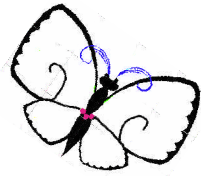
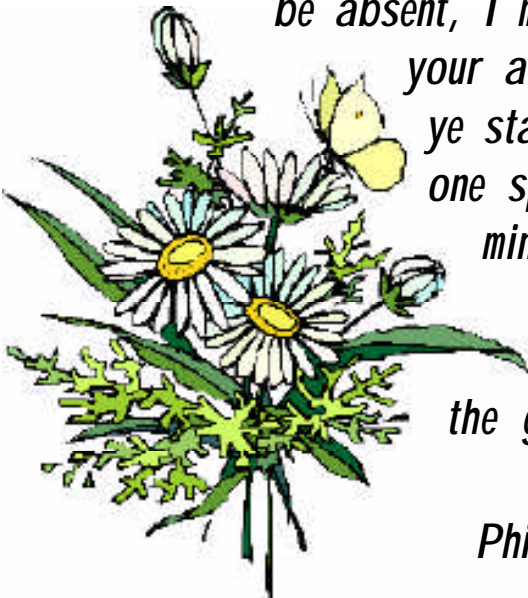


July 26, 2005

# Keeping In Touch



*whether I come and see you, or else  
be absent, I may hear of  
your affairs, that  
ye stand fast in  
one spirit, with one  
mind striving  
together for  
the faith of  
the gospel;*



*Philippians 1:27*

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12

## *Info Center*

Dear Brethren,

June 26, 2005

It seems sometimes that the devil and his minions never rest, and that being the case, neither should we! Just in case you're feeling a little sleepy and dull in your spiritual fight, we have included two excellent words brought by Brother Burt Asbill that will get you back on your spiritual feet and ready again to fight the good fight of faith. We also have testimonies from a couple of the K.I.T. staffers that will give you more food for thought as we all strive to overcome our Adamic natures. We'd like to draw your attention to the cookbook announcement as well, and encourage you to order one! Some of the ladies on the K.I.T. staff have been trying out the recipes already and have found many of them to be quite tasty!

Remember, if you have or would like to submit anything to us, please send it to:

**News Bulletin, PO Box 409, Mahomet, IL 61853**

or you may reach us via email at:

**[KITBulletin@truevine.net](mailto:KITBulletin@truevine.net)**

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# The Cookbook Is Here!

At long last,  
we've finished...  
gathering the recipes,  
sorting the recipes,  
editing the recipes,  
putting them in order,  
adding all the pretties,  
figuring the layout,  
finding a printer for the cover,  
deciding on a title,  
designing the cover,  
printing all the master pages,  
re-editing the recipes,  
printing out the master pages (again),  
shipping it all to Schuyler to print and put together...  
then, re-figuring the layout,  
printing out the master pages yet one more time,  
re-shipping it to Schuyler...  
and the cookbook is finished!  
We hope you like it!

If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please send:

Your Name

Address

and \$10 per cookbook, plus \$2 per cookbook for shipping, to:

News Bulletin

PO Box 409

Mahomet, IL 61853 or

buy them direct at the July 4 Convention in Mahomet.

Make checks or money orders payable to: News Bulletin



# THE LOGOS & THE RHEMA

BROTHER BURT ASBILL

MAHOMET, IL DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2002

I appreciated the children's word this morning. As our sister was sharing this morning, there were a lot of different scriptures that were coming to me concerning the Body of Christ and the place that we are in. Principally, I believe the Lord is going to be talking out of II Samuel. I'm not going to take the time to read the whole story. You can do that in your private time. That thought on my part could very well be an exercise of faith. But, I'm going to be talking from the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of Samuel. I'm going to be talking about one of the situations that happened to David. We know that David was in a position of ruling and reigning. I think that that is somewhat apropos to you and I and I'll see if I can't tie it in here with what Sister Katie was sharing with the children and with us. David was the king and we know he had a son called Absalom. His son desired a place of preeminence that wasn't rightfully his. He wanted that position of being king. The correlation I see in that with regard to some of what Sister Katie was saying is that God has set in the Body certain administrations and, unfortunately with regard to some of us, those administrations have been given to other people than ourselves. Unfortunately for us, some of those people's personalities just don't jive, meld or mesh with the particular personality that we might have. To put it mildly, there seems to be something of a clash, there seems to be something of a confrontation with regard to those personalities and ours.

Now, the question I would want to ask you this morning is, "Does that change the mind of God concerning those ministries?" Now, I've also found that in certain relationships between husbands and wives you have this personality difference, this position of personality conflict. Now, if in the relationship that you have as a husband or a wife you find yourself in that position, my first question would be, "Do you believe it is the will of God that you are married to one another?" And if you are married to one another, and you are a Christian and you are seeking the Lord, I think that that question is kind of moot point, but I am asking the question to prove a point. There's a word for it and it is called rhetorical. The question is

rhetorical because in that aspect of that marriage relationship, God was very much aware of where it would be at any given point in time from the beginning, because God is Alpha and Omega. Now, what does that mean? That means that God is not only at the beginning and not only at the end, but He's also in between. He is very much aware of any kind of personality difficulty that you are going to have in our particular marriage relationship. Now, I'm using that particular relationship, but you could just about use any type of relationship in the Body of Christ. Do you understand what I am saying? All relationships under the covering of God, that have as their covering a particular Word, have the means programmed within the Word to bring forth a particular thing. Did you follow me on that or did I lose you? If I am going to build a house I want a blueprint, because I don't want the architect to tell me what's in his mind because if he tells me what's in his mind, what I hear may not be what he's telling me. I want to see it down on paper and I want to have all the dimensions and all the things that pertain to the thing that he is wanting me to build in front of me, so that I might be able to consult with it at any given time. Hallelujah. Now, in the marriage relationship or the relationships that we have in the Body with the ministry, we are not necessarily the one who has the diagram of the whole thing. But we know somebody who does and any time that we run into a place of difficulty in that relationship, it is a transgression that goes against us if we do not utilize the data bank that is available to us by virtue of the Holy Ghost. Did you catch that? It is a transgression that goes against us because God has given us the means by which we might inquire of Him. Hallelujah. Most of the time we take the difficulty on ourselves, and it becomes personality differences and personality conflicts. Unfortunately, we have in that type of a situation, stress, strain and sometimes resentment and bitterness which, in turn, causes us to lose the Word of ministry that would come to us. If we have resentment and bitterness... May I share with you something here? Your resentment, your bitterness, or that position of stress or strain may be justified on the basis of the other individual's transgression but that does not have any bearing on how God grades your paper. Hello? It makes no difference on how God grades your paper because God has given you something by which you might access the totality of wisdom that is in God. You know, God put me under an employer one time that was very ungodly, and yet I knew that I was in that position of employment by the hand of God. You know, where I should have been right, I was always wrong, and where he should have been wrong, he was always right. I mean, God just turned the tables on me to teach me a lesson with regard to the things that have to do with authority.

He kept me there for a very long time. I'm a very slow learner or I have a very thick head, and it took a lot of driving of the 2x4 to get the point across that God is the Alpha and He is the Omega and He is everything in between. Hallelujah. If you are in any type of situation in any given time by the hand of God, or by the Word of God, you have a responsibility to perform and act in accordance with the Word that you got. Did I lose you on that one? I mean, there is something in the Word of God. I believe, now you may not think that this has anything to do with David and Absalom, but I believe that it has a lot to do, in the aspect of the Word of God and in the framework of the commission and the position that God gave David. If you would take the aspect of humanity under the auspices of Satan, you could just as well put the name "Absalom" on it because Absalom wanted the position and place of authority that was rightly another's. Now this works on two different levels. This works on an individual level pertaining to your own personal private environment, your soul: your mind, your emotions, and your desires. Paul is very eloquent about it in Romans. If you want to go there, I believe it is Romans 7:21-25. You can read of the position of warfare that goes on. My mother had a saying. I don't know if you heard it as much as I did, Barak, when you were living with her. But she often said to me, "Burt, you are your own worst enemy." You are your own worst enemy. I never really understood what she was saying until a time down the road when I began to find out how my self rises up in the midst of the disciplining of God and begins to be presumptuous and sometimes intellectualizes, which means mentally thinking out in a reasonable manner and in a reasonable way how to begin to work against this position or this place of being uncomfortable.

We have been in many different places in the last three weeks. We went to Colorado after going to Schuyler. I want to tell you, those meetings in Schuyler were very good meetings. For me personally, very difficult, but nevertheless they were very good meetings. Hallelujah! I heard a testimony everywhere we went from many different people as to how much they were ministered to by God in the midst of them. We went from Schuyler to Colorado. In Colorado, the Lord gave me a Word. Now, I don't go to every place with the same sermon because it doesn't work that way. God works with me by giving me the Word, usually when I come in the door. As I get up, He begins to develop it, and it is always a Word that is pertinent to the circumstance and the situation of the place that I am in. Well, one of the themes that has been in the midst of the Words that God has given to me is that theme of tribulation. You can either call me a tribulating preacher or a man that brings a word about tribulation. Maybe I do both.

Maybe my capacity in the Body is to do both. But I want to say something to you that there is no Word that God gives to me that there is not some sort of tribulation that comes on the tail end of the word that my wife, much to her chagrin sometimes, and I have to walk through. It's true with everyone that has the Word of God and has the courage and the tenacity to share that Word with someone else. You don't have to get up here to share it. You can share it on the phone, you can share it at work, you can share it at the grocery store, wherever you go there should be something of the Word that you have that is in you.

There's something else of a theme that God has given me over the past several months and that is a theme that has to do with what the Word calls Word, as it is used in John, the first chapter. There John begins to explain the existence and sustenance and the substance of what God is with regard to the Word being what it is. Now, you and I can never come to an intellectual understanding or an interpretation of what John is really saying, but we can come to a place of understanding if, in the midst of the Logos, we are waiting upon God. I could just say it very simply that, in the midst of the Logos, the Rhema speaks. But you wouldn't really know what I mean by Rhema if you haven't really gotten into the Word and began to study and to dissect it and to ask God to make it a reality to your soul. Hallelujah. I believe that we who have a relationship with the Word become a part and a piece of that Word to the degree that we believe the Word. That's why you have some people who are very much interested in saving people. Have you ever noticed people who are interested in saving people? Why? Because something of a Word has been spoken to them and in the speaking of the Word to them, something happened to them that they thought was really incredible. And in thinking about the incredibility of the Word, and meditating and praying upon it, there is something of that Word that begins to work and interweave itself within the fabric of what we call soul. Salvation became a part of their emotions; salvation became a part of their desires; salvation became a part of their mind. So, whenever you meet them, what comes out of them is salvation. Isn't that tremendous? Now, some of us have Word, and it's like Word that is in the pantry. It's like Word that has been stored. I should say, it's even worse than being in the pantry. It's canned. It's been pressure canned. It's been put into a can and had a lid put down on it and put in a pan and boiled and vacuum-sealed, so that it is preserved. Someday, someplace, sometime, usually in the event of crisis, we want to pull it out. But there's one problem with that. It seems like, when it comes time to clean house, those things that sit on a shelf for a time always get thrown out or given away.

Because, “When will I ever use it? When have I ever used it?” It’s just on the shelf taking up space. Hallelujah. You know, while I’m talking to you I’m talking to you in the Spirit and there should be a multitude of verses that are coming to your mind. Not just because you know the Bible, but because the Holy Ghost is speaking to you with regard to what I’m saying, but He’s giving you some different perspective of the Word or the reality of it. So, I’m sharing with you what Rhema is in me. Do you understand? I believe what I’m saying. Hallelujah! What I’m saying to you is coming forth from the Logos in me. Hello. As I’m speaking, as I’m meditating on the Logos, and as I yield myself to the Holy Ghost, that Holy Ghost takes that Logos that is in me, brings it out and when I speak it, it becomes Rhema. Now, that Rhema has a power and an ability that the church has not comprehended. It has the ability to create within you something that is called Logos. There is a deposit of something that God takes out of that supernatural realm of what we call Spirit and He brings it down and He moves it within the fabric and the framework of your soul. When it goes into your soul, it’s a thought or an intent that comes from outside of your personal consciousness. In that form, the Bible calls it the Logos. Now, we as human beings try to make the Logos, Rhema. But it doesn’t work because it takes something other than flesh or intellect, it takes something other than mental gyrations to bring forth the vitality that is in the Word. That’s why the scripture says, “The Word killeth and the Spirit maketh life” (II Corinthians 3:6). You can’t take just the Logos in you. That Logos has to be assimilated. It’s no different than you eating a piece of steak. If you eat a piece of steak, that steak is in trouble. From the moment that it’s on your plate, if you like steak, it’s in trouble. I like steak and my steak can disappear pretty quickly. First of all, you have the knife and the fork to work over the steak. Well, even before that you have the fire. Now just imagine you as that piece of meat. I want you to put yourself in the place of the piece of meat in the aspect that when the Word comes to you, it comes to you in the fashion of rawness. But it has the power to impregnate you. It has the power to penetrate through the consciousness of your being, of your humanity and get down into the nitty gritty and it becomes, as it were, entrenched in the womb of your soul. Now, I don’t want to offend you this morning but I don’t know how else to describe to you the way that the Word works in you in order for you to really comprehend. Hallelujah! But, as the Word comes into you, now, God has a problem. He’s got to make that Logos something that is not alien to your environment. He’s got to bring something of the realness of that Word to your position, your place of experience. So what does He have to do? He has

to put you in tribulation. He has to push you to where you are beyond your ability as a human being to cope. He has to put you in to the midst of the fire. You know, Texas Roadhouse, when we go there to eat, I always like to stand over there by that big window where they are cooking the steaks and I watch those people as they put those steaks on the grill. They slap that steak down on the grill and they don't kind of tenderly lay it on there, you know. They kind of walk around it and move it around. They got those tongs and they got those forks and they got those tweezers and they pick that piece of meat up and they slap it down. They take something and press the juice out of it and those flames, they roar up out of there and all the smoke goes up and the meat turns from red to brown and from brown to black. Boy, and then it comes out on my plate. Oh boy, does it smell succulent. We are supposed to be a sweet smelling savor before the Lord. Hallelujah. Only by fire can you get that flavor and get that savor whereby others, when they smell us, their mouth begins to water. I think it was you that prayed this morning, wasn't it? "Drink my Blood and eat my flesh." Hallelujah! There is something in all of that that God is working on with regard to you and I. It is the Word that we have received, brethren, and I believe that we are living in the end time.

