

Desiring One Thing (Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 7 ONLY)

Remaining 5 chapters are available in the entire Desiring One Thing book at <http://www.propheticministryiowa.com>.

Introduction

In Exodus 24:1 & 13 it says that Moses, Joshua, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and 70 elders ascended the mountain of God. They went toward the thick, dark cloud where God was. So it is in our day, the Lord wants to come down and tabernacle with us or have us come up to be where he is. It is the time for the Lord to reveal himself more. But he is looking for hearts prepared to meet with Him. We must press through all extraneous, side-lights into an area not yet known, where God stands alone with no buffer zone (or veil) any more. It is a place of face to face encounter. In this place we will “see God,” we will see where he stands, we will eat with him, we will sit at his table as never before. (Ex. 24:10 & 11) He is now calling to his Bride to seek him and long to come to this place in Him. The following 8 chapters are steps to ascend this mountain of God.

After finishing this book, my hope is that it has helped to acclimate and prepare you to go all the way up to the Lord. You should look for his footprints, his handprints, his words to you. If you meet others with a kindred spirit like yours get together with them once a week (or however the Lord leads you) even if it is only 2 or 3 people. Ask him to reveal himself to you corporately and separately. Ask and never stop asking for him to show himself to you, and never give up. You cannot lose. If your hunger wanes, ask for more hunger. If your seeking seems half-hearted, ask him to make you whole-hearted. You will not lose. If you seek with all your heart you will find him. If you are hungry for more of Him he will satisfy you. As long as you are not satisfied, then keep seeking, with hunger. You will begin to find him, God has promised. And each small encounter will be added to the next encounter and the Lord will not fail to answer the cries of your hearts (He has already put it into your hearts to seek him. He wants to be found). It is as simple as ask (and keep on asking) and you will see him coming to you, knock (and keep on knocking) and the door will open (with him standing on the other side), seek (and keep on seeking) and you will find Him.

Your private prayer times will only be part of your 24 hour a day looking for Him. Your gatherings with others that will develop in time will be a place where the Lord will bring into focus your being “in touch” with others (who want to hear and see him) and this will become a tabernacling with Him, as he is in your midst. What happens there (the touches of His presence) will be like a stone splash rippling through heaven and into your week and flowing forward to your next gathering. No music, no sermon, no teacher or teaching should take the place or should get in the way of hearing one word from Him or seeing one glimpse of Him. And soon that will be the only thing that you will want and the only thing that will satisfy you. Is this what you want? He is calling to you and He is waiting for you.

Chapter 1 Into The Wilderness

From the very beginning of the Bible, from Genesis all the way to the book of Revelation, everything in the Bible has to do with people and how God spoke to people. The Lord

spoke to Adam and Eve, he walked with them and talked with them. But then, as you know, there came to be a separation between them and Himself (He went back to heaven). The Lord disappeared and they couldn't see him anymore but he still kept revealing himself to them. He still wanted to have a relationship with them even though they at times couldn't see him. Also, with their children Cain and Abel, when Cain was angry with Abel because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and was not giving honor to Cain for his sacrifice. When Cain was angry and jealous God spoke to him and said, "I will approve of you and accept you too if your sacrifice is right." "Don't get mad at Abel because I'm looking at you and I love you too, I will do good for you and be with you too (if you will do right)." God spoke to Cain but he went ahead and did the wrong thing regardless. God spoke to Adam and Eve, God spoke to Abraham, God spoke to Noah. The Lord said to Noah, "I want you to build me an ark." And by faith Noah went forth and built an ark at the Lord's command even though he really didn't understand it. He spoke to Abraham and said I want you to go forth from your country and go to a place that I will show you. So, Abraham went forth, not knowing where he was going but he just knew that God told him to go.

So, God tells people to do things. He revealed himself to Joseph in Genesis 37. In that chapter at the top of the page (in my Bible) it has the title Joseph's Dreams. It says that Jacob lived in such and such land and the Lord also spoke to Jacob. One time when Jacob was offering a sacrifice to the Lord at a place called Bethel, and while Jacob was sleeping he saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder, and the Lord spoke promises to him as he had done to his fore-father Abraham. To Abraham the Lord said, I'm going to make your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand of the sea in multitude. I marked down 7 times (maybe 8) that the Lord spoke to Abraham in Genesis and continually he revealed specific promises. Sometimes he would add a new detail to the picture, for instance, I'm going to make you the father of many nations.

And so, this principle is found all through the Bible, the prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, God spoke to them. Sometimes they would be seeking the Lord and the people would come to them and inquire, what does the Lord have to say about this or that. So then the prophet would seek the Lord and it might be 10 days later that the word of the Lord would come to him. When does this word come, how does it come? How did Abraham hear God and get promises from God? The Bible wasn't even written yet, but now we read that God spoke to so and so and then God spoke to so and so. In the New Testament, in Acts for instance, God spoke to Philip and said go to the road that leads to Gaza. Philip did not say to the Lord, why do you want me to go to that road? What am I supposed to do when I get there? Sometimes in the army a soldier or platoon leader is given instructions as to what to do on a "need to know" basis. He's not told everything, only what he needs to know, go from point A to point B and we'll tell you more what to do when you get there. They are told, "Do this" and they don't always need to know why or the reasons; just accomplish the first step of the mission. Philip was told to go to a certain place. When he did get to the road he saw a chariot. What if he was not told to talk to the man in the chariot but go do some other task? Maybe the Lord wants you to go north on the road not south toward the chariot. But when he got there the Lord said go and talk to this man in the chariot. God had this whole thing planned out for what he wanted to do (if we will just listen). In Acts chapter 9 we read about Saul of Tarsus who was traveling on the road to Damascus to bring Christians back to Jerusalem (to prison and probable execution). These Christians would be tried before the religious court and may meet the same end that Stephen did. Peter and other apostles also died. The idea of Saul and the other religious leaders was to stomp out Christianity. But on Saul's way

to Damascus some of the people heard thunder or a sound but saw no one, but Paul heard and understood what Jesus said to him. Saul said, who are you, and Jesus answered, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Then Saul trembled and was astonished and said Lord, what do you want me to do? Jesus said, go into Damascus and more will be told to you as to what you are to do. Paul heard from the Lord, Noah heard from the Lord, Ezekiel, Elijah, Abraham, Joseph. Joseph heard from the Lord in dreams, "You are going to be a ruler and even your family is going to bow down to you." You are going to be a person of such importance that your mother and father are going to bow down to you. Joseph's brothers did not like his dreams and his mother and father were troubled about these dreams too. But it says that the father kept these things in his heart (maybe God is speaking to him?).

But Joseph had to go through a time of testing. He was 17 years old when he first had his dreams but did not see the fulfillment of these dreams until he was 30 years old. The Lord has his perfect timing as to when he is going to bring forth some of the things he says to us. Just like Abraham, some of the things said to him did not even come forth in his lifetime. Abraham thought, Where is the fruit, how am I to be the father of many nations? I only have one son and he has married a woman who is barren. I do not see such a great abundance of fruit. But Abraham did not complain and he did not weaken in his faith but he believed what God had said to him (even though he saw nothing happening). We see, at least 7 times, that the Lord kept telling Abraham what he was going to do for him or what he was to do in obedience to God. God even once told Abraham to slay his son Isaac. "Take your son and go to the place that I will show you." "Go to the mountain that I will show you." How does Abraham know when he is there? Does he just have a feeling? It ends up being that the exact mountain and spot where Abraham built an altar to offer Isaac is the same spot where the future Jerusalem temple sacrifices were offered. God just showed him. This is where you are going to offer your son. Abraham had to know the voice of God to do the things God told him to do.

