's read that. Matthew 21:33, *Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: ³⁴And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. ³⁵And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. ³⁷But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. ³⁸But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. ³⁹And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. ⁴⁰When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? ⁴¹They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. ⁴²Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? ⁴³Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.*

I am sure we also know the parable of the fig tree. When Jesus came, He saw the fig tree. It was actually not the time of ripe figs, right? But the fig tree had leaves, it had everything to show that at some point, there would be fruit on it. And when Jesus came, and saw no fruit on it, he cursed that tree and it withered (Matthew 21:19). There are times when you find Christians who have everything, who have leaves. In Nigeria there are people who are unbelievers, but when they come they have the language, you know. When they talk it is, "Praise the Lord." "Brother, how are you doing?" "Oh, the Lord is good!" They just come into your midst and they have the leaves, showing everything that they have to show you. That gives you the impression that they are Christians. All right? But they have no fruit. No fruit. The scripture says that there will be great deception in the times in which we are in (Luke 21:8). That's why we need discernment. It's by their fruits we shall know them (Matthew 7:16,20). I think that that is very, very, very important for this time - we need the help of the Spirit of God together to be able to discern.

First of all, we talked about the fruit. The scripture talks about the fruit of righteousness. Then there is the fruit of the lips. You know,

there are different fruits that the scripture talks about. Let's just look quickly at Galatians. I'm not going to go through that, because I think that you have heard an elaborate teaching on that. But let's just go through that to remind ourselves. Praise the Lord. Galatians chapter 5. It's good to read the scriptures so at times it reminds us. It's like it refreshes us. Okay, let's read from verse 16, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* ¹⁸*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.* ¹⁹*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* ²⁰*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* ²¹*Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* ²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³*Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* ²⁴*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ²⁵*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

You have had so much teaching about it, but I think that God expects us to let this become flesh in us like today, when the sister was speaking to us about tribulation. There was a brother somewhere who

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lost his mother-in-law in a very bad boat mishap in the river. During the burial, there was a message that all things worketh together for good. It was difficult for the brethren to accept

that, because that was a very hard, trying time. But brethren, God needs to bring us to the point where we know beyond any reasonable doubt, where we are persuaded in every situation, no matter how difficult it is, we are persuaded that all things worketh together for good to them that love God (Romans 8:28).

God wants to see longsuffering in us. God wants to see patience. In fact, looking at all these things, it speaks of character. I liken it to the oil that we have in our vessels. God doesn't expect that only when the anointing is there, when the Spirit of God is there, or when we are in a good fellowship and it is easy to love and to be patient with the sister and all that. But when we get out there, when things are hard, when we find

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stress there, or when we find anger just coming up, God will expect that in every situation, when we are in the heat, that we manifest this character of God. Hallelujah. That is the fruit of the Spirit.

The scripture talks about the fruit of righteousness. Then there is also the fruit of the lips. It says to give thanks to God in everything (I Thessalonians 5:18). Give praises to God. At times when things are difficult, when we're not able to react, we just murmur, we complain, we grumble. God expects us to not grumble, but to give Him thanks in every situation in which we find ourselves.

The scripture also talks about the fruit of repentance (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8). In fact, I think that that is one thing that is lacking, that I find lacking in the Body. We don't have that repentance. In fact, repentance

REPENTANCE IS AN IMPORTANT VIRTUE. REPENTANCE IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN KEEP US IN LINE, KEEP US MOVING. WE NEED IT. BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PERFECT YET, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT ARRIVED, WE NEED IT.

is an important virtue. Repentance is the only thing that can keep us in line, keep us moving. We need it. Because we're not perfect yet, because we have not arrived, we need it. WE NEED IT. When the Spirit of God nudges us that this thing we've done is wrong, we can fall before the Lord, like David, and say, "God..." - in fact, that was the salvation that David had, and that was the only thing that set him apart for God. He was a humble person, who was ready to fall before God and repent. I think that the church needs it in the times in which we are. So, we need repentance.