Now, brethren, listen to me, I want you to keep in mind where we started. I don't want you to lose track of the thought of the position of David in his rightful position, his position and his place of ruling by the authority and by the hand of God. I don't want you to forget that there was someone who was related to him by blood that rose up without thought and without compassion to move against him, to usurp his position and to take that authority unto himself. Hallelujah. This is what I am talking about with regard to you and I on an individual basis and also on a collective level. Brethren, I believe that you and I are living in the last days. I believe that there are troubles, trials and tribulations coming to us that we can't even fathom. We can talk about it, and we can say we believe it, but I don't believe that we really believe it. It's amazing.

I was listening to the preachers on the radio who seem to be getting the message. I was listening to this man, this preacher, and I understand that he is a genuine article. I don't know him personally, but I've listened to him a time or two, and I really like what he had to say on this particular tape that I was listening to. Praise the Lord. His name is Dr. Kennedy. He's out of Pensacola, Florida. I don't know what his denominational affiliation is, I don't care. But he was bringing a word talking about the invisible hand of God. What I enjoy about some of these preachers is they really do their research. They really do their research. This man

was talking about the invisible hand of God. And he was going back into the scripture from Genesis all the way up to Jesus' day. He was reiterating the prophecies of destruction that God had prophesied against the various nations, not only to the land of Israel but He also prophesied against the Babylonians, and He prophesied against the Medes and the Persians. He also spoke about Jesus when he prophesied about the destruction of the temple. As he was going over these accounts, He said, "Did you see God in actuality coming down and moving into a set of circumstances and doing what He said He was going to do? He always used an implement." Now, I'm paraphrasing the man's word. But if you want to know what it is literally you can probably go on the internet and find him, and you can get his tape. It was a very good word. It was talking about the invisible hand of God. He showed time and time and time and time again, how God used natural things, such as kings and nations to fulfill the Word of God and bring to pass the judgment of God that God had said would come to a nation that had forsaken Him. He went right from that time of the Old Testament into the mid-time and into our time. He used the example of September the 11<sup>th</sup> as an aspect of the hand of God's judgment. Now, this is not my word, this is his word. He's in the nominal church. Very much involved in all that. He's got Dr. in front of his name. But, nevertheless, there is something that he is showing us regarding history and the current events that are coming to pass fulfilling God's Word. He was saying that it is giving him an awareness and a fear. He then he went into the scripture, II Chronicles 7:14, ***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.*** He then went into the geo-political arena of the United States. He says, since the bombing, since the destruction of the two towers, since that time, California has adopted a ten-point program in the public schools to indoctrinate children from the age of kindergarten up through the age of high school about the benefits of an alternate lifestyle. He then told us of the ACLU suing in various states, to remove the phrase "Under God." There were several other points that he was making with regard to the aspect of what was in diametric opposition to the thought of the invisible hand as it has moved in judgment against us.

Now I would like to ask you a question. Given the response on a geo-political arena as well as a geo-humanic level, do you think that the judgment that God administered on September the 11<sup>th</sup> is all that we will see or experience? If that judgement obtains the desired response that it was supposed to do, what do you think God will allow to happen next?

Well, I can tell you some of what I'm aware of by dreams and visions. I have had dreams, as well as others around me who have had dreams, of desolation, of cars without gas, of houses without electricity, of cupboards that had no food in them. What are you and I going to do? The people of Hiroshima went to bed thinking that they were victorious. Their government was not telling them that they were on the run. Their government was not telling them that the United States and the Allied forces were closing in on their borders. They went to bed thinking that everything was the same as it was the day before, and it would be the same tomorrow. Some of them never woke up. They were the ones that were blessed because some of them that woke up, and to this day, those that were remaining have suffered horribly in the catastrophic thing that had happened. It's not so much what tragedy happens, or the physical position of trouble, but what really, really concerns me about my position, in lieu of the Word that God has spoken to me, is that I will have to stand before God. I am going to be judged in accordance with what He has given me to do and how I have done it. I am going to stand next to other people who have done more than I have done with less than what I've been given.

You know we can't all be Reese Howells. I've had to struggle with this for a very long time. You understand? Because I read about this man, I read about his story, and what a man of God he was. I read about C.T. Studd, what a man of God! What suffering that they endured. If I put it in comparison with my own life, I'm way down here. I'm not even talking about Jesus Christ, now, I'm talking about saints. Hallelujah! What am I next to Hudson Taylor? If you really want something, really, really want something, what am I next to a man that was 28 years old? David Brainerd. Hallelujah! What am I in comparison to that place of his sacrifice? If that isn't enough for you, if that doesn't suit your fancy, go into the Word and read the description of the persecution and the suffering that Jesus allocated for Himself. It is the same position and the place of suffering that He allocated for those that were called by His name and were given the Word of sonship. You go into John 17. I'm telling you something, I'm telling you that we're going to bed tonight thinking that tomorrow is going to be the same and when tomorrow is the same it's going to lull you into a position of lethargy and passivity because you say, "Well, nothing happened today." And tomorrow, nothing will happen tomorrow. But, I'm telling you something. One day, one place, one time there's going to be a happening and when it happens, you and I, if we haven't done what God has commanded us to do, what God has delegated us to do, what God has legislated us to do, we are going to be the ones who suffer the

most. Hallelujah.

I want you, just for a moment, to turn over to John 17. I want you to look at something here. I challenge you to get into your scripture and prove me wrong. Hallelujah. If you don't like what I preach, then you get into the Word and you find something in the Word and you come to me and let us compare doctrine. John 17. I want you to look at it. You know something? Sometimes, the only word that I can describe humanity in it's position of smug intellectual reasoning is "stupid." Now I'm not applying that to anyone in particular, so don't go out of here saying that I called you stupid. I didn't say that. What I said is that we give humanity the right and the ability to dictate to us a human response to a divine situation. It's nothing but stupid. Not only is it stupid, it's suicide. Do you know we shake our heads when we read the paper. "Oh my, how stupid, the guy shot himself in the head. How stupid." And yet there is spiritual suicide. There is an act that we commit against ourselves that is spiritual suicide. If you tell me, "Burt, 25 feet up ahead of you there is a cavern, it is 200 feet deep and there is no way that you can walk across it. There is no way that you can avoid it. Don't go that way." Hallelujah. If I run helter-skelter down that path, ignoring your voice and your warning, what's going to happen to me? Was I taken by surprise? What did I do? I committed suicide. There's something that terrifies me in regard to that. You don't have to believe this way, but I believe it, because I believe it's scriptural that a man who commits suicide eliminates a possibility of regeneration. He ignores the hand of God, he ignores the help of God. He rejects Jesus Christ as the epitome of his salvation, and he goes out of life into hell. Now, if that is true in that scenario, how much more true is it in a spiritual sense and a spiritual position if God is working with me in regard to the end time and the Word that has been given to me and I ignore the attributes of that Word, or the dictate, or the demand of that Word and I get involved in some mitigated position of self-pity and I begin to lament the fact of the matter of the tribulation and the trouble that I'm in? Hallelujah. I appreciated the attitude of David, although David was reaping what he had sown, you know. But I appreciated his position of submitting to the humiliation. When the man came out, who was it? Shimei came out and cursed David. And the sons of Zeruiah rose up and said, "Let me go over and take off the head of the fool." David said, "Leave him alone! Lest God has provoked him to curse me." You know, at that point, you might think that it was a finished matter. But you know, God is the Alpha and Omega. David had the final say-so. He told his son, Solomon, "Let his gray hair not go down to the grave in peace" (II Kings 2:6). And Solomon, in his wisdom, let the

man write his own epitaph. A foolish and unwise man. He lost his life for the sake of what he thought was his possession. You know, if he had one servant he probably had half a dozen. And yet he risked the entirety of his being. How much more for you and I?

Let's go into John 17 and look at verse 12, ***While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: that those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*** Oh boy. That brings up a whole new level, a whole new position. "The son of perdition." There is a spirit that works in the heart of man. It's called, well, I can't really call it human because it's kind of a melding and a merging of demonic and human. It's where they meld and merge together and they become as one flesh so that you can't tell the demon from the man or the man from the demon. Hallelujah. The Bible calls it the son of perdition. As you all are aware, the son of perdition was in the midst of the twelve. Now, if you could look at that twelve, if you would, as a whole, with Jesus Christ as the head. Some were the hands, some were the arms, some were the feet, some were the legs. Yet in the midst of that framework, in the midst of that body there was the spirit of perdition that was working in the midst of the different members to bring about a rebellion, to bring about a position of resistance, to bring desolation and destruction. And to bring, as it were, the whole of the body down to a place to where it would not be able to fulfill or accomplish the Word of God. Can you see it in that light? Am I losing you? I'm not putting you to sleep am I? All right. He says, "I've given them, I've kept them all, except the son of perdition, that the scriptures might be fulfilled." Boy!

You know, if I am aware that there is this particular spirit in the midst of the Body, in this Body in particular, if there is a will, if there is a mind set, if there is an emotion, or if there is a desire that is contrary to the will of God, it would seem to me that I would be doing whatever I could do to resist that manifestation. If I want to curse, I don't curse. If I want to slough off, I don't slough off. If I don't want to meet together, I meet together. I do anything and everything that is in opposition. But there is something of a passivity about our humanness that likes things to come to us instead of our going to them. Hallelujah! All of those people at that table, every one of them were looking and saying, "Is it I? Is it I? Is it I?" There is something of that malady which exists in the Body today. We are sitting and submitting, as it were, to the spirit of the son of perdition, the spirit that wants to make us diabolical, that wants to move the framework and the government of self into our soul so that we become a manifestation

of hell itself! It is as though we are looking for some kind of wand to be waved over us, “Abracadabra, magical, magical.” POOF! That’s fairy tale. That’s demons for little children, by the way. He says, “I have given them thy Word.” Word. That “word,” look it up, that word means Logos. I want to read to you what it says about the Logos. John 1:1, ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*** It says that all things were made and you could just take out “Him” and say “Logos.” Now turn the page. Or at least in my Bible you have to turn the page. And the Logos was in the world, and the world, or the cosmos that was made by the Logos refused, REFUSED! Refused! The refused to accept Him as their creator! They refused! Oh! Bad people. Bad people. Bad people. They were. They were bad people. Jesus said, “I have given them...” What? My Logos! My Logos! I’m back in John17, by the way. The cosmos, same word, same position, same experience, hath what? Hated them. Have you ever been in the presence of someone who really didn’t like you? Was it a comfortable place to be? Was there a camaraderie and a place of fellowship with them? Was there something of companionship that was moving between the two of you in the midst of that situation? No. Absolutely not. Doesn’t work that way. The Logos, now, verse 14, ***I have given them thy word (Logos); and the world (cosmos) hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*** I am using these words because they are the words in which they are written. You go in and look them up. Study to show yourself approved.

You know, there was a dream that came forth here not to long ago of what was happening to the Logos. Can you imagine? Can you really imagine? You would think that we would treat it as something precious. You would think that we would listen to it. You would think that we would dissect it. Do you know what the Lord said we were doing with it? Dumping it on the ground. Dumping it on the ground! Spewing it out on the ground, on the earth to be trodden upon, to be defiled, that the birds would come and have a feast. Hallelujah! “I have given them thy Logos.” Turn with me back into John 1:11. ***He came, the Logos, unto His own and His own received Him, the Logos, not.*** Oh yes. Go down to verse14, ***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*** Full, full, full, full, full of grace and glory. We go around groaning about this, mumbling about that, talking bad about this, talking bad about that. We take out this dirty underwear and put it upon the shelf, put it upon the table and cut it up with a knife and serve it out! To one

another! God said that we had been given, as it were, a **ministry** of reconciliation whereby the Logos reconciles the cosmos unto God through His divine sacrifice of the issuance of His blood. The issuance of His life, He gave forth so that ministry has been given unto us. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Well, we have the story of David and Absalom. Now, David, how can I say it? It was a piece of David. It was a part of David. It was his blood, it was his son. David evidently had some sort of affection for this son, because in his instruction he went diametrically against the will of God. He said, "Spare, spare, spare my son, Absalom, spare him. Spare him!" And so it is with you and I. We want self to be pampered, we want it to be petted! We want people to feel sorry for us. We want to have people to commiserate with us. Now listen to me, brethren, if the shoe don't fit, don't wear it and don't get mad at me for putting it out on the floor for you to try it on. Hallelujah! Come on. Come on, come on, come on.

