The

Remnant Company

of

the

Last Days

Charlie Walker

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By

Charlie Walker

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated with much love to the two people who taught me the most about Jesus:

My mother, Hilda Walker, who is in her 90s and still going strong and still sharp as a tack, and to
My father, Cohen Walker, who is with the Lord.

Both gave me a love for the Word of God by the example of their lives and by having daily family Bible reading and prayer in our home.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8

AND

This book is dedicated to the two who taught me most about the Holy Spirit:

Pastor Brother Don Van Hoozier, my mentor, pastor, spiritual father and friend, and one of the most spiritually gifted and naturally talented men I have ever known and who is the man who taught me about the deeper things of the Lord.

He who dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
Psalm 91:1

And to
Marion McGinty, my prayer partner who went home to be with the Lord before I was ready to see her go and whom I still miss greatly and will be looking for when I get to heaven.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
2nd Timothy 4:7

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FORWARD

I first met Charlie Walker in the 1970s. He was a wise, young, junior high teacher whose heart was supernaturally touched for young people. That included-his home, time, thoughts, heart, passions-all of him. When I say supernaturally, I'm speaking of spiritual reality that brings results, not spiritual spin. As I've watched him over the years, I've seen the keen spiritual balance of his life as well as the spiritual preciseness and balance of "present truth" in his teachings and the change it brings in young people who are hungry for spiritual reality. Young people in that ministry experience being a part of the Body; they are trained, equipped and sent out to minister. Didn't Jesus say to those fearful disciples that resurrection night, "…*as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."* Somehow I received a list of subjects Charlie has covered over a period of time. I was surprised at the scope and balance of the subject matter; nothing that was not relevant to the Last Days' Remnant Company. This book is only a part of the whole. God bless and use the book and that Remnant Company.

Don Van Hoozier, pastor
High Point Church
Macon, Georgia

INTRODUCTION

Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been like Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.
Isaiah 1:9

Jesus is the name above every name. This book was written for those who love Him passionately, think of Him constantly, and long for His appearing. These believers, like me, long for a deeper relationship with Him. In fact, my number one personal prayer is for more intimacy with Jesus. I believe this is the heart cry of everyone whom the Lord is calling out and preparing to be a member of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, a company who will love Him more than they love anyone or anything. Like He asked Peter, He will ask us, *"…lovest thou Me more than these?"* (John 21:25a). The Remnant Company will answer, *"Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee"* (John 21:25b). Then He will give us the charge of our life: *"Feed My lambs!"* (John 21:15b).

Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! As songwriters and singers have told us ever since He walked among men, there *is* just something about earth's sweetest name. During these challenging times in which we live, His name should calm the fears of every Christian believer. My purpose in the pages of this book is to bring glory to that name and to stir the Body of Christ's desire both to be

part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days and to walk in intimacy with Him.

Jesus! The prophet Isaiah speaks of Him in Isaiah 9:6 as "*Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*" Jesus with His wonderful name is the *only* answer for the world today. We live in a chaotic world spinning out of control. The heathen are raging, and the world is stumbling along like a drunken man, near the edge of a cliff, and we are doomed to fall off the edge unless we, as a nation and as a world, repent and come to Jesus.

Yes, this Mighty God and Prince of Peace is the *only* answer and the *only* way. If He were not the only way, then God the Son is a liar, for He Himself said in John 14:6, "…*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*." As Christian believers we know that He is no liar but One who has proven Himself over and over to be true.

In addition, if there were any other way to the Father in Heaven, why would a God of love allow His only begotten Son to go through a horrible death to save mankind? Isaiah 52:14 tells us, "*As many were astounded at thee--His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.*" C.I. Scofield tells us that the literal meaning of this verse

indicates that Jesus was beaten so severely before His crucifixion that His appearance was not human. [1]

We live in a day of political correctness when the enemy of our souls is lulling Christian believers to complacency about the Crucified One. *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5). Bible-believing Christians are being told, by the liberal media and by those with leftist ideologies, that they are radical and are often treated as uneducated people because they believe the Word of God, are not tossed about by every wind of doctrine, and proclaim that Jesus is the *only* way that the Father provided to reconcile fallen, sinful mankind to Himself. The religious world tells us that there are many ways to get to Heaven, and this false, duplicitous gospel has even crept into much of the Western Church.

The doctrines of men, however, can never change the inerrancy of the Word of God. Even this time of apostasy, lukewarmness, and the falling away of many Christian believers for every wind of doctrine did not catch the Lord by surprise. Jesus Himself, quoting from Isaiah, said in Matthew 15:9, "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* Furthermore, Paul, under the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, warned Timothy in 1st Timothy 4:1, "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that, in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons….*" To say that Jesus is *not* the only way to God is wrong and an ungodly departure from the Christian faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.

Unfortunately, many people in the Church in America have bought into this lie that there are many ways to Heaven. Even some believers, for the sake of political correctness, have begun to call good, *evil* and evil, *good.* We know that Israel is an Old Testament type of the Church. Isaiah, in speaking of six woes of unfaithful Israel, says in Isaiah 5:20, "*Woe unto them who call evil, good, and good, evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.*"

The Western Church, as a whole, is far from the *Ekklesia* or *called out ones,* of which Christ said, "*And I say unto you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18). Paul warns us in 2nd Corinthians 6:17, "*Come out from among them, and be ye separate….*"

Jim Elliot, the Christian missionary who was martyred in 1955 by the Acca Indians in Ecuador, wrote at age twenty-one in a letter to his parents, "*We are so utterly ordinary, so commonplace, while we profess to know a*

Power the 20th century does not reckon with. But we are harmless and therefore unharmed. We are spiritual pacifists, non-militants, conscientious objectors in this battle to the death with principalities and powers in high places…. We are 'sideliners'-coaching and criticizing the real wrestlers while content to sit by and leave the enemies of God unchallenged. The world cannot hate us--we are too much like its own. Oh that God would make us dangerous.[2] This view of the American Church, if true in the 1940s and '50s, is much more true today.

In 1982 David Watson, an Anglican priest, said, "*It is widely held that the battle of the century will be between Marxism, Islam, and Third World Christianity. Western Christianity is considered too weak and ineffective to contribute anything significant to this universal struggle.*" [3]

And James T. Draper in an article from the Baptist Press in 2003 added, "*People shop for churches like they shop for automobiles or groceries. People want something that fills their needs. We have missed the boat because we think Christianity is about us. It is not about us. It is about God and His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. He has chosen Christians to play a significant role in showing the world what His kingdom looks like. Western Christianity has retreated from the battle for the souls of people into the pursuit of personal comfort.*" [4]

Finally, David Wilkerson speaks of the American Church in his recent *Call to Anguish* message, *"I look at the whole religious scene today, and all I see are inventions and ministries of man and flesh. It's mostly powerless. It has no impact on the world. And I see more of the world coming into the Church and impacting the Church rather than the Church impacting the world. I see the music taking over the house of God. I see entertainment taking over the house of God, obsession with entertainment in God's house, a hatred of conviction and a hatred of reproof. Nobody wants to hear it anymore. Whatever happened to anguish in the house of God? Whatever happened to anguish in the ministry? It's a word you don't hear in this pampered age."* [5]

I believe that much of the ineffectiveness of the Western Church is due to pastors who no longer believe in the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, such as the Virgin Birth, the inerrancy of the scriptures, and Jesus being the only way of salvation. Many pastors today tell good stories and entertain rather than teach the Word of God. What this has produced is a body of shallow believers with little knowledge of the Word of God and a form of godliness but no power. These pastors have compromised the Gospel message so much that Christian believers and the Church have

become the targets of ridicule and put-downs, and Christians themselves have become comfortable and complacent.

For example, most of the Western Church has no concept of spiritual warfare. We have not been taught how to resist the enemy of our souls, how to take every thought captive, or how to pull down strongholds of the kingdom of darkness. Someone jokingly said that the American Church thinks spiritual warfare is going to church in the rain. This would be humorous, if it were not so tragic. The Western Church knows little about end time events and almost nothing about the types and symbols in the Word of God about the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

This Church has become, as Revelation says, *Laodicean,* or lukewarm. Jesus admonishes this Church and warns her to repent and become zealous: "*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with good, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked, I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire"* (Revelation 3:17-18a). Furthermore, He calls this church "*neither hot nor cold"* and says He "*will spew them out of His mouth"* (Revelation 3:15-16). In other words, we will lose our ability to hear Him.

Why is the American church so weak, so boring, so worldly, and so defeated? I think we can understand the answer to this question when we

look at the results of a survey by the late sociologist Jeffrey Hadden who in 1982 surveyed American pastors and priests. He sent the survey to 10,000 Protestant clergymen. Of that number 7,441 replied. All of these were pastors or priests:

<u>Was Jesus born of a virgin?</u>
60% of Methodists said, "NO!"
49% of United Presbyterians said, "NO!"
44% of Episcopalians said, "NO!"
19% of Lutherans said, "NO!"

<u>Was Jesus the Son of God?</u>
82% of Methodists said, "NO!"
81% of United Presbyterians said, "NO!"
89% of Episcopalians said, "NO!"
57% of Lutherans said, "NO!"

<u>Is the Bible the inspired Word of God?</u>
82% of Methodists said, "NO!"
81% of United Presbyterians said, "NO!"
89% of Episcopalians said, "NO!"
57% of Lutherans said, "NO!"

<u>Does Satan really exist?</u>
62% of Methodists said, "NO!"
47% of United Presbyterians said, "NO!"
37% of Episcopalians said, "NO!"
33% of American Baptists said, "NO!"
14% of Lutherans said, "NO!"

<u>Did Jesus physically resurrect from the dead?</u>
51% of Methodists said, "NO!"
35% of United Presbyterians, "NO!"
30% of Episcopalians said, "NO!"
33% of American Baptists said, "NO!"
13% of Lutherans said, "NO!" [6]

In another survey (around the same time as Hayden's survey) of one of the large, well-known theological colleges of the United States, 93% of the students studying for the ministry stated: "I have no devotional life." [7]

These are frightening statistics, and I find them difficult to believe, but Hayden was a respected sociologist, especially in his early days, when this study was done. I believe and hope these statistics would not hold true in parts of our nation, especially in the Bible Belt where I live. Nonetheless, *if* they were true in 1982, I unfortunately suspect we, as a nation of believers, even in the Bible Belt, have become more liberal in our theology since the statistics were taken. Jeremiah prophesied of the shepherds or pastors in Jeremiah 10:21, "*For the shepherds have become stupid and have not sought the Lord; therefore, they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."* Ezekiel 34:2-5 says, "*Son of Man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds, Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves. Should not the shepherds feed the flock? The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost, but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them."* What is the solution to this

problem of a powerless, secularized Church in America ? Obviously, the American Church has become more like a social club that mixes well with the world. This Church, however, is not a social club. Its believers are called to be a community of passionate lovers of Jesus who will not bow the knee to worldly compromise. These believers must never water down the Gospel in an effort to appeal to and become more compatible with the world. The solution is not in "seeker- friendly churches" which are more interested in counting "nickels and noses" than in being salt and light to a dying world. The solution is also not in conforming the Gospel to the culture, especially when the Word goes against the grain of political correctness, nor in telling entertaining "Chicken Soup" stories in place of preaching the Word of God.

To combat this problem, I believe, the Lord is raising up a Remnant Company in these last days to bring fresh fire back to the Church of the Living God, the Might God of Israel. Jeremiah writes, "*Turn, O backslidden children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you, and I will take you one of a city and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to mine heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding*" (Jeremiah 3:14-15). *And I will gather <u>the remnant</u> of my flock out of all countries to which I have driven them and will bring them*

again to the folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase" (Jeremiah 23:3). C.I. Scofield says of this remnant company, "In the history of Israel a remnant may be discerned, a spiritual Israel with the national Israel. In Elijah's time 7000 had not 'bowed the knee to Baal' (1st Kings 19:18). In Isaiah's time it was the 'very small remnant' for whose sake God still forebore to destroy the nation (Isaiah 1:9). During the captivities the remnant appears in Jews like Esther, Mordecai, Ezekiel, Daniel, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego. At the end of the seventy years of Babylonian captivity, it was the remnant that returned under Ezra and Nehemiah. At the advent of our Lord, John the Baptist, Simeon, Anna, and 'those who looked for the redemption in Jerusalem' (Luke 2:38) were the remnant." [8]

We have seen a remnant that has kept the Church alive throughout the ages. In modern times this remnant has been represented by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemoller and the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany. The Remnant Company more recently is exemplified by the "Heavenly Man" and the Chinese Christians in Communist China and the persecuted Church around the world. In America a part of the Remnant Company would surely be those brave men who recently signed the Manhattan Declaration, a statement that says they will not compromise and will engage in civil disobedience, if necessary, even if they are put to death

for their stand for Jesus in this secular society. They will continue to stand for the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman, the sanctity of life in the womb, and for freedom of religion.

I believe that any Christian can become a member of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, if he or she is willing to surrender all to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Lord will call. Whosoever will, may come. We must, however, count the cost and realize from the beginning that those who choose to answer the Lord's call and choose to be a part of this company of believers in the Last Days must be willing to pay the cost, even if it means death. The purpose of this book is to identify some of the types and characteristics of the Remnant in Scripture and to equip people with the tools to walk as an end-time Remnant Company. This Remnant Company will not bow the knee to secular humanism, the liberal media, or a society which seems hell-bent on weakening the scriptural foundations of the Christian Church. This company will be mightily used by God in these last days to bring in the harvest at the end of the age and to keep the Church alive as we wait for the coming of Jesus.

So I write this book, knowing that it will not be appreciated by most people in this culture of compromise and self-centeredness. Such people are disinterested in what the Word of God has to say. This book will even be

offensive to some who love their sin more than they love their God. And *The Remnant Company of the Last Days* will be hated by those who espouse false doctrines and cult and occultic practices. I will remind you and them that the Truth of God's Word will set you free, and the Lord loves even the vilest of sinners while at the same time hating the sin. The Word is not designed to put you in bondage but to set you free, and the God who created you knows best what leads to bondage and death and what leads to freedom and life.

Perhaps those who will be interested in the following chapters are indeed those who are being prepared, even now, to be that Remnant Company of the Last Days. This company of believers will passionately love their God and His Word. They will be willing to lay their lives on the line for the One who bought them with the price of His own blood.

Yes, we live in remarkable times--times, I believe, right before the coming of Jesus, who is God the Son. We all will behold Him in the Eastern Sky. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. This Remnant Company, much as John the Baptist did, will prepare the way.

Chapter One
Some Biblical Terms

And the dragon was angry with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
Revelation 12:17

What is a remnant anyway? A remnant is a small part of something else which is greater in number or amount. When we speak of remnant in this book, we are referring to a part of the Body of Christ. The Remnant is the church within the Church. The Remnant is passionately in love with Jesus. The Remnant is overcoming the enemy both through the blood of the Lamb. The ability to overcome comes through experiencing being born again and learning to speak words of life from the Word of God, as their testimony. They are willing to die both soulishly--laying down ego, ambitions, worldly plans, etc.--and also, if need be, willing to die physically for Jesus Christ. "*And they* [the remnant company] *overcame him* [the enemy] *by the blood of the Lamb* [Jesus] *and by the word of their testimony* [the Word of God]; *and they* [the remnant company] *loved not their lives unto the death"* (Revelation 12:11).

For the Remnant Company, Jesus is *number one*. This does not mean that others in the church, who are not part of the Remnant Company, have not been genuinely born again. The Remnant Company, however, differs from

the normal Christian believer in the degree that they submit to the Lordship of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the Remnant Company's *everything*. These Remnant believers are sold out to Jesus, and they comprised that group whom Daniel 11:32b says, "*will be strong and know their God and will do exploits*." They have discovered that the veil has been rent, and they can go into the Holy of Holies and are producing 100-fold fruit instead of 30- or 60-fold. "*But he that received seed in the good ground is he that heareth the word and understandeth it, who also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty"* (Matthew 13:23).

Joel, writing about the last days, stated in Joel 2:32, "*And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."* And Paul says in Romans 11:5, "*Even so, then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."*

There are numerous types of the Remnant Company in Scripture. This book is not designed to be a comprehensive study but meant to stir the interest of the Body of Christ in this important subject. Proverbs 25:2 tells us, "*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings is to search out a matter."* My hope is that this study will cause others to *search*

out this important topic of the Remnant Company of the Last Days through studying the Word. I also pray that this study will cause Christians everywhere to desire to be a part of this company of end-time saints. I urge those who have that desire to forsake all to follow Jesus.

The types of the Remnant Company include, but are not limited to, Gideon's Army, the Zion Company, the Manifested Sons of God, the Elijah Company, the Bridal Company, the Third Day Church of Hosea, and Those Marked by the Holy Spirit in Ezekiel. We will look at all seven of these groups in depth.

I also believe that the Joshua Company in the book of Joshua who cross the Jordan represents the Remnant Company as the Warrior Saints of the Last Days. The remnant, left to rebuild the temple in Ezra, are those who are repentant and separated from the world. The remnant left to rebuild the wall are those who are joyful. The Outcasts of Israel in Psalm 147:2-3, who had received broken hearts and wounds, are those who now are healed and made whole. The small remnant of Isaiah are those who walk in purity. The Latter House and Desire of all Nations of Haggai 2 are those full of glory and peace. The five wise virgins of Matthew 25 are those who are watchful and ready.

A clue to the purpose of this Remnant Company of believers is found in Psalm 110:1: *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."* This important verse is repeated in Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42, Acts 2:34, and Hebrews 1:13. In this verse God the Father is speaking to God the Son. How will He make the enemies of Jesus His footstool? I believe that the Father will use this Last Days' Remnant Company to accomplish this awesome task.