Paul now is in Damascus waiting for what additional things the Lord wants to say to him. The Lord then revealed himself to another man named Ananias (not the one who died earlier in Acts) and said to him, go to the street called Straight and look for this man named Saul of Tarsus, find him on that street and tell him this.... How does Ananias know what God is saying? He must give instructions to Saul from the Lord as the Lord promised that he would tell Saul more what he wanted him to do. Ananias must hear clearly from the Lord. In Acts 10 there was a man named Cornelius, in the city of Caesarea, who was a centurion in an Italian military group (which may mean he was Italian and not Jewish). Cornelius was a devout man and he feared the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He may have been a convert to the Jewish religion, he gave alms to the people (which could mean he was generous, or had compassion, as the Lord may have been working in his heart), and it says that he prayed to God always (other translations say continually).

[I'd like to say here that I think it would be good if you would consider praying an hour a day. Jesus once said, "Could you not watch with me (stay awake with me) for one hour?" Can we not give one hour to the Lord each day? Try to pray at a time that you will not be too tired instead of, say 11:00 P.M., right before you go to sleep. This will help you to give a better quality time to the Lord. Don't let this time with the Lord be stolen from you each day. This will also come up later in these chapters as to how to break the power of gravity that this earth holds on us. Earthly things and situations pull on us and hold us so that we just can't break loose to pray. We're kind of grubbing around on the

earth and we never get into any heights with God. We've got to break away from the earthly to get into the heights with God, we've got to make some attempts to climb up the mountain closer to God. To give one hour a day is part of those attempts that shows the Lord that we want to draw near to Him.]

Looking back to Cornelius, at about the 9th hour of the day (3:00 P.M. in the afternoon), an angel came and appeared to him. And he looked at the angel with fear, but the angel said to him, your prayers and alms have come up as a memorial (fragrance) before the Lord and God is now remembering you. A memorial is remembering something or someone. Let's say you took a wooden post and you were putting Stick'em Notes (pink or yellow or whatever) and every time God saw you and heard you praying he put a Stick'em Note up on his memorial post that reminded him about you. Pretty soon your memorial post was full of Stick'em Notes from your prayers and alms and other things done and the Lord says the fragrance of this person's life has reached me and now I will act on their behalf. God knew from the very first Stick'em Note that he was going to send an angel to him on such and such date. But he is waiting to see the fulfillment of our seeking of Him with all our heart as he has always promised to do (answering those who seek him and he will speak to them his will). So we need to pray diligently and not give up in our seeking the Lord. "You shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13) The point of all this is that we want to find God, we want to hear his voice. We don't want to continue on and on and on, going in circles, not knowing who he is or what he wants, not having any revelations. We want to find him and hear what he has to say to us. He has a calling on our lives (each one of us) something he wants us to do, if we will just seek him. Cornelius was seeking the Lord and the Lord came at 3:00 P.M. in the afternoon one day, by way of an angel, to reveal himself to him. And the angel said, "Send men to the city of Joppa and call for one named Simon (Peter), he is lodging with a man who is a tanner. Simon will be in the tanner's house by the seaside in Joppa, call him to come to your city and he will tell you what I want you to know." So, Peter is up on the roof of the house where he is staying and he is praying. We've got to pray. One of the ways we are going to hear from God is by pulling away from earthly things and praying. Searching for the Lord diligently means we need to get away from the TV, away from the busy-ness of life, clear our minds and hearts to the Lord. Tell the Lord that you want to hear him more. God also came to Peter while he was on the roof and showed him things. At the end of Peter's vision on the roof the Lord said to him go down, there are some people at the door, they are Gentiles, I know that you are not to walk with them or eat with them but go with them to Caesarea for I have things to say to their group through you. The vision that Peter had was supposed to show him that the Lord will be breaking with some of Peter's ideas from the past, the Gentiles were going to be allowed into the Lord's fold, his kingdom, his church. The vision was of unclean animals like skunks, snakes, alligators and vultures and the Lord said rise up, kill and eat these, and Peter said, no, they are unclean animals. This happened 3 times and the Lord said each time, "What I have made clean do not call unclean." You can eat a skunk or a snake if God says it is clean. And so if God says a man is clean (and accepted by him) then he is clean, go with these men that I have sent to your door.

In Jeremiah 31:34 it says that there will come a day when men won't have to seek out a teacher or a prophet to hear this or hear that but they will all know me from the least to the greatest. This is what is to be taught today, we are supposed to walk into a congregation and say you can all know the Lord, you can all hear his voice. He has a calling and destiny for each one of you just like he had a destiny for Abraham, Noah,

Joseph, Ezekiel, Paul, Philip, every one of these had a work to do and he has a work for each of you also (from the least of you to the greatest of you). There is another verse that says, "In that day, the feeblest among you shall be warriors like David (with a great prophetic voice for instance or as a commanding warrior like David) and David's house shall be like God and the angels (like Gabriel or Michael were mighty servants doing the will of God). (Zech. 12:8)

Each one of us has to know that we can know the Lord and hear his voice, and know that we have a destiny and that the Lord has a plan for each one of us, and that the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the true stories of people who knew God and heard from God. Now it is our time. John was on the Isle of Patmos hearing revelations from God and writing the book of Revelation. John saw visions, too. It says in the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh and they will dream dreams and have visions and prophecy. To prophecy means you are going to hear from God and speak his words. I don't care if you are 5 years old or 95 years old you can hear from God and God wants to speak to you. When he does, you will share what he says to you (vision, dream, prophecy or some other gift) and you will be speaking the oracles of God (I Peter 4:11).

In Jer. 2:5-8 it says, "Thus saith the Lord, what impurity have your fathers found in me (why are you finding fault with me) that you have gone so far from me? And you have walked and sought after vanity and you yourselves have become vain and empty." This is a picture of what is happening in people's lives today who are spending 90% of their time (most of their time or maybe 99% of their time) being pulled down by earth's gravity, by the cares of the world. Really our lives are 90% or even 99% what we want to do and 10% or 1% what the Lord wants. The anointing on our lives is evidence of these facts, little anointing, little effectiveness. We've gone far from him and we've walked after vanities and we have become vain and empty. And the verses go on, "Neither have the people said, 'Where is the Lord'...who led us in the past?" No one is asking, "Where is the Lord" who used to lead us, who used to do things in our lives. "The priests have not asked, "'Where is the Lord,' they that handle my law know me not, (the pastors) also transgressed against me and the prophets prophesied by Baal and they walk after things that do not profit." So the people are not asking, "Where is the Lord," and the "spiritual" leaders are not asking either. And so, Where is the anointing of the leaders? They are not hearing from heaven and are not accomplishing things for the Lord either. When Moses heard from the Lord at the burning bush the Lord said to him, take off your shoes you are on holy ground and an anointing came upon Moses. In chapter 2 of Desiring One Thing, we will be talking more about how to get the anointing, an anointing on your hands, your face, your clothing and to walk in that anointing, to hear from God. But you have to ask where is the Lord, where is the voice of the Lord in my life? Seek the Lord, ask him to help you hear his voice more. Lord, tune my ears to hear you. "My sheep know my voice and they follow me..." (all my sheep should know my voice). All my sheep from the least to the greatest will know my voice and they will follow me. We must know what he is telling us to do like these people in the Bible, where are you Lord? We should be tired of the 90% or 99% fluff, activities, the cares of life or our own works that are squeezing out his voice. We must tune our ears to know his voice and know what he is saying now and what he is telling us to do and find out what our destiny is.