There is a scripture in the Word that talks about your and my relationship with the world. It says, "If a man does not forsake all, if he does not forsake all." Shall we get a little more specific? He says, "Forsake your father, forsake your mother, forsake your husband" (Luke 14:26). Now, that doesn't mean you go out and get divorces. It means that you commit yourself, your soul, and your position of experience totally, totally, absolutely, unto God! We become, as it were, one nation under God! There was something of a prophetic desire of God in the writing of the U.S. Constitution! Glory to God! But it's not our constitution as sons of God. The cosmos constitution says that everyone is endowed with certain inalienable rights and we have the right to maintain our position of rightness with regard to those rights. "Don't tread on me." History, as far as we are concerned, has again and again and again validated our position of strength and defiance in the eyes of God. The shaking of our fist. The church is supposed to have power!

I was blessed in how the church rose up against that thing that was happening on the East Coast. It wasn't the smartness of the police that captured that man. It wasn't even his dumbness that caused him to be captured. It was the moving of prayer and the intercession of God to move in the midst of that devastation, yet many of us can sit and watch it and we're not moved! It really does not take very many to start a revival. Did you know that the 1906 revival started with 4 or 5 elderly women down in a basement praying for a revival and for fire to fall from heaven? Wasn't no great preacher, wasn't no healer, wasn't no great prophet, wasn't no apostle. Four elderly women who, down deep in their soul were desir-

ing for a manifestation, a touch from God. They got down on their knees day after day after day after day. I don't know how long they travailed in prayer, but what I do know is that the fire fell! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We have the story of Elijah! There he was, sitting on the hill and they sent a captain and his fifty (II Kings 1:9-15). "Oh man of God, come down! Right now! You come down here! The king doth demand your presence! You come down!" I don't read that he got very excited about it. He said: "If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume this captain and his fifty." Do you know that it took one more time of burned ashes and stinking human flesh to get the idea across to the man that came crawling up there? "Oh man of God, oh man of God, oh man of God, oh man of God, please, please, please spare my life." You're talking about power in the church! You're talking about a place of righteousness! You cannot do it if you're minding your own business. You cannot do it if you're involved in your career. You cannot do it if you're involved in the establishment and the position of your kingdom. You're going to get a little piece of God and a whole lot of other things. A little piece of God and a whole magnitude of other things. By the time you're finished, you've got a little bit of God down here and all these other things.

We sing the song time and again, "I want to be like You." "Let me hear Your small voice through all the worldly noise." Jesus said, "I have given them thy word and the world..." We like to say, "World! You're world, that's world, over there is world..." What about world here in the soul realm? Let me read a scripture for you. Romans 8. Turn with me if you would. Let us read what Jesus Christ has to say about that position. It says, verse 5, ***For 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.*** For the carnally minded... Could I say those that have the cosmos implanted in their consciousness? Cosmos of them, cosmos of politics, cosmos of financial success, cosmos of self-importance. Come on! Cosmos of pre-eminence, wanting to be in a position of being pre-eminent! And you know, some of us manifest, I'm not saying us here, but us collectively, manifest our position of pre-eminence in ways that we don't really consider wanting to be pre-eminent. Hallelujah. Some of us manifest our position of pre-eminence in the self-induced ignorance that we maintain with regard to the Word. Jesus is knocking on the door and we turn the blender up. "Knocking? Who's knocking? I don't hear a knocking." Turn the radio on. Blast it out because we don't want to hear something that might make us convicted. Hallelujah!

He says to be carnally minded is death (Romans 8:6). You know I think the terminology "carnal" is the Christian malady. I don't think it's a heathen malady. I think carnality is the mixture of religion and God. It be-

comes something religious, but it's not God. Do you know you can take a little bit of truth that's true truth and mix it with a little bit of world that is not true and that the truth becomes untruth? Do you know what the Bible calls it? Deception. For to be worldly, carnally, worldly minded, to have cosmos and Logos thrown in the pot together, mixed up all together is death. Now, brethren, let me tell you something. Death is not just the expiring of one's breath. Death is a spirit and it's working not just to kill you in a physical way. It's working to kill you in a spiritual manner. Satan wants to change your position, your destiny. He knows that he has the potentiality to do it, do you know that? Because he is aware of what the scripture says. It says in my Bible in one of the gospels that Jesus Christ said that in that day when Jesus comes many are going to say, "Well, did we not prophecy in your name? Did we not cast out devils in your name? Did we not heal the sick in your name?" What did Jesus say? "I don't know you. I have not had that intimate relationship. You did not allow me to enter into your soul. You did not give me your emotions. You did not give me your mind, you did not give me your ambition, you did not give me your will. You just gave me lip service. I don't know you." Lest there's any doubt, you go read that portion of scripture (Matthew 7:21-23). They thought they were OK. The Bible says, Romans 8:6, ***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*** Now listen to what happens when you have both of those entities in a small environment. Verse 7, ***Because the carnal mind is enmity against God.*** Does that sound like a war? Enmity? Do you know what aggravated animosity is? Aggravated animosity. You know, you can have animosity and nobody really knows that you have animosity. But if you have aggravated animosity, your animosity becomes an entity or a provoking thought that motivates you to aggravate and irritate and to hurt that which you have animosity against. Verse 7, ***...for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*** Do you think Absalom was subject? We always like to say "husbands and wives," right? "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands." But you know, get outside of that way of thinking because God does not lead you by one avenue by which to reach Him.

I am reminded this morning of a vision that came forth in one of the services that was here in this room. The vision was that of a young child riding in the backseat of a car. And in the midst of the traveling, there was some sort of altercation and the boy got mad. In his temper tantrum, Hello? In his self-interest, when he was not getting his way, he said, "I'm going to show you I don't have to take this, I don't have to submit to this type of an environment." He moved in anger to move out of the door. He opened the door, got out and slammed the door, with every intention of going back into the door after he felt like everybody had suffered enough. Problem was, he

couldn't get the door open and the car moved on without him. I think collectively, as well as individually, if the shoe fits, we better start examining the foot.

There's some scriptures that I've been looking up these last few weeks that have the phrase, "Consider your way." "Consider your way." I'm glad that it's God that has the reins. I'm glad that it's God that has His hand on the switch that controls the door locks. Because only He knows when the cup of iniquity is full. Only He knows; we don't know and that's why we should be, as it were, fearing God. I see God move in certain individual's situations and it puts a trepidation in my soul lest I should find myself in some similar set of circumstances. I listen to what comes my direction. Hello? I listen to it, I go to God about it, I go to people about it, I have them pray with me as to whatever it is that could have some sort of disastrous affect on my position in the Lord!

You know, I was saying something earlier about the saints that have gone on before us, and I was saying something about the fact that we can't all be like them. I don't really know if God expects us to be like them. But He expects us to put our all into the Word that we have received with the same tenacity, the same sacrifice as they expended with the Word that they had received! Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

We are all given something of the gift of the measure of Christ. Ephesians says that in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. We all can't be the same. But we all have something that God has given us. Some of us have tenacity and endurance. You know, the person who gets the most praise in the building of a house is usually the guy that's in there last. Like the finish carpenter. "Oh! What a marvelous job he did! Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful!" You don't hear anything about the studs under the drywall. And yet, without the studs, all of the beauty of the finished carpentry could not exist. Some of those studs stand year after year after year after year after year with the pressure of the cosmos pressing, pressing, pressing. And they give of their substance, they give of their being, they give of their energy, they give of their life! No recognition on a natural plain, a natural level! Yet, without them we could not have the beauty of the finished product. Sometimes, we as Christian can become disoriented, or sometimes we become somewhat discouraged. I've heard time and time again from some of these dear saints in the Body of 2x4's, "I'm not doing anything." And yet in their doing and their abiding there is substance and strength that is pouring into the Body of Christ giving us the ability to continue and to complete. My fear, my trepidation is, "My God, keep them, keep them, keep them, keep them, strengthen them! Strengthen them! There is something eternally, my God!" I am praying, "God, give them a taste of eternity, not in that they go from here to there. I

am in need of their strength! God, bless them! Give them a revelation of the eternity of God and let them continue to pour their strength into the fabric of this house!” I’ve seen some of them give up. Give up! Just give up! I’m not condemning them. But it was because the Body did not recognizing the value and the necessity of the integrity that they provided. Pray! We need to be people of prayer that pray! Oh hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. My prayer for the body of Christ is, “God, give me a little more time. I need just a little more time. I need just a little more time. I need something, God. We need that time, there needs to be more of an awareness of the fact of the time we’re living in and the Word we have. God, we’re so self-centered. We’re so fragile!” That’s one thing about eggs that I don’t want to be like. We have this friend, and he likes his eggs cooked in a way that we call them “rubber eggs.” You know, you fry them so hard that if you drop them on the floor, they bounce. I don’t want to be an egg in the fact of being fragile, that somebody has to handle me with kid gloves and in such a manner, such a way for fear that I will break and mess them all up! We need to be tough in the Lord, tough in the Lord, tough in the Lord! Tough! In the Lord! Thick skin! That tabernacle was covered in badger skin, do you know, it’s not very pretty, but it’s tough. It’s tough! You could put sun on it, you could put wind on it, you could put rain on it, you could blow sand against it and it would still abide! It would still tent, it would still protect! Oh hallelujah! Let us not be like Absalom who took the things of the Kingdom for granted and thought that he could possess it without due order. The end result was the sin of fornication that was shouted from the housetop, an open place of defilement before the whole house of Israel. Do you know, that’s what we do when we submit to the spirit of flesh? That’s what we do when we submit to the spirit of individual personality. Rights? They don’t have any rights, yes they do, they have a right if God releases them and the devil uses them against them, they have a right! Submit to the dealings of God! Submit to the Word of God that is inside of you! Allow that Word to have the ability to do what it’s supposed to do.

One last scripture. John 17:18, *As thou hast sent me, the Logos, into the world, the cosmos, even so have I also sent them into the world.*<sup>19</sup>*And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.* Now listen, you need to print this verse out. Put it on your door, put it on your mirror, put it in your car. Verse 20, *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.* What are you going to do with the Word that is in you? What are you going to do with the Word that is in you? We know in I John 1:1, what John said about the Word. “We have touched it, we have handled it.” God bless you.



# Are You Pleased With Me?



By Terry Smith

Yesterday and this morning are so very precious to me. Why? Well, I have been asking God to let me know if I'm headed in the right direction spiritually, or to quickly correct me. By faith I know only to continue in the way of the Word I'm hearing and the leadings of the Holy Spirit. I trust you are more sure of yourself in the Lord. I pray you are, but I feel a bit out there by myself sometimes. I live a distance from the local Body and I'm not aware of any true believers in my town to fellowship with. I know of many different denominational "Christians" in my town, and also some non-denominational "Christians" in my town. Some are very precious and sincere in their love of the Lord, but I know I cannot be one with them and so far I haven't had anyone want to come back to me for more of what I have.

Do you ever feel physically alone? Do you ever feel spiritually alone? I hope not, but if you should – I heard once this excellent thought that has kept me through many dark days/nights.

When we feel that God is the farthest from us; it is actually when He is His very closest to us.

Whenever I feel a longing for fellowship in the Lord – or just to check for confirmation of my direction or focus, I remind myself of this precious Word. Yes, even the scripture confirms this in Proverbs 18:24, *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.* And also in Hebrews 13:5, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* I call these "Keepers." What is a "Keeper"? A verse, thought, idea, or concept of something about our God and His divine nature, that immediately brings a confidence in God, or brings me back to that place of faith, trust, and hope. They remind me that I am being carefully taken care of by Christ Jesus. I'm sorry to say, but I have had moments where I have needed to encourage myself in the Lord. David was always speaking forth "Keepers" to encourage himself in the Lord.

Unfortunately, our adversary is constantly trying to undermine our confidence and trust in the Lord. When I am hit extremely hard, I have to

Speak to my soul or remind myself of the tender, loving care our Lord Jesus Christ has towards us. I have to remind my soul to obey “righteousness unto holiness” (Romans 6:19).

Because our walk must be one of faith, where like Hebrews 11 and 12, we are citizens to a city we have not yet seen (new Jerusalem), and this life here is not our reality, but the eternity with Christ is our reality, it can be a bit awkward to be led in a way we have never been before, and by faith continue without seeing, feeling, tasting, or touching anything in the natural realm. We are only to continue on in the things that we have “seen, felt, tasted, smelled, or touched” of the Lord and eternity in the spiritual realm. Hhhmmmm! A bit difficult to do sometimes. That is why I had been asking the Lord to either confirm or correct me. I want to be walking straight with my focus and priority being to come forth in His image and likeness. Knowing I still have an awful lot to learn of Him, I just needed His encouraging. Perhaps you have not needed to be encouraged. You are most blessed indeed then. I find the more I learn of Yeshua, the less I am and the more He is.