I would like us to read in II Chronicles 7:12, *And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.* ¹³*If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;* ¹⁴*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* I think that God's people in America need to begin to pray like Daniel. We may not have contributed to the things that are happening in the United States, or in the world all over, but because we are citizens here, because it pleased God to cause us to be brought forth here in this city, we, like Daniel, have to be part of what is happening. We need to begin

to pray. This scripture makes it clear that we owe a responsibility to this land. We in Nigeria have a responsibility to Nigeria. We as Christians have the responsibility to pray for the whole world. I think that God's people need to pray. We hear in the news of what the United States is going through, but we believe that God's people, if we pray... It's not the kind of prayer that is being organized now. You have it on the television, and you find it all over. Well, I'm not saying it's not good, but it's a kind of organized prayer on the television. You have people in different states, they come online, and they just pray routine prayers, you know? I'm not talking of that, but I am talking of a prayer that comes from a repentant heart, God giving that spirit of repentance. It is a gift that God pours upon His people and we can bow down and pray for our nation and confess the sins of our people and ask God to forgive. God says He will forgive us and He will heal our land.

I think we need to do that so that we'll be able to separate that which is the hand of the Lord upon the nation, and that which the enemy is bringing. You know, at times the enemy cashes in. If there is any open door, he cashes in and he tries to destroy. So, God expects the fruit of repentance.

Now, today the burden I had is not about this or that fruit, but the fruit of the earth. The scripture talks about the fruit of the earth. James talks about the husbandman. Let us look at it. James 5:7, ***Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*** The fruit mentioned in Galatians is all part of this fruit of the earth. But this fruit of the earth, I believe, is the product that comes out of this other fruit of the Spirit, of which we are talking. So, God wants the end product. Let's just read some other scriptures to support that. Let's look at Matthew 24 and we will see in a short while why this fruit is very, very important. Matthew 24:32, ***Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: ³³So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. ³⁴Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.***

What I want to do is establish this precious fruit of the earth. Joel 2:23, ***Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. ²⁴And the floors shall be full of wheat,***

and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵*And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.* ²⁶*And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.* Now, it says the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. So, we have the wheat, the wine, and the oil. So, the precious fruit of the earth that we are talking about is the product of the fruit of the Spirit, which is the wheat, the wine and the oil.

Let us look at Revelation 6:1, *And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.* ²*And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow;* You know, that's speaking of the antichrist. *And a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.* ³*And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.* ⁴*And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth...* You know, that's blood and war, the rumors of wars that we have. *...and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.* Now, in Matthew chapter 24 the scripture talks about wars and rumors of wars. Then in verse 5 it says, *And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse...* The black horse speaks of famine. *...and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.* We know that there is famine all over the place. In fact, this passage, you can compare it with Matthew chapter 24, which talks about the signs of the end time. Verse 6, *And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not...* The what? *...the oil and the wine.* Let us look at Revelation 14:14, *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.* ¹⁵*And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.* ¹⁶*And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.* ¹⁷*And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.* ¹⁸*And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle,*

and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

Now you see the wheat again and you see the wine. God is coming for the wheat, the wine and the oil. They are supposed to be products of the fruit of the Spirit which we have. Now, why is this very important? If we look at the Old Testament, it talks about the offerings, and we find out that there is only bread. We don't have time, but if you look at Leviticus 23:9,13 and also Numbers 15:4-10, it talks about the offerings. If you look at those passages, you find out that what has to be offered is the bread, baked unleavened bread, and they had to bring wine. In baking the bread, it said the bread had to be baked with oil. Now, what is the significance of this? Brethren, the bread speaks of the Body of Christ, and the oil speaks of the anointing. When the bread was being made, there was some kind of oil that was added, along with many other ingredients. But brethren, it was the oil that held the bread together. You know Psalm 133. How blessed and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together. The oil upon the head flows down. So the oil is important. And when we talk about the wine... You know, Jesus said, "This is My blood." He took up the cup and said, "This is My Blood" (Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24). In that communion, He said, "I'm not going to drink of this cup again until I'm in the Kingdom." Hallelujah. I don't know whether you're getting what I'm trying to say, but brethren, this is what God is expecting. Where the Word speaks of the field being harvested, the wheat taken into the barn and the tares bound and thrown in the fire, God's people are being harvested. God has a great harvest coming. But God is not only interested in the harvest, the wheat. Hallelujah.

CHRISTIANS NEED A
GOOD MEASURE OF
TRIBULATION.