In Luke 21:34-36 it says, "And take heed to yourselves (listen to what I am saying now, this is very important, look carefully at yourselves) lest at any time your hearts be weighed down with surfeiting, drunkenness, and the cares of life." (your hearts be encumbered or cluttered down). So that, as the day is drawing near, God is allowing

more deception and coldness to come upon people, betrayal of one another, hatred of one another, suspicions, speaking against one another, with divisions and troubles, and the world is growing darker and darker and more wicked. Wickedness is increasing and love is decreasing. Trust is decreasing and it is making our love for one another and care for one another diminish. Walls are rising up to separate peoples hearts and lives. Don't let this evil day snuff out your lives for me, don't be deceived or pulled down away from my purposes and plans for you. Don't be overcome. A definition of the word focus was given by someone I heard preaching, they said that focus means that some things need to be eliminated. When the preacher heard that definition at first they had to ponder over that meaning. If you were looking out your back window and you saw a deer over by a tree, and then some rabbits running over in another direction, and then a hawk over in another tree, and a flower garden over to the left and some beautiful clouds over to the right, you could see all these things in the larger picture but if you wanted to focus on just one thing in this picture then you would have to eliminate everything else and zero in on one thing. If you want to focus on God you will need to eliminate other things that would distract you. What is my destiny, what does he want to say to me, where is he, I want to hear him clearly like I've never heard him before. Where is the God of Elijah? I want to hear him like Elijah did or any of these great men and women of God in the Bible. I want to hear him more purely and I don't want a mixture any more. I don't want 90% me and 10% God. Where are you Lord? If you seek me with all your heart you will find me. "Lest that day come...and it pull you down and snare you, for it will come upon all those on the face of the earth, but don't you be caught off guard, be focused on God, be ready." Watch therefore, means pray, pray always, so that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and stand before the Son of man. (Lk 21:34-36)

In Deuteronomy 8:2 & 3 it says, "And you shall remember all the way which the Lord has led you these 40 years in the wilderness. He humbled you, he tested you, he proved you to see what was in your heart whether you would keep his commandments or not." Most of the people who went into the wilderness went in with such joy, with singing and dancing. Moses is the one who heard from God and the Lord said to him to go into the wilderness with the people. The people might have said, God told Moses and we think it's wonderful, let's go. But when things got tough they said to Moses why did you bring us out here, to die? Now they were blaming Moses. But God wants us all to come to a place where we know him and know his voice and can say God told me to go or God told me to stay. In the New Testament it says the Spirit of God drove Jesus into the wilderness. Can we say God sent me here and he will show me what is next? And so in verse 3, "God humbled you and he allowed you to hunger..." As you walk through the wilderness you are eating and drinking out of your backpack and you are doing great, playing your tambourine and singing as long as you have food and water. But then your food and water start getting very low and all around you is wilderness with no drinking fountains, no restaurants, no corn fields. You are being led farther and farther into no man's land exactly where God wants you, where you cannot rely on anything around you except God alone. So, now you must listen to what he is telling you to do to survive or you will die. He allowed you to hunger, he brought you to the bottom of your backpack, to the end of your resources. Now, without food and little hope for water for a few days, now what are you going to do? We want to go back to Egypt, what did you bring us out here for, we don't want to be out here any more. We want to go back to the security of Egypt where we have our little house, and our little refrigerator, and our TV, and our easy chair, where we can sip our coffee or lemonade or eat whatever we want from our cupboards and gardens. There we have things under our control with our provision and

our plans. But the Lord says you are in bondage there, you will never break out into the things I have for you (what I want you to be) with things under your control, you will remain in captivity in your little house. You are enslaved and bogged down in the clutter and gravity of this world, it has you weighed down. He's trying to call us out of all this into the wilderness where there is nothing else except, "I've got to hear the voice of God." If I don't hear him I'm going to starve or die of thirst. Then the Lord provided manna which they had never seen before, had never heard of, their fathers never had that kind of thing before either. So God provided manna each day for them. And they got tired of it, even though it had all the vitamins and minerals and every nutrient they needed to sustain them for years and years. But now they say, "We're tired of it, we don't like this anymore, we want meat." We want to go back to Egypt and fry up some onions and potatoes. We're so tired of all this. They complained about so much and yet God was providing for them step by step. He wanted to teach them to walk on a "need to know" basis. How long am I going to have to live on manna? It doesn't matter, as long as the Lord wants that for you. Learn to be happy no matter what the Lord has for you, he is testing you, he's training you to go to the next step, to go to the next level. Man does not live by bread alone. What if God said to you, you can live without food for the next 40 years? You could do it if he said so. Without water? Sure, whatever he says. You don't need to worry about buying new shoes your shoes are going to last for 40 years. This is how you are going to proceed and live day by day. We must not live by bread alone (or even food as our first concern) but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. Jesus also said, food is not the most important thing or clothing but seek his kingdom first and these things will be given to you.

In future chapters we will talk about the meaning of the word salvation (not withstanding his substitutionary death for us and forgiveness through his blood) but that salvation boils down to relationship with the Lord or knowing his voice. It's not just you talking to him (prayer) but him talking to you also. Why don't you keep a journal and write down what the Lord says to you? Ask him to speak to you and when he does write it down. In the future we will tell each other, what has the Lord been saying to you, I'll tell you what he has been saying to me. In summary, know that the Lord wants to speak to you and use you, tune your ears to hear his voice and keep a record of what he says.

Chapter 2 Fire

As we have seen, the people in the Bible had names and walked out their lives fulfilling the plan of God for them, and you have a name, now you must walk out the plan God has for your life. Revival begins in your heart when you decide to go out into the wilderness and find out what he has for you.

We must make an effort to find the Lord and to get into his presence and to ascend higher on the mountain of God. We must get close to his fire for him to change our lives and for us to glow with a greater anointing. He wants to transform us to think like he thinks and feel like he feels and he wants our hearts to beat for the same things that his heart beats for.

In Numbers 25, there was a man named Phineas who had the fire of God in his life. He had the zeal of God in his mind and in his thinking. At times Phineas saw people doing things that really bothered him. For instance, in Numbers 25: 6-7 when an Israelite man brought a Midianite woman before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly as they