Well, after much stripping away of “I,” and “ME,” I was in need of a bit of HIM. Last night it began. God began to respond to the cry of my heart for His touch. Not at all what one might think, as a matter of a fact, I didn’t really realize it was answering my cry to the Lord until after it had happened. Let me share: One of the brethren called me out of the blue for a reason that was not spiritual. This one began sharing and didn’t even know that they were responding to the Holy Spirit to meet a need of mine. When I got off the phone, I just began crying, because I realized that God had not only heard my cry and my longing for Him, but He had reached out and met my need most beautifully. God had told me He loved me!

Please don’t misunderstand, the person didn’t say that – it wasn’t even what you might consider a spiritual conversation. I knew that for this person to call me, had never called me before, and to speak to me as a friend – by the Spirit of the Lord I knew that through this, God had reached out and touched me. Please be encouraged, brethren, the smallest, most insignificant gesture or word can touch souls just by sharing the love of God.

Then this morning happened, which again was totally out of normalcy, “Out of the Box” so to speak. I had traded days to work late tonight, which meant that I also came in later in the morning. Walking to the office from the parking lot, I saw this young college girl trying to get this monster suitcase over a big bump in the sidewalk. She had a backpack on her back, a musical instrument case to juggle, probably a purse, and this

monster suitcase. She pushed and pushed and pushed and that big suitcase just wouldn't go over the bump. I crossed the street and asked if I could help her. She said, "yes," and I mentioned her suitcase would go over the bump if it were pulled. Well, this young girl had pulled it far already and she had no strength left. After reaching her destination, I assured her that God would "I'm sure" have assistance waiting for her next year. She was blessed to get help. I was blessed to be used by God, and it was all preordained, and totally not normal.

I began to be reminded of the Word I had been reading that said Jesus was asked by His disciples who their "neighbor" was. His response was the Good Samaritan story. Thus, everyone is our "neighbor." As the Holy Spirit brought this back to mind, I was deeply touched again by the Lord. Part of my cry to the Lord had been, "Am I following Your Holy Spirit?" Along with the touch of the Lord's love, I knew that He was not saying I was anything, BUT He was again telling me that He loves ME!

Why am I wanting to share these testimonies with you? Partly because I believe that we have members of the Body of Christ that need to know that they are special, and that they are being spoken to by the Lord daily – softly, gently, with that still, small voice and I want to encourage each one of you to consider that some of the situations and happenings in your lives are ordained and directed by God for your good. Sometimes we need to look "outside of the box" to realize that God is speaking to us with all His love and tenderness, and perhaps next time we will be able to listen a bit clearer to Him. I also want to encourage any brethren who might be a bit unsure of themselves in the Lord, as I have been in the past, and who are also asking the Lord for a bit of encouraging by His touch. Be encouraged, brethren!

When we heard the Word from Isaiah 45:11 that tells us to ask HIM, I received that Word and believed that Word and I am trusting the Lord to answer a whole lot of questions for me. Isaiah 45:11, ***Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.***

SOOOOooooo Go and ASK HIM concerning HIS SONS and concerning HIS WORK of HIS HANDS. The worst thing that can happen is that we might get chastened, and then we are also able to rejoice in the knowing that we are sons arising. Don't be afraid to ask, God is always ready!

Rise up In Him and rejoice, my brethren, for "He IS" what we are striving to attain.

# We Are On The Threshold

**Sunday, May 1, 2005 Mahomet, Illinois**  
**Brother Burt Asbill**

*Father, we are so very thankful for the presence of the living God. We thank You, Father, that You purposed in Your heart from the beginning to walk and to talk in the midst of humanity, to bring forth the revelation of divinity, to bring forth, my God, the manifestation of what You desired from the beginning of time. Even before time began, Your desire was that which we are now seeing. We are living in the timeframe, and on the threshold of the coming forth of the revelation of the manifestation of the Sons of God. Oh Father, we thank You for that position. We thank You for that revelation. We thank You for that understanding. We thank You for this opportunity to manifest, oh God, that virtue and that character that is CHRIST. Hallelujah! Paul aptly put it so purposefully and expressly, Lord. He said, "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Oh God, we proclaim that glory today. We exalt that glory today. We exalt that position of manifestation; we ask, God, for that unveiling in the rending of this old flesh, that we might bring forth, oh God, Your Church, in the fullness of what You have ordained it to be, and that it will be because that is what You have desired.*

*Father, we just break the power of sin, oh God, that has had such a sway, such a hold upon our lives. It has influenced and developed personalities. It has brought forth a manifestation that is something other than God. We come against that sin. Oh God, Paul aptly wrote about it in Romans. Father, we are asking You, it is no more I that do it, but it is sin within me (Romans 7:17). We come against that nature, we*

*come against that spirit, we come against that ministration of death and desolation. Let it be swallowed up, oh, even in the life that is of God, let it be devoured, let it be, oh God, revoked in resurrection.*

*Oh God, we pray that You would bring forth a revelation of Your Son within us. Help us today, Father, as we minister the Word, and as we bring forth that which is upon Thy heart, not our heart, but Your heart. Father, we ask that You anoint our ears, Father, that You anoint our eyes, You anoint, even our bodies, our flesh, Father, that it might permeate us, oh God. Oh God, that we might soak it up, that we might hear it, that we might understand it. Oh God, that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, we might know what is Your inheritance in us. Oh my God, we pray for the revelation and the unveiling of the mighty Christ. Oh God, help us today. Break the bread of life to us. Bring forth Your Word, bring forth Your anointing, bring forth Your unction in Jesus' Name. In Jesus' Name. Praise the Lord. Glory to God.*

Praise the Lord. Can you say, "Amen?" I am very excited about the Word that is coming forth in this hour. I am very excited about it. I'm excited about what God is doing. I know that whenever God brings a Word, that that Word is the prelude to the fact of what God is going to do. There is a ministry that God is raising up in the earth today that is heralding, that is proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ. That is what I am excited about. I am excited about the fact of Jesus Christ's coming, and the way that He has chosen to come is that He wants to come in you before He comes in the actuality and the appearing that is written about in the scriptures.

*Father, we come by the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ today. We are asking for Your unction, Your anointing. We bind every spirit that is contrary to the flow, to the moving and to the will of God. Father, we do not want to proclaim man's intellect. We want to proclaim Jesus Christ, Him crucified and resurrected, His intent, His purpose from the beginning of time, in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

As many of you know, I have been doing quite a bit of traveling. It seems like I pack my bag and get on an airplane. Anytime I pack my bag it means I'm getting on an airplane. When I get home, I unpack my bag and get on a tractor. So, I am either flying or plowing. But both are doing the will of God, so I can get a blessing out of both. I want to share with you that God talks to me as much out there plowing, going back and forth across the ground, as He does when I am in a place of ministering and the Word of God is flowing, because it is all like a

plow breaking up fallow ground, getting it ready to receive the seed. You know, one of my most favorite times, other than harvest, is this time of the year, in all of the planting. It is a lot of hard work, but you get out there and things begin to change color; they begin to come alive. The whole terrain begins to bloom and it just kind of seems to affect your attitude. The sun is up and you start smiling more. It should be the other way around. We should smile when it is cloudy so as to chase the clouds away so that the son - the "S-o-n" - might shine forth.

But in all of that, there have been a lot of things that the Lord has been showing me about the whole situation, and I would like to share them with you. I personally believe that the Word that I am bringing is not a new Word, but it is a Word, I believe, that is encapsulated, it is combined, it is condensed. You have to take it and chew on it and break it down. You have to ingest it. You have to go to God about it so that what God is speaking to me, God can speak to you. So that what God is making life to me, God can make life to you. I can guarantee that if you do that with the Word, then you will be the beneficiary, you will see the results of all of that in the fact of the presence of God as He begins to come forth in you.

One of the problems with the church has been the lack of response. God's Word demands a response, and no response is a response. God's Word demands a response. You will either respond in a negative way, or you will respond in a positive way. A positive way is going to God like the cow goes to the grass: he goes out, he grazes, he chews it, he takes it down, he brings it up, he chews it, he takes it down, he brings it back up again. Seven times, I believe, is the time factor that is given to a cow in the digestion of what he grazes. So it is also with us. The Word of God demands a response. A lot of times, with the Word of God, that IS the Word of God, a lot of tribulation comes into our lives. Trouble starts to happen, crises starts to form, and we find ourselves in the midst of a failure. Instead of becoming depressed and cast down about it, we should be rejoicing because that is evidence of the fact that the Word is really working in the arena of our lives.

Tribulation can come in many different ways. It can come physically; it can come mentally; it can come emotionally; it can come personality-wise; it can come financially. Tribulation can come in many different forms, many different ways, and all of it is designed to do something other than depress us or defeat us. The sad case of the church is that we do not necessarily, at this point in time for some reason or



almost amazing. It is amazing. It just kind of blows my mind. But I used to call this Yahweh, I used to call this God, but God corrected me. He said, "I AM!" (#3) That's how God described Himself when Moses asked, "Who shall I say sent me?" And He said, "I AM." Say, "I AM THAT I AM." Now, we may not understand it in the English vernacular, because of the way that it is used, but it has the meaning of being the sum total of everything. Take this thought, and go into the gospel of John. What it must have been like to sit at the feet of John. We talk about sitting at the feet of Jesus. That would have been great, absolutely. But just to sit at John's feet and to hear the words that were coming out of his mouth, because the man was not talking about his temporal realm. The man was not talking about the realm in which he was living in. He always had his eyes fixed on a heavenly position and his heart was dwelling in the land that was eternal.

Paul was another one. He says, "I press towards the mark of the high calling" (Philippians 3:14). He had a revelation, he had an understanding that was outside of his humanity. Hallelujah! His eyes also were focused on something other than himself. That man could not have suffered what he suffered, and gone through what he went through if his eyes were on himself. The thing he would have been doing in that condition and that place would have been looking for the quickest door out, the way of escape, the way to ease and comfort. Ease and comfort is a door that is temporal, and it is a door that pertains to the realm of time that is temporal. Hallelujah! Whereas Paul said in Corinthians, "I glory in nothing but..." What? "In Him that is crucified. He said I preach nothing but Him that is crucified" (I Corinthians 9:16). So he had to have an eternal perspective. You and I have to have an eternal perspective. I don't mean in the sense of some day, somewhere, I'm going to make it into heaven. You and I have to overcome that thought. Did you know that? Because it is so ingrained in the doctrine that we have been indoctrinated with in what we call church. We think that some day, some time, somewhere out there, there is going to be some sort of event where I am going to walk out of this realm of the natural and into this realm of the spiritual. But until that time, I can be just as natural, and just as subjugated to the realm of the natural as I can be because it is going to take some sort of miraculous event to get me into the realm of the spiritual. I John 3:1, ***Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we...*** WE - that's you and me! That's you and me! Maybe it's just me! Maybe I'm the only one that gets excited about it. ***Behold, what manner of love the Fa-***

*ther hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.* Now, is that a metaphorical phrase? Is that a phrase that was said just to give us some sort of good feelings, some position of confidence so that we could struggle through and press on to the end? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

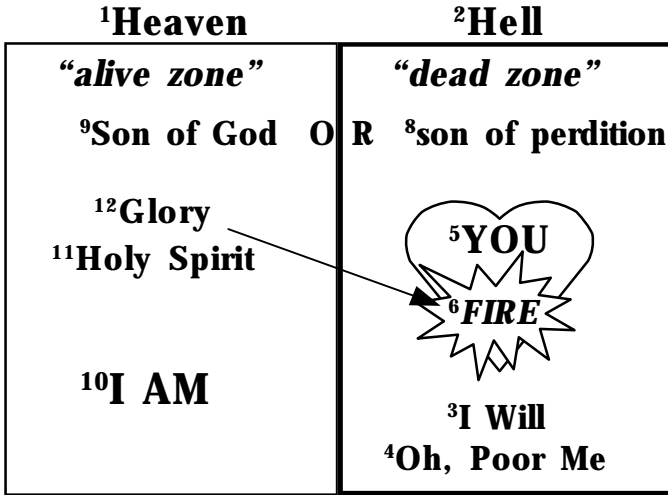
You know, God doesn't talk in abstracts. He is called the Alpha and the Omega. I want to tell you, all of these terms that we know about God do nothing but describe God in a temporal frame, in a temporal place (See Diagram I, #4). Are you understanding what I am saying? When we talk about the Alpha and the Omega, we are talking about the beginning of time and the end of time (#2). That is what we are talking about. Because the I AM is always. The I AM has always been the I AM. He was, He is, and He shall be. He is not just Alpha and Omega. Alpha and Omega were words that He invented for us to understand the fact that there was a beginning and there is an end and He alone is cognizant of it and everything in between. There is a reason for the beginning that is to be manifested, when? In the end. The thing that He created in the beginning, though it was temporal, had an eternal purpose. Come on! You and I were born for the purpose of fulfilling an eternal destiny.