The Remnant Company of the Last Days will face challenging times at the end of the age. Most likely we are living in the day of Matthew 24:14 ("*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*), of the first verses of 2nd Timothy 3 where Paul warns us that perilous times are coming in which most of the younger generation will be an "entitlement generation," which is incredibly self-centered, rebellious and vulgar and which, for the most part, has no real relationship with God or desire for the Lord (*"Don't be naïve. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but*

behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people." The Message Bible)[9], and of Psalm 2:1-3 ("*Why do the heathen rage, and the peoples imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder and cast their cord from us."*). I also think that our day will see the fulfillment of Isaiah 60 ("*ARISE, shine, for thy light is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the peoples, but the LORD shall arise upon thee and His gory shall be seen upon thee…."*). Surely the Lord is raising up a Remnant Company today who will shine with His glory and stand when others fall, as we see judgments released on the earth and heavy depression and fear on those who are not walking in the fullness of Christ.

This incredible day is called the Day of the Lord in scripture. This is a period of time-not just one day-in which the Lord brings destruction and severe judgments to the earth. Since God is love and because He desires relationship with us so much, we know that the events in the Day of the Lord will be His attempt to awaken His slumbering Church and bring that Church to a first-love relationship with Him. Throughout history, hard times and natural disasters and manmade calamities have brought the church back to the Lord. After 9/11, for example, the media reported that there was a sharp

upturn in the number of people attending church in the United States. Unfortunately, this increase lasted only a few months.

The Prophet Joel refers to this Day of the Lord in Joel 2:1-2, "*Blow a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is near at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, like the morning spread upon the mountains; a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."* Again, this day is not a single day, but a period of time. It comes as a thief in the night. We must wake up from our spiritual slumber and be ready. Many theologians think that we have already entered the beginnings of this day. The culmination of this day will be the Second Coming of Jesus.

Jay Atkinson of The Latter Rain Ministries says of this day:

"*The Day of the Lord is that time between the age of evil in which we presently live and which will be destroyed and the golden age of peace and justice, the future Millennial Kingdom to come. The Day of the Lord is a time of fearful trouble central to the birth pangs of the new heaven and earth, the fall of the old order and the ushering in of the new….It will be a fearful day for many. It is a day of the Lord's vengeance and almost upon us. It will come as destruction from the Almighty, a day of wrath and fierce anger, trouble and distress, a day of gloom and thick darkness for the proud, the rich, and the lofty. The haughty will be made low. Mighty men shall cry bitterly, and it will cause distress and destruction to those that are blind to the ways of the Lord because of their sin. By this time, the Church has been through sifting, the reapers have been called, and Babylon has been exposed*

but yet still exerts her influence. The Bride will come out of her closet, and the Bridegroom is ready to greet her. This is the time of the fullness of the latter rain, the final unity of God's people, the repentance of the Church…"[10]

The Last Days refers to the final period of time of the Church on the earth. These Last Days actually began when the Lord Jesus arose from the dead. The Word tells us in 2nd Peter 3:8, "*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."* The Last Days, like the Day of the Lord, will culminate in the Second Coming of Jesus, who will come just like He said He would, in the Eastern sky, and we *shall* behold Him. These days will become increasingly more chaotic as mankind continues to deny Christ and refuses to walk in obedience to the Word of God. More and more we will see calamities on Earth, such as earthquakes, famines, pestilences, wars and rumors of war, upheaval of nations, and natural disasters, as we come to the end of the age.

During this time period, however, the Church will eventually wake up and began to share mankind's only hope, which is Jesus! We will see the former and latter rain of James 5:7-8: "*Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waited for the precious fruit of the earth and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and the latter*

rain." Rain in Scripture typically represents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, revival, and refreshing. It also symbolizes the cleansing of the Word of God and the blessing of the Kingdom. The former rain came usually in mid or late October and softened the ground so that the plowman could plow and plant the seed. This rain symbolizes a time of evangelism or planting the seed of the Word of God in people's hearts. The latter rain occurs between April and May and is the last rains of the rainy season. The harvest comes forth in May at the time of the latter rain. From May to August the harvest is gathered, and from that time until the former rains begin, Israel is usually hot and dry, much like a drought period in a Georgia USA Indian summer. The latter rain is associated with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a time of a unique anointing to use the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring in the Great Harvest at the end of the age. Jesus spoke of this time in Matthew 9:37-38, *"Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."* Matthew 13:39 tells us, "… *the harvest is the end of the age."*

Another term associated with the end of the age is Babylon. Babylon means confusion. This Iraqi city was noted for materialism and sensual pleasure. It was located just south of the modern city of Baghdad. Babylon

types the world system that idolizes money, materialism, power and control, and idolization of the human body. This world system is very sensuous and egocentric.

Satan is the prince of this Babylonian world system. Paul tells the converted Ephesians in Ephesians 2:2, "*In which, in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience."* And Jesus calls Satan in John 12:31, "*the prince of this world,"* who eventually would be cast down. We know that this enemy of our souls often comes as *an angel of light* according to 2nd Corinthians 11:14, and he will become more active at the end of the age as he sees that his time is short. "*For the devil is come down upon you , having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"* (Revelation 12:12b).

In these Last Days there will be great tribulation. False christs and false prophets will rise and will use great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Matthew 24:21-24). The mark of the beast or his name or number (666) is to be marked on the right hand or forehead. I believe, along with others, that this will most likely not be a literal mark, but a way of thinking and doing business that causes us to get caught up in the Babylonian world system. People will become obsessed with fantasy

(sensuous and otherwise), with pleasure and escapism, with sex and the human body, with materialism, and with money. Even sincere believers can get caught up in this way of thinking if we do not renew our minds with the Word of God. We must pray against this demonic world system. Jeremiah 50 and 51 tell us how to prophetically intercede against Babylon.

Someone wrote a song about the fall of the Babylonian World System and the glorious marching church of our God: *"I want to see Israel marching. I want to hear the kingdom call. I want to see Zion's mountain. I want to see great Babylon fall. I want to see Jesus reigning, upon King David's royal throne. O, won't that be a glorious sight to see, when Israel comes marching home."*[11] It is my prayer that many of you will live to see that day. As the Remnant Company of the Last Days, you will help usher in the fullness of the Kingdom of our God on the earth as it is in heaven.

Chapter Two

The Inerrant Word of God
Know the Word!

I will worship toward thy holy temple and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth, for thou hath magnified thy word above all thy name.
Psalm 138:2

Of all the activities of the Christian believer, I believe that none is more important than reading, studying, and knowing the Word. There is great power in the Name of Jesus. The Name allows us to cast out demons, to open our hearts to the Lord, and to be set free from our chains. Yet the Lord says, through David, the Psalmist, that He has magnified His Word *even above* His name. When I first heard that verse, something inside of me stood up and took note. I was astounded that Jesus would magnify His Word above His name.

You can be sure that Satan hates the Word. The Word blows his cover and exposes him for who he truly is. The Word tells him what his future is going to be. The Word teaches us how to fight him and the kingdom of darkness and gives us power over all the power of the enemy.

Psalm 119 tells us that it is the Word by which a young man can cleanse his way. The Word provides us with a lamp and light as we walk in the

darkness of the World. The Word gives us great peace and hope. The Word keeps us from sinning, and the Word enlarges our hearts.

I grew up in a time when the United States considered the Word of God and prayer as an important part of daily life. My parents had Bible reading and prayer with the whole family every night. They lived godly examples before their four children, but I am most thankful for the foundation of the Word of God that they laid in my life.

Although I grew up in a godly home, attended an "alive" church, and lived in a town that was safe and led by Christian men and women, I, too, lacked the deeper understanding of the Word to be an overcomer in these perilous times. I was not taught how to study and discern the deeper meaning of Scripture. This ignorance was totally reversed when I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the early 1970s. The Word became alive to me and applicable to my day-to-day life.

Around the same time, I was introduced to two invaluable resources, a *Strong's Concordance* and the *Amplified Bible.* I am surprise today at how few Christians know of these aids. I can look up any word in the *Strong's Concordance* and find all the Scriptural references to that word. In addition, the *Strong's Concordance* tells the reader what the original word means in the Hebrew, if it is in the Old Testament, or the Greek, if it is in the new.

The English translators often have to use words that are much broader in English meaning than in the original Biblical languages. Because of this, our English words do not convey the preciseness of the Biblical word. The *Strong's Concordance* helps us understand the specific meaning of the English word transferred from the Greek or Hebrew. For example, the word translated *love* in English can come from four different Greek words: *Eros,* which has to do with sexual, sensual love, and is not found in the New Testament; *Phileo,* which has to do with close friendship; *Stergo,* which has to do with familial love or love between parents and children, brothers and sisters, or even the love of a dog for its master; and *Agape,* which is the highest form of love and is God's love for His human creation. This latter love is unconditional, irresistible, and full of esteem and awe. There is no selfishness in agape love. We as humans struggle to love like God loves, for *He is love,* but loving like He loves should be our goal, and we can aspire to love with that depth of agape love. Obviously, what the English text translates as *love* covers the whole spectrum of love and is not precise enough to let the reader understand what is being conveyed.

Another good example of this is the English *word.* Without an aid like *Strong's Concordance,* we would miss much of the Scriptural meaning. *Word* in English can be either *logos* or *rhema* in the Greek. The *Logos* is the

whole written word of God. John writes, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). Here John is referring to the logos, and indeed *the Word,* i.e. the whole Bible, is found in the incarnate Jesus. However, there are other passages that in English are translated *word* from the Greek *rhema*. Rhema is a specific word from the Logos that the Lord gives to an individual for that moment in time, although the word may be a prophetic word and not be fulfilled until later. In Ephesians 5:25-27, for example, Paul writes, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word; that He might present it to Himself, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it might be holy and without blemish."* Jesus sanctifies the church with the washing of the water by the rhema. This concept of logos and rhema is so important that I will devote an entire chapter to it later in this book.

The second aid that I have found extremely helpful in studying scripture is the *Amplified Bible.* The *Amplified Bible* gives all the accepted meanings of a word and puts the verse in context of what is being meant and said. For example, we read in the King James, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth*

in the seat of the scornful (Psalm 1:1). The Amplified translates this verse, "*BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly (following their advice, their plans and purposes) nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk , not sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.*[12]" Thus, we, with this expanded meaning, have a greater understanding of what the Psalmist is trying to convey.

Today I am saddened that so many people, even church people, do not know the Word of God. This is so apparent when those people society looks up to and admires for their talent and abilities show their ignorance of the Word of God. For example, I sometimes see Hollywood stars on game shows. When they are asked a simple question from the Bible, they often have no clue.

I recently have spoken places and shared some basic Bible doctrine, such as how to do spiritual warfare, what are the signs of the end times, why is praise important, what are the three parts of a born again believer's life, and how does God speak to men. Often after teaching these fundamental and basic doctrines of the Christian walk, I have well-educated people come up to me and say that they have never heard these things, and yet they have been in church all their lives.

I do know that there is a great famine of the Word in many American lives. Today church youth are often not being taught basic Bible stories, and no longer do we live in a society in which the majority of people attend church. We must make opportunities available for teaching the upcoming generation the Word of God.

In the 1970s and 1980s I taught English literature. One of the first things that I taught to my students at Rumble Junior High in Warner Robins, Georgia, was how to identify literary symbols. A symbol is something that is itself and yet stands for or represents something else. For example, the American flag is a flag, and yet it stands for the United States of America. Only after one learns how to interpret what symbols stand for, can he interpret and understand the deeper meanings of the story he is reading.

Knowing Biblical symbols is also extremely important in understanding the often symbolic language of the Scriptures. But how do we come up with symbolic meanings? Sometimes the Word of God just tells us plainly what a symbol means. Jesus was especially quick to explain to His disciples what a symbol in His parables meant. When He told the *Parable of the Seed and the Sower*, for example, He explained what the different symbols in His parable were: "*Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil and taketh away the*

word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they who when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of testing fall away. And that which fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they who, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:11-15).

Paul also often tells us what his symbols mean. In Ephesians 6:17, for example, he tells us that salvation is symbolized by a helmet, which covers the head or brain or mind, and the sword is the Word of God. *"And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

We can also know symbols by the way they are repeatedly used in scripture. The number forty is a pretty consistent symbol in Scripture. Noah was on the ark for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil and fasted forty days and nights. Thus, forty becomes a number associated and symbolic of trials and testings.

Finally, we can know symbols by analyzing the context in which they are used. Understanding symbols makes the Bible come alive. If we did not

understand symbols, we would be hard pressed to understand a passage like Joel 1:12, *"The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered, because joy is withered away from the sons of men."* This verse tells us that all these things are wilting because men have no joy. We know that *"The joy of the Lord is our strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10). We also know that *"In His Presence is fullness of joy"* (Psalm 16:11), and a key to being in His presence is found in Psalm 46:10, *"Be still and know that I am God."*

Therefore, as we become still and wait in His presence. His presence restores our joy and that joy makes us strong. We see the vine, our connection to Jesus, *alive.* Thus, the fig tree (Israel or spiritual Israel which is the Church), the pomegranate tree (the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit), the palm tree (representing the fruitfulness in walking uprightly with the Lord), and the apple tree (possibly our relationship with a special loved one, i.e. the Lord-see Song of Solomon 2:3), and all the trees of the field (the righteous ones made righteous by the blood of the Lamb) are restored.

An excellent source of Biblical symbols is Kevin Conner's *Interpreting the Symbols and Types.*[13] Of course, all symbols are open to personal interpretation, and often something symbolized in the Bible in one passage is

not the same when symbolized in another passage. But, knowing how to interpret symbols is of upmost importance in interpreting Scripture. I have included a list of some of the more common symbols used in Scripture.

One-Unity
Two-Witness
Three-Perfection
Four-Testing
Five-Grace
Six-Man
Seven-Completion
Eight-New Beginnings
Nine-Fruit of the Spirit
Ten-Law and Responsibility
Eleven-Judgment and Disorder
Twelve-Governmental Perfection
Thirteen-Rebellion
Fourteen-Deliverance
Fifteen-Rest
Sixteen-Love
Seventeen-Victory
Eighteen-Bondage
Nineteen-Faith
Twenty-Redemption
Forty-Trials
Fifty-Holy Spirit
Sixty-Pride
Amalekites-Flesh Nature
Birds-Demons
Blue-Revelation, Anointing, Heaven
Brass-Judgment
Bread-The Word of God
Cannan-Place of Rest
Corn-Revealed Word of God
Fish-Evangelism
God’s Right Hand-Blessing and Power

God's Left Hand-Judgment
Gold-God's Nature
Gomer-Germany
Goshan-Place of Protection
Gray-Mixture of the Lord and the World
Green-Life, Ministry
Greenish-Unclean
Horse-Warfare, Power
Israel-The Church
Jacob Spirit-Soul Nature
Lamb-JESUS
Left Side-Action, Ministry
Magog-Russia
Oil-Holy Spirit
Persia-Iran
Philistines-Occultic Powers
Pomegranate-Fruit of the Spirit
Precious Metals and Jewels-Gifts of the Spirit
Rain-Blessings
Right Side-Faith
Sheep-Christian Believers
Silver-Redemption
Water-Holy Spirit
Wind-Holy Spirit
Wine-Joy
Wrestling-Subduing of the Soul by the Spirit
Zion-The Church within the Church, The Overcomers, The Remnant

Chapter Three

Gideon's Army
Those Who Are Fearless

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor.
Judges 6:12

Our awesome God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent! These words, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, describe the God Who calls things that are not as though they were, *"…even God who giveth life to the dead and calleth those things which are not, as though they were"* Romans 4:17b). He is the God Whose thoughts are not our thoughts, and Whose ways are not our ways, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways, saith the Lord"* (Isaiah 55:8).

We learn the story of Gideon in Judges 6, 7, and 8, and see the results of God calling things that are not as though they were. God sent an angel from heaven to this young man who was cowardly, but perhaps wisely, threshing wheat behind a wine press so he could hide from a ferocious enemy, the Midianites. The message from heaven to Gideon was, *"The Lord is with you, mighty man of valor."* The world saw a 90 pound weakling, but the Lord, who judges our hearts and not our outer appearances (1st Samuel 16:7), saw a mighty warrior who would set His people free. Even today, God often

uses the most unlikely candidates to get the job done so that the world will know that the victory had to be from God.

Immediately, like most of us do when God is dealing with us, Gideon began to make excuses and to blame God for the state of the nation. He questioned God, "…*if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD hath forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."* Instead of condemning Gideon and the Israelites for their worship of Baal, the Lord simply answered Gideon and told him that he, Gideon, would save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.

When the Lord speaks to us, we can be sure that whatever He says will come to pass. But Gideon was not convinced. He told the LORD that he came from the poorest family in Manasseh, and that he was the least in all his father's house. Finally, Gideon wanted a sign, which the Lord graciously gave by sending fire out of the rock to consume the unleavened cakes and the animal sacrifice that Gideon brought, and Gideon called the place Jehovah-shalom, the Lord our peace.

Even after all the Lord did, Gideon still had doubts and fears. Nevertheless, he obeyed the Lord by destroying the altar to Baal, but he did

so in the dark of night so the men of the town would not see him. Then he put out a fleece for confirmation that the Lord would indeed save Israel by Gideon's hand. The Lord graciously confirmed to Gideon His calling on this young man's life by causing the fleece to be covered with dew but leaving the ground surrounding it to be dry. Then, the next morning, God caused the fleece to be dry and the ground wet.