were weeping at the Tent of Meeting, Phineas rose up with a javelin in his hand and went after the man of Israel into the tent and as they were standing together he thrust through both of them (the man and the woman) with the javelin and the plague was stopped from the children of Israel. And the Lord said to Moses, Phineas has turned my wrath from the children of Israel because he was jealous (zealous) with my jealousy (with my zeal) (he was zealous for his God) so that I consumed not the children of Israel. Phineas did something that no one else had the courage or zeal or fire to do. Phineas knew that it was against God's laws for an Israel man or woman to marry a foreigner (Gentile) that would turn their hearts to other gods, other religions, other ways that were against God and his ways. The Lord wants us "all to himself" and does not want to share us with other gods (who are no gods), with demonic rituals or with worldliness that takes our hearts away from him. He is jealous for our love and with zeal he wants to keep us for himself. The Lord wants no corruption among his people. God wants no mixture of the way the world does things and the ways he wants for his people. God said do not mix with these people and do not marry them against my laws. So Phineas was zealous with the zeal of God to keep things pure. In like manner, when Jesus went into the Temple and he saw the money changers and he saw the tables, he saw the doves, he saw the animals and the people coming in from foreign countries to get animals for sacrifices and the men changing the foreign money to local money so that the foreigners could buy the animals, he saw much corruption there. There was evil in the Temple of God and it had been bothering him, maybe even since he was 12 years old. Jesus had the zeal of God, he had the fire of God and he knew God's heart towards these things. Jesus could see with the eyes of God that there was impurity and a mixture in the Temple. So he became angry, "This is my Father's house, a house of prayer for all nations and you have made it a den of thieves", then he made a whip and drove out the money changers, the animals, and turned over their tables. And the Word says of Jesus, "The zeal of God has consumed me." The zeal of God is fire. The Word says, "Our God is a consuming fire." The Lord God has desire, he has passion, he has passion for us. He is jealous over the numerous hours we spend on ourselves and on our pursuits, he wants us to come to Him and know Him. That makes all the things we run after like prostitution, running after other lovers and not being focused on our love for him or wanting his love. Where our treasure is that's where our hearts are, and our hearts are not his completely. Is our treasure and longing for God or for other things? When Lot was told to go out of Sodom and Gomorrah, he went and told his relatives, his daughters and his daughter's husbands, Lot said this place is evil and God is going to judge these cities, we need to get out, he felt the zeal of God in his heart. His wife did go out of Sodom and Gomorrah with him and walked with him but she looked back because her heart was still there. She was still affectionately attached to the old life there. As we read about Israel in the wilderness they wanted to go back to the old life also (in Egypt). They wanted comfort and security and happiness rather than a challenging walk with God outside their comfort zone. So, what was in their hearts? Would they follow God or want other things more than God? People like Phineas, and Jesus and anyone else who has heard the voice of God and embraced his command in their heart will do zealous things and fiery things, things that others will not do.

Getting close to God and hearing his voice creates a transfer of his fire and anointing into our hearts and spirits. The Lord wants to change us to have his heart and his desires and his zeal and his thinking. Tell the Lord that you want to be like him in all these ways and seek for Him and he will change you more and more into his fire. The things that the Lord will show you and speak to you when you have shown him that you are seriously seeking him will become fire in your heart and spirit. In Exodus 30: 22-33 it

teaches that when you get close to the holy things of God you actually take on the anointing of holiness because you have touched holy things. But it is not just getting near the golden lamp stand or the golden altar or the mercy seat or the altar of incense, but going a step further, it is getting near God himself and being entrusted with his giftings and his words and his character and his glory shining through us, this is the greater fire. If you can become holy by touching a golden instrument how much more would you become holy if God put his words in your mouth and said speak this to my people? Jesus had a revelation of how God feels about his Temple and that became fire in his heart and spirit. Phineas was also thinking the same thing that God was thinking and God's passion was in him as a man with God's zeal and fire to act or to speak for him.

In Exodus chapters 19, 20, and 24 God says, "Prepare yourself and come near to me." In 3 days I am going to come down and meet with you, but prepare your hearts to meet with your God. Wash your clothing, husbands and wives refrain from being together, prepare your hearts to meet with me. As God approached the people they said, "We don't want to come close to God, it's too scary, you (Moses) just hear from God and we'll listen to you." Is this not a picture of the church today? Do we want a substitute for God, someone to tell us about God when God has always and especially now is ready to come close to each of us? God wants to speak to each of us, use each of us, and be near and in the midst of all of us as we gather together.

Individual revival begins and can be seen when our hearts become aflame with closeness to the Lord. When we come together we share this fire that we have from Him with each other to create an even greater, glorious presence of the Lord corporately. Moses went toward the dark cloud where God was and now is the time when he is calling the Joshuas up, also, and the Aarons up, and the 70 elders up, and you and me to see Him and to dine with Him. Are we living on the plain where we say let someone else get close to God, it's too much hard work? We're happy with our little houses and comforts. "Come up", the Lord calls us to the sea of sapphire, "Eat with me and dine with me and I will give you precious things and your hearts will be changed." They saw God, God was there and He is calling us up too, because he wants to be with us. Sometimes you may have to wait for a period of days but don't give up, wait for his voice and he will come to you.

In Ex. 24:1 it says, "And the Lord God said unto Moses 'Come up unto the Lord....'" The people didn't want to go up. The Church today may be satisfied to have other things substitute for their own closeness to God, such as church services and listening to a few share what they believe God has said, but God is not satisfied with our substitutes for Him. Real revival is the living God coming close to us and us coming close to Him (both individually and corporately). So, come up, Moses, and bring with you Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and 70 elders of Israel and they can worship from afar. Here it names 4 people and 70 elders who went up on the mountain. But in Ex. 24:13 it also mentions that Joshua went up with Moses. In Ex. 33:11 it says that, on one occasion, even after the Lord spoke with Moses face to face at the door of the tabernacle and Moses turned to go home, Joshua departed not out of the tabernacle. This speaks to me that it is going to take some staying longer to get close to God. It is not just going to be "business as usual" and the same old stuff and what is required of you is what is required of everyone else. You need to be willing to press in farther because most people aren't really pressing in and you need to press in. One of the phrases that I have used in the past is "self-imposed solitary confinement." Solitary confinement is when you are confined to a

cell, not of your own will. You are put in solitary confinement and you are not supposed to see anybody. You are not supposed to see any other inmates. You are not supposed to even see the guard. You are just given food through a little slot. There might not be any window. You might not know if it is day or night. It won't matter any more whether it is day or night because you are being punished with solitary confinement. They might even, for some reason, just say you are not going to get any food either. We are just going to give you water. We are just going to keep you alive. Self-imposed solitary confinement is that you put yourself in solitary confinement. What would it be like the first 24 hours of your confinement? You might say, "Oh, I love the Lord." I'm close to you Lord---I'm just going to sing songs. Well, after 24 hours of singing songs then you say, OK, for the next 24 hours I'm going to pray and then for 24 hours you try to pray. Then, for the next 24 hours you say, "Well, I'm just going to do this, or I'm going to do that." Do you think you'd get pretty tired of praying and pretty tired of singing songs after a certain number of days? Soon, it will get boring. After a while, you'll wonder why isn't God saying anything to me? Where is God through all this? I am starting to miss food. I'm starting to miss TV. I'm starting to miss not being with people. I'm starting to go a little stir-crazy. The whole thing is, how long can you stay in the dark. How long can you stay alone? How long can you stand being bored, but when it really comes down to it, how long can you stay with the Lord or stay waiting on the Lord? Because if you are to go up on the mountain, like God called Moses up on the mountain you are going up to be with the Lord alone. The Word says that two times in Moses' life he spent 40 days and 40 nights up on the mountain with God, not eating—40 days and 40 nights. So, you are taken away from all of your errands, all of your work, all of your human contacts, all of your normal food and your normal daily regimen, all of your falling back on, I'm tired of doing this, I'm tired of my one hour devotions, I'm going to run back to the TV or run here or run there. Up on the mountain you don't have anywhere to go except back to your old life. You are with the Lord day after day after day after day. Are you bored with the Lord? Will you stay with him? Will you listen for him? Will you come into fellowship with him? Will you press in—to the breaking point? One of the things that I am going to try to teach is that you have to be able to tear yourself away from the attractions of this world, the busy-ness, and the clutter of this world. You have to continue to tear yourself away until it becomes more second nature to be able to stay with God, spend time away and alone in His darkness. The Word says that this was a thick, dark cloud, and so, you must move toward the thick, dark cloud to come up and be with the Lord.