Well, how does bread come about? Let's just go through that. First of all, you get the wheat. Well, these days you have brown bread, where you see that part of the chaff is included. When the flour is being prepared, the wheat is sent to the threshing floor. It is threshed and the chaff of the wheat is released and blown off. Hallelujah. Every one of us, as Christians, go through tribulation. Every one of us needs to be threshed. If not, we cannot be part of the Body. What God is doing at this time is preparing Himself a Body. All that God is doing, all His interest - He's not interested in a one-man ministry, a one-man show, a one-man preacher. God is interested in the Body. That is why God has to pass every one of us through fire. The passage says, "Who shall abide the day of his appearing? It's like refiner's fire, like a fuller's soap"

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(Malachi 3:2). Every one of us needs a good measure. Let me not just say a measure, Christians need a good measure of tribulation. That is what threshes us because if we are not threshed, if God does not put us on the threshing floor, we cannot be fruit for the Body. And you see, there are many who just come into fellowship, they stay for awhile and then walk away.

It is like Esau and Jacob. You know, Esau was interested in the goodies of the house. He came in and said, "I need food, I need food, I need food." I think we're like that, like Esau when we come into the church. But Jacob was the son of the house. He stayed in there, he took responsibility for the thing that happened in the house. He was always there. He didn't look out, because he knew that his source of life was from that place. Esau sold his birthright (Genesis 25:29-34). "Food, food, food." He sold his birthright and when the time came, when he needed it, it was no longer available to him. You see, timing is very, very important. I want you to look at that passage in the Bible where it tells us about the power of choice. He chose food and gave up his birthright. You know, there are many who just come into church, and they sit at the back, and get the goodness of the house, get the good message, and when there is prayer, they receive the prayer and off they go. They are not interested in the house, what is happening in the house. Praise the name of the Lord.

We all as Christians need a measure of threshing, and God has put every one of us on the threshing floor to take away the chaff so that we can be fitted for the Body. When God has done that, when all the people are threshed, God will bring us together. And what does He want to make out of us? He wants to make flour out of the grains of wheat. When the bread has been made, we cannot see Brother Peter as a separate grain. He loses his identity and Brother Femi will lose his identity. In other words, we lose our identity because God is going to put us in the milling. So, that is the milling process. Every one of us are crushed and milled together into flour. When we have finished that, there is the dough making. Sister Stephanie has a machine where you put in the flour, and you add some water, oil, and other ingredients to it and the machine will mix it. That is a corporate time of tribulation. That's corporate. Every fellowship, every local body, has to go through this corporate dough making. Every fellowship has to go through a time of tribulation. That is what brings us together. In the making of that dough, there is oil in it. There's oil. God passes the fellowship, all together, into this process. And then, that is not the end of it. There is the oven experience.

There is the oven experience for the fellowship. A fellowship

cannot stand and fulfill God's purpose for that locale without it. In Nigeria, Brother Cecil brought us a word about contending with the spirit of the land. You know, in Nigeria - well, our brother Femi is from Nigeria - we have different areas, different tribes. Brother Charles, you are also from Nigeria. Different communities have their gods. They have ruling spirits. They rule in their different areas. I've also been in Hungary, and I know that there is a spirit that is ruling in Hungary. I believe that every community, every environment, has a spirit that rules. You know, I was telling the Hungarian brethren, I said, "I can't overcome for you. You have to rise up and overcome this spirit." God sets the local body, the local church, in a particular area so they can contend and overcome the spirits that are ruling in that environment. That is why God will pass us through this oven experience, hallelujah, so that together we will be strong. No man will say, "What I have belongs to me." There are many brethren going through difficult times.

A lot of brethren are suffering because they have not discerned the Body of Christ. In fact, when I read that scripture and it says that some are sick, some die, you know, I say, "Well, maybe that is being spiritually sick and maybe dying spiritually (I Corinthians 11:30)."

Yes, it means that. But brethren, I believe that it is also physical. There are many brethren who are going through difficult times because they

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have not been able to discern the Body. When we leave the Body, we leave the covering and the enemy can come in at any time and ravage and destroy and bring sickness. I believe that the church of God, the Body of Christ, still has a time of baking, oven experience, fire experience to pass through. The Body is still fragmented. God has to deal with local bodies, and then when the local bodies have been dealt with all over, He will bring them together. It's a unity of the Spirit, and not a unity... When you have people come together, there are some that say, "Let's get together, let's love, that's the way we experience love here," it is something you just experience, you cannot act it out like the Esther play. You can't act out love. You find out that even if the people are here, maybe a local body is here in Champaign, and you have another one in Illinois, but they are one in the Spirit. But what you find is that even in the local body we are really not one.