Gideon, which means *destroyer,* earned the name Jerubbaal, which means *discomforter of Baal,* and became a fearless leader and an obedient child of the Lord. His army, however, was still full of fear. They camped by the well of Harod. *Harod* means fear. These men numbered 32,000, and they knew that they were greatly outnumbered by the host of Midianites camping nearby to the north. The vast majority of the Israelites, much like the Church today, were walking in fear instead of faith.

The Lord realized that He had to make the odds against the Israelite army unbelievable so that *He* and not the arm of flesh would get all the credit. We must realize that it won't be our fleshly efforts that win the epic battles of the Last Days. It is "*not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"* (Zechariah 4:6b).

The Lord tells Gideon to send home those who are afraid. Twenty-two thousand men left, leaving only 10,000 men to fight the Midianites. In these

Last Days the Lord is going to separate those who walk in fear and those who walk in faith. The opposite of fear is faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The main weapon against fear, however, is perfect love. John tells us in 1st John 4:18, "*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* Perhaps the greatest revelation that this generation needs at this end of the age is a revelation of how much God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit loves us. His perfect love will destroy all our fears.

It is also significant that Gideon's army was camped at Mount Gilead. Gilead means *Hill of Testimony* or *Mount of Witness.* There was a famous balm in Gilead that cured wounds. This balm symbolizes the healing ministry. If the Lord is calling an end-time Remnant Company of Mighty Warriors, surely He wants them to walk in health and wholeness. No commander-in-chief wants to send soldiers who are wounded into battle. We especially need mental, emotional, and spiritual healing in the world today. In fact, when I occasionally go and speak in other churches, I am usually surprised at how many people sitting in Church today are deeply wounded. Jesus came to make the wounded whole.

There is no scriptural evidence that healing ceased with the apostles, and early Church history confirms the fact that healing did not die out following the canonization of Scripture and the death of all of the original apostles. I believe the Lord wants us healed from our woundedness and made whole so that we can enter the battle against the kingdom of darkness.

Gideon sent the 22,000 home. These represent the carnal church. They are born again but 30-fold, outer-court Christians. To make the odds further impossible, so that He could get all the glory, the Lord told Gideon to pick from the 10,000 those who lapped like a dog, putting their cupped hand to their mouths instead of lying prostrate and drinking the river water directly from river to mouth. Of these 10,000, Gideon sent 9700 home. These remaining soldiers represent the inner court, 60 fold Christians. Only 300 men drank by cupping the water in their hands. These men represent those who have gone to the Holy of Holies, the 100-fold Christians. The significance of this lapping-up-the-water-in-the-cupped-hand is as follows: The hand represents the five-fold ministry, and the water represents the anointing. Also, the fact that these 300 did not have their faces down in the water allowed them to be watchful all around them in case the enemy was coming. We need Christians today who are watchmen on the wall, who will

blow the trumpet, which symbolizes giving prophetic utterance, mobilizing the Body of Christ.

Gideon's army of 300, one of the most obvious types of the Last Days' Remnant, represents those in the Church today who will fearlessly follow the Lord into battle no matter how great the odds are against the Body of Christ. They have been made whole, and they are watchful and ready.

Gideon gave to these men a trumpet, as well as an empty pitcher and burning torches. Again, the trumpet in Scripture represents prophetic utterance. (I will deal with the subject of prophecy in a later chapter.) The empty pitcher represents our flesh nature. Paul tells the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians 4:7, "*We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us."* The lamps or burning torches within the pitchers represent the Holy Spirit.

Gideon's army surrounds the Midianite camp right after midnight. Many times it is in the midnight of our lives that we see real victory. We must keep pressing through and keep believing God. Many have not entered into the promises because they have given up just before the Lord was going to move.

When Gideon gives the signal, they blow the trumpets, break the pitchers, allowing the lamps in the inside of the inverted pitcher to light up the sky,

and shout, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.” The sword represents the Word of God, and God’s Word had become Gideon’s Word. We need to learn the principle of speaking the Word to our situation, just as Gideon did, and we need to learn to crucify our flesh nature if we are to have victory over the enemy. When we crucify the flesh, we are able to walk in the Spirit under the anointing of the Holy Spirit as a powerful army against the Kingdom of Darkness.

All of these actions taken by Gideon’s army threw the enemy into great confusion. Some of the Midianites started stabbing their own people, thinking that they were Israelites. The rest of the Midianites, this previously ferocious enemy, ran away in defeat and humiliation. They had been so mean-spirited, much like jihadist terrorists of today, but there is a principle in the Word of God that says, “*For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind”* (Hosea 8:7). God is not mocked, and His Word is true. The Midianites sowed to the wind violence and murder. They reaped a whirlwind of total defeat and destruction. “*Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more”* (Judges 8:28a)

But Gideon’s Army “*stood every man in his place round about the camp”* (Judges 7:21a). The Remnant Company of the Last Days will recognize that

everyone has his place in the Church and his part to play as the Lord moves in such a way that the Christian megastars of yesterday will be replaced by a nameless, faceless generation who know their part to play and whose desire is to give *all* the glory to the Lord. Their fearlessness will be a great testimony of their trust in Jesus. They will stand for Christ no matter what happens on the earth.

Chapter Four

The Zion Company
Those Who Have Kissed the Son

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they who put their trust in Him.
Psalm 2:12

Of all the types in scripture of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, none stirs my heart more than Zion. I have had the privilege of standing on Mount Zion, the highest and southernmost mount of Jerusalem. Like King David, we also can delight in its beauty and strength and recognize it as a place over which the Spirit of God hovers. Even today, those who walk in the Spirit can sense His presence there, and figuratively, it is a special place of His dwelling on Earth.

The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 2 of a day when heathen, non-believing government leaders and rulers will rage against God. In our day, this raging against God is evident all over the world. Psalm 2 reminds us that, when we see these non-believing world leaders raging against the things of God, the true believers should kiss the Son, who is set figuratively and spiritually on the *holy hill of Zion,* during this time of open rebellion against the Lord. I believe that we are living in that day now. It is the Zion Company believers who can kiss the Son. In other words, they will have an intimate relationship with Jesus, but that relationship will come at a price. There is

no short cut to intimacy with Christ. You must spend time with Him in a one-on-one relationship in order to develop that intimacy. For the Zion Company, relationship with Jesus is what matters most in life. They have recognized the truth of the old adage: *"Only one life, will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."*

I believe that He is calling forth this Zion Company of believers to minister in this generation. They will be the overcoming, fired-up, passionate, spirit-filled, joyful, submitted-to-His-total-authority, *church-within-the-church,* believers who desire intimacy with Jesus, who kiss the Son , and who know what it means to dwell in the Holy of Holies.

The Word of God gives us the characteristics of perhaps the Lord's most beloved place on the face of the earth:

- A holy place (Psalm 2:6: *"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."*)
- The dwelling of the Lord (Psalm 9:11: *"Sing praises to the LORD, who dwelleth in Zion; declare among the peoples his doings."*)
- A place of the glory of the Lord (Psalm 102:16: *"When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory."*)
- The rod of His strength (Psalm 110:2: *"The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion; rule thou in the midst of thine enemies."*)

- A place of His blessing (Psalm 128:5: *"The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion, and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life."*)
- A place of singing (Psalm 137:3: "*For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song, and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion."*)
- A place of joy (Psalm 149:2: "*Let Israel rejoice in Him who made him; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.")*
- A place of shouting (Isaiah 12:6: "*Cry out and shout, thou inhabitants of Zion; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."*)
- A place of quick answers from the Lord (Isaiah 30:19: "*For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem. Thou shalt weep no more; He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when He shall hear it, He will answer thee."*)
- A place of the fire of the Lord (Isaiah 31:9: "*And he shall pass over to his stronghold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem*.")

- A place of salvation (Isaiah 46:13: "*I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry; and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel, my glory.*")
- A place of joy and gladness and comfort from the Lord (Isaiah 51:3: "*For the LORD shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places, and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found in it, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.*")
- A place where the Redeemer shall come (Isaiah 59:20: "*And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto those who turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*")
- A place where the sons of those who have afflicted and despised God's people will bow down at their feet and call them *The Zion of the Holy One of Israel* (Isaiah 60:14: "*The sons also of those who afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee, and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet, and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*")
- A place of beauty for ashes and oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3: "*To appoint unto those who mourn in Zion; to give unto them beauty for ashes,*

the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.")

- A place of a quick work of the Spirit (Isaiah 66:8b: "…*For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*.")
- A place for restoration of the backslidden (Jeremiah 3:14: "*Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you; and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion."*)
- A place to blow the trumpet and sanctify a fast and call a solemn assembly (Joel 2:15: "*Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly."*)
- A place of the former and latter rain (Joel 2:23: "*Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD, your God, for He hath given you the former rain moderately and the latter rain in the first month."*)
- A place where the Lord will restore what the enemy has taken (Joel 2:25: "*And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer worm, my great army which I sent among you."*)

- A place of deliverance (Obadiah 17: *"But unto Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."*)
- A place of hope and strength (Joel 3:16: *"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel."*)
- A place of the re-gathering and healing of the outcasts(Micah 4:7: "*And I will make her that was lame a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation; and the LORD shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even forever."*)
- A place of travailing and birthing(Micah 4:10a: "*Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail*.")
- A place of comfort from the Lord (Zechariah 1:17: "*Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts: My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad, and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion and shall yet choose Jerusalem.")*

In short, Zion is a place of *being* in God, a place where praise is perfected, a place of His presence. Every Spirit-baptized believer should desire to go

to Zion, and I believe many are coming to a Zion experience in God as we approach the end of the age.

To come to Zion we must enter into a new place of worship and praise that is devoid of disunity, competition, performance, fear of man, self-gratification, hype, fleshliness, etc. Also, we must make verses in Hosea become part of our daily lives: *"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you."* (Hosea 10:12) *"Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days, will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."* (Hosea 6:1-3) This third-day church is, I believe, the Remnant of the Last Days. In these days it is important that the Body of Christ, as Hosea has exhorted us, walks in righteousness, seeks the Lord, and presses on to know Him.

Like the third-day church, those in Zion type a Spirit-baptized remnant of the Body of Christ. Many in the Body of Christ feel an urgency in the Spirit. We know that great challenges are ahead, but we also know that this will be

the time when the Remnant Company will shine brightly in its greatest time in the history of the Church. The Lord has saved His best for the last. I believe we are living in a *kairos* time, or, as is translated in the scripture, *in the fullness of time*, when we will soon see a quick and unprecedented outpouring of His Spirit upon His Zion Company of Believers. Those who are passionately in love with Jesus *will* come to Zion, a place of God's dwelling, and will be part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

Chapter Five

The Manifested Sons of God
Those Who Have Reached Maturity

For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.
Romans 8:19

Why is all creation awaiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God? I have wondered about the answer to that question because I would have thought that all creation was waiting for the Coming of the King. But now I understand, through study of the Scriptures, that when the Manifested Sons of God Company recognizes who they really are in Christ (i.e. heirs of God through Christ), they will usher in the Kingdom of God and the Second Coming of Jesus. They will walk in their inheritance rights. They will walk in a new level of maturity and become no more servants, no more just friends, and no more children, but *sons* of the Most High God, "*Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all, but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But, when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of*

sons. And because you are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Galatians 4:1-7).

Secondly, the Manifested Sons of God will make up the Last Days' Remnant Company, equipped with the 5-fold ministry offices, "…*for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:11-13). Thus, the Manifested Sons of God will bring the Body into perfection or completion or maturity.

Also, the Manifested Sons of God will make God's enemies His footstool, signaling the time for Jesus to come for His bride. Yes, Jesus will come back for the Glorious Church, His bride, who has made herself ready: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word; that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:25-27). *"Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus"* (Revelation 22:20).

This Manifested Sons of God Company will be made up of women as well as men. In the same way, the Bride of Christ will be made up men as well as women. Paul wrote to the Galatians in Galatians 3:28, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."* The Old Covenant only allowed men from the tribe of Levi to be priests. The New Covenant, however, says that *all* believers are priests unto God. *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loveth us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and hath made us a kingdom of priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen."*

In the Bible, *sonship* implies maturity. Children are those believers who never mature spiritually. Paul writes of these childish believers in 1st Corinthians 3:1-4, *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with solid foods, for to this time ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal?"* Thus, Paul equates children with carnality and carnality

with church splits and all kinds of inner church strife and with following after men instead of Christ. He also speaks of children as those who are "*tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine"* (Ephesians 4:14).

These immature believers are not like the Bereans who took what Paul said and went to the Word to see if what he said was Biblical. The Thessalonians, on the other hand, tried to critique Paul's preaching and prove him wrong and divide the people without testing Paul's words with the scriptures. Today we see many believers who trust more in their church doctrines and traditions than they do the Word of God. They follow after men with charisma instead of the leading of the Holy Spirit. These carnal believers have not grown up and put away childish things: *"When I was a child, I spoke as a child. I understood as a child. I thought as a child but when I became a man, I put away childish things"* (1st Corinthians 13:11).

The Word of God gives us several characteristics of this Manifested Sons of God Company. Sons of God don't love the world and the applause of men: *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth*

not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1st John 3:1-2).

Sons of God shine as lights and don't complain: *"Do all things without murmuring and disputings that ye may be blameless and harmless, the Sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world"* (Philippians 2:14-15).

Sons of God speak the truth in love: *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ"* (Ephesians 4:14-15).

Sons of God are called to praise Him: *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1st Peter 2:9).

Sons of God walk in obedience and love: *"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and given Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor, but fornication and all uncleaness or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish*

talking, nor jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no fornicator nor unclean person nor covetous man (who is an idolater) hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:1-6).

Sons of God present themselves to the Lord: "*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came among them"* (Job 1:6).

Sons of God are joyful: "*When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy"* (Job 38:7).

Sons of God are led by the Spirit: "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"* (Romans 8:14).

Sons of God tabernacle the living God and separate from the world: "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the*

Lord, and touch not the unclean things, and I will receive you and will be a Father to you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2nd Corinthians 6:14-18).

Sons of God accept the chastening of the Lord: *"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as sons. My son despise no thou the chastening of the Lord nor faint when thou are rebuked by Him, for whom the Lord loveth, He chastened and scourgeth every son whom He received"* (Hebrews 12:5-6).

Sons of God walk in power: *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"* (John 1:12).

So why does all creation yearn for the Manifestation of the Sons of God? Because the creation intuitively knows that the coming of Jesus is very near when the Sons of God Company is manifested. This company will have a special relationship with Jesus. They are no longer servants, not just friends, not children, but mature sons who love Him as their first love.

The Sons of God Company receives the Lord as Father and has a special revelation of the love that He has for us. The Remnant Company of the Last Days, as typed by the Manifested Sons of God Company, will recognize His love and long for the return of Jesus.

I believe that the Lord is calling this Sons of God Company to be manifested even now. Do you feel a dissatisfaction in your spirit? Are you troubled by the world situation that is increasingly hostile to born again Christians, especially to those Christians who are walking in present day truth? Are you groaning for more of Jesus in your life? Do you believe the Lord is birthing something in your spirit? Can you hardly wait for what the Lord is going to do next? If so, perhaps the Lord is calling you to be part of this end-time company.

The Remnant of the Last Days will include the Manifested Sons of God and will usher in the King. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Chapter Six

The Elijah Company
Those Who Will Turn the Hearts of the Fathers to the Children and the Hearts of the Children to the Fathers

Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD; And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.
Malachi 4:5-6

Anyone who has worked in the public schools knows that this generation is a fatherless generation. In fact, as a former school counselor, I can say that, in my opinion, the greatest predictor of the success or failure of a child is the relationship or lack of relationship that that child has with a father. Other than our relationship with Christ, I believe our relationship with our earthly father is most critical to our emotional development. The love of a father is what is lacking in most of the homosexual people I have prayed with, in most of the prison population, in most of the troubled youth that I have worked with, and in people who have come through the doors of our ministry seeking prayer. This ministry has been going on for over 35 years, and the number of fatherless people keeps rising. Most children who grow up without a father's love-whether the father is absent, dead, or non-bonding with the child- enter adulthood with much woundedness. I believe that what

the Church needs more than anything besides relationship with Jesus and a knowledge of the Word of God are Christian fathers, and the men of the Church need to step up to the plate and be spiritual fathers to those who have no real relationship with a father.

Paul himself wrote of the importance of spiritual fathers to the Corinthians, "*For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel. Wherefore, I beseech you, be ye followers of me"* (1st Corinthians 4:15-16). I do not believe that Paul was being prideful. I think he was recognizing the importance of spiritual fathers. These godly men will mentor and serve as examples to young believers of how to walk out the Christian life. Many, many young Christians do not have any example to follow. This is such a great indictment on the Christian Church and on the society we live in. The Lord used the very last words of the Old Testament to warn us that if we did not get this problem corrected, He would come and smite the earth with a curse. I believe that we are very near or even in the beginnings of the time of the Day of the Lord, and we must heed this stern warning from Malachi: "*Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to*

the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6).

I believe this Last Days *Elijah* is not a single man. I also believe this prophecy was only *initially* fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist as a forerunner prophet of the first coming of Jesus, and will be fulfilled completely in the Remnant Company of Last Days believers. Often Old Testament prophecies have an initial fulfillment and a final, more complete fulfillment, such as when Peter said that the Day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:16-21). Obviously, we have yet to see the total fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, and yet Peter's words that what happened on the Day of Pentecost was fulfillment of this prophecy is also true.

Obviously the Elijah Company will be operating in the prophetic, but even more important is the fact that they will have a special anointing to restore the vital relationship of children to their fathers and fathers to their children.

How critical is this issue? The Belmont Foundation, a ministry devoted to ministering to the fatherless, gives the following statistics:

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.

85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes.

80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes.

71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.

75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.