You can teach these children math and English and reading and writing and arithmetic and all of those things, and they can become scholars and book keepers, lawyers and doctors, but what is that in comparison to the fact of what they were created for in the mind of God? All right, let's take it off of the children and put it on ourselves. A lot of us have wasted a lot of time, wasted a lot of time. BUT that doesn't mean that you and I do not have the capability of REDEEMING THE TIME. I'm beginning to have some sort of understanding of what it means to redeem the time as I gain the understanding of Who God is, what God is, and what it is that God wants.

You see, when I first got saved, I thought all God really wanted of me was to be good. Of course, you probably had a different perception. That we should be good. Wasn't that what you thought? You don't drink, you don't smoke, you don't curse, you don't look at pornography. You don't do those things that the world does out there. What is that? That is being good. Why? Why do you want to be good? So you'll go to heaven. Right? But the Word of God says it is not a matter of going to heaven. What it says is that when you get saved, you get God, then you get filled with the Holy Ghost and all of a sudden you have heaven within you. Hallelujah! Here we are in this situation (See Diagram II, #5). It is amazing. You know, since I started doing this, I love it! I can't

get away from it! I love it! Hallelujah! You are in this situation - now maybe I should just touch on this thought here a little bit. You see, this realm (#2) at one time was a heaven realm. Did you know that? Let's look at Romans a little bit. Romans 7:9, *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

## Diagram II



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**<sup>7</sup>No Middle Ground**

Now, he wasn't talking about himself, Paul, per se, as an individual, as an entity, as a personality. He was talking about Paul as in Adam. He said, "Once I was alive." When was he alive? Back here in the beginning, of course!

Do you know the first thing that God created? It is a marvelous thought. I don't know why it thrills me so much, because it is so simple. Because I read my Bible, and if somebody were to ask me, I would say, "Well, light was the first thing that He created." But it wasn't. Light wasn't the first thing He created. It was TIME (See Diagram I, #2). It says in the first three words, **IN THE BEGINNING**. Now, it had to be something that He created. It had to be something that He created other than the eternity that is Jehovah. So, He created something that is temporal and TIME IS TEMPORAL. Do we all agree with that? Does somebody have a problem with that? Time is temporal! So, if He created something that is temporal, though it is temporal, it has to have an eternal value. It has

to have an eternal thought or an eternal idea. It has to have something motivating it, making it move, making it go, bringing it into existence, because you see, without Him in eternity, time wouldn't exist. It is the eternalness of Yahweh that make time exist! Hallelujah! So time becomes something of a tool. So then, time becomes something of a tool in the hand of God to do something that God wants done. It is not just for you and me to get into heaven and that's what part of our problem is; we have that mentality. We have that thought. We think that if we struggle and push and persevere and somehow hang onto the shreds of our Christianity that we will somehow get over to that place where God will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into thy reward (Matthew 25:21,23)." Maybe you don't have that concept. But the fact of the matter is that if there is an intent or a desire that God has with respect to time, then I must be actively participating with Him in it to obtain what that thought is.

Someone came to me the other day with a scripture verse. The scripture was talking about the fact of not knowing Him. Matthew 7:21, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* We have to take it in context with what God is telling me to tell you. We are talking about the realm of heaven. Any time you talk about the realm of heaven, you are not talking about a realm that is temporal. You are talking about a realm that is eternal. We can use all these words, but the fact is, whenever you use them you are talking about Jehovah. **HE IS ETERNITY.** We can't fathom it, we can't comprehend it, we can't build it, we can't fashion it in our little finite minds. Nevertheless, everything that you see out here is Yahweh. That is what John 1:1 says. It is interesting that in John 1:1 he says, *In the beginning...*

So, there is something very important about you and me coming to grips with the reality of why we have time. We spend so much of our time doing so many things that have no connection or benefit to eternity. Why? It is because we do not comprehend the purpose for which we were created, or what is the thought or the idea or the intent of who you are and why you were created. Let me tell you, in this realm (See Diagram I, #2), you have two destinies. Did you know that? We had one destiny in the beginning, but the devil came in and usurped the position and the place of God's intent. It is so marvelous! This concept, this understanding that I am attempting to express to you is really so marvelous! The devil is not an original thinker. I don't know how much liberty that gave me but it has help me tremendously! You can never understand how much

liberty that gave me! He, the devil, has to use everything that God created. He has no power of creation. **You and I have the power of creation. The devil doesn't have it!** So, anytime he wants to create an environment or a situation, he has to use you and me to do it. The sad part is that oftentimes we yield ourselves to the devil to have him use us in a manner that doesn't facilitate the will or the purpose for which God created us. The devil is not an original thinker. He is not creative. He has no ingenuity. He just does the same thing over and over and over and over. Over and over and over again. The sad part about it is that you and I should know better, BUT we don't because we don't understand the precept, because we don't have the concept, we do not have our eyes of our understanding enlightened to know what is the hope of His inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18). We don't have the concept, we don't have the reality, because God didn't do things piece-meal.

You know, I'm an impulsive person. God is not impulsive. You can't be impulsive if you are the I AM! How can you be impulsive when you know everything? Now, I'm impulsive, but God is not impulsive. So what God does cannot be judged from my perspective. It has to be judged from His perspective, don't you see? Ephesians 1:18 says, ***The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*** What the riches of the glory, the riches of the glory (Diagram II, #12). Have you ever wondered, "What is the glory?" Have you ever wondered that? What is the glory? I can tell you basically, and you can go into the scriptures and try to prove me wrong. Hallelujah! GLORY is the essence of Nature. GLORY is NATURE. "And we beheld His glory" (John 1:14). Do you think it was some sort of effervescent, shiny thing that was working, like we see these neon lights blinking? Or was it the demonstration of God walking and talking in the midst of the earth? It must have been the latter, because He not only says that we saw His glory, but He also says that we touched, we handled. That is in I John 1:1-2, I believe. We touched, we handled the only begotten, the Living Word. He says that they handled the Word.

What are we talking about? We are talking about the essence of thought. We are talking about the essence of intent or idea because God is not piece-meal. Did you know that God is not piece-meal? He is not haphazard. He didn't create all the earth and the things that are in it and all of a sudden say, "Well, we forgot something. There is something wrong with this scenario. I've got elephants. I've got gorillas. I've got monkeys. I've got this. I've got that. I've got trees. I've got

waterfalls. Oh, I know what it is! Man!” And all of a sudden He puts man in the midst of everything else that He created? The fact of the matter is that man was the grand finale. Man was the grand finale! Man was the theme! Man was the absolute essence of the thing that was in God’s mind when He looked down into hell, down into the abyss, which is the word used in Genesis 1. He looked down in the abyss and He said, “Let there be light.” Hallelujah! So we find that God is not piece-meal. He has a design. Praise the Lord. You know, I can go over this and over it and over it and over it, and I always get something new out of it. God had a design. What is design? It is a thought. It is an intent. It is an idea. Hallelujah! So we have a design. It is a thought. It is an idea. It is an intent. What He called it was WORD.

Now in Genesis 1:1, He doesn’t say, “And the Word of God.” He says, “And God said.” Now, when we read that, we think of you and me as we might have a conversation. Right? Burt said... Peter said... Kate said... Shari said... these words or those words. God doesn’t do things like that. That is not the way that God communicates. Do you know that God doesn’t necessarily have a mouth, like you and I have a mouth? But He has a being. He has an essence of what we call a mind. But in His mind, there was something that He called a Word. Now, why did He call it a Word? Because He was creating a natural being in a natural situation that was going to have to use a natural means by which to communicate. We have to understand that that communication wasn’t just something that was natural. It is not of just natural origin. Proverbs 18:21 says that the power of life and death are in the tongue. Now, if I am telling you something that is not correct, you need to correct me. You really do. You need to correct me. Let’s go over to James just for a moment, because I believe what I am telling you is the Word of the Lord and what God wants you to hear this morning.

Words are not just an accumulation of syllables and sounds, consonants and vowels. Words are the epitome of what the intent or the thought is in the mind of the individual. Do you know that you can be saying one thing and thinking another thing? Although you are saying something other than what you are thinking, the force of that hits the person, and it is not what you said, but it is what you thought, that hit them. Follow that one. Hallelujah!

James 3:8, ***But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*** Now, have you ever spoken to anyone and seen them drop dead? Well, you may not have seen it, but you may have said something that, down the road, manifested itself in the nature of death

as far as that individual was concerned. If not in their actual life, then certainly something in their relationship with you. Something died. Let me put it a different way. Have you ever felt the sting of the adder as far as the tongue is concerned? Somebody that you have a great deal of love and respect for says something to you that is inappropriate and it smites, it stings. What are we talking about? Are we talking about the thing that was said? The words that were spoken? “You idiot.” Is that the thing that has the power to bring forth that thing that you felt? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!** It was nothing more than a vehicle, a housing that carried the spiritual content of the thought that was in your heart when you spoke what you spoke.

The reason that it works that way is because we are designed after the image of God, we have the power of the living God to create or to destroy. Hallelujah! This power of God is given to us, not so that we might be bloated or puffed up, or become egotistically inclined. It is given to us for one purpose and one purpose alone: to fulfill the intent and the thought that was in God in the beginning. I said that we have the design. Praise the Lord. And you have to understand this. I don't know! Maybe this is all very boring to you. I don't know, but it excites me, because this Word is doing something in my life. This Word is doing something in my life! It is changing something of my character, slowly, surely, maybe imperceptible to some people. But I, of all people, am aware of the module (Webster's Dictionary definition: of the Word working mightily in me. I may be a little confused about you (chuckle) but I am not confused about me. I look in the mirror and I know who I am. I know what I have to deal with. I know what thoughts go through my head. I know what I have to struggle with in my body. You can't deceive me about me. I know who I am. I know that this Word is bringing understanding and creating within me a desire. The first thing the Word creates in any of us is a **DESIRE TO CHANGE!** If you just want the Word for the sake of the Word, if you want it for the wrong thing, in the end you won't get what the Word was supposed to do. It is like taking a shovel and using the handle to dig the hole. How far are you going to get, especially out here in this Illinois dirt? You are not going to get too far. You will wind up with a broken shovel. Hallelujah!

Let me give it to you this way, if I may? When you were out there in the world sitting under sin and the Word of salvation came to you, somebody began to talk to you about your position of sin and the place of transgression, and the thing that God had for you, what happened? A desire started forming in here, didn't it? Something began to work right there in the “I.” “T” don't want this any more, “I” want

that. The more that you heard about that, the more that you wanted it, and the more you became what we call “convicted.” But, you know, you have to understand these terms. You have to understand what the thing is that you are using as far as words are concerned. It wasn’t that you were just “convinced.”

Now, some people are intellectually convinced, and the change that they have is no change. It is superficial, because when they get put in the fire, when they get put into the crucible of pressure, their veneer begins to peel off. But the fact of the matter is that when we hear the Word of God it does something within the innermost part of our being and something is created at that instant, at that point in time, that is eternal! IT IS ETERNAL!!! That means that this flesh, this environment has no ability to make it anything other than what God wants it to be! The problem is, the devil capitalizes on our humanity and he wants to make the reality of our time more real than the reality of timelessness, WHICH THE BIBLE CALLS ETERNITY! Why do you think it was that Paul could shake off the viper in the fire and not be able to feel the effects of the poison? If he was looking at this flesh, he was a dead man. If he was looking at the reality of the circumstance around him he was a dead man. **But his eyes were fastened on something other than the temporalness and the fragility of his own being, of his own environment in the time that he was placed!** What did Paul say of himself? Have you ever thought about it? “I am a man.” What was he talking about? Time! He was talking about time! He was a man that was born in a timeframe that he could not circumvent, even though he had a knowledge and an awareness of the eternity, because it wasn’t in the plan of God! Hallelujah! I firmly believe, and this is Burt’s opinion, so put it down as Burt’s opinion, but I firmly believe that he went to God and asked God to give him that ability to circumvent his position of time. And God said, “No. It is not something that is yours to do. It is not something that you are privileged to have. You have to be a part of the great cloud of witnesses.” The revelation that this man had, I believe, was every bit as great as the revelation that Enoch had. But there was something that God needed to demonstrate, and it could have well been something of a TEST for Brother Paul, something of a test for Paul in his position of Sonship. The Lord said, “My grace is sufficient.” It was to see if he would be as willing to say to God at his timeframe, as Jesus Christ said in His timeframe, “Not My will, but Thine be done (Luke 22:42).” That is what He said. You know, there are so many theological conjectures about Paul and his thorn in his flesh. Well, who cares? I don’t care

about it. What I care about is the reality of heaven that this man had inside of him! How about the reality that John had inside of him? They tried to kill the man and couldn't kill him. They finally stuck him away out there on the island of Patmos, and somewhere there, in the midst of all the fire, he came to the pinnacle of his time. It was in that place of suffering and tribulation and degradation... It must have been terrible. But this man had a glimpse. This guy had a reality that superceded the realm of his time. You know, I don't know what it would take for God to give us some sort of illustration, because down through the whole seven thousand years, He has given one illustration after another of the fact of man with regard to setting his heart, his mind and his emotions on the fact of what it is that God intends. It all comes back to, "What is it that God wants?" **IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF, "WHO ARE YOU?" IT IS A QUESTION OF, "WHAT DOES God WANT?"** That is what it boils down to. That is what it ALL boils down to.