So, the Body of Christ still has the oven and fire baking experience that God is going to pass us through. And that is what is going to bring us into one real bread, where we find that the different grains, the wheat and all that, cannot stand singly. And it is done. Jesus said, “Look, I am not going to drink of this cup, I’m not going to eat of this bread until I come in the Kingdom” (Matthew 26:26-29). We are now going to become bread for Christ, the Body, true bread without leaven, for Christ to break and be able to give to the world. And then the wine, which is His blood, which is His life. You know, we sing that song, “Let the life Blood of Christ flow into us.” It will truly be the lifeblood that will be able to flow through us, we will be able to have the life of God flowing through us.

Now, what do we have to do? We have a part to play. Well, like in the case of the rain, the scripture says, “Ask for rain in the time of the latter rain, and God will make bright clouds” (Zechariah 10:1). He said He’s coming back in the clouds (Matthew 24:30, 26:64). The scripture talks about clouds without water (Jude 1:12), but this time the scripture is talking about bright clouds with water. These bright clouds are going to be men who have the anointing and the Word of the Lord to refresh God’s people, every grass of the field. Hallelujah!

Now, for us to be part of this we need to bear fruit. Let’s go to that scripture, John 15:2, ***Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*** So, if we are bearing fruit, we should be ready for more purging. It’s interesting. If we are not bearing fruit, we are chopped off. Like our sister told us, if we are not ready for tribulation, God will say, “Go have your life and take your time, enjoy the world.” The picture I always had in my mind is, if we are not in Christ, we just become a feast for the enemy. He comes for the Christian; he comes for life. When he comes and he’s hungry, he wants the food ready. You know, he goes back there and then he just takes a little bit to satisfy himself, and then goes to where he can get the life.

So, if we are bearing fruit, brethren, there are times when we get into situations where we begin to wonder and say, “God, why? I’m doing all that I can to give my life to You, and yet there’s this pressure.” I think it is because we are bearing fruit. So, when we see hard times on us, brethren, we should know that God is purging that branch that is bringing forth fruit that it might bring forth much fruit. That is one thing that we have to be ready for. We have to be ready to submit ourselves to God’s purging, as God has told us this morning. Secondly, a fruitful life is a life of continual dying. Paul said, “I die daily” (I Corinthians 15:31).

We must have that mind of dying daily. We must have a mind that is ready to die, an attitude of somebody who is ready to be put down. You know, it says a dead man does not have any problems. If you kick him around, it doesn't matter. You can pinch him. I mean, we should have that attitude. Remember that scripture that says that except a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die it abideth alone (John 12:24)? Jesus Christ is a pattern or example for us. We have to have that attitude of being ready to die every day. In fact, there are situations that God brings our way to kill us. There are people who say, "God, kill me." So, we wonder, does God kill people?

God wants our flesh to be put down so that we can live. You know that passage that talks about abiding in Him? If you must live, you must abide in Him (John 15:4-5). If you want to bring forth fruit, if you want to bring forth wine and grapes, then we must make an effort to abide in Him continually. Trust in Him. It says we must follow on to know the Lord (Hosea 6:3). You know, there are some Christians that give up very easily. Brethren, we should not be of those. We are not of them that draw back unto perdition, but we are of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:39).

In summary, I want to encourage the brethren. You know, we've said that God is going to pass the church through this fire experience, this baking experience, so that we might become true bread when He comes back, true bread that He can break and that we might become wine. Well, I didn't talk about the wine. You know how they make wine. They bring the grapes and put them in a winepress, and they have to go through a lot of pressure to be able to squeeze the wine out of it. So He says He's not able to have this again until the Kingdom. Our desire should be to be part of this bread. That means that there is no one-man show. That means that a place of safety is in the Body. That means that we have to go with the Body, that we have to submit. We have to be part of the local body, submitting to all the pressures, all the difficulties, because the enemy now is coming against the Body of Christ. That is what is going to make the Body. At the same time, we should not forget that God is about to send us help. There is a revival that is just around the corner, something unprecedented, something we've never seen before. But He's sending us divine help and that help is going to lift us up to the place that God desires us to be. I just pray that this Word will just bless our hearts. Amen.