70% of youths in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes.

85% of all youth in prison come from fatherless homes.[14]

Yes, one thing desperately lacking in America today is good Christian fathers! It is a well-known fact among ministers that a person's initial perception of God the Father is based on the relationship that person had with his own father. For example, if the father was permissive and did not discipline, the person sees God as a big buddy in the sky who never corrects and allows any behavior. These people believe that the rules are for everyone else except for themselves. On the other hand, those with strict, overbearing fathers find God ready to throw down a lightning bolt any second. They live in fear of authority. They go from one extreme to another. Some become very rebellious, and some become overly compliant. A person, who has struggled with abandonment issues and feelings of low self-worth, most likely was never affirmed by a father. People who cannot love healthily and properly probably were never hugged or told by their fathers that they were loved.

The consequence of trying to witness to people, who have never know a father's love, about a heavenly Father who loves them, is challenging. This problem is seen most acutely in the ghettos of America. This is often a very difficult place to evangelize because most of the children there have never had a father and thus cannot relate to a heavenly Father. We desperately need spiritual fathers to reach out and father these children. We need this Elijah Company, a part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, to come forth in this generation! Yet these surrogate fathers must use much wisdom and must be held to a high degree of accountability and background checks so that we do not allow wolves in sheep's clothing to prey on these young ones.

The Elijah Company will follow Biblical patterns with their children. These include the following:

1. **Speaking Affirmation**: Our heavenly Father gave the example we need to follow in affirming our children. He said of His Only Begotten Son: "*This is my Son in whom I am well-pleased* (Matthew 17:5). We know that, according to Proverbs 18:11, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue….*" Fathers need to speak life over their children, words of encouragement that build up and accentuate the positive instead of the negative.

2. **Expressing Agape Love**: One wonderful aspect of being a Christian is that we are all brothers and sisters together. This brotherhood spans generations, and in a sense Christian fathers are brothers to Christian children. Romans 12:10 tells us: "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.*" Not only do fathers need to speak words of affirmation, they also need to speak words of love and do acts that show that their words are true. Love is an action. Fathers need to express love by spending time with their children, by making sacrifices for their children, and by being involved in and interested in what their children are doing each day. They need to tell their children that they love them. I have often had students in my counseling office who have wept because their fathers have never said, "I love you" to them.
3. **Discipling**: "*My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. For whom the Lord loveth He chastened and scourgeth every son whom He received*" (Hebrews 12:5b-6). Again fathers should follow the pattern of the heavenly Father. I once was a teacher in an alternative school where students were assigned so many months because of accumulated violations at their home school. I found that those kids craved discipline. They

wanted someone to care enough about them to insist that they followed rules. Discipline must be fair, consistent, and reasonable. Men who refuse to discipline their children must likely will raise sons and daughters who will struggle all their lives with authority and be largely unsuccessful in life. But, on the other hand, men who discipline to the extreme or without love will raise wounded people who will grow up with all kinds of problems.

4. **Forgiving**: Again we take the example of the heavenly Father. Psalm 103:3 tells us, "*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities.*" Children are going to be children. Growing up, they will make many mistakes. They need to know that, after they are punished, they are loved and forgiven. Also, parents need to forgive themselves when they make unintentional mistakes raising children. Also, sometimes children, influenced by television and the culture, rebel even under the best parenting skills. God was the perfect Father, and His children messed up. No earthly parent is perfect. We can either learn from our mistakes and adjust our rules accordingly, or we can beat ourselves up every day and feel like we are failures, making us ineffective parents.
5. **Laying down his life**: John 15:13 says, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" We can

paraphrase this and say, "*Greater love hath no father than this, that a father lay down his life for his family."* My greatest regret in life is that I have never had children. Maybe that is why I value them so much. I don't have children, but the Lord has made me a spiritual father to many. I know that, even in being a spiritual father, there are many sacrifices that have to be made. It is not always convenient to be a good father, but a father often must lay down his life for his family. This is not too great a cost when you realize that you are raising up the next generation, a generation that will impact the world for good or for bad. This impact will be based, at least partially, on the example that you show.

Somehow, some way, sons sometimes succeed in spite of the lack of a godly father. There are several Biblical examples. I share this to encourage those who did not get the nurturing from a father that they needed. You can still be used by God! I would like to share two examples with you.

First, we looked again at the life of Gideon. Gideon's father worshiped the false idol of Baal. Gideon was called by God, and at the same time God directed him to destroy this idol. He did it by night because he was afraid. The men of the city wanted to kill him for this transgression, but his father, although ungodly, talked them out of it. Gideon came from an ungodly

background and a idolatrous father, and yet he was used by God to set the Lord's people free.

And then there was Josiah. Josiah's grandfather Manasseh was one of the most wicked and ungodly kings of Israel. He tried to destroy all the copies of God's word that he could find. He lived a life of idolatry and immorality. He was finally captured and lived in Babylon for twelve years. In Babylonian captivity he tried to repent and undo some of his wrongs. His son Amon, Josiah's father, was also extremely wicked and ungodly. Thankfully, for Israel's sake, Amon lived only two years. This meant that Josiah became king at the age of eight. His name means "The Fire of God" and he, in spite of his ungodly upbringing, proved to be one of Israel's most godly kings, and he returned the Israelites to the Living God. These are just two scriptural examples of those who overcame in spite of ungodly fathers.

For those who have been hurt by a father or who have lived without a father, there is hope. The Lord has this word for you in Psalm 68:5-6: "*A father of the fatherless and a judge of widows is God in His holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families. He bringeth out those who are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*" If you will turn to Jesus and walk in obedience to the Word of God, God will be your father in a unique way and will cause blessings to overtake you.

Chapter Seven

The Bridal Company
Those Who Have Fallen in Love with the Bridegroom

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me is love.
Song of Solomon 2:4

I suppose there is no more intimate relationship on Earth than a godly marriage relationship. Paul tells us that "*for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh"* (Ephesians 5:31). Paul says that, in the same way, the Lord will be joined to His bride, the Church: "*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church"* (Ephesians 5:32).

God is a God not of religion but of personal relationship. He wants not only personal relationship with each one of us but relationship that can best be compared to the relationship of a husband and a wife in intimacy and love. That's what separates Christianity from all other religions. He passionately wants to have intimate relationship with you so that He can bless the object of His love, YOU!

Why? Those in relationship with Him will fall in love with Him: "*We love Him because He first loved us"* (1st John 4:19). Those who love Him will obey Him: "*And this is love, that we walk after his commandments…."* (2nd

John 6). Those who obey Him can be showered with blessings: *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth; And all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God*" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). His great desire is to bless you, and He blesses you when you walk in obedience to Him.

The Bridal Company is that part of the remnant who has fallen head over heels in love with Jesus. The Bride is in the process of making herself ready: "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints"* (Revelation 19:7*).* He is coming back for a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word: That He might present it to <u>Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish.</u> So ought men*

to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his flesh, but nourished and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:25-32).

How does the Bride make herself ready? **First, she must come out of Babylon.** As I have written in a previous chapter, Babylon types the world system that is so full of greed, corruption, power, and pride. It idolizes money and the human body. Babylon strives for men's approval and has infiltrated some of the churches in America with a "dumbing down" approach to the way we have church so the Church can be "cool" and relate to the ungodly culture. This wordly Church has a philosophy that tries to bend the Gospel message to conform to the culture instead of causing the culture to conform to the Gospel. The Church in bed with the world is very seeker friendly with an "anything goes" philosophy. It seeks to entertain Church-goers with watered-down messages full of entertaining stories that elicit no repentance and no conviction of sin.

We know that Babylon, the world system, is going to eventually fall, and all those who have put their trust in money and government and any influence besides relationship with Jesus will be devastated. Much like the financiers who committed suicide when the Great Depression came, those who look to Babylon for comfort and security will be greatly disappointed, some even to the point of despairing of life itself, and will commit suicide. The Lord spoke of Babylon's demise in Revelation 18:23-24, "*The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and all who were slain on the earth."*

Revelation 18 gives us a picture of this world system that does not consider God or His Word in any decision that it makes: "*And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of demons and the hold of every foul spirit and a cage of every unclean and hated bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication*

with her, and the merchants of the earth are grown rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:1-4).

Secondly, the Bride must change her garments. Zechariah tells us of a man by the name of Joshua, whose garments were changed. This was not the Joshua that led the children of Israel into the Promise Land, but a high priest. I believe that he represents the Church, which is made up of the priesthood of all believers. From Joshua's lineage was to come the BRANCH. We usually interpret this branch as being Jesus. Jesus, however, said, "*I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5). Therefore, I believe this BRANCH could represent the overcoming, abundant-life living, Body of Christ which is abiding in the vine.

Zechariah writes: "*And he showed me Joshua, the high priest, standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at the right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD, who hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee. Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and*

stood before the angel. And he answered and spoke unto those who stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquities to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a clean turban upon his head. So they set a clean turban upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by" (Zechariah 3:1-5). Satan is always resisting the true believers, but the Lord rebukes the enemy for our sakes. Notice that the Lord takes away the filthy garments first. In other words He brings us out of unrighteousness. Then He takes away the iniquities, which are drives in us that cause us to sin. Then He gives a change of garments.

Isaiah writes, "*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee*…."(Isaiah 64:6-7a). Even on our best days, our righteousness is but filthy rags. Only the blood of Jesus clothes us with righteousness. Only by what He did on the cross can we become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus: "*For He made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the*

righteousness of God in Him" (2nd Corinthians 5:21). It is not by works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:9).

Finally, the Lord commands that a clean turban be put on Joshua's head. This turban is symbolic of a new way of thinking and involves having clean thoughts, instead of the lustful thoughts that the internet has opened many minds to, in our generation. This is a beautiful picture of the Lord taking unrighteous, sinful man, the brand plucked from the fire, and cleansing him. The Lord cleanses Joshua by not only taking away the filthy garments but also clothing him with clean garments and a clean turban. This cleansing allows Joshua, and by extension, mankind, to become the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus. The clean turban symbolizes purity of thought in the believer who is striving to walk in holiness and to have the mind of Christ.

The Lord wants us to think on "…*whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"* (Philippians 4:8). This new way of thinking will destroy the power of fantasy that is so prevalent in today's society. I have prayed with many believers who struggle with all kinds of fantasy, especially sexual fantasy. I believe that

fantasy usually is an unclean spirit, which every believer can be free from, through the delivering power of God's word.

Thirdly, the bride must be an overcomer. Jesus the Pattern Son, whom we desire to model our lives after, tells His disciples in John 16:33, "*These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have <u>overcome</u> the world."* John encourages the Christian believers in 1st John 5:4-5, *"For whatever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."* So we overcome by faith. We know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Paul writes in Romans 10:17, *"So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* In other words, hearing or reading the Word causes us to overcome. Even as I have written this book, I have overcome some of my own personal struggles just by re-reading these scriptures that I have included. I can testify that the Word works!

Paul writes to the Galatians, "…*Faith…worketh by love"* (Galatians 5:6). The challenges ahead of us will call for extraordinary faith. The Bridal Company will walk in this faith partially because those in this company will love and be the object of the love of the Lord. To those who are willing to

walk this road and who overcome, the Word of God promises the privilege of eating of the tree of life in the paradise of God (see Revelation 2:7), the comfort of not being hurt by the second death (see Revelation 2:11), a white stone with a new name (see Revelation 2:17), and power over the nations (see Revelation 2:26). He promises white raiment and says He will not blot the overcomers' names out of the book of life but will confess the overcomers' names before the Father and his angels (see Revelation 3:5). Those who overcome will be made a pillar in God's temple (see Revelation 3:12). They will be invited to sit with Jesus (see Revelation 3:21). They will inherit all things (see Revelation 21:7). The Bridal Company will overcome as part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

Do you want to be part of this Bridal Company? What if it costs you everything? Are you going to stand in this evil day when others fall? Are His enemies your enemies? Are you looking for manifestations and the blessings of His hand, or are you truly in love with Him and seeking His face, whether He gets you out of a hard place or not? Is it worth going through persecution to follow Christ? Are you willing to die for the Gospel? Again, you must count the cost and decide if you really want to be part of that company, the Bridal Company, that is even now in the process of making herself ready.

Chapter Eight

The Third Day Church
Those in Affliction Who Seek the Lord

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offense and seek my face; in their affliction they will seek me early. Come let us return to the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight.
Hosea 5:15-6:2

Many Christians today run from trials and tribulations. They attribute all negative things in life to Satan and the kingdom of darkness. They see a demon under every bush! They believe that they are going to be raptured away before persecution comes. Perhaps they are right, but what if they are not? I cannot see any conclusive scriptural evidence for either point of view. Both can be argued scripturally. What if real persecution comes, and you have not been raptured away? That's exactly what happened to the Chinese Christians. Mao and the Communist regime murdered countless number of these Christians. Unfortunately, the Chinese Christians had been taught by the Western Church that God would rescue them and safely call them away before they had to go through any suffering and hardships. Yet Paul writes to Timothy that "*…all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (2nd Timothy 3:12). And furthermore, James tell us that we are

to count it all joy when we go through trials because the end result will be completeness in Christ: *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience, But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing"* (James 1:2-3).

In addition, Peter, in 1st Peter 1:6-9, adds: *"In this ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold trials, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perished, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, Whom, having not seen, ye love, in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."*

The Third Day Church of Hosea was born after being torn and smitten by God. I do not believe that all trials and tribulations come from God. Surely some are demonic attacks, while others are the results of mankind's fallen condition and bad decisions. The Lord, however, is omnipotent and allows these trials and tribulations, and will take whatever happens in our lives and work it together for our good according to Romans 8:28: *"And we know that*

all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

The Third Day Church types the Remnant Company of the Last Days. This Third Day Church was made up of those who had gone through severe trials and yet returned to the Lord. The Lord promised this remnant that He would pour out His Spirit on those who pressed through their tribulations and followed on to know the Lord: "*Then shall we know, <u>if</u> we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth"* (Hosea 6:3).

Why does the Lord allow trials and tribulations?

1. **To test our faith:** Genesis 22:1-18: "*And it came to pass after these things that God did test Abraham and said unto him, Abraham, and he said, Behold, here I am. And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning and saddled his ass and took two of his young men with him and Isaac, his son, and cut the wood for the burnt offering and rose up and went into the place which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham*

lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off, and Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it upon Isaac his son, and he took the fire in his hand and a knife, and they went both of them together. And Isaac spoke unto Abraham, his father, and said, My father, and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering. And Abraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering. So they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of, and Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac, his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham, and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked and behold behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a

burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, Jehovah Jireh, as it is said to this day. In the mount of the LORD, it shall be seen. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time and said, By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the seashore, and thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thy hast obeyed my voice."

2. To purify our faith: Malachi 3:3 says, "*And he shall sit like a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them like gold and silver that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."*

3. To increase our patience: James 1:3-4 encourages us, "*Knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing."*

4. To chasten us because discipline is an expression of His love: Hebrews 12:6 reminds us, "*For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."*

5. To glorify the Lord: 1st Peter 4:12-16 warns us, "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part, He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or as a thief or as an evildoer or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf.*"

6. To bring us to a better place: Psalm 66:10-12: "*For thou, O God, hast tested us; thou hast tried us as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou hast laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to rise over our heads; we went through fire and through water, but thou brought us out into a wealthy place.*"

More than likely, the Church in America, like the Third Day Church of Hosea, will go through increasing trials and tribulations. We have become spiritually fat from being hearers of the Gospel message but not being doers of the Word. We sit in beautiful, air conditioned, and comfortable buildings,

while much of the Church in other parts of the world is persecuted and living in poverty. We spend more on our animal pets than we do on people starving in other countries. We allow the killing of innocent babies in the womb. The end result of all these carnal and ungodly actions will be severe judgment from a holy God. Judgment *is* coming to America. Unless there is another Great Awakening and a Charles Finney type revival in our country, many will be persecuted for their Biblical positions. The American Church must wake up and take its stand for the Christ who paid it all for us.

In 1974 a precious saint, Corrie Ten Boom, who has gone to be with the Lord, wrote about her own experiences with the persecuted Church:

> *Several years ago I was in Africa in a nation where a new government had come into power. The first night I was there some of the Christians were commanded to come to the police station to register. When they arrived, they were arrested and that same night, they were executed. The next day the same thing happened with other Christians. The third day it was the same. All the Christians in this district were being systematically murdered.*
>
> *The fourth day I was to speak in a little church. The people came, but they were filled with fear and tension. All during the service they were looking at each other, their eyes asking, "Will this one I am sitting beside be the next one killed? Will I be the next one?"*
>
> *The room was hot and stuffy with insects that came through the screenless windows and swirled around the naked bulbs over the bare wooden benches. I told them a story out of my childhood.*
>
> *"When I was a little girl," I said, "I went to my father and said, "Daddy, I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ."*

> *"Tell me," said Father, "When you take a train trip to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?" "No, Daddy, you give me the money for the ticket just before we get on the train." "That is right," my father said, "and so it is with God's strength. Our Father in Heaven knows when you will need the strength to be a martyr for Jesus Christ. He will supply all you need just in time."*
>
> *My African friends were nodding and smiling. Suddenly a spirit of joy descended upon that church and the people began singing, "In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore." Later that week, half of the congregation of that church was executed. I heard later that the other half was killed some months ago.*
>
> *How can we get ready for the persecution? First, we need to feed on the word of God, digest it, make it a part of our being. This will mean disciplined Bible study, each day as we not only memorize long passages of scripture but put the principles to work in our lives.*
>
> *Next we need to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not just the Jesus of yesterday, the Jesus of history, but the life-changing Jesus of today who is still alive and sitting at the right hand of God.*
>
> *We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is no optional command of the Bible. It is absolutely necessary. Those earthly disciples could never have stood up under the persecution of the Jews and Romans had they not waited for Pentecost. Each of us needs our own personal Pentecost, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to stand in the tribulation without it.*[15]

There is great comfort in Corrie Ten Boom's words as we prepare to face persecution and judgment. He will be there to supply our need exactly when we need them.