As far as I am concerned, the gospel of Jesus Christ is illustrated and laid out in Genesis 1:26. The whole Bible is written on the basis of that one particular verse. Genesis 1:26, ***And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:*** We can live our lives how we want to live them. You know what? You can take every revelation that we have and overlay it on these diagrams, and come up with some sort of understanding. The tabernacle. I don't care what it is, because God has been bringing forth a revelation on the continuum concerning this thought, that He wanted to create someone like Himself. Do you understand? **ALL THROUGH TIME!** It is not as though we come to the last days and all of a sudden we are there and we get to do the thing that they wanted to do and that makes us greater than them. I want to tell you something. If they had not done what they did, we would not be able to do what we are going to do. God doesn't all of a sudden take the top of the pillar (the chapter) and stick it up there and hang it in space with nothing under it, because the chapter that goes onto the top of the pillar is the crowning of the pillar, but the pillar holds the chapter (II Chronicles 3:15). Hallelujah!

We have this Word. What is it that God wants in Genesis 1:26? Let's just turn over there for a minute and read it. Genesis 1:25, ***And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*** That's kind, kind, and kind, the number of the fullness (3 times). It was all good, but yet, God wasn't finished because creation was created to be subjected TO man. The fact is, you can look at timeframe as an element of environment. God created all of

the things that He created for the purpose of bringing forth His grand finale, which was man. Verse 26, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Design. It was the thought and intent of God for man to be in His image, in His likeness. Has God changed His mind? Does God all of a sudden go, “I made a mistake. Let’s change the plan. Let’s go to plan B. Let’s go to plan C.” ABSOLUTELY NOT!

So, “in the beginning” is in the middle and in the end. Everything that God did in the beginning was for the purpose of what was to be announced in the end. Isn’t that right? So we have purpose! Design and purpose. If you don’t have a purpose in your mind, what you are designing is of little value. You know, if I am going to build a house, then I want to know what the house is going to look like. I want to know what it is going to be used for. I have to know what it is going to be used for in order to build the house in the way that it needs to be built. So it is that God decided, God planned, God purposed to bring forth His image and His likeness. And guess what? He was going to use time to do it.

Now, you and I are subjugated to our increment of time (See Diagram I, #2). It is like you and me in a box with no windows. Do you understand what I mean? Because of the timeframe we are in, and because we are temporal. . . . If we think temporal, if we think natural, then it is just like being in that box with no windows. We just see the sides of the box, the ceiling, the roof, and the sides, and that is all that we see. We get up in the morning and we see the ceiling and the sides and the walls and the floor. That is all that we see. And that, unfortunately for a lot of us, is the way that we live. We live like we are in an increment of time, doing whatever it is that we do: paying our bills, watering our lawns, mowing our lawns, washing our cars, living with each other, trying to have some sort of harmony and not succeeding at it very well. Trying to get through these little scenarios of life in the morning, in the evening, in the morning, in the evening, day after day after day and all that we see are the ceiling, the walls and the floor and unfortunately, that is all of the environment that we experience, without the concept or the reality of what it is that God wants to do! It is like the man who lives in that box.

Have I told you the story of the man with the rock and the pushing of the rock? He was given the responsibility to push the rock. God came to him and said, “This is your job.” Right here, outside of his front door was this big, old, humongous rock. It was a big, huge hunk of rock that looked like a mountain. He said, “Your job is to push it.” Well, he assumed he was to move it. So he pushed with all of his might, every day and every night, every day and every night, every day and every night. Push, push,

push, push. Push, push, push, push, doing what God told him to do. Push, push, push, push. Push, push, push, push. Then one day the devil came along and said, "What are you doing?" And he said, "I am pushing the rock." The devil says, "Why?" He says, "I don't know." The devil says, "Have you moved it?" The guy gets out and looks around the rock. He walks around the rock. The rock hadn't moved. The devil says, "You are a fool." Where was the man's vision? Where was the original thought? What was the intent of the word that the devil brought to him? It's purpose was to bring the man back into the element of his time, to have him focus on his situation from his perspective, from his position, and from his place of understanding.

And, you know, if I meet the devil on his terms, I am always in trouble. I am always in trouble! I have to meet the devil, not on his terms, but on Jesus Christ's terms. I have to meet him with the thought, with the reality of what it was that I was created for. I wasn't created to live 70 years. I was created to live eternally. It is allotted unto man three score years and ten (Psalm 90:10) - that is the natural position of temporal, carnal thinking ! I wasn't created to live three score and ten. I WAS CREATED TO LIVE ETERNALLY!

If you think that what I am telling you is fiction, I suggest you go into the story of where Jesus Christ talked about Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). It is an illustration of a heavenly principle. Do you know what the words were that he used to describe his position and his place? He used the words "I AM." "I AM the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). What was He telling them? "You don't have to wait to die! You don't have to wait for the grand finale of time coming to a place of closing and cessation in order to achieve the fact of what it is that I have for you! I AM the past, I AM the present, I AM the future!" (See Diagram I, #3) Hallelujah!

Why do you think we have miracles? Is it just that God wants you to feel good? Is it just that God wants you to have an easier place of it? Or is there something of an eternal purpose in the mind of God? I say it is because there is an eternal purpose! He wants to get our minds off the temporal, off the natural. But we do something very wrong with the demonstration. We call it "supernatural." We call it "supernatural," as though it were something outside of the norm because the norm is how we are regulated by our environment of time. Hallelujah! I wasn't created to be regulated by time. Do you know that? That doesn't mean that I don't have troubles, I don't have sufferings, I don't have pain, but there is something of a perspective that I

have to have in the midst of that tribulation that motivates me to be something other than what my circumstance is wanting me to be. Everything around me and inside of me is saying that I am a dead man. Everything around me is saying, “Your flesh is as grass” (I Peter 1:24). Your position, your place of temporalness... everything around me! I get up in the morning, go to bed at night, during the middle of the night, during the day, indigestion, headache, backaches, feet aches, arm aches, hand aches. If that wasn’t enough, personality conflicts are going on here, going on there, everyone vying for this, vying for that. I seem to be the ping pong ball that is getting bounced back and forth across the table. Hallelujah! And we say, “Oh my, oh me, oh boy, how can I have it so bad?” TIME is bringing us into that place of subjugation. It is bringing us down and beating us down, saying that, “You are subject to your environment, there is nothing that you can do about it!” Poppy cock! **I wasn’t created to be subjected to my environment!** Did you know that? I was created for greater things. I was created for better things. **I was created to RULE!** Hallelujah! It says so right here in the Bible, in Genesis chapter 1. Come on!

Do you know what this is right here? He says, “Once I was alive.” Romans 7:9, ***For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*** What happened? I died. So Eden only lasted for a very short time. Hallelujah! Verse 10, ***And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*** What had been ordained to LIFE became DEATH to me. COME ON! What was ordained to LIFE?

Now I want to ask you, has the concept of God, in what He hoped to achieve in time, been cancelled out? Did somebody made a mistake? Absolutely not. In Revelation 13:8 it says, ***...of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*** The Lamb was slain before what? Before TIME. The Lamb was slain before TIME. The Lamb was killed before TIME. OH, COME ON! What does that mean? Right there, God brought eternity into existence in a realm of time by slaying the Lamb. Paul says that what was meant to be life unto him became death (Romans 7:10). Now, let me tell you something. God knew that all the time. He understood that. And He said, “God created man in His own image and His own likeness” (Genesis 1:26). “Let them have dominion.” Now, if you want to look up that word “dominion,” you will find that what it really means is to bring into subjugation. Bring into subjugation. I want to ask you, did God change His mind? Did this change God’s plan? Did the fact of what the devil did, somehow change God’s plan or upset

God's apple cart? Absolutely not! GOD DOES NOT CHANGE! There is no shadow of turning in Him. Did He make a mistake? ABSOLUTELY NOT! He knew that in this realm (See Diagram I, #2), IN THIS REALM, because of what He did out here (#1) before time, man would be able to achieve the objective that God set for him.

Do you know that it is on the principle of that Word in Revelation 13:8 that Enoch was able to do what Enoch did? Do you know that it was on the basis of that principle that Elijah was able to do what he did? Do you know that it was on this principle that Moses was able to do what Moses did? The thing that they all had in common was that they bypassed the grave. They circumvented the law of sin and death on the basis of the principle of the Lamb being slain from the foundation of the earth. Now I have a question for you! If they could do what they did on the basis of that principle, what about us? What is it that you and I can accomplish on the basis of the reality of the thing that was a shadow in the beginning and that they utilized to circumvent their position of death? That means that I've got to change my thinking. Do you understand? I have got to change the way I look at things. I have got to change my behavior. I have to look at things in a different way and in a different light. I have got to look at things and behave and respond. RESPOND – HELLO – RESPOND! That means that you do something different than what you have been doing. It is not you that does it because Paul said "it is Christ in me" who does it. What is he talking about? Christ is another word for Son.

God wants sons. So here we have a realm of hell, a realm of death (See Diagram II, #2). I call this the land of "Oh, Poor Me" (4) and it is ruled by the spirit of "Poor Me." So any time you find yourself under the influence of "Poor Me," you know where you are! You know what's happening! "Oh, nobody loves me any more." "Oh, nobody likes me." "Nobody appreciates me." "Nobody is doing anything for me." "I've got to do it all myself." "Oh, everybody is so insensitive." "Nobody understands my condition." "Nobody knows what I am going through!" "Nobody understands the trouble I'm in!" Of course, you don't have that trouble, right?

Let me tell you something here, if I may? Please, don't get mad at me because I sound somewhat presumptuous or something. I'm not trying to be presumptuous. Let me tell you something. YOU ARE YOUR WORST ENEMY! It is not your husband. It is not your wife. It is not your brothers. It is not your sisters. It is not your mother. It is not your father. YOU ARE YOUR WORST ENEMY! YOU ARE YOUR WORST ENEMY! You are the only one that can displace this lie of the

land of “Oh, Poor Me.” You are the only one. My mother used to say, “Well, Burt, you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” That meant that she could cook in the kitchen all day and sit me down at the table and I could just turn up my nose at what she had been baking all day thinking that I would like it. But because of some little altercation or something that someone did or said, or because she didn’t do what I thought she should do, I was going to show her. Of course, you don’t have that problem.

Let me tell you something else about this land of “Oh, Poor Me.” It is not only the land of “Oh, Poor Me,” but in this land is the spirit of “I Will.” (See Diagram II, #3) “I Will” is the ruling factor. If you don’t believe me, turn over into Isaiah 14. I believe five times the devil says one thing. “I Will.” So, you see the land of “Oh, Poor Me” ruled by “Poor Me” is always an “I Will” type of person. Let me tell you what “I Will” is, if I might be so bold as to make this recommendation. It is called “self-centeredness.” It is called “self-centeredness.” Do you want to know where it was derived? Do you want to know where the theology that supports this doctrine comes from? It comes from Genesis 3:4, *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: Who? Me! “You won’t surely die. Instead, you shall be like gods. The world will revolve around you. You’re going to come to the epitome of everything!”* That is what he was telling her. “You are going to become the focal point. Your attention is to become solely and absolutely upon yourself.” What did he say to her? He said, “You... You... You...” Isn’t that what he said? “You shall not surely die for God knows that in the day that you eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4-5). What are we talking about? THE EXALTATION OF SELF.

I encourage you to go back and look at your latest confrontations, personality and circumstantially. I’ll make it easy for you: within the last 24 hours. Go back over the last 24 hours and the last personality conflict that you had. Was it because somebody stepped on your toes? They did not consider you? They were not in some position of looking at you as you thought that they should be considering you. Well, I would like for you to consider something. Outside of the revelation of the understanding of our eyes being enlightened, we do not have any hope of escaping this realm. But I want to tell you something. In the midst of this realm of “Oh, Poor Me” we find ourselves (See Diagram II, #5). Here, right? In the midst of this hell realm we find ourselves. This is our heart. We are the “I Will,” but we are confronted with the I AM.

I want to tell you what God is doing. God hasn't changed His thought. God hasn't changed His idea. God hasn't changed His intent. We think we get married, have children, live right, pay bills, prosper, or not prosper, whatever our circumstance is, and that is the epitome of everything. Like the man pushing the rock. The devil comes to him and says, "It's not moving, you're a fool!" He says, "Yes, I am a fool. I'm doing something that has no benefit or profit." Why? Because he is looking in a temporal realm, he is focusing horizontally. Yet, in spite of that, God comes to the man and He confronts him and his position of transgression. He says to the man, "Go look in the mirror." What is the mirror? The mirror is the Word of God, and is filled with the intent and the desire that God has with regard to creation. We cannot... Do you hear me? ...maintain a focus on this realm of temporalness and have any hope, any confidence in fulfilling the will of God that has been given to us to do.

**I'm telling you, men and women have done supernatural things on the basis of the Word that God has spoken to them!** What they saw was the reality of eternity in the Word and they began to incorporate that eternity into their lives and it gave them the strength to go without fathers, go without mothers, go without wives, go without children, to give of their substance, to give of their life, to give of their flesh, to give of their totality of their being for a moment, or what would seem but a flash of time. It had nothing to do with time! It had everything to do with eternity, and the reality of God that was around them. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him (the Word); and without him (the Word) was not any thing made that was made* (John 1:1-3). Oh boy!