In Ex. 24:9 it says, "Then went up Moses and Aaron and Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders and they saw the God of Israel." They saw God. God was calling them up to where he was and they saw him and they saw under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, like the very heavens in clearness. And they saw God and they did eat and drink. The Lord wants to be seen. He wants us to see him. He wants to come close to us, but he has to acclimate us to his world and to his realm and we have to want to get into his realm and we have to want to not be just comfortable in our own realm, in our own world. One of the things that I will be teaching later is, what it means to abide in him, to live in him, to be at home in him. It takes an acclimating to a different type of atmosphere. The Lord said to Moses in Ex. 24:12, "Come up to me, into the mount, and be there." God calls Moses up into the cloud and says, "For God is there." In other words, be where I am. So, Moses rose up, verse 13, with his minister Joshua and Moses went up into the mount of God. He said onto the elders, "Tarry ye here until we come again unto you." Moses went up and a cloud covered the mountain and the glory of the Lord was abiding on the mount and the glory cloud of God covered it for six days. So, for six days, Joshua and Moses were in the cloud, in the glory, and on the seventh

day, God called out to Moses, out of the midst of the cloud and the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. Our God is a consuming fire. He wants to consume all of our own stuff and entrust unto us who he is. Moses went into the midst of the cloud and gat him up on the mount and Moses was in the mount 40 days and 40 nights. I will not spend time now to go into the verses of Ex. 30 and Ezek. 44 except to say, when we come near the holy things of God, the holiness of God gets on us and on our clothing and the glow of God and the glory of God will be upon our faces, it will be upon our hands and upon our feet, just like Stephen's face glowed with the glory of God in the New Testament, Moses' face also glowed with the glory of God. Paul touched handkerchiefs and the power of God was in the handkerchiefs for healing, and even the shadow of Peter, if it were to touch people that they too might be healed. There was an anointing on the hands of the apostles that if they laid their hands on anyone, they would be healed or they would receive the Holy Spirit and there is an anointing that comes on us from being with God and knowing God.

In Ezekiel 9 we read of some tremendous things that say that God will entrust unto us his heart and his desire and his feelings and his character. The Lord commands in verse 4, that an angel should go through the city, in the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry over all the abominations that are done in the midst of Jerusalem. So, a mark is going to be put upon people's foreheads who sigh and cry with the same sighing and the same crying that God has over the abominations that are in the earth, in the church too, in God's city. The church has become a desolation. In the Old Testament, many times it says, Israel is desolate, Jerusalem is desolate, the temple is wicked. This is the same fire that Jesus had in his life, when he says, "The zeal of God has consumed me" because of the wickedness that was in the temple, so much so that he turned over the tables. The fire of God has consumed me. Our God is a consuming fire. When we sigh and cry and weep over what is happening, it's the heart of God that has come into us. When Phineas had the zeal of God and killed those two people with the spear, it says, "The zeal of God stopped the plague, because the zeal of God was in Phineas—the fire of God. In Ezek. 13:2,3 & 10 it says that the ministers, the prophets, the pastors, the leaders of God's church and God's people are misleading the people. They are building up a wall that is not the true wall. They are daubing it with untempered mortar. It is their teachings that are not correct, they are not what God wants, and he says that a great wind is going to come and blow over this wall, and then he adds, where are your teachers going to be, where are your ministers going to be, where are their teachings going to be when they all fall, because "I did not build them." It goes on to say in verse 22, "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad." When we get sad over what is going on, we have the heart of God, because God is already sad about it. God is already sick of it. When we get sick of it, we begin to take on the temperament of the Lord, and we see that the glory has already departed. Ichabod means the glory has departed. It has been departing. Now, if we could just see with the eyes of God, we would see that the glory of God has departed and we want the glory of God to come back. We want God to come back. We want to get back with God and we want to know God—and the righteous are sad, but God says, "I have not made them sad." In other words, I have not disappointed them but the ministers have disappointed them because they are strengthening the hands of the wicked by telling them that they don't have to turn from their wicked ways and promising them eternal life and salvation and they don't have to change. This kind of teaching is vain and empty and is not correct.

In Jeremiah 23:18 it says, “Who has stood in the counsel of the Lord to hear and perceive what he says? Who has marked his word and heard it?” But if we stand in his counsel then we will give to God’s people his words...and the Lord declares, “Is not my word like as a fire (in your mouth)? And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jer. 23:22 & 29) We have to be like watchman on the wall, even as we go up on the mountain, we go up on the watchtower, as it says in Habbakuk 2:1, “I have gone up, I’ve made my stand upon the watchtower, to see and hear what the Lord is going to say, and when he says something, I’m going to write it down and make it clear.” We have to have, day and night, the right attitude and have hearing ears and listening ears.

In the last two verses of the Old Testament (Malachi 4:5 & 6) it says that in the very last days the spirit of Elijah is going to come. At first, John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah but now again it has gone full circle, and so, before the Lord comes again the Lord will send Elijah the prophet to make the hearts of his people right and to turn the hearts of his people to the father. The Lord wants to have some people who have the Father’s heart. What I’m seeing in the church right now is that God is creating a new breed of people that are not satisfied with the old. They are not satisfied with just traditions. They are seeing things differently, they are wanting things differently, they are not wanting to play the games, and they are getting serious with God and they are saying, “Where are you God, where is the real God, where is the real thing, where is real revival, and they are not satisfied anymore. In the next chapter I will explain that we should be dissatisfied with all mixtures of human effort (not some of God and some of me), or some of the church, and some of traditions, and some empty things, and some spiritual things, but we should be dissatisfied with all mixtures. We should desire pure spirit, pure messages from God, pure words, pure gold, “One thing have I asked of the Lord and that will I seek after....” I want to hear his voice. I don’t want to hear a mixture anymore.

What is it going to take, to push toward the dark cloud, to push into a self-imposed solitary confinement, to push towards staying with the Lord when everything in you is saying, “I’ve just got to go back to the world, I’ve just got to go back to comfort and security.” Can we just keep pushing and just keep telling the Lord that we want to hear him and we want to know him, and will we become a watchman on the watchtower? Become one that the Father is calling up. He is going to change your heart. He is going to show you his counsel. He is going to make you sigh and weep over what is going on. He is going to allow you to become sad—not sad or disappointed in him, but sad at what is going on all around you and even sad with your own condition, but by God’s grace, he is going to change your heart and mine.