As the persecuted Church, we must remember that storms come even to those whose house is built on the foundation of hearing the Word of God and obeying them. The difference between the men who built their houses on sand was not the intensity of the storms, but who obeyed the Word of God and who did not. Thus, we, even in America, should *expect* the storms of life. Nevertheless, we can be confident that the Lord will deliver us in due time. 2nd Timothy 3:10-11 says, "*But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, what persecutions I endured, but out of them all, the Lord delivered me.*" Finally, we must realize that those persecutions will bring us to the Third Day Church of Hosea, a part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

Chapter Nine

Ezekiel's Six Men:
Those Who Are Marked by the Holy Spirit

Saying, harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads.
Revelation 7:3 AMP

End time events greatly interest people of all religions. Most Americans, especially church-goers, know, whether they read the Bible or not, about the mark of the beast, because of movies dealing with this theme. Revelation 13:16-18 tells us about the mark of the beast: "*He* [the beast] *causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."* We see from this passage that the mark goes on the right hand or on the forehead.

There are many theories about this mark. Many believe that people will actually receive a computer chip implanted in their forehead or right hand. We have the technology today to do just that. However, I believe, as stated earlier, that this is not a literal mark, but a mindset having to do with the

way we do business and how we think in the Babylonian World System, a system whose leaders do not consider God in any of their decisions and try to eliminate anything to do with the Word of God. Those Christians, who, like me, believe this is not a literal mark, think that Christians, even carnal Christians or religious people who have a form of godliness but no real relationship with Jesus, would not take such a mark, if it were a literal thing. Even genuine Christians believers, however, might easily be caught up, they reason, in a world system that values money more than it values Jesus, thus the symbol of the hand, and be part of a way of thinking about money, humanism, and materialism, that is already so prevalent in the world, thus the symbol of the forehead.

The Bible speaks of another mark, one which many believers are less familiar. Ezekiel Chapter Nine is redolent with prophetic significance. Let's break down the first six verses in order to capture some of their subtle nuances.

1. "He *cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand."*

Now, "He" is obviously referring to God. "Them that have charge over the city" is speaking of the shepherds of the Church. "His hand" could be a

reference to the five-fold ministry offices," and the "weapon" is, of course, the Word of God (see Ephesians 6:11).

The first message that God gives to us today, speaking through this ancient prophet, is one of responsibility—the responsibility of today's God-appointed Church leaders to protect the flock, as well as prepare for the many impending spiritual battles.

I have been a ministry leader in the Church for nearly forty years, and I have experienced spiritual battles within the flock. If we as leaders don't teach Christians how to man their battle stations, there will be no end to the casualties of war.

> 2. "And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar."

I believe that these five men who are in company with the sixth man, the Holy Spirit, represent the Remnant Company of the Last Days. Jesus is the higher gate through which all men must come, and the North in Scripture is the place of God's Throne. The slaughter weapon symbolizes the Rhema Word that will not return void (see Isaiah 55:11). The Holy Spirit is the One with the writer's inkhorn. He is clothed in linen, which represents

righteousness. Jerusalem is the Church and the mark is the blood of Jesus. This mark anoints and purifies the mind or way of thinking.

The brazen altar is a place of slaughter and sacrifice and speaks of the atoning work of the sacrificial Lamb, Who was slain. This Lamb is, of course, Jesus Who was nailed on the cross as a sacrifice for all Mankind. This brazen altar is also a place of judgment. The Sinless One took on the sins of the world and was judged. His sacrificial act allows any person to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, just by accepting Christ and acknowledging His sacrifice for sin.

Today the Lord is calling a Remnant Company to stand by the place of sacrifice. To be a part of the Remnant Company, we must be willing to lay down our lives as a sacrifice. This altar is made of acacia wood, which speaks of our humanity. The wood is overlaid with brass, which speaks of judgment. Severe judgments are coming on the earth. Even now, the beginnings of judgments are being poured out, but the worst is yet to come. These judgments are an act of love from a God who wants fellowship with us so badly that He allows judgments so that people will realize that He is the only answer for the world's problems.

As a lay pastor I have seen many come to the brazen altar of sacrifice. They have laid their lives down to follow Jesus and thus become the

righteousness of God through the blood of Jesus. Those who have laid it all down at the brazen altar and are following the leadership of the Holy Spirit will be part of the company that will make the Lord's enemies His footstool (see Psalm 110:1).

> *3. "And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side."*

In verse 3 we again see the glory of God. Those who have personally sensed the glory of God, whether in a church service or in a place of solitude, have a passion to see His glory come down. The glory of God brings such peace and joy to every believer. The threshold, as the sill of the door, is the place of entering or beginning. A heavy presence of the Lord came down, as these five men stood with the Holy Spirit, in this temple of the Lord, ready to anoint these men for the work He was calling them to do.

No one stands in the glory without being changed and without, I believe, being anointed. I have often said in my own ministry that I would rather have the anointing than any other ministry gift of God, and I have felt His Glory and passionately desire to walk with Him in His glory.

This passage gives us a rare picture in Scripture of the intimate relationship of God the Father with God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is

always ready to do the will of the Father and the Son, and He never speaks of Himself but always glorifies the Son.

4. *"And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."*

We see these mark ones again in Ephesians 1:13 (NIV): *"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit…"*[16] And in Revelation 7:3 (AMP): *"Saying, harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads."*[17]

There are three basic characteristics of this marked company. First, they hate the abominations spoken of in scripture. These abominations include occultic practices, heathen idolatry, child sacrifice, pagan Gods, perverse and out of marriage sexual relationships, prostitution and sodomy, homosexuality, justifying wickedness, lying lips, false worship, self-righteousness, beastiality, and transvestitism. The Lord also considers witchcraft, magic, and spiritism as abominable. The very word *abominable* implies that nations which allow these practices will let in an influx of evil. We are not to hate people, but we are to hate those practices that God hates.

The second characteristic of those who are marked by the Lord is they have willingly become bond servants of the Lord. In general all slaves served for six full years, and in the seventh year they were set free. Those who loved their masters so much that they did not want to be set free asked their masters to make them bond slaves. The master put a hole in their ear with an awl or punch. This hole in the ear became a symbol to others that they had voluntarily completely submitted and given themselves to their master. Paul, James, Peter, and Jude identified themselves in Scripture as bond servants of Jesus. The Remnant Company of the Last Days will give themselves totally over to Jesus and serve Him as a slave serves a master. Deuteronomy 15:16-17 tells us: "*And if it happens that he* [a servant] *to you* [the master] *says, I will not go away from you, because he* [the servant] *loves you and your house, since he prospers with you, then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. And to your female servant you shall do likewise."*

The third characteristic of those who are marked by the Lord is that they have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be sealed by the Holy Spirit? First, those sealed by the Holy Spirit do not walk in the works of the flesh. Galatians 6:19-21 makes it very clear what these works of the flesh are: "*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery,*

fornication, uncleaness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like: of which I tell you beforehand just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Secondly, those who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit manifest the fruit of the Spirit: "*…the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control…"*Galatians 5:22. If you are living out the Christian life and bearing these fruit, then you are a good candidate for the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

The spirit of this age is compromise. The enemy is fighting hard to pull people back to Egypt, which represents worldliness. Many are double-minded, and others are in the valley of decision. Some are still asleep in spite of the spiritual warfare that is taking place so evidently in today's world. Those Remnant Company Christians are putting on the whole armour of God and fighting against the kingdom of darkness. Today is the day of the Laodicean Church. Are you lukewarm and half-hearted about Jesus? The Lord is calling a Remnant Company that will take the mark of the Lord and will not walk in compromise in this evil day. Ephesians 5:14-20 tells us: "*Therefore, He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and*

Christ shall shine upon you and give you light. Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise-sensible, intelligent people, making the very most of the time-buying up each opportunity-because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but ever be filled and stimulated with the Holy Spirit. Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] *and making melody with all your heart to the Lord. At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father"*[18] (AMP).

5. *And to the others he said in mine hearing: Go ye after him through the city and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:*

We must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and we must be obedient to what He tells us to do. We must always walk in love, but we cannot be men-pleasers, and we must not have pity and excuse the abominations that are being done around us.

6. *Slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.*

This whole passage from Ezekiel leads credence to the belief that we, as the Body of Christ and more specifically as the Remnant Company, will be that company that will make His enemies His footstool: *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool"* (Psalm110:1) (This verse is also repeated in Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:43; Acts 2:35; Hebrews 1:13; Hebrews 10:13). This Body will also be that standard that the Lord raises up when the enemy comes in like a flood: "…*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him"* (Isaiah 59:19).

We have been called to be Mighty Warriors, and we must be ready to wage a good warfare against the kingdom of darkness.

Chapter Ten

Beware of Last Day's Deception
The Remnant Walking in Truth

Let no man deceive you.
Ephesians 5:6
1 John 3:7

Derek Prince was one of the greatest Bible teachers of modern times and a master at deliverance ministry. He spent much of his ministry casting out demons. Prince went to be with the Lord a few years ago, but his teaching ministry continues through his wonderful books. Towards the end of his life, he was particularly conscious of how deception could creep in the Church, and he made an astonishing statement that should sober all spirit-baptized believers. Prince also said, "*Deception-not sickness, poverty, or persecution-is the greatest single danger in the end of the age.*[19] In his excellent book *Protection from Deception,* Prince warns us, "*It is important to realize that signs and wonders neither guarantee nor determine truth."*[20] We must realize that Satan can also do supernatural signs and wonders and thus everything supernatural is not necessarily from the Lord. We must diligently pray and judge everything that is done in a meeting where supernatural works are happening by the inerrant Word of God.

The great danger of deception is that those who are deceived don't know it. Paul the apostle dealt with deception regarding two groups of people. First, he called the Galatians "bewitched" by the Judaizers who insisted on circumcision and following the law as requirements for the new faith, instead of by faith in Jesus Christ alone. True faith works by love, and thus fulfills the law of Christ, and is truth: *"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been openly set forth, crucified among you?"* (Galatians 1:6-8). He also adds: *"I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ, unto another gospel, which is not another, but there are some that trouble you and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed"* (Galatians 1:6-8).

Paul also contended with the Colossian heresy. The Colossians were worshiping angels and the spirit world in the position and place that Christ Jesus should be. They were insisting on following eating and drinking rules and other religious observances carried over from their Jewish heritage.

They also were prideful and believed they knew more than everyone else about the infant Christian faith. Thus, they too were walking in deception.

Do present day "revivals" have elements of the Galatian and Colossian errors, especially the emphases on angels and manifestations instead of on repentance and bringing glory to Christ? If so, we have a real dilemma. The Word tells us to be careful and not rebuke elders, and to do His prophets no harm: *"…Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm"* (Chronicles 16:22). But it also tells us that we are to judge with righteous judgment: *"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment"* (John 7:24). And Jesus warned us over and over about being deceived. He said, "*For false Christs and false prophets shall rise and shall show signs and wonders to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect"* (Mark 13:22). And, *"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ"* (Colossians 2:8).

I love manifestations as much as anyone, but are these revivals focused on the power of Jesus to change lives or are they focused on Christian superstars who focus on hype and emotions? Are they geared to soulish Christians who have become at home in this world and are looking to get

their own needs met at the expense of others? I have attended some of these revivals. What I saw saddened me. The people were so hungry and pushed their way through the doors, jockeying to get a good seat, like a crowd at a football game. At one revival meeting I attended I never heard the evangelist quote even one verse of Scripture, but there was much talk about his accomplishments and his books.

So I have come up with some questions to ask as safeguards against deception. Again, we know that there will be much deception at the end of the age, and we had better be asking some questions and not just looking for manifestations.

1. **Does that which is happening have a precedent in the Word of God?** Revelation 22:18: *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; And, if any man shall take away the words of this book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*
2. **Does the message cause us to look to Jesus?** Hebrews 12:1-2: *Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud*

of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience, the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

3. **Are Jesus and the Cross at the center or are experiences and sensational phenomena the center?** 1 Corinthians 1:18: *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God."*
4. **Is the prophetic voice humble or drawing attention to self?** 1st Peter 5:5: "*In like manner, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble."*
5. **Are angels being glorified?** Colossians 2:18: "*Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshiping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."*
6. **Is there too much advertising of books and merchandize?** Matthew 21:12: "*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast*

out all them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves."

7. **Do the speakers try to help the Holy Spirit and push you over?** Psalm 119:128: *"Therefore, I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way."*
8. **Are you coerced or made to feel guilty about giving?** 2 Corinthians 9:7: *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."*
9. **Do they pray?** 1 Thessalonians 5:17: *"Pray without ceasing."*
10. **Do the speakers spend a lot of time talking about all their accomplishments?** Isaiah 64:6: *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*
11. **Is there talk about sin and repentance?** Luke 15:7: *"I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine righteous persons, who need no repentance."*

12. **Is the music trance-inducing music?** 1 Corinthians 14:8: *For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"*

13. **Do you feel uncomfortable?** Isaiah 32:17: "*And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."*

14. **Did the speaker let the supernatural happen or did he try to make it happen?** 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9: "*And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Even him, whose coming after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."*

15. **Is the speaker under spiritual authority?** Job 26:6: "*Sheol is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering."*

16. **Do your spiritual authorities witness to the movement?** Proverbs 11:14: "*Where no counsel is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."*

17. **Does the fruit remain?** John 15:16a: "*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit shall remain…"*

Our biggest safeguard against deception is the Word of God. We must not get caught up in manifestation and keep our focus on Jesus. As E.N. Bell put it, "*Don't depend on an experience to keep you. It is not the blessing that keeps you; it is a person, the Lord Himself. You must abide in Christ. God never meant to give us any blessing that would fix us up so we could get along without Him. We must recognize our constant need of the Lord and depend continually on Jesus."*[21]

Chapter Eleven

The Five Fold Ministry
The Remnant Walking in the Fullness of Christ

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.
Psalm 92:13-14

The Greek word for the church is *Ekklesia*. The word means "a calling out or assembly." Thus, we in the Body of Christ are *the called out ones*. It is for those *called out ones* that Jesus gave His life. (Ephesians 5:25: "*Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.")* And this is the glorious church that Jesus is passionately in love with and is coming back for. (Ephesians 5:27: "*…a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.")* In order to equip believers in this Church to minister to each other and to a lost and dying world, and to bring us to maturity and to a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle, Jesus gave gifts which are just as applicable today as they were in the first century Church: "*And He gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors*

and teachers for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ, from which the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increases of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Epheisans 4:11-16).

The five-fold ministry offices are the apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers. The apostles are the fathers of the faith. They lay the foundations of the ministry and start new movements and ministries. The prophets give forth prophetic utterance which gives the Lord's direction for the particular Body of which they are a part. They also warn against demonic strategies against the Body. (I will discuss prophets more in detail in the next chapter). The evangelists win souls and thus keep the Body focused on being fruitful and multiplying. The pastors are the shepherds who love and minister to the believers. The teachers teach the Word of God

giving fresh revelation, especially emphasizing what Peter calls present truth. Second Peter 1:12 tell us, "*Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them and are established in present truth.*"

Why did Jesus give these five-fold ministry gifts?

1. For the perfecting or equipping of the believers
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the edifying or building up of the Body of Christ
4. So that, we come into unity
5. So that we, as the Body of Christ, can come into more knowledge of Jesus
6. So that we can become a perfect or complete or mature person
7. So that we can walk in the fullness of Christ

These gifts are obviously still for today because the Body of Christ is not in unity, does not have the revelation of the fullness of the knowledge of Jesus, and has not reached full maturity.

The Lord's desire is to **perfect or equip His saints**, those who sincerely believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord. There is absolutely nothing in the Word or in the early church history that I have found that says that the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit ceased when the last of the initial apostles died.

In fact, the Word tells us that the gifts of God are without repentance. In other words, He does not take back what He gives, and He gave these ministry offices and gifts to the church. *"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance"* (Romans 11:29). If we are going to bring this generation to Jesus, we need to be equipped with these gifts.

He gave these gifts for the **work of the ministry**. If the Church has ever needed these gifts for the work of the ministry since the birthing of the Church two thousand years ago, we need them now. We seem to be losing the battle, at least in America, on every hand. In 1997 Thom S. Rainer, current president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources published a book called *The Bridger Generation.* In this book Rainer tells us statistics drawn from church membership data of the last four generations. Those born between 1927-1945 were 65% evangelical believers. Those born between 1946-1964 were 35% evangelical believers. Those born between 1965-1983 were 16% evangelical believers. Finally, those born from 1984 to the current day are projected to be 4% evangelical believers.[22] This is alarming statistical data on the American church. We need all the help we can get, and we need to accept and use those gifts sent by God for the work of the ministry.

The church in America needs **edifying and building up**! In 1975 John and Elizabeth Sherrill wrote the story of Demas Shakerian, a dairyman in California, who founded the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. The title of the book was *The Happiest People on the Earth.*[23] Shakerian's believed that Christians should be the happiest people on the earth. Any observance of the Sunday morning congregation of most churches in America, however, shows no evidence of Shakerian's belief. The Church shows no signs of being edified or built-up, and the world certainly does not identify us as the happiest people on the earth. We have cut out of the Word of God what we have been taught by men *not* to believe, and most churches in America do not operate in the five-fold ministry offices. Perhaps that is why we don't feel His presence in our services. His Word says, "*In His Presence is fullness of joy*" (Psalm 16:11), and we know that "*the joy of the Lord is our strength*" (Nehemiah 8:10b). We need to be built up by those in the five-fold ministry so that we can walk the walk of faith in maturity and in joy.