And here we are in this environment and God speaks something to us. There is a quickening. If the Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwell in you – what shall it do? It shall quicken what? Your mortal body! (See Diagram II, #11) Your body that is subjected to TIME! It is not talking about just getting a fuzzy, wuzzy feeling, those little goose bumps running up and down your spine, the hairs standing up on your arms and on the back of your neck. It is talking about the reality of eternity invading your personal environment of temporal time. Romans 8:11, *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus 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.* It shall quicken, **quicken, QUICKEN!** What we are talking about is the quickening of the spirit of mortality, but the church has taken it and made it a doctrine

that is something other than what it says. The church says that is something to be invoked at the end of the day. When that last breath is drawn, then and only then do you have the right to step off the end of TIME into ETERNITY. **I'm telling you that God gave it to you, not for you to step off into the end of time, but to bring the reality of eternity into your timeframe!** Hallelujah!

This is all scriptural, by the way. Go into Ezekiel 28. I love it. It is so good. Somebody comes and says to me after the meeting, "Do you want to go eat?" I say, "I'm full." I've got to sit down and wait a little bit. Verse 18, but let's go up. We are talking about Satan. We are talking about the position. We are talking about the realm of hell. Now, hell is not some realm out there, some hole in the earth that you can go down into for miles and miles and all of a sudden you find these things that we call demons and princes. Hell is an environment in which you and I live. God is going to create another environment outside of this environment to put them in. Hallelujah! Ezekiel 28:15, ***Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*** You know that there is a lesson here that we really need to look at and observe, because this is the tactic that the devil uses. Do you remember what God said about everything when he made Adam? He stepped back and what did He do? "It is good!" Verses 16-17, ***By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>17</sup>Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty.*** What are we talking about? The devil not being a creative individual. We talk about death to self. Now we know why we have a message that is called death to self. Why? Now we are understanding, or getting some sort of a glimpse, some sort of comprehension. We are not formed or fashioned after the image of God in the rightness of what happened in the garden. There is something of an image that has been supplanted over us to conform us into an image that God does not want us to be. The devil has to use what God made, but he has to change it from what it was to what he wants it to be.

There are two destinies. Two destinies. Two destinies and only two destinies. There is no middle ground! (See Diagram II, #7) There is the son of perdition (#8), which this **WHAT?** can lead you to, or there is the Son of God (#9) which is the I AM (#10). The "I Will" versus the "I AM," in confrontation with each other. And you know what? The sad news is that although every knee is going to bow; and every tongue will confess,

not everyone is going to make it into the place that God created for them. It says in verse 17, ***Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:*** You know, some of us think that we are so smart. We think we know it, we think we got it, we think we've got it down pat. We've got all the words. We've got all the phrases. We know the scriptures inside, outside, upside down and backwards. And yet, we don't know anything because we are not allowing the revelation of the "I AM" to work in the position of the "I Will." Death swallowed up into victory. Oh death, where is thy sting (I Corinthians 15:54-56)? Oh death, where is thy victory? The sting of death is what? The sting of death is sin. Hallelujah! My mind has to be centered - not in here, in this time realm (See Diagram I, #2), but out here in the realm that is called eternity (#1,3). My vision can't be down here - horizontally, but it has to be vertical. Let therefore this mind that was in Who? In Christ Jesus, be in you (Philippians 2:5). What are we talking about? Let therefore this mind that was in Christ Jesus... What mind was in Christ Jesus?

"Phillip, have you been with me so long? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father. You don't know, Phillip, that I and the Father are one (John 14:9)?" That is the position or place of relationship where God is wanting to bring you and I into conformity to the thought that He had from the very beginning.

***Thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness*** (verse 17). You know, Paul had this revelation. If you would go over there in Romans, he says, "neither death nor life" (Romans 8:38). "Neither death nor life." Do you know the greatest star that has fallen is the person that knows so much about God? Go over there into Hebrews. It talks about once being enlightened, coming into the truth, having tasted of the heavenly gift... Hebrews 6:4-6, ***For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, <sup>5</sup>And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, <sup>6</sup>If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*** What are we talking about? We're talking about an individual that has had an experience that has lifted him up out of this realm. He has found something that is resurrection. He had been resurrected out of himself into the "I AM," into the position of the "I AM." The "I Will" had begun to assert his rightful position of authority and finally brings him into a place of subjugation to his temporal environment and then he rejects God.

God help US! God help US!

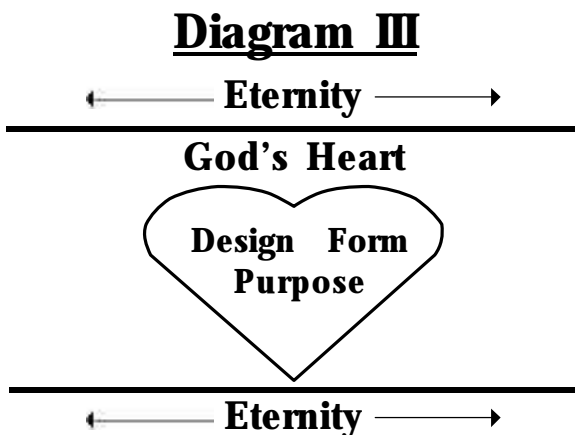
It says, "I will cast thee down." Ezekiel 28:17, *I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.* Hallelujah! That gives you and me strength! That gives you and me hope! That gives you and me a glimpse of resurrection! That gives you and me an idea of what God is saying that you and I have the capability of doing! How is He going to do it? Let's just read on. Verse 18, *Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;* Remember that scripture that I read back there in Matthew? Matthew 7:22-23, *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* <sup>23</sup>*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* They said, "Haven't we proclaimed You in a position and a place of preeminence?" He said, "I don't know you. You are workers of iniquity." Why? Because they did not fulfil the plan or the purpose for which God created them.

You are not judged on the basis of what you think. You are not judged on the basis of what you perceived but did not utilize in the fashion for which it was created. You are judged on the basis of the thought and the intent that was originally stated from the beginning. It is what is revealed when that blueprint is layed over you and I at the end of the day. Hallelujah! You and I have an individual responsibility to walk out our own salvation in fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Now, I don't mean that you are hard and bully and running roughshod over this and over that. That has nothing to do with it. It has everything to do with understanding what is in the heart of God. What is in the heart! You could take design, form and purpose, stick it in the midst of eternity and call it the heart of God (See Diagram III). That is what the heart of God is all about. That is what is in the thought, the intent, the desire of God. It is to bring forth the reality of sons. Hallelujah!

Now, here is the good news. Ezekiel 28:18, *...therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.* (See Diagram II, #6) What does that mean? "I'm going to bring forth." What does that mean? **It means divinity entering into the soul of man.** God says in Genesis, "I'm going to bring forth fire" (Genesis 1:3). He (Ezekiel) is just reiterating what God said in the beginning. Genesis 1:1-3, *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* <sup>2</sup>*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon*

*the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.* The light came into the midst of the deep or the abyss or what we call hell, the realm in which God later placed man. It is divinity in man's soul that will devour the devil.

Turn real quickly with me over to II Corinthians 4:1-2, *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; <sup>2</sup>But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;* Isn't it strange that he talks about handling the Word of God deceitfully to Christians who are supposed to be of another thought, another mind, and yet



are using the thing that is ordained to LIFE to bring death? ...*nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* Glorious gospel of Christ? Come on. What is that? Aren't you saved and going to get to heaven? Sons of God. It is talking about a position, a place of relationship. It is talking about an identity that is separate from the identity that I was born with in the natural realm (See Diagram II, #12). I therefore, little children, travail again (Galatians 4:19). Why? Why? Why? Why was he travailing? For Christ, the Son, the nature, the intent, the design, the thought, and the purpose, the reality that God had from the beginning. Time, all of time is devoted to that one purpose, to that one scenario. Time. The whole

purpose of time is devoted to that one reason, that one purpose and that is to bring forth the reality of what God calls a son.

You can't have a butterfly without having the cocoon and you can't have the cocoon without having the caterpillar. You can't have a house unless you have a foundation, unless you have a superstructure, unless you have a roof. That is what people through time have done for you and me. Turn to Hebrews the 11th chapter. They talk about the saints. Is that just some allegory, or some memorial thing that has been written upon epitaphs upon tombs of the men and women and children who have suffered for the sake of the gospel of the Kingdom? Not the gospel of salvation with a hope to make it through to the end, but those that have labored and wrestled and suffered and died for the purpose of bringing forth that they might lay a basis for the next generation that was carrying the torch. Brother Martin wrote a word on the passing of the baton. I suggest that you get it and read it. The passing of the baton has been passed unto all generations.\*\*

It is a very pertinent question, "What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?" (Matthew 22:42). Where do you and I fit in the plan and purpose with regard to that intent? You know, you can have what you want! That is the scary part. You can have what you want! And you will GET what you want. You can be 30%, you can be 60%, you can be 100% or you can be 0%. It is YOUR choice, your position, your place of decision. YOU CHOOSE!

It was written in the Old Testament for our benefit, you know? It was on the day of entering into the Promised Land, when Yeshua (Joshua), who was a type and a shadow of the son that was yet to come, said, ***Choose you this day whom ye will serve*** (Joshua 24:15). There is a response that is required of you and me with regard to the position and the Word that God is bringing to you and me, as a people and as individuals. ***Choose you this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house...*** He (Joshua) had Jehovah. We are going to fulfill the calling and the destiny of God that has been put upon our lives. You and I can make that decision individually, as well as collectively. God bless you. Amen.

\*\*This word by Martin Kluson can be found in the October 24, 2004 Keeping In Touch.



# *Life Lessons from a Cookbook*

*Testimonies by Stacy Asbill & Kate Trotter*



## **Stacy Asbill**

There have been many things that God has been speaking to me, especially in light of our recent cookbook endeavor. The exciting thing is that many of the things He was speaking, not only relate to our cookbook project, but to every aspect of our lives.

Let me first start off this “cookbook testimony” by saying that I have never yet encountered a project that was less work or easier than anticipated from the beginning... and our cookbook went right along with that thought. Oh, we knew it would take a lot of work - just exactly how much, we did not know. When it came to the actual formatting and layout of this project, we were in over our heads, so to speak, or at least I was, considering that I am not one of the most computer literate ones on our bulletin staff. The layout and formatting for the cookbook was nothing like our bulletin layout and so we were having to learn many new things - things not familiar to us.

The first day on the job of formatting, Kate and I were each at a computer working side by side on our files, both of us realizing the enormity of our undertaking. Throughout the day we would encourage each other and give each other tips as to what was working and what wasn't. At the end of the day I had learned lesson number one: being tribulated one with another gives you a strength and endurance that you might not have alone. I love and appreciate all my fellow bulletin staffers, but that day there was a special thankfulness that Kate and I had for each other as we were in the trenches together.

That night, as I continued working, I began to feel overwhelmed by the weight of the burden of this project. As I was contemplating our situation, a word was spoken to me and it was “test.” “What does that mean, God? Is this some kind of test You are giving us?” Well, I believe that it was for the following morning a scripture came to my mind and it is found in James 1:2-4. I was so encouraged by the verses and the Strong’s

definition that I will include both. ***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*** (#3986: a putting to proof by experiment of good, discipline or provocation; by implication, adversity: temptation, try) ***Knowing this, that the trying*** (#1383: a testing; by implication, trustworthiness: trial, trying) ***of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect*** (#5046: complete in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.; of full age, man, perfect) ***and entire, wanting nothing***. That confirmed to me that God was giving each of us an opportunity to be tested or tried and that, in the proving, it would show where we are at and where we have need to be.

The next “lightbulb” that went on for me was the thought that our doing the cookbook wasn’t so much what we, personally, could bring to the project, as much as it was an opportunity, provided by God, that each of us might overcome all the obstacles we would face in the midst of what we were naturally trying to accomplish. Can you imagine that? When I think about all the aspects in my life and how I have viewed them from the perspective of what I “bring to the table,” it is amazing to think that God sees things a whole different way. I can imagine God saying, “You know, Stacy has cried out to Me for change in her life and deliverance in these certain areas. If I create (insert circumstance of choice) for her, that will provide her the avenue she needs to overcome.” So, He does just that. But, meanwhile, I could be thinking that my special talents are really helping out the cause!

Next, I began to think about Abraham and when he went to offer up his son, Isaac, unto the Lord. After Abraham settled in his heart what he was going to do and went through all the motions to walk in obedience to God’s command, God spoke to him saying, ***Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me*** (Genesis 22:12). The part that so struck me was God saying, “Now I know.” It is something I am still meditating on, but it is interesting to look at the Strong’s definition of “know.” It is #3045 and means, “to ascertain by seeing.” So if God says, “Now I know,” He is actually saying, “Now” (Strong’s #6258: henceforth) “I see.” So, if there was

something that God saw from henceforth, it means that that something was not present before - God did not see it. As it was so aptly put to me, something was created in Abraham at that moment in time. And if the word “now” can be defined as “henceforth,” that means that whatever was created in Abraham at that time, it stayed with him forever! Now, as great as it all sounds, the really exciting thing is, God wants to do that with you and me. He wants to take the situations that we are in and He wants to change us and create in us that substance of Him that we have not had afore, but once created, we will never be without!