How is God going to change us is when we go to prayer? It is like Moses going up on the mountain, or Moses bowing at the burning bush, or Cornelius praying and seeking the Lord and then the Lord reveals himself to them. How is he going to change us? He is going to see that we are running after him and he is going to see our desire and, if you say, well, I don’t have any desire, well, I’m hoping that the message of this book will give you a desire, but if the desire goes away, then you have to keep asking the Lord, “Lord, I want to be hungry for you, I want to know you better, I want to know you more.” Then, if you will just show the Lord how desperate you are to know him and that you want to be changed by him, he is also going to test you. Just like we read in Deut. 8, he is going to test you to see what is in your heart, whether you really want him. He is going to test you to the limit and he might say to you, “All you really want is to be successful, all you really want is money, all you really want is ministry, all you really want is a successful church or a successful home meeting,” and you are going to find out that what really is in

your heart is that you are seeking just selfish things. He is going to test you to the point where he might say, “Don’t you realize that everything that you want is for selfish reasons, so that you can look spiritual, or so that you can get a revelation so you can brag about the revelation that you got?” He will test you so far, until finally it will come down to the bear bones of what it is that you really want. You’ll find out that most of the time what you really want is something just for selfish reasons. But, God is wooing you and calling you and trying to purify your desire, so that you will come to this place—and this place is what you are really looking for, so that in your seeking of him with all of your heart, what you want to find is Him. It doesn’t matter anymore whether it is a revelation, or whether you want more gifts so you can look better in the church, or whether you want to be used more so you can be seen or recognized more, it will come down to, I just want him and you will be purified, because he will say to you, over and over again, what do you really want? You will realize that you don’t even know what you want but this will be the search and this is the pressing in, and you will find out what you are really made of. It will take a tearing down of your own desires, a tearing down of your own soul, a stripping down of what you really are looking for and God will find out—he will open up and show you what you really are, but he WANTS you and he wants you to WANT him and that is what it is going to come down to. Then, as you spend time in his presence, and even sometimes when you don’t even hear him and it doesn’t even seem like he has said anything to you, but you have broken away from the world, you have continued to break away to seek him and give yourself to him, and make sacrifices unto him, he will begin to change your heart and give you revelations, show you things, change your thinking and you will be transformed by being in his presence through some of these things that I have already said in Ezek. 9, the mark upon the forehead, the sighing and crying for all the abominations, the sadness and the disappointment concerning the church, and you will be wanting a more pure word and a more pure relationship with the Lord. So, this is what is going to happen. It takes effort. It takes pushing, but you are getting close to the fire of God and you will be changed. He is a consuming fire, he will consume all your false motives and the real intentions of your heart will be revealed, your heart is being prepared to be close to Him, and he wants to burn up all the things that are not of Him, even things that you had never seen before.

Chapter 7 Enter the Rest

The Lord is beckoning us to enter His revival. He’s calling us to prayer, he’s calling us to be closer to Himself, he’s calling us to make sacrifices, he’s calling us to get away from the TV more but will we hear his voice? In Hebrews 4:11 it says that we strive to enter his rest. Many may be saved but have remained at a level of “little faith” and have not entered the rest the Lord has for us. Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 speak of the rest that the Lord is calling us to, saying that the generation at the time of Moses failed to enter His rest but there remains for us today a rest still available that the Lord is even now calling us to. Do we hear his call to this rest? The Lord wants us to be in this rest with Him but it will take our hearing and our seeking and our striving to enter it. Here is an illustration once shared with me to show some of the striving attitude we will need. Imagine a person standing on a train platform ready to get on a train with his bags in his hands. Then all of a sudden he sees the train begin to move. So, hurriedly he tries to get to an open door, shuffling and struggling with his bags. But then he sees that the train has picked up speed and he needs to run faster to get to the door. Now, he realizes that unless he drops his bags and lunges for the door, he’ll never get on! So, he throws his bags to the side and running full speed, with all the strength and agility he can muster,

he grabs a handrail and flings himself into the fast moving train. Even now in our race with the Lord we may need to drop some things. As it says in the Scriptures that we should put off every weight that is hindering our running. So now, we are on the train and in our seats and we can rest. The train will now carry us where we need to go. Strive to enter this rest. And a lot of people have not entered the rest as yet. The people in the wilderness at the time of Moses did not enter their rest. The Lord invited them to this rest over and over but they did not enter because of unbelief and disobedience. Heb. 3:7 says, "Today, when you hear my voice harden not your hearts as you did in the day of provocation and temptation in the wilderness." And in Heb. 3:15 it says again, "Today, when you hear my voice harden not your hearts as you did in the day that you (provoked God to anger with your complainings, murmurings, you did not believe that God was with you and would supply your needs and guide you in victory, and so you disobeyed and did not do as the Lord was directing you). In Heb. 3:13 the Lord says, "I swear that they will never enter my rest because they believed not." (Heb. 3:19, so we see that they could not enter into his rest because of unbelief. Heb. 3:18, they missed the mark because of disobedience). So, if God speaks to us to enter into his revival, he's calling us to prayer, he's calling us to be closer to Himself, he's calling us to make some sacrifices, he's calling us to get away from the TV more, but will we listen to his voice or his calling or his beckoning? Today, did he speak to us, did we harden our hearts? This is disobedience, yes, but it also involves not believing that God is really going to change anything or do anything for you. Is it a waste of time making all these sacrifices? If he's not going to come and help me I might just as well continue to do what I have been doing and stay as I am. But He is faithfully still calling us day after day. So, there still remains a rest for us if we will only hear. Today when you hear his voice make that little step or that little sacrifice. The Lord said if we would draw near to him he would draw near to us. Many people right now are going through struggles, they want to be in this fire and revival. Some are thinking that it's almost hopeless, they might say, I don't see revival, I don't see it in the churches, I don't see it in my life, I just feel like giving up, I guess I'll hide in a hole till Jesus comes. Or I just want to be safe till the Lord comes. But the Lord wants us to enter this rest. He is calling us to do so. It is going to take some effort and striving to enter the rest but it is where the Lord is, where he lives, and he wants us to be where he is, to stay there and never leave again.

In Psalms 27:4 it says, "One thing have I desired (or asked) of the Lord, one thing will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple...." To want only one thing, to clear away every other goal, to desire to walk with God as Enoch did (or even better) and have no other epitaph but "He pleased God." It is not other accomplishments, or fame and fortune, but one thing, to walk with God and please his heart. What is it going to take to walk close to God like Abraham or Moses or the apostle Paul or Jesus? It is going to take what we have been talking about. We must go toward the cloud of God, we must go into that cloud and desire to be face to face with God, when others are saying this or that is enough, we want one thing only. Others may say, we don't want to enter his cloud, we are happy out here, well, they will never enter his rest. Do we hear his voice calling us to this rest? The Scriptures say, "Today, when you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." What is he saying to you? So, Moses said yes to going into the cloud of God and he said I'm going to take some people with me to see God if they really want to go. Joshua was one who really wanted to be closer to God. I believe people who will hear the things said here or from others or from God himself will say, "I have been feeling this hunger for God and I want what I have been hearing." If you find the rest and find that secret place with God then you will dwell in his house all the remaining days of your life on earth. If

you don't want to behold his beauty then you will just choose to watch TV. Yes, there is some "beauty" on TV, some attractive and interesting things to see, but the Lord says I am calling you to my beauty. But part of me wants his beauty and part of me wants the world's beauty. Make me stronger, Lord, make me want to dwell in your place, with your beauty, and never go back to the "beauty" of the world. I want more fire, I don't want mediocrity, I want the fire to grow, help me Lord.

In Daniel chapters 4 & 5 we read of two kings that the Lord warned and dealt with. What is going to happen to us and what needs to happen is a stripping of all our ideas about formalities, traditions, or "business as usual." We need to be so open to the new things that God is going to do, to the new ways that God wants to do things that are different than our ways. God is going to turn over, turn inside out, discard, scrutinize every motive in the things you do to know your heart, till you are so bewildered and lost in not knowing which way is up that the only thing you can do is hold his hand, or if you cannot even feel his touch just trust him in total silence and darkness with no feelings or emotions whatever. Your prayer life will be turned upside down and much of the old ways discarded, the way you have a meeting, your ideas about songs or teachings or leadership till what you have is only the Lord guiding and letting his principles come alive when He speaks. (We must always remember, whatever the Lord does it will always be in harmony with what he has already said in the Scriptures).