Unity is important to the Lord. We should love our brothers and sisters whether they are traditionalist or pentecostal, charismatic or fundamentalist, catholic or protestant. "*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity*" (Psalm 133:1). The Lord gives us a wonderful example

in Acts 2:1-4 of what can happen when Christians, regardless of denominational positions, come together in unity: *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were ALL WITH ONE ACCORD in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues of fire, and it set upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* We also are given a scriptural word from Paul about disunity in the church: *"And I brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat; for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able. For you are carnal; for whereas there is among you envying and strife and divisions, are you not carnal and walk as men?"* (1st Corinthians 3:13). When we walk in disunity, it is evident that we are carnal and not spirit-filled believers.

We need to come to the **knowledge of the Son of God**. The Apostle Paul, the man who had incredible revelations and visitations from the Lord, said that the goal of his life was to know Him. Philippians 3:10 tells us: "*That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death."* One

of the chief purposes of the five-fold ministry is to bring the Body of Christ into a fuller revelation of the Son of God. The word *know* in scripture is usually a term of great intimacy and is used of intimate relations between a man and a woman. Every believer should have a thirst and a hunger to know Him more. When I was a child, I attended a country church, Pine Hill Methodist in rural Washington County, Georgia. When Sunday School time came, the whole congregation sang, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." As we know Him more and more, we love Him more and more, and every day is sweeter than the day before.

The five-fold ministry offices are designed **to bring us to maturity or completion**. The Body is not going to come to maturity and the Remnant Company of the Last Days is not going to be manifested without the five-fold ministry offices bringing the Church, *the called out ones*, to unity and intimate knowledge of the Son of God.

Finally, the five-fold ministry offices are designed to bring us to the **stature of the fullness of Christ.** Can you imagine what will happen when the Church of the Living God comes to the stature of the fullness of Christ? Then we will be a force that will cause even the Jihad terrorists to shake in their boots, even though our weapons will be love instead of guns. We will be spiritually circumcising men's hearts instead of cutting off people's

heads. I know that we certainly are not there yet, so these gifts must still be for today.

One of the best books on the five-fold ministry that I have read and also one of the best books documenting the major movements in church history is *The Saints Movement* by Dr. Bill Hamon of Christian International in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. In his excellent book Dr. Hamon tells of the remarkable restoration of these five ministry offices in the last 60 years, starting with the evangelists in 1950, the pastors in 1960, the teachers in 1970, the prophets in 1980, and the apostles in the '90's.[24]

The five-fold ministry offices are designed to bring the Church into maturity before the Second Coming. This is only one aspect of prophetic fulfillment that must take place before the coming of Jesus. At the same time, we will see Christians delivered up to be afflicted and killed, false prophets, iniquity abounding, the Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the nations, the characteristics of the Days of Noah, the love of many becoming cold, the Great Harvest at the end of the age, and the restoration of Israel, both natural and spiritual. The Remnant Company of the Last Days, operating in the five-fold ministry offices, will help usher in the King.

Chapter Twelve

Prophets
The Remnant Revealing God's Secrets

Surely the Lord God will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets.
Amos 3:7

There is absolutely *nothing* that I see in scripture that says that the gift of prophecy or the Five-fold Ministry Office of a Prophet has passed away. In fact, the Bible is full of scriptures that say just the exact opposite. My pastor, Brother Don Van Hoosier, retired pastor of High Point Church in Macon, Georgia, and an excellent Biblical scholar, says, "*Prophecy is not preaching as some would want you to believe, and indeed the same Greek words are not used when the Bible translators correctly translate preaching as opposed to translate prophecy.*"[25]

Brother Don goes on to give five purposes of prophecy:

1. "To edify the believers; that is to build them up (a far cry from tearing down and discouraging them): '*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself, but he that prophesieth edifieth the*

church' (1st Corinthians 14:4). It will look like a fresh breath from the risen Christ blowing new life into our tired spirits."

2. "To exhort, meaning '*a calling near.'* We will sense a new awareness of His unseen presence with us: '*But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort'* (1 Corinthians 14:3)."
3. "To comfort, console, and give solace to the sobbing spirit until it sobs its last heaving sign and rests as a child on the breast of its understanding parent: (Again, 1t Corinthians 14:3)."
4. "To convict the unbeliever and make manifest the secrets of his heart: '*But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convicted of all, he is judged of all. And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth'* (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)."
5. "That believers may learn in the mysterious realm of the spiritual what they cannot grasp with the natural mind: (Again, 1 Corinthians 14:24-25)."[26]

The One who walked in all of the Fivefold Ministry Offices and was filled with the Spirit without measure was Jesus. He left these five enablements

described in the previous chapter--Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher--as gifts to His Church. Revelation 19:10 tells us: *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God:* ***for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*** The writer of Hebrews further tells us, "***Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."*** We must remember that what Jesus *was* yesterday, He *is* today and will be forever. Not only that, but Christ by His Spirit is in you! "*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27).

Revelation 10:7 tells us, "…*but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."* Obviously we are not in the time of the 7th trumpet yet, for *"The kingdoms of this world are not yet the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ"* (Revelation 11:15). This is one more proof that the ministry of the prophet is not over, and the gift of prophecy did not end after the first century Church.

We know that many false prophets will come in the Last Days. We must not put prophets on pedestals or follow after signs and wonders, manifestations, and prophetic words. My own safeguards are the following:

1. Any true prophecy *never* contradicts Scripture. In fact, I believe that any manifestation, including prophetic words, must have some precedent in scripture. If I cannot find a manifestation in the Word of God, red flags go up (see Revelation 22:18-19, as previously quoted).
2. A prophecy should witness to your spirit. If it does not, put it on the shelf and wait and see if it comes to pass. *"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God, which he hath testified of His Son"* (1st John 5:9).
3. You should share the prophecy with those Spirit-filled shepherds that are over you to see if your spiritual authorities witness to the word given you. *"Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of their manner of life"* (Hebrews 13:7).
4. In the multitude of counselors there is safety. *"Where no counsel is, the people fail; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety"* (Proverbs 11:14).

5. A prophecy does not condemn believers but edifies, exhorts, or comforts: (Again, 1st Corinthians 14:3).
6. You do not have to try to make a prophecy come to pass. Wait on the Lord and let the Holy Spirit bring it to pass. That does not mean that you have to be idle. For example, if someone prophesies to me that we are going to be given a building for our ministry, and this prophecy passes the first five tests, then my responsibility is to begin by faith to praise the Lord for this blessing, to pray about it diligently, and to keep my conscience clear--in other words, to have no idol in my heart. I do not have to help the Holy Spirit out by trying to make the prophecy come to pass, as Sarah did, resulting in the birth of Ishmael, but must wait on the Lord to see it come to pass.

What is an idol? An idol is anything that you want or enjoy more that you want or enjoy God. When you go to the Lord in prayer, you have to lay down your own will and be a living sacrifice, seeking and asking for His will alone. You must be totally sold out to the will of God in whatever issue that you are praying about. If you don't have this attitude of self-denial and really seek His will, you need to ask God to change your attitude. When He does, then you will be free to pray. If you already have a definite direction in your mind as to how

the Lord should answer this prayer, that expectation becomes an idol of your own will and causes you to think that God is answering the way you want whether He actually is or not. If your will is His alone, whatever it is, then the answer from the Lord will be pure revelation, not contaminated by your own desires. A true word from the Lord comes when you are fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2)

Often those who have an idol in their heart get a false answer from a true prophet or misunderstand the answer from the Lord. *"…any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols"* (Ezekiel 14:4).

The best example, perhaps, in scripture of someone praying with an idol in his heart is the story of Balaam, the prophet. In Numbers 22 Balak wanted Balaam to come to him and curse the Israelites so he could beat them in battle. The Lord told Balaam not to go and curse the Israelites. Balak, however, sent messengers to Balaam promising him honor and riches. Balaam wanted these things more than he

wanted God's will. He prayed with an idol in his heart and falsely interpreted the word from the Lord as "Go ahead." This angered God so much that He sent an angel to block Balaam's path. This is when Balaam's donkey spoke, and Balaam finally realized what was going on, and fearfully admitted to God that he had sinned.

7. Finally, those who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, as long as he is a legitimate prophet. "*He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward…"*(Matthew 10:41).

Here are a few of the many verses dealing with prophecy, prophesying and prophets:

"*For, as we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of another, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophecy according to the proportion of faith; or minister, let us wait on our ministering, or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness"* (Romans 12:4-8). Has ministering passed away, has teaching, has exhortation, has giving, etc? Neither has prophecy!

" *Despise not prophesyings"* (1st Thessalonians 5:20).

" And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:28-32). Both Joel and Amos are books that look to the Last Days. These prophecies are yet to be fully fulfilled. Yet in these books we still hear about prophets!

"Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall b*e done away"* (1st Corinthians 13:8-10). Have tongues ceased? Has knowledge ceased? Has that which is perfect come since Paul wrote these

words after Jesus came the first time? He was obviously talking about a future event, i.e. the Second Coming of Christ.

"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy and forbid not to speak in tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order" (1st Corinthians 14:39-40).

"Now therefore, ye are not more strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

"A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The LORD has spoken. Who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:8).

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you

unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?" (1 Corinthians 14:1-6).

Chapter Thirteen

Dunamis: The Power of God
The Remnant Walking in Power

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above al that we ask or think, according to the power [dunamis] *that works in us.*
Ephesians 3:20

Dunamis is best defined as a force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, might, power, strength, a might and wonderful work, the resurrection power of God. This Greek word is where we get our word *dynamite.* We get dunamis when we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and plug in to the power of God. Paul speaks of those in the Last Days who will be religious church goers but who will only have "*a form of godliness but denying its power* [dunamis]" (2 Timothy 3:5).

This entire passage in 2 Timothy 3 from verse one to verse five describes the day in which we live. The New Century Version puts it this way: "*Remember this! In this last days there will be many troubles because*

people will love themselves, love money, brag, and be proud. They will say evil things against others and will not obey their parents or be thankful or be the kind of people God wants. They will not love others, will refuse to forgive, will gossip, and will not control themselves. They will be cruel, will hate what is good, will turn against their friends, and will do foolish things without thinking. They will be conceited, will love pleasure instead of God, and will act as if they serve God but will not have his power [dunamis]…"[27]

And the New Living Bible translates the same passage this way: "*You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power* [dunamis] *that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that."*[28]

How do we get this dunamis power? First of all, we must recognize that it comes from God. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:7: "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power* [dunamis] *and of love and of a sound mind."*

Jesus Himself said that His followers would receive *dunamis* when they were baptized in the Spirit: *"But ye shall receive power* [dunamis] *after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). Paul after his own baptism of the Spirit told the Corinthians, *"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellency of speech or of wisdom declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power* [dunamis] *of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

We know that we also can receive this power by waiting in His presence. Luke writes, "*Behold, I send the Promise of the Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power* [dunamis] *from on high"* (Luke 24:49). And we also receive dunamis by the power of preaching the cross: *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power* [dunamis] *of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18). *"For Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block*

and unto the Gentiles foolishness, but unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power [dunamis] *of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:22-24).

Dunamis is available for those who believe the Gospel message. "*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power* [dunamis] *of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"* (Romans 1:16). It comes for those who intimately know the Lord. "*…that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the Saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power* [dunamis] *towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*[kratos=dominion] *which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 1:18b-20).

Dunamis comes to those who humble themselves, boasting in their infirmities and giving all credit to the Lord. "*And He*[the Lord] *said to me* [Paul], *My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power* [dunamis] *of Christ may rest upon me"* (2nd Corinthians 12:9).

Finally, we know that we will walk in dunamis power when we get the revelation of the Kingdom of God. We know that we will not experience the

Kingdom in its fullness until Jesus comes, but we also know that we can walk in Kingdom principles now and pray that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. "*And He said to them, Verily, I say unto you, There be some of them that stand here who shall not taste death till they have see the kingdom of God come with power* [dunamis]" (Mark 9:1).

Jesus spoke often of dunamis, and the Word of God has many verses pertaining to this power. I believe that the Lord wants us to pray for the spirit of power, or dunamis, so that we can be more effective as His witnesses on the earth and so that we can indeed make His enemies His footstool. Other verses that deal with dunamis are the following:

"*Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power*[dunamis] *of God"* (Matthew 22:29).

"*And he shall go before him in the spirit and power* [dunamis] *of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord"* (Luke 1:17).

"*And Jesus returned in the power* [dunamis] *of the Spirit into Galilee and there went out a fame of Him throughout all the region round about"* (Luke 4:14).

"*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of earth will mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming*

on the clouds of heaven with power [dunamis] *and great glory"* (Matthew 24:30).

"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power [dunamis] *of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also, that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:35).

"Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power [dunamis] *He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out"* (Luke 4:36).

"*Then he called His twelve disciples together and gave them power* [dunamis] *and authority over all demons, and to cure disease"* (Luke 9:1).

"*And Stephen, full of faith and power* [dunamis], *did great wonders and miracles among the people"* (Acts 6:8).

"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power [dunamis]" (1 Corinthians 4:20).

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power [dunamis] *may be of God and not of us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Chapter Fourteen

Logos and Rhema
The Remnant Walking in the Word of the Lord

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of human devising] *but mighty through God to the pulling down* [demolishing] *of strongholds* [fortresses], *casting down imaginations* [vain reasoning and analyzing] *and every high thing* [high mental thought or thing] *that exalteth itself against the knowledge* [THE WORD] *of God, and bringing into capitivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*
2nd Corinthians 10:4-5

Satan hates the Word. He knows that the Word reveals to us who Jesus is. He is God the Son who saves us from our sin and allows us--even though we are sinful, fallen mankind--to have relationship with a holy God. The Word is a love letter to us from Jesus. The Word teaches us how to do spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness. We are promised victory over Satan's forces, if we walk in obedience to the Word and walk in humility. The Word also reveals to us who Satan is. Ezekiel 28:14-15 identifies him as a mere cherub, not an archangel like Michael. We have been wrongly

taught that Satan was an equal to Michael, not a lowly cherub. One day *"They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee and consider thee, saying, Is this the man who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who opened not the house of his prisoners?"* (Isaiah 14: 16-17). Thus, the Word tells us that we will one day realize that the one who *weakened the nations* is nothing in comparison to the power of God. Jesus is *not* the brother of Satan. Satan is not his equal. Jesus is God! He could annihilate Satan with one word, but Satan has a purpose in the world. Mainly he functions to give us the free choice of accepting Christ and coming out of darkness into His marvelous light (1st Peter 2:9) or following Satan and walking in defeat and darkness. That is not to say that Satan does not have supernatural power. Without the weapons God gives us to fight the Kingdom of Darkness--the blood of Jesus, the name of Jesus, fasting, prayer and praise, the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit--we would be no match in a spiritual battle with demonic forces.

The Good News, however, is this: "…g*reater is He*(Jesus) *that is in you, than he*(Satan) *that is in the World"* (1st John 4:4). Believers in Christ have invited the Jesus to tabernacle inside of them in the spirit man. Therefore,

Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit is in them: *"…Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27).

1 John tells us, "*…For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."* I suspect that one way that He is going to destroy the works of the devil is through the genuine people of God who speak in faith His Word and pull down demonic strongholds.

I was brought up in a home that had daily Bible reading, and I am so grateful for that. I have known the Lord as long as I can remember, making a public profession of this in my preteen years. I did not, however, know anything about spiritual warfare and the power of the Word until I was Spirit-baptized in my early twenties. Then the Word became alive to me.

One of the greatest characteristics of The Remnant Company of the Last Days is they will be lovers of the Word. In the ministry I am involved in, First Love Ministries, we believe that the Word of God was written by the Holy Spirit through human vessels, and is inerrant Truth. A great faith teacher who has gone to be with the Lord, Pat Carver, said of the Word:

"We can pray the Word about a situation and expect God-kind of results. The person we pray for has a free choice whether to accept what God has for them and, by praying The Word on their behalf, we give them the benefit of choosing either life or death, blessing or cursing, going God's Way or their own way (Deuteronomy 30:19). As we confess His Word, believe it, read it, speak it and act on it we begin to merge with it and it becomes our way of life. As we live the Word, His strength, His ability, His peace, His love, His joy, His confidence and His faith become ours. As we pray His

Word, the weary ones, the weak ones, the deceived ones, the sick ones will be ministered to, protected by and brought gently to our God Shepherd."[29]

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses. All but a few of these verses refer directly to the Word of God. Verse 9, for example, tells us the Word cleanses us. The brazen laver filled with water with which the priest washed himself in the Old Testament Tabernacle symbolizes that the Word does cleanse us. Verse 24 tells us that the Word is our counselor. Verse 105 tells us that the Word is our guide. Verse 165 tells us that the Word gives us peace.

As I mentioned in an early chapter, *word* in the New Testament is translated from two different words, *logos* and *rhema.* Again, the Logos is the whole canonized scripture, the Word of God. It is the whole Bible and the whole revelation of God. Logos is the knowledge of God and stays the same for all eternity. Through it we receive general prophecies and general instructions for the Body of Christ.

Rhema is a word from the Word. It is a specific word for a specific person. It is a word of knowledge. It is individual scriptures revealed by God directly to a person or through a prophetic minister. It is for a specific situation and is a personal prophecy to an individual. We have often experienced a situation where we were reading the Bible and all of a sudden a particular verse, which we may have read many times before, seems to

jump up off the page for us and is our answer in that moment of time. That does not mean that the rhema word is always immediately fulfilled, but it does mean that God has spoken to us through His word about something specific in our lives that will eventually come to pass.