I think that there are many aspects in our lives that God wants to change our perspective about. We all know the verse in Isaiah 55:8-9, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* As we begin to look at our circumstances a little more from God's perspective, we can then come into that place of accomplishing what God wants accomplished, not just in the natural, but most importantly, in the spiritual realm.

As I close, let me just say that all of us on the bulletin staff are so excited about our cookbook. Each and every detail of its construction has been provided through doors that God has opened for us. Just when it would seem that we had hit a roadblock, God would make a way. We have striven to produce a professional cookbook, by being exact and going back and back over again, reprinting, reformatting, etc. We know that God has given us the strength and endowment to fulfill this endeavor and we believe that the cookbook will be a blessing to many. We do not even know the full effects that this project will have, but God does, and of that we can be assured! Happy cooking!

### **Kate Trotter**

Through hard trials, tribulation, persecutions, troubles and all... I'm going to see the King.

So the song goes from the story of Esther at the time of her decision to go before the king on behalf of the lives of her people. This sounds like I am going to tell you the story of an extremely difficult and life chang-

ing situation. Not really. I am going to tell you of my experience with making our new cookbook. What do hard trials and troubles have to do with a cookbook? Nothing really, though they have a lot to do with the condition of my heart!

About six months to a year ago, the bulletin staff began to have and discuss the idea of making another cookbook. We thought it was a great idea, but more than that, we thought WE could handle making the entire thing this time, instead of sending off a pile of recipes to a professional cookbook publisher as we did with our first cookbook. I believe that God gave us the idea and put the whole thought into our hearts. However, I also believe that He purposely hid from us the amount of effort that it would take to do the job. I think He knew that we would not have done the job had we known how much it would require from each one of us.

We began the work on the cookbook rather blindly. None of us realized how much detail would go into making each recipe and its text into a standard format for the whole cookbook. Our phones seemed to ring off the hook on some days while we were making the rounds of phone calls to figure out how we were going to handle each trivial matter that arose as we worked on our sections. There was a multitude of “trivial” matters that required group decisions and group communication in the making of this cookbook. We spent hours doing work on the files and more hours going back to change one little detail in many, many recipes – over and over again!

Are you beginning to understand why I started with a song about tribulation? It was all the little things in making the cookbook that piled up into one big mountain to overcome. As I worked, I found myself repeating the phrases, “I can do this job. It can be done. It will be done. I will do it.” I was encouraging myself as I climbed my mountain and overcame in the midst of the “simple” job of making a cookbook. What was God trying to do, anyway?

Well... As I began to turn my thoughts heavenward, there were a number of things God began to show me. God had a specific desire for us in the midst of this project which I believe He explained to me in Ephesians 4:16. *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effec-*

*tual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.* This was the song I heard when I was leaving the church on the day when we finally dealt with our humanity that had been rising up. We had not been working together very well and someone finally asked us if we had prayed together over this project. Hmm... Had we prayed as a group? No. Were we being attacked by the devil? Yes. Were we overcoming our human natures? No. Then we needed to pray – right away. We gathered ourselves together and prayed. There was prayer for the cookbook, prayer for wisdom, but most importantly, there was repentance and a knitting together of our hearts in love. I believe that God put us together in this situation to show us our weakness so that we might overcome it. The verse is very appropriate. I saw a picture in my mind’s eye of a joint that was not supplying and compacting the way it should. It was tearing apart the body because it was pulling away from its position. This is what was happening to our group of cookbook workers until we prayed together. The tension eased dramatically for us and we began to really put our hand to the plow. What a difference!

The parable of the talents also took on greater significance to me during this project. God has given the bulletin staffers a “talent,” if you will, that is, the skill of working with a publishing program. We have been working with this program for years and have become comfortable with it. I have found over time that God does not give me certain skills like this to keep them confined to one particular project. He always begins to expand the borders of my tent and opens doors for me to use the talents He has delivered to me. The decision is mine to use the talents or to bury them in the dirt or hide them in a napkin, as the parables say. I think that this cookbook situation was an opportunity for us to decide to use our talents and multiply them, or to bury our talents and ship the cookbook off to be completed somewhere out in the world. When I realized that God was laying an opportunity like that before me, I was afraid. I was afraid that the attitudes I had been dealing with in my heart were going to rob me of the increase and cause me to lose out on God. I was afraid that I was going to let God down. I was afraid that my fellow workers would miss out on the blessing that this parable speaks of if they were to give up. I found myself

wanting to please God, no matter how hard the job was or how much time I was taking away from “paying” jobs to make the cookbook.

In light of all that God was doing, I also began to see that it was His desire to work the character qualities of perseverance and tenacity into our natures. Just think, God didn’t decide to use something great, like climbing a mountain, to test us in the areas of perseverance and tenacity. So often, I look for the tests in the “big” things of life and fail to see the tests of the everyday life, which ultimately causes me to disregard the “small” tests and go through my day without realizing that God is proving me in those small things so that I might be able to handle something bigger! I think perseverance is an easier quality to demonstrate when your life is hanging in the balance, when you are dealing with something really important. However, I am beginning to understand that perseverance is truly a part of your character when it is demonstrated through the little trials of life. The Webster’s 1828 Dictionary gives a good definition of perseverance: “Persistence in any thing undertaken; continued pursuit or prosecution of any business or enterprise begun; applied alike to good or evil.” Once we began the cookbook, it took perseverance to keep it going and to see it through to the end. In addition to perseverance, the quality of tenacity was strongly in my thoughts. Tenacity means: “1. Adhesiveness; that quality of bodies which makes them stick or adhere to others; glutinousness; stickiness; as the tenacity of oils, of glue, of tar, of starch and the like. 2. That quality of bodies which keeps them from parting; without considerable force; cohesiveness; the effect of attraction; opposed to brittleness or fragility.” How much tenacity did it take to keep us from parting with the job of the cookbook and sending it off to the “professionals” to do it? It may be hard to measure physically, but I’m sure it would amount to quite a bit. The temptation was offered to us, the price was a good one, but the desire of my heart was that we not give up. I really felt that it was God’s desire to have us stick it out to the end, to work on this project TOGETHER – not separately, and to see it off to our printer as a finished work.

Yet another quality that I found I needed was patience. Look at what Webster said of patience: “1. The suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil, with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness. Patience may spring from constitu-

tional fortitude, from a kind of heroic pride, or from Christian submission to the divine will. 4. Perseverance; constancy in labor or exertion.” Did you see the part about “unruffled temper”? I know that I did not pass that test with flying colors! God was quick to show me my impatience and correct me for my ruffled feathers! Have you ever heard the phrase, “Special orders don’t upset us?” That has NOT been my motto in life, but I like the thought that the unexpected does not have to upset me. I should be able to be flexible with everything that comes my way throughout the day. Practicing this kind of patience is taking some work. I find myself saying, “No problem,” as they do in Jamaica, and sometimes I am saying it to myself and for my benefit more than I am saying it to the person with whom I am talking! The cookbook offered one “special order” after another. In fact, even this morning we received another “special order” with the cookbook, and we thought we were all finished! That is okay, we can and will handle it!

On top of everything else God was pointing out in my soul, He was also pointing a finger at my attitude. I knew it was important to keep my attitude clean as I worked on this cookbook, and I did have to repent for the times that it was not clean. As I was meditating on what effect our attitudes would have on this cookbook, I had a rather natural illustration come to mind. In my kitchen, when I use my cookbook, I try to keep it clean. I do not want to ruin it with food splattered all over the pages, nor would I want to leave it out in the mud outside to be ruined. I also do not want to spiritually “dirty” the pages of our new cookbook with my soiled attitude. We may not be able to see that kind of dirt with our natural eyes, but it would still be there! What would God think of our dirty cookbook? We may put a picture of smiling people on the front page of the cookbook, but that would not cover up our stinking attitudes before God! I believe that this aspect of making the cookbook was also very important to the Lord. I know that He looks at us very differently than how we judge ourselves, and I could not let this attitude check that He was doing slip by. My hope is that I will learn from all the things God was dealing with during the making of the cookbook. I do not want to go back and have to learn them again in a harder way!

Let me close with the parable that is so very appropriate to us in

this hour. It is not just a cookbook that God wants to create here. He wants to create sons. God bless you!

*Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. <sup>15</sup>And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. <sup>16</sup>Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. <sup>17</sup>And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. <sup>18</sup>But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. <sup>20</sup>And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. <sup>21</sup>His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. <sup>22</sup>He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. <sup>23</sup>His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. <sup>24</sup>Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: <sup>25</sup>And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. <sup>26</sup>His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: <sup>27</sup>Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. <sup>28</sup>Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. <sup>30</sup>And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

# High Minded

By Wesley Schell



I Corinthians 10:12, *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.* For about the last three months now there

has been boasting in my soul about the idea that I thought I was standing. A close friend of mine was speaking to me about this scripture. I told him that I thought I was doing good on the overcoming chart. You know, the board that marks your progress. Surprisingly to me, he told me my view was wrong because God has a timeframe in which He is going to fulfill His Word about the Sons of God. This is with me or without me and that causes me to be fearful of falling short of the very desire of my heart due to a lack of due diligence on my behalf. In God, you receive back from God as much as you give of yourself. If I give 20% of Wesley, I get 20% of God, but I am still left with 80% of me. I must have a whole-hearted approach to God in giving Him the totality of my existence so I can be transformed and molded into His likeness. The conversation continued with the time drawing towards an end and the necessity of a clean heart that is cleansed from sin. He concluded with the FACT that God is capable of taking any person who is totally in submission and obedience and transform that soul into a son of God. What's the conclusion: submission through obedience towards the heavenly calling that is on my life.

This was totally unexpected to me because I was the one boasting in my heart about me, and not boasting about how powerful God is to redeem the soul of man. I believe this false security came from me thinking that working on the farm and the K.I.T. bulletin bought me the ticket. Wrong! Just being in the place that God has me in will not change me. Change will only come when I submit to the hand of God. For example, I had a little problem with doing what is asked of me the way that I am asked to do it. I would always think that my way was the best and only way. When somebody would have been instructing me to do a certain task for them,

my mind would be thinking about how I am going to do it. Then I think that, since I got the task done, I was correct. That is wrong; it's disobedience, SIN. Blemish in the garment. On top of that, when the person would confront me on my workmanship, I would immediately put up walls to defend my position of thinking that I was right. In reality, God ordains these situations to deliver my soul from this wretched behavior that is far from righteousness by giving me opportunities to learn to submit. I thank God for the people that He has put into my life, because they do not let me get away with anything. Just at the time that I think nobody is watching and I can do it my way, one of them will come along and ask me, "What are you doing?" It really wars against me because my flesh is the first thing to rise up, and then mountains of raunchy attitudes follow. Deliverance will only come when I submit and obey the command. God is being faithful in giving me opportunity to submit, and I have to begin to submit. I have to submit no matter how contrary to my thinking the request is, even if my flesh is trying its best to usurp authority; I must submit and see the salvation of my God.

The truth of the matter is that God wants mature sons. These sons will obey every request that God gives them without adding their own input. They will perform that which is told to them. The sons of God will be righteous, pure, spiritually minded, and in the total "likeness" of God. How does one attain to that magnitude of character? It must be worked out in the natural first with natural situations. I have to submit to natural authority to teach me how to submit to God. The same goes for being obedient, respectful, and many others. One could say, "That is too extreme, God will still use me if I disobey authority." I ask one question. Why would God ask a person to do a certain task when the person can not carry out orders from their own parents or those in godly authority in their life? This is why I am going to learn to submit and obey, because I want to be a son of God and a son of God I am going to become.

I had a dream a couple of weeks ago that really witnessed with the conversation with my friend. The dream took place at my neighbor's house where I grew up in northern Illinois. In the dream, there was a pile of trusses laying in his yard. There was no foundation laid. I thought it meant that my neighbor had no covering so I prayed for him. I shared the dream and boy, was I totally wrong. I was told that the dream was about me, and having trusses without a foundation is the same as a cart before the horse. It doesn't work. So, the interpretation was that I thought that I was in a

place spiritually that I am not, just like thinking that I stand and I was admonished to focus my attention to the foundation teachings of the Brazen Altar and the Brazen Laver, which signify death to self. Mark 8:35, ***For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*** The walk of faith is one of giving up my right to myself, which I don't really have anyway because I am bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20), and letting God totally purge my soul until it is spotless. This is really hard because most of the time I find myself in the act of self-preservation, struggling to hold onto the thing that God wants to change by fire. The correct response would be to just let go and just die to the way that I am so God can inscribe His Word in my heart.

One last thought, and it is about being "good." Somebody told me one day that I was a good kid. It alarmed me inside and caused me to think. Is this what I want, to be good? Good??? Is being good what I was called to? Or is the desire of my heart to be righteous? Being good is acceptance from man, however, when a person is righteous there is acceptance from God. Being righteous is what I choose. Therefore every foul attitude, false idea, wrong desire, stubbornness, idol, and the unruly evil of the tongue must be changed!

## Prayer Requests



We have a special prayer request at this time. Brother Tommy Cook passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 19th, 2005. We would like you to pray for the family members and the Body of Christ during these coming days of adjustment. God is able to lift any burden and we desire that He would touch and minister to the Cook family during this difficult time. Thank you and may God bless and cover each one.