Every time we gather together with others and the Lord is in our midst, each time can be totally different, no two meetings ever alike. We should never get into a rut but expect new things or the Lord to reveal himself in new ways. We have to be broken of all past ideas that will hamper us in listening to where the Lord is going. When we get together we can't just look to others to feed us or think, "They will know what to do." But each one can hear from God and each one needs to be sensitive to do what the Lord is showing them to do. This will not only happen corporately but in your individual, daily life too because you gave him permission to change you and you wanted to hear him more.

How do we live in this rest, stay in it, dwell in it, it is like living in the eye of a hurricane, with storms all around us but we are kept in perfect peace because our minds and hearts are stayed on Him. Everything is trying to get us off center and pull us from this rest. Evil designs toward us attempt to get us to stop thinking about God or get us away from prayer, but in the eye of his rest we are dwelling in God's house even when our prayer life doesn't make sense or is not like it used to be. I feel like my prayer life is not right, I used to have "devotions" a half hour a day but I'm not doing it like that any more. Why are things changing? Because God doesn't want us to get into any dead patterns, he wants to break these things, even what seems good or seemed to work yesterday. But now he wants to move us to a higher level, dependence on him 24 hours a day, not just being close to him at "prayer time." We may not even understand the changes we are going through and yet we must still trust the Lord. You see, it's not just about your prayer life, it's just about Him. And it's not about how well your performing or what you are accomplishing. I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on me, because he trusts me (even when nothing that you see makes sense). We may have to trust when there is total confusion all around us and maybe very little makes sense even in our own thinking. We must keep our eyes on God, not on revival, prayer, ourselves, or whatever.

In Psalms chapter 91 it says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." It is a secret place because God has to show

you the secret of how to find it. To dwell there and to abide there means that you must stay there and feel comfortable in that place. We must find the secret of getting to the rest and the secret of how to stay there. Remember to hear the little things he says to you each day or each week and make the little steps he wants you to take. He wants you there, he knows how to get there, he will help you. Don't worry too much, just keep wanting it and telling him over and over that you want it.

Sometimes I said to God I need some people to help me in this ministry, who will help me? And the Lord said, "I'm here for you." But what if I had such and such? And the Lord said, "I'm more than all these things you think you need. Lord, right now, I don't know what to do next. And the Lord says, "That's exactly where I want you, you don't know what to do, so wait on me, I will show you what to do at the right time, or maybe just your being with me and walking with me and the fragrance of your life and love without accomplishments is all I want to please me (the Lord). Is that good enough, for you to walk with me as Enoch did? Job didn't understand what was happening to him either, he said, I don't see you Lord but you see me through your lattice and that is all I need to know. Even if you choose to slay me yet will I trust you. This is where we need to come to, to be in this rest. If we know that the Lord sees us and that he loves us, and he promised to guide our steps, then even if we don't see or understand or feel anything, we trust that he will fulfill his purposes and plans for us. It's all about who God is and not our confusion or our lack. Oh, look at that revival that started over there Lord, that's what I should be doing, or I should go there, or we should do that here. Am I missing God, where are you Lord? And the Lord says just wait, trust me. Oh no, I'm going to run here and run there and do this and do that, but is it his will, will I run out of his rest? We will learn to know his voice, working when he inspires us and waiting when he says wait.

In Daniel chapters 4 & 5 the stripping down process is set forth in its message to the two kings Nebuchadnezzar and his son Belshazzar. Two different kings, two different time periods but the message to both was the same. The Lord says to Nebuchadnezzar, I want to teach you something very important and I will do it an easier way or I will do it the hard way. The message is, you Nebuchadnezzar are very successful but it is only because I have made you successful. Just like you might say to a super-star evangelist or a minister of the gospel, you are very successful but it is only because I (the Lord) have made you successful. No matter how many accomplishments or how much fame you enjoy, you could not do even one thing unless I spoke to you, I gave you the inspiration, I gave you the will to do it and the open door and the resolve to finish it. Now, some people accomplish much that was not really God's will and God did not do it. But I am talking here about God-given success and accomplishments. I (the Lord) gave you the strength to do all these good things, I put people around you to help you. He wanted to show Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and he wants to show all of us, no matter how high we are in success, we could not have done one thing without God. And if we are low in success or accomplishments and we seem to be struggling to do any good thing, at any moment God could give us the break we need, or he could promote us, or could give us a break-through. When you are at your lowest you have to know who God is, and when you are at your highest you must walk close to God too. At our lowest he wants us to love him and he wants us to know how much he loves us in our everyday walk. Is this not our highest calling? And if he should give us great success he wants us to have learned this lesson well of Nebuchadnezzar and never forget it, ever.

When Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and Daniel interpreted it, part of the message was that God can take the basest of men or the worst man and put him in a position of great

power. Either he will make them better people so that they can do the job well or they will remain inferior people and yet the Lord will put them there for his purposes. Or he can bring that person down (demote them) whenever he wants. What God wants us to know is that he rules in everything in the affairs of men (and in heaven). To know these things is key to our rest because we will be thankful to God in all circumstances and we will trust that in his seasons everything in our lives will come to fruit or to flower. Yes, we will always want to work hard for the Lord but step by step he will give the inspirations and the energy to do so. In Daniel 4:17 it says, "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the king might know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever he wills and sets up over it the basest of men." In Dan. 4:25 the Lord says to Nebuchadnezzar, "I will drive you into the fields and you will be like an animal eating grass like a beast and the nails on your fingers will grow long like an eagles, and you will crawl around and you won't know what you are doing, and all of your board of directors and authorities who listened to everything you said (or their heads would be cut off) they are going to see you in this pitiful condition." In the dream the king and his kingdom are described as a beautiful and powerful tree cut down with only the stump left in the ground, and bands of bronze were put over the top of the stump. We now see the king in a terrible, ridiculous state where he is eating grass and crawling through the fields, where he is sleeping outside and covered with the morning dew. He is confused and like an animal he doesn't know what he is doing any more. "And seven times are to pass over him in this condition (7 weeks, 7 months, 7 years? It doesn't say), till he knows that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and he gives it to whomever he wills." Nebuchadnezzar had boasted that he had built this kingdom. And that he had done it for the glory of his own name. He thought that his authority and his ability and his own brilliance had commanded people to build for him, and that he had worked hard to get to his place of prominence. What a great, masterful leader I am! But God did it. And the king had to know that God put him up there, gave him the brilliance, gave him the ability and God would have let him continue in his prominence if he would realize where it came from (and if he would rule rightly, caring for the poor, etc.). So, Nebuchadnezzar was warned by this dream and Daniel's interpretation and had about a year to consider it. But we see that he failed to heed the warning, became as an animal, and still the Lord wanted him to come out of this all knowing that the Lord rules in all things.