When I started teaching school in the 1970s, I could not get insurance until my first paycheck came in. In those days, beginning teachers were not paid until they had completed a month and a half of work. I was to receive a paycheck on October 1st. In the last few days of September, I had to have an emergency operation that cost several thousand dollars. Thus, technically I did not have health insurance. Since my annual salary at that time, as a full time teacher, was only $8000 per year, I was in a mess.

I kept waking up in the morning with a scripture on my heart. I had read this scripture many times in my life and frankly had not thought much about it. The familiar scripture was from Matthew 6:33: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."* I knew this was a rhema word from God, and I needed to proclaim it and trust Him in my situation. A few days after this time, the assistant superintendent called me and said that he had arranged for the insurance company to pay for my operation. He knew I could not have been eligible yet for insurance since I had gotten my first paycheck. Have you

ever known insurance companies to pay what they did not have to pay? Yet the Lord had given me a rhema word that He would provide for me if I would seek Him first.

Since that time I have received many rhema words from the Lord, sometimes directly from the Holy Spirit, other times through reading the Word, and other times through prophetic voices. These words have been words of great encouragement and promises from God about specific situations. Many were almost unbelievable to me when I received them. Yet they came to pass. Some immediately came to pass. Others took time, and some have yet to be fulfilled, but I know they are words from God to me. That does not mean that I don't love the Logos just as much and get such wonderful, practical advice from it.

When you realize the difference between logos and rhema, it becomes clearer what scriptures mean when they use the word *word.* For example, John 1:1: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God"*; John 1:14a: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us…";* 2 Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness…*"; and Matthew 13:23: "*But he that received seed in the good ground is he that heareth the word and understandeth it,*

who also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty" are all speaking of logos.

Rhema is the correct word for what the King James translators translated *word* in Ephesians 6:17: *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word* [rhema] *of God."* With rhema words we are able to defeat the enemy.

Another example of rhema is when Jesus gave Peter a specific rhema word that he, the Big Fisherman, would deny Jesus. Peter denies the Lord three times. Later Peter remembers this rhema word: *"And Peter remembered the word* [rhema] *of Jesus, who said unto him, Before the cock crows, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly"* (Matthew 26:75).

Isaiah writes in Isaiah 55:11: *So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall proper in the thing for which I sent it.* Even though this is written in the Hebrew language and not the Greek, from the context, we realize that Isaiah is writing of rhema words here. When God has spoken to us a specific word out of His Word, it is going to produce the effect and come to pass in our lives because the Lord never promises anything that He does not do. The word will be fulfilled because God spoke it. That is not to say that we should wait for a rhema word and not quote the Logos for our

particular situation, if we do not have a rhema word. We know that there is death and life in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21), and logos is life and should be our constant confession. In fact, the "*word of their testimony*" that the remnant company uses to overcome the wicked one is the logos. But it is those specific, personal words that He speaks to our spirits or *rhema* that does not return void but accomplishes that which He purposes.

Chapter Fifteen

Spirit, Soul and Body
The Remnant in Proper Alignment

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be presented blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
1st Thessalonians 4:23

The triune God-God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit-loved us so much that He made us in His image. "*And God said, Let **us** make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him: male and female created them"* (Genesis 1:26-27). As 1 Thessalonians 4:23 tells us, one aspect of God making us in His image is that we, too, are triune creations. We have three parts: a spirit, a soul, and a body.

The spirit is the most important part of you. It is the real you! This part of our triune nature is dead in trespasses and sin because of the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden. It is that part of us that is instanteously born again by the Spirit of God when we sincerely invite Jesus into our lives. The spirit is the vacuum inside every human being that can only be filled by *"Christ in you, the Hope of Glory"* (Colossians 1:27). The spirit therefore is the temple of the Holy Spirit inside of you. He tabernacles Himself in you and is very sensitive and can be grieved or quenched when we are not walking in proper alignment, i.e. not allowing the spirit-man inside of us to control our soul and body. The spirit allows you to communicate with God, your spirit to His Spirit. The spirit is also known in scripture as the inner man.

The soul is made up of three parts. These parts are the **mind**, which is the intellectual, imagining, reasoning, logical, often fantasying and rationalizing, part of us; the **will**, which is the seat of our egos, desires, intentions, choices, and purposes in life; and finally the **emotions**, which include our feelings, such as hate, anger, love, hurts, etc. The soul is not instanteously sanctified but is sanctified and cleansed and made holy by the Word of God over a process that takes a life time. (Generally speaking, the word *heart* in scripture usually refers to both spirit and soul.)

The body is what we come packaged in. It contains our flesh nature and our outer appearance and responds to what feels good and to the five senses: hearing, taste, touch, smell, and sight. One day Jesus will change our bodies to glorified bodies.

Salvation is usually a term that is used by preachers and lay people to mean the "born again" experience. Although this is certainly the most important part of salvation, it is only a part of it. Any Bible student can easily see that the term *salvation,* as used in scripture, is much more than the new birth. The term salvation encompasses deliverance, health, safety, peace, provision, blessings, fruitfulness, and victory in all areas. Salvation is a package deal and includes the promise of 2 Corinthians 1:20: "*All the promises of God in Him* [Jesus] *are yea and in Him* [Jesus] *Amen, unto the Glory of God by us."* And since the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament, we know that salvation includes all the compound names of Jehovah:

JEHOVAH ELOHIM: THE ETERNAL GOD (Genesis 2:4-25)
JEHOVAH ADONAI: THE LORD OUR MASTER (Genesis 5:2-8)
JEHOVAH EL ELYON: THE LORD, THE OWNER (Genesis 14:2)
JEHOVAH EL OLAM: THE LORD, THE EVERLASTING ONE (Genesis 21:33)
JEHOVAH JIREH: THE LORD OUR PROVIDER (Genesis 22:8-14)
JEHOVAH RAPHA: THE LORD OUR HEALER (Exodus 15:26)
JEHOVAH McKADDESH: THE LORD WHO SANCTIFIES (Leviticus 20:8)
JEHOVAH SHALOM: THE LORD OUR PEACE (Judges 6:24)

JEHOVAH TSIDKENU: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jeremiah 23:6)
JEHOVAH SABAOTH: THE LORD OF HOSTS (1st Samuel 1:3)
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH: THE LORD EVER PRESENT (Ezekiel 48:35)
JEHOVAH ROHI: THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD (Psalm 23:1)
JEHOVAH ELYON: THE LORD OUR BLESSER (Psalm 7:17)
JEHOVAH HOSENU: THE LORD OUR MAKER (Psalm 95:6)
JEHOVAH GIBBOR: THE LORD, THE MIGHTY ONE (Isaiah 12:2)
JAH-JEHOVAH: THE LORD (Isaiah 12:2)
JEHOVAH HEHOUSUA MESSIAH: THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Matthew 1:21)

The Lord wants to be every one of these things to you whether you need healing, provision, blessing, or peace. All of this is part of the whole package of what salvation really is.

Salvation is for the whole man: spirit, soul and body. Again salvation for the spirit is instantaneous when you are genuinely born again: "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever"* (1 Peter 1:23). Salvation for the soul comes progressively as you cleanse your mind, will, and emotions with the Word of God; take on more and more the mind of Christ: "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 2:16); and go from glory to glory: "*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2nd Corinthians 3:18). And finally, your body's full salvation comes

in the future when we receive a glorified body. *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like His glorious body…"* (Philippians 3:20-21b).

The main reason we study spirit-soul-body is so that we can be in proper alignment. The Lord's will is that we be led by our spirits, not by our souls (mind, will, and emotions), and certainly not by our body or flesh nature. If you want to check and see if you are being led by your spirit, all you have to do is see if you are producing the fruit of the Spirit in your life: *"love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control"* (Galatians 5:22-23). Also, do you want only His will and what is of God? The spirit always wants more of Jesus and is God-conscious. People who are led by the Spirit have Jesus, instead of self, on the throne of their lives.

If you are operating with the soul in the driver's seat, instead of the spirit controlling your soul and body, you always want what is of self. Instead of God-conscious, soulish people are self-conscious. These soulish people may be born again and an active church member and Heaven-bound, but self is on the throne of their lives. Soulish people frequently have a religious spirit and try to either hype up emotions in a meeting or present the Gospel through intellectualizing. If they don't *feel* it, they don't believe it. They

even doubt their salvation. We must walk by faith (2nd Corinthians 5:7). The Christian walk is not about feeling. It is about faith in Jesus. He doesn't say, "Walk by feelings." He doesn't say, "Walk by what you see." He says, "Walk by faith."

"*Without faith, it is impossible to please God"* (Hebrews 11:6). He wants us to be a faith people because He knows that faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1st John 5:4b). How we need to overcome the world in the day we live!

There is nothing wrong with feelings, unless we place more emphasis on feelings than on the Word of God. Soulish religion is a "feel good" religion, and we often see this in charismatic and pentecostal denominations when they operate on hype and manipulation. That is not to say that the majority of the charismatic and pentecostal people fall into this category. I have been to some very balanced pentecostal and charismatic services, and I consider my own ministry charismatic since we believe in the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We find that those charismatic and pentecostal churches and ministries that have matured beyond the soulish realm are like new wine skins ready to move forward. They are very much in tune with what the Lord is doing today. These churches, alive in His Spirit, are the hope of the Church in America.

We must grow up believers who surrender their plans and ambitions and egos and lives to God's will and God's direction. We cannot go where the Lord is calling us unless we surrender to what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go. Soulish people tell God where they are going and what they are going to do and ask Him to bless it, not even considering if what they are doing is God's will for their lives.

Soulish religion tends to focus on charismatic superstars who lead the congregation to seek manifestations instead of more intimacy with Jesus. They lead with their personalities instead of being led by His Spirit. Often soulish churches breed Jezebels. These Jezebels want to control everything and have a difficult time submitting to spiritual authority.

The soul is the area where we have the most problems in conforming to the pattern that Jesus set for us. It is also the place of the battlefield of the mind between the Kingdom of Darkness and our thoughts and intentions for Jesus.

Many soulish people go to meetings to be entertained by the music or drama and impatiently wait for the preaching to be finished so that they can get a "word" or have personal ministry. Obviously, there is nothing wrong with personal ministry, but we must always remember the importance God places on His Word.

Finally, some are controlled by their flesh nature instead of their spirit. We all know that those who are led by the body or flesh nature produce fruit of a different nature than those led by the Spirit. Colossians 3 tells us what some of these fruit are: "*…fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying*." I find that those who are habitually caught up in these things are rarely *really* born again. This bondage to the flesh is the force behind dirty talk in the work place, exploitation of women, initially drug experimentation, and affairs. These people seemingly have little or no moral conviction about their sin and have no interest or consideration for what God's Word says about their activities.

How can we become spirit-ruled? First, we must deny self, take up our cross daily, and follow Him: Matthew 16:24 exhorts us, "*Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Secondly, we must be washed by the Word. Ephesians 5:25-22 tells us, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church,*

not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that is should be holy and without blemish."

Thirdly, we must consider Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-3 states, "*Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

Chapter Sixteen

A Declaration of War
The Remnant as Mighty Warriors

And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.
Leviticus 26:7-8

The Remnant Company of the Last Days is being called by the Spirit to wage warfare against the Kingdom of Darkness. The Word, as has already been mentioned, says repeatedly: *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool."* This verse is in Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:24, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, and Hebrews 10:13, and yet I have never heard it mentioned from the pulpit *ever* until the last few years. I believe that He is calling this

Remnant Company of the Last Days to make His enemies His footstool. He also says in Isaiah 59:19b, "…*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."* We know that the enemy is going to come in like a flood when he realizes that his time is short: *"…For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"* (Revelation 12:12b). Again, I believe that the Remnant Company of the Last Days is that standard.

The Lord is called a Man of war ("*Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spoke, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for He hath triumphed gloriously, the horse and rider thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my Father's God, and I will exalt Him, The LORD is a Man of war; the LORD is His name"* (Exodus 15:1-3), and there will constant warfare of the Kingdom of our God against the kingdom of darkness, until the "*kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of His Christ"* (Revelation 11:15). *"Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle"* (Psalm 24:8).

Matthew 11:12 tells us, "*And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."*

I believe the Lord will give the Remnant Company of the Last Days a special anointing to defeat the Lord's enemies: *"And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword"* (Leviticus 26:7-8).

The Remnant Company will basically be fighting two things. First, it will fight the flesh nature: *"But as then he that was born of the flesh, persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now"* (Galatians 4:29). And "*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"* (1st John 2:16).

The Remnant Company also will fight the demonic realm: "*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil"* (1st John 3:8). We are instructed in Ephesians 6:10-12: "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high place."* Operating in the dunamis power of the Lord, the Last Days' Remnant must wrestle to the

ground the **principalities,** which are demonic spirits over areas of land, cities, or ministries; **powers**, those demonic forces over prisons and schools; **the darkness of this world,** those demons behind slanted news, much of the movie industry, and demonically inspired music; and **spiritual wickedness in high places,** which are demonic strongholds over cults, the occult, false doctrines, and religion and tradition.

The Remnant Company will show the characteristics of good soldiers. First, they will have a remarkable ability to hear the commander and will not be like those who are lukewarm: *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth"* (Revelation 3:15-16). I believe the phrase *"spew thee out of my mouth"* has nothing to do with salvation. Those who are lukewarm, unlike the Remnant Company, will not be able to hear the Lord, that is he will "*spew them out"* of His mouth, because He is withholding His voice from them.

Secondly, the Remnant Company also must be focused on the battle: *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"* (2 Timothy 2:4). One of the hardest things that people in our American culture will face is getting out of the "rat race" mentality and cloistering ourselves away to spend one-on-

one time with the Lord. There are no short cuts for the Remnant Company. The members of this group must separate themselves from all the distractions and get alone so they can hear.

Finally, the Remnant Company must have the right weapons. This includes the whole armor of God as spoken of in Ephesians 6: Truth girding the loins, the area of birthing; the breastplate of righteousness, which covers the heart; feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, which has to do with our walk in the Lord; the shield of faith, which has to do with speaking the Word of God against the fiery darts of the enemy; the helmet of salvation, which has to do with all the promises of God-"*yes and amen*!"-(2 Corinthians 1:20); and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. In addition, the Remnant will walk in praise, which throws the enemy camp into confusion; prayer, which calls for help from the angelic hosts; joy, which is our strength; the Blood and Name of Jesus, which we have the right to use because of our standing in Christ.

Finally, we must learn to "*dwell in the secret place of the Most High*" so that we "*shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty*". This secret place is a place where we commune with intimacy with the Lord, not only talking but also listening to His voice as He speaks either audibly or to our spirit

man or through visions. His desire is for relationship with us, and if we go the secret place of prayer, we will not be disappointed.

Chapter Seventeen

Are You an Old Wineskin?
The Remnant as New Wineskins

And no man puts new wine into old wineskins, else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled and the wineskins shall perish. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine, straightway desireth new, for he saith, The old is better.
Luke 5:37-39

In the natural, wineskins are sown animal skins used as we use beverage bottles. In the spiritual, a wineskin is our spirit man that tabernacles the Holy Spirit. In the spiritual, wine represents joy and the filling of the Holy Spirit. New wine represents present day truth that is given by revelation from God through His Word to the present generation.

In the natural, old wineskins have no elasticity or flexibility. Because they are inflexible, old wineskins are split open by the violence of the fermentation of the new wine.

In the spiritual, old wineskins represent being bound up in religious tradition of men rather than weighing out what the Bible scriptures say as the Lord gives fresh revelation from His Word. Jesus was crucified because he preached against the religious traditions of the day. Mark 7:13 records this rebuke of those bound in religion instead of in relationship to God: *"Making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition, which you have delivered and many such things you do"* (Mark 7:13).

Old wineskins also refuse to receive present day truth but are deceived by Satan because of the lusts of their own hearts: *"You are of your father the devil and the lusts of our father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it"* (John 8:44).

Old wineskins resist new moves of God. *"And they watched Him, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath day, that they might accuse Him"* (Mark 3:2) They legalistically hold on to the doctrines of men: *"But in vain they do*

worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

On the other hand, new wineskins in the natural are flexible and able to hold new wine. In the spiritual, new wineskins are not bound by religious tradition: "*For **in Him*** [not in religious tradition!], we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

They are open to present truth: "*Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in present truth"* (2nd Peter 1:12).

They seek to be always open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit: "*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask for Him?"* (Luke 11:13)

And their lives are characterized by grace and good works: "*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"* (2nd Corinthians 9:8).

Praise the Lord, old wineskins can be changed! In order for old wineskins to hold new wine, they must be soaked in water to soften them. Then they must be greased with oil to prevent leaking and evaporation. They are often

boiled in hot water and pounded to add flexibility and sterilized by adding sulphuric acid.

We also can become new wineskins. First, we must be willing to be tested and often have to walk out a wilderness experience so the Lord can get our attention. In Luke 4:1-14 Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, went out into the wilderness specifically to be tempted by the devil. He returned from this experience after 40 days of fasting in the power of the Spirit and began His public ministry. If Jesus had to walk this walk, and He is the pattern Son, we too will have to know times of wilderness. But always remember these words of Hosea: *"I* [the Lord] *did know you in the wilderness in the land of great drought"* (Hosea 13:5).