God is in control of our lives. He is going to turn our lives upside down, inside out, till we learn to dwell and stay in his perfect rest. We must know Him and His ways, he is pushing and pulling us to this place in Him, this rest. Whatever we go through in pre-revival, in the middle of revival or after revival meetings have ended we have learned to be in this rest. There may be times when your best friends have left you, or when the meetings are not going right, when people stop coming, somebody has got to hold the fort, stay at the front lines, hold up the standard. Should we go back to where we were before? We have experienced great things but now there is a lull, now were in the doldrums, the winds aren't blowing and were standing still. We don't know where to go now or what to do next. We have to stay in our rest, otherwise we will abandon everything, jump ship. God is going to do exactly what he wants to do when he wants to do it. If we keep our eyes on him, it won't matter about results if you know you are obeying God, if he is not speaking then you can only wait. In Daniel 4:35 it says, "And all the inhabitants of the earth (from the highest to the lowest person) are reputed as nothing and that he does according to his will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and nothing can stay his hand, can stop him or even say, "What

are you doing?" It should just be total trust and yet total obedience and also total knowing of his voice. Take all the baby steps you can and he will draw you in.

Now, to conclude this chapter, I would like to use an illustration which I call the table and the ring, found in II Kings 25, II Samuel 9, and Luke 15. The Lord wants to release us from shackles and hindrances that are holding us back. The Church at large is in a hindered state. Traditions are hindering us whether it be in the Roman Catholic church or the Pentecostal church. Or we may be hindered by having the "same old" kinds of services, or by not knowing how to hear the voice of God, or by not being willing to venture forth into the new areas the Lord is calling us to. Jesus quotes from the book of Isaiah concerning himself, "The Lord has anointed me to speak and preach the truth he has given me to open prison doors, to set captives free, shackles are going to fall off, people are going to see who were blind." Does this only have to do with physical defects or hampering (physical healings) or only hearing the good news and being born again? Yes, probably both of these, but why not also the setting free of the Church in its captivity in these last days? Yes, all these, God wants us to be free in every way and to be all that we were meant to be. We are to see what God wants us to see and go further to the place He wants us to be in Him. We have to break out of the old things and we have to be stripped of their binding that holds us back from the fullness God has for us. We must go from old wine skins to new wine skins, from poorer wine to the best wine.

In II Kings 25 there was a man named Jeconiah who was released from prison in the middle of a captivity called the 70 year Babylonian captivity. It was in the 37th year of the 70 year captivity that he was released. A new king came into power that year and this new king released Jeconiah (who was the king of Israel) from prison. He put new garments on him, set him at his own table (the King's table), set him on a throne above the thrones of his other leaders, and spoke to him face to face, as a friend, and the Word says he spoke to him kindly. And for the rest of Jeconiah's life he had a daily allowance of money, a daily allowance of food, and daily fellowship with the king at the king's table. He was released from his captivity to this table. In II Samuel 9 a man named Mephibosheth had been dropped when he was very young and his feet were crippled for life. He probably was made fun of by the other kids as he was growing up, even adults later probably shunned him as a deformed person not worthy of their friendship. But he was born into a very well-to-do family being the son of Saul the king. Later when Saul died and Jonathan died and David became the kingly family, he may have been forgotten. One day as David may have been sitting on his throne, he thought about Saul's family and he asked if there was anyone left of Saul's family that he could bless, for he always desired to honor Saul's house and his descendants. Search and find if there is any descendant of Saul left. So they found Mephibosheth and they brought him to king David. They might have even carried him in if he couldn't walk. Mephibosheth gave great honor to David, bowing before him and said, "Why is it that you have called one such as I before you, for surely in your sight I must be as a dead dog?" "I'm sure I am nothing to you." But David said, from this day forward you will eat at my table every day, with me, not at some other table of honor, but you will fellowship with me for the rest of your life. And I will have 30 men work for you constantly to supply all your needs with all the money you need and you will be totally supported from now on. You will live in one of Saul's houses on his land. And you will be my friend for the rest of your days on earth. Here is another example of someone being brought from obscurity and thinking that they are nothing to the king's table. Joseph was the same way, as he was in prison for 13 years (from the age of 17 to 30). I'm sure at times he felt totally rejected, forgotten, and was even tempted to think he was rejected by God too. The Word says he was

tested to see if he would keep believing in his destiny and holding on to the ideas encouraged in his dreams that God had a plan for him. He had to keep his eyes on God for his destiny to be fulfilled and I'm sure he thought, "When is it ever going to happen?" But there came a day when God gave Pharaoh a dream and Pharaoh asked, "Who can interpret this dream?" As the word passed down the line someone finally said, there is a person in prison who can interpret your dream. And that very day his garments were changed, he was shaved, he was promoted to become 2nd in command under the king, a signet ring was put on his finger, and he could now sit with the great Pharaoh at his table. All these things also have to do with spiritual promotion including what we will read in Luke 15. The prodigal son or as the Scriptures call him, the younger son, was also given new clothes, a ring, and given full access to his father's goods, land, table, and a close relationship to the father too. To dine at his father's table for the rest of his life, to eat the best, live on his land and everything that the father had was his, what a blessing! But the older brother was jealous, he said, I don't like this, this is not fair, I have served you so faithfully. Well, this older brother did not have a good attitude. The father said to the older brother, "Everything I have is yours (and it has always been yours) you are with me always (I am always available to you). I'm thinking that you are not appreciating what you have or fully taking advantage of it. But this your brother has come to realize how great it is here and he now is so appreciative. I looked for this my lost son every day, then when I saw him afar off I ran to him and embraced him and kissed him." And this is now what the Father is showing forth to the Church for those who will perk up their ears and hear his calling. This new relationship with the Lord can last for the rest of your life, it never has to go away, you do not have to go back to what you were doing before. You can come to the highest of tables and sit with the Lord forever, but you just have to want it, step by step just keep telling him you want it and he'll show you the way. But it will take some stripping off of the old ideas and some burning up of your ways. Strive to enter the rest.

In Mark chapter 4 Jesus was asleep when the boat he was in was sinking in a terrible storm. Jesus knew how to be in the rest of God. They woke him up and said, "Master, do you not care that we are perishing?" This is the worst storm we have ever been in, we are sinking, and we are all going to die! Jesus woke up, calmed the storm, everything was peaceful and he said to them, "Oh ye of little faith." Jesus had big faith. We don't want to have little faith, we should want either medium faith or big faith. Big faith means that it doesn't matter whether we lack food, or we are stranded, hanging off the edge of a cliff, or we are going to die, maybe it's our time to die. Big faith takes away worry, fretting, panic, tension and anxiety. There was anxiety on that boat where Jesus was sleeping but no worry in Jesus. Well, that's because everything always went good for Jesus. No, that is not so. Jesus was very hurt and disappointed by people's lack of understanding and lack of faith. Jesus walked with the Father and he learned how to walk with the Father by going through much suffering. The Word says, "He learned obedience through what he suffered." The Word says, "He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Jesus sighed deeply at people not knowing what he was trying to say. He walked with God and he was God and he wanted others to know His Father and to know Himself (the Son). The message of Mark 4 is, "Nothing bothers me." The Lord may push you towards this rest (if you give him permission) till you think you are going to explode, but eventually you will know this rest that you long for and He wants to join with you in it. You will be seated in heavenly places at His table with Him even as you still walk out your earthly walk with so many storms all around you. But none of this will touch your heart or mind in this rest. Don't worry, says the Lord, keep your eyes on me, trust me, I am working in each one of you who will listen, both to desire and to do my

good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13) Nothing seems to be happening as yet, is God going to do it? Put your eyes on God, he did it for Joseph, he did it for Mephibosheth, he did it for Jeconiah, he did it for the younger brother (when he started walking back to the Father), the Father was looking for him all the time and ran to him. He will do it for you, he will do it for others.



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