We can become new wineskins by accepting our troubles and trials and counting it all joy and praising Him in faith in spite of our circumstances: "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice, inasmuch, as you are partakers of Christ's suffering that when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy"* (1st Peter 4:12-13). "M*y brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith works patience"*(James 1:2). *"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered, and being*

made perfect, He became author of eternal salvation unto all they that obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). *"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him but also to suffer for His sake"* (Philippians 1:29). "*Yea, and all that will live godly lives in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (2nd Timothy 3:12).

We can become new wineskins by pushing through. We must push through, like Paul, who wrote to the Philippian believers in Philippians 3:13-14: *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

Another way to become a new wineskin is to recognize that without Him, we are *nothing*! One of the main characteristics of the Remnant Company will be that they have died to self that He might shine brightly through them. Job in Job 4:5-6 expresses these sentiments as well as anyone in the Bible when he says, *"I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye sees you. Wherefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.* This same attitude is found in Isaiah 6:5: "*Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of*

hosts." Daniel, a man of whom there is no recorded sin in the Bible, said, "*Therefore, I was left alone and saw this great vision, and there remains no strength in me, for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained my strength"* (Daniel 10:8). And that beloved disciple, John, records his own encountered with the resurrected Christ: "*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, "Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am He that lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death"* (Revelation 1:17). Each of these believers knew that they were nothing beside the Lord.

New wineskins love not the things of the world. "*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"* (1st John 2:15). They set their affection "*…on things above, not on things of the earth"* (Colossians 3:2), and they *"…abstain from all appearance of evil"* (1st Thessalonians 5:22) because the love of the world is not in them.

Finally, new wineskins surrender to the Lordship of Christ by being willing to die to self. This experience is only for those who desire to go all the way with the Savior. The Jordan River types a division between the Carnal Christian Life and the Spirit-filled Christian life, between wandering

with murmuring and complaining in the Wilderness, where we are so vulnerable to the temptations of the enemy, to entering a new and living way in the Promise Land. This land is a land flowing with milk (foundational truths of God's Word-1st Corinthians 3:2) and honey (the sweet revelations God gives us from His Word-Psalm 119:7-11 and Revelation 10:9-10).

But the Remnant Company does not just cross the Jordan and rest. As you recall, it is with the r*hema*, the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in the time of need, that we defeat the power of the enemy, slaying the giants and living victoriously over the kingdom of darkness.

The first act of Joshua in the promised land, after crossing the Jordan and setting up the memorial stones, was the circumcising of all the males. This represents a cutting away of the flesh nature and is painful. But the Israelites did not have much time to lie around and think about their pain. Instead of just resting, they were called to slay the giants in the land. Today we become a real threat to the kingdom of darkness only after we have crucified our flesh nature and are willing to fight the giants through prayer and travail. Only then do we become a real threat to the kingdom of darkness. With we exercise this new power, however, we are put on the enemy's hit list. He

tries everything in his power to stop us from doing spiritual warfare through prayer and often uses discouragement and busyness to stop us.

Previously, as carnal Christians or old wineskins, we fought the enemy, as well as we knew how, with spiritual sling shots. After having a "Crossing the Jordan" experience, we, as new wineskins, fight the enemy and the kingdom of darkness with spiritual atomic bombs. We have victory over this demonic kingdom because of the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit working in us and because of God's rhema. Unfortunately, much of the American Church does not know about this power.

The Remnant Company of the Last Days will be a New Wineskin company hungering and thirsting for revelation from the Word of God. This company will long for present day truth and the power to be a witness to this wicked and godless generation.

Chapter Eighteen

Watchmen
The Remnant Watching and Praying, Warning and Waiting

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem. They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who made mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.
Isaiah 62:6-7 NKJV

In a world where people are running to and fro, we find there are few watchmen in the body of Christ today. To watch is the act of keeping awake to guard, protect, and pray, and the act of being alert and continuously attentive so that one can warn others of impending danger. Spiritual watchmen today wait on the Lord in prayer seeking His direction and His

warnings in order to call the Body into repentance and to cause the Body to prepare for what's ahead.

The Bible is full of watchmen, although the only major Biblical figure, that I am aware of, who was specifically called by God to be a Watchman was Ezekiel, who was both a prophet and a priest. Tradition tells us that Ezekiel was so faithful in watching and warning that his fellow exiles finally put him to death because he continually denounced their idolatry.

There are many scriptural examples of those who watched and prayed. The Israelites watched and prayed as the death angel pass over Egypt (Exodus 12:42). The widow Anna and Simeon watched and prayed for the Messiah (Luke 2). Jesus watched and prayed all night (Luke 6:12-13). The disciples were watching and praying when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14 and Acts 2:1). The early believers watched and prayed without ceasing until Peter was freed from prison by the angel (Acts 12). Paul and Silas were watching and praying when they were freed from their prison chains by the earthquake (Acts 16).

Jesus specifically told us, "To watch!" He said, "*And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37*). But what does He specifically want us to watch for?

First, the Lord tells us to watch for the Second Coming: "*Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come….Therefore, be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"* (Matthew 24:42 and 24:44). "*Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man cometh"* (Matthew 25:13). "*Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard and hold fast and repent. If, therefore, thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee"* (Revelation 3:3).

We are also told to watch so that we will not enter into temptation: "*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the Spirit indeed is willing ,but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41). How many problems and sins we could avoid if we would just follow this one commandment from the Lord!

Finally, we are told to watch for the Day of the Lord, that period of time before the Second Coming: "*Even so, when you see these things taking place, understand and know that the kingdom of God is at hand. Truly, I tell you this generation (that is, those living at that definite period of time), will not perish and pass away until all has taken place. The sky and the earth (that is, the universe, the world) will pass away; but My words will not pass away. But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard lest your hearts be*

overburdened and depressed-weighted down- with giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to (the business of) this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose; for it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. Keep awake then and WATCH at all times (this is, be discreet, attentive and ready): praying that you may have full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] *that will take place and to stand in the presence of the Son of man.* (Luke 21:31-36 AMP)[30]

Not only was "*watching*" a major part of the ministry of Jesus, it was also a significant part of the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Paul lists, in 2 Corinthians 6:4-5 (AMP), the characteristics of his ministry: "*But we commend ourselves in every way as* [true] *servants of God: through great endurance, in tribulation and suffering, in hardships and privations, in sore straits and calamities, in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless watching, hunger….*"[31] I cannot help but wonder how many American Christians today value their walk in Christ so much that they would be willing to go through all these things that Paul went through. We are a pampered church, and yet there is a Remnant Company in America that will watch and pray no matter what it costs.

Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda in their excellent book, The Fourth Watch, say the following about watching and praying:

"*The Glory of the God seems to increase in our midst as we continue to watch and pray. During the fourth watch(between 3 AM and 6 AM), it is multiplied and the miracles begin. It was during the fourth watch of the night that Jesus walked on the water out to His disciples who were in a boat on the lake, striving against the storm (Mark 6:48)…. During a military campaign, the hours of the fourth watch are the most strategic hours of the night, the most difficult time frame wherein to guard against the enemy's attack and the time the enemy is most likely to attack. Medical personnel have another term for it-the dead of night-the time span when more deaths occur than any other segment of our twenty-four hour day. Biblically speaking, it's the time when the enemy of our souls is busiest, when soldiers watch most earnestly and when we must watch for God's instructions as we stand our posts on the wall of prayer.*[32]

Satan thrives and usually does his most destructive work in the darkness of night. The Watch of the Lord is designed to take back this time from Satan for the Lord and His purposes.

In spite of the busyness of our society, American Christians must slow down and watch and pray. The lateness of the spiritual clock and the evilness of our world should encourage the Church to promote times for watching and praying. We must watch and pray against the heavy oppression in the world and against the hatred for the things of God that is so prevalent in our society.

Chapter Nineteen

The Joy of the Lord
The Remnant Walking in Joy

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow for the joy of the Lord is your strength.
Nehemiah 8:9-10

The joy of the Lord is our strength! The church in America needs to hear that message. The Lord wants His people to be full of joy. I know that laughter is one of many ways that the Lord has given us to praise Him.

Psalm 126:2 says, "*Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the nations, The LORD hath done great things for them*." Joy, on the other hand, is that emotion that is the consequence or an outpouring of our focusing on the Lord and being in His presence.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: *"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and* ***joy*** *in the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 14:17). And King David in Psalm 51:10-13 implored the Lord: "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence. And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.* ***Restore to me the joy of Your salvation****, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be coverted to You."*

The first and last message of Jesus to the people was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Obviously, this teaching of the Kingdom was extremely important to Him, and the greatest teacher of the New Testament links the Kingdom with joy, and the greatest King, a man after God's own heart, links converting sinners with joy.

I believe that the Lord is trying to tell us something here. Somehow the Great Harvest at the end of the age and the increasingly fulfilled message of

the Kingdom of God on the earth will be inextricably connected to an outpouring of joy. Paradoxically, in this time of joy for the sold out overcomers of the faith, the world will be walking in challenging times when darkness or depression covers the land and gross darkness or deep depression covers the people (Isaiah 60:1-2). Isn't that just like the Lord, to give His people, especially His remnant company, joy in the midst of a world full of deep depression?

I see joyful dancing coming to the Body of Christ in America. This will come only when we are walking in righteousness and peace and joy, all of which are the consequences of holiness. Ironically, the first mention of Zion in the Psalms is as a holy place (Psalm 2:6). The last mention of Zion in the Psalms is as a place of joy (Psalm 149:2).

In the days ahead only real joy in the Lord will carry us through. We have to can get that joy only from the Lord. I am firmly convinced that holiness will usher in His presence, and in His presence is fullness of joy. I believe in an anonymous quote I read years ago: *"The most infallible witness of the presence of the Lord in a person's life is joy!"* This joy will break the bondages of pornography, sexual addiction, and substance abuse in the lives of God's people.

But, how do we get there, from Point A to Point B, from a life of dullness and defeat to abundant and victorious life, where we are abiding in the vine and full of joy? As usual, the Holy Word of God gives us the road map. There are many ways that I have found in the Bible for obtaining joy.

1. **Giving Willing to the Lord's Work-** 1 Chronicles 29:9: "*Then the people rejoiced; for they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD, and David, the king, also rejoiced with great joy."*
2. **Overcoming Enemies-** 2 Chronicles 20:27: "*Then they returned every man of Judah, and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies."*
3. **Trusting Him and Loving His Name-** Psalm 5:11: "*But let all those who put their truth in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them; let those also who love thy name be joyful in thee."*
4. **Being in His Presence-** Psalm 16:11: "*Thou will show me the path of life. In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

5. **Walking in Righteousness-** Psalm 32:11: "*Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.z'*
6. **Receiving Salvation-** Isaiah 12:3: "*Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."*
7. **Being in Zion-** Psalm 48:1-2: "*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."*
8. **Remembering What the Lord Has Done-** Psalm 126:1-6: "*When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like those that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then they said among the nations, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O LORD, like the streams in the Negev. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."*
9. **Bringing Peace-** Proverbs 12:20: "*Deceit is in the heart of those who imagine evil, but to the counselors of peace is joy."*

10. **Having Wise Children-** Proverbs 23:24: "*The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice, and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.*"
11. **Being Ministers of Our God-** Isaiah 61:6-7: "*But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD; men shall call you the Ministers of our God; ye shall eat the riches of the nations and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double, and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion; therefore, in their land they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be upon them.*"
12. **Receiving the Word of God-** Jeremiah 15:16: "*Thy words were found, and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.*"
13. **Bringing the Sacrifice of Praise into the House of the Lord-** Jeremiah 33:11: "*The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness; the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them who shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts; for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth forever; and of those who shall bring the sacrifice*

of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD."

14. **Fasting-** Zechariah 8:19: *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore, love the truth and peace."*
15. **Being Faithful to the Lord and Using Your Talents for Him-** Matthew 25:21: *"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."*
16. **Recognizing the Realness of the Resurrection of Christ-** Matthew 28:8: *"And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy and did run to bring his disciples word."*
17. **Being Persecuted for Jesus-** Luke 6:22-23: *"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy; for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."*

18. **Smashing the Works of Satan in the Name of Jesus-** Luke 10:17: *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject unto us through thy name."*
19. **Worshiping Jesus-** Luke 24:52-53: *"And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen"*
20. **Hearing the Bridegroom's Voice-** John 3:27-29: *"John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this my joy, therefore, is fulfilled."*
21. **Keeping the Lord's Commandments-** John 15:10-11: *"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."*

22. **Asking and Receiving in His Name-** John 16:24: "*Hitherto, have ye asked nothing in my name; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*"

23. **Seeing Miracles-** Acts 8:6-8: "*And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did; for unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.*"

24. **Being Filled with the Holy Spirit-** Acts 13:52: "*And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*"

25. **Seeing a Sinner Repent and Accept Christ-** Acts 15:1-3: "*And certain men who came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When, therefore, Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria,*

declaring the conversion of the Gentiles, and they caused great joy unto all the brethren."

26. **Knowing the Grace of God in Trials of Affliction-** 2nd Corinthians 8:1-2: "*Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia, how that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."*

27. **Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit-** Galatians 5:22-23: "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law."*

28. **Walking in Faith-** Philippians 1:23-26: "*For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith, that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again."*

29. **Loving One Another and See Those You Shepherd Walk in Unity-** Philippians 2:2: "*Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."*

30. **Sharing Fellowship and Relationship with Brothers and Sisters in the Lord-** Philippians 4:1: *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."*

31. **Seeing Those Whom You Have Discipled in the Presence of Jesus at His Coming-** 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20: *"For what is our hope or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."*

32. **Reunion with Those You Love in the Faith-** 2 Timothy 1:3-4: *"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy."*

33. **Receiving Love from Others-** Philemon 4-7: *"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus and toward all saints, that the fellowship of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the hearts of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother."*

34. **Following the Example of the Pattern Son and Knowing Our Destination-** Hebrews 12:1-2: *"Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, <u>who for the joy that was set before him</u> endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

35. **Having Your Faith Tested-** James 1:2-3: *"My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience."*

36. **Believing in the Appearance of Jesus Christ-** 1 Peter 1:6-9: *"In this ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold trials, that the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, Whom, having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."*

37. **Being Partakers of Christ's Suffering-** 1 Peter 4:12-13: *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."*

38. **Having Fellowship with the Father and the Son-** 1 John 1:3-4: "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."*

39. **Hearing that Our Spiritual Children Walk in Truth-** 3 John 4: *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."*

40. **Being Presented Faultless Before the Presence of His Glory-** Jude 24-25: *"Now unto Him, that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."*

41. **Putting <u>J</u>esus First, <u>O</u>thers Second, and <u>Y</u>ourself Last**

Chapter Twenty

For the Sake of the Call
The Remnant Abandoning It All for the Sake of the Call of Christ

And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?
Luke 9:23-25

The Remnant Company will be so in love with Jesus that they will gladly abandon it all for the sake of the call and will lose their lives for Jesus. This surrender to the call of Christ was beautiful portrayed by one of the finest contemporary Christian singer in the world today, Steven Curtis Chapman. Not only has Steven Curtis Chapman written and sang songs that have touched and stirred the body of Christ, he has also walked out his faith, even during times of tragedy, and proclaimed the Gospel without apology or shame. Many Christian superstars have been on various television programs and had international exposure, but have backed down and watered down the Gospel message to be politically correct and to not offend. I have never seen Steven Curtis Chapman compromise his faith to win approval or to be politically correct. He has stood strongly in his beliefs and has been an example to all those Christians who are given a platform on secular television.

One of Steven Curtis's early and most well-known songs is *For the Sake of the Call.* The words should inspire every believer to abandon it all for the sake of the call of Christ on our lives. The Remnant Company will not need any arm twisting to do just that. Because it is so rich in meaning, I will quote the entire song:

Nobody stood and applauded them
So they knew from the start
This road would not lead to fame.
All they really knew for sure was Jesus had called to them.
He said, Come, follow me, and they came
With reckless abandon they came.
Empty nets lying there at the water's edge
Told a story that few could believe and none could explain,
How some crazy fishermen agreed to go where Jesus led
With no thought for what they would gain,
For Jesus had called them by name, and they answered.
We will abandon it all for the sake of the call,
No other reason at all, but the sake of the call,
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call.

No turning back for the water cannot help but flow.
Once we hear the Savior's call, we'll follow wherever He leads,
Because of the love He has shown,
Because He has called us to go, we will answer.

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call,
No other reason at all, but the sake of the call,
Wholly devoted to live and to die.

Not for the sake of a creed or a cause,
Not for a dream or a promise,
Simply because it is Jesus who calls,
And, if we believe, we'll obey.

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call,
No other reason at all but the sake of the call,
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call.[33]

The Remnant Company of the Last Days will walk in this kind of devotion to the Lord and His work on earth. They will be a forerunner company,

much like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord. This time Jesus will come in the Eastern Sky, and we all shall behold Him.

Each Christian has his own things to abandon. I have listed just a few of some common things that the Lord will convict those, who really want to go all the way with Jesus, to lay down.

1. **We must abandon our unforgiveness and bitterness towards others, and we must love each other unconditionally, even when we have been wronged-**1 John 4:7-8: *"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love."*
2. **We must abandon our "Me-centered, Look-at-Me, I'm-#1" attitudes and lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters-**1 John 3:16-18: *"By this perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brethren have need, and shutteth up his compassions from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*

3. **We must abandon the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-1** John 2:15-16: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*
4. **We must abandon our desire for popularity and our propensity for man-pleasing and be willing to be hated, if need be, for the Gospel sake-**John 3:13: *"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."*
5. **We must abandon our idols-**1 John 5:21: *"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."* America is full of idol worship. We don't bow down to foreign gods, but we do idolize. The biggest idol in America is the human body, and pornography. Showing the naked body is a multi-billion dollar industry. Unfortunately, we export this pornography all over the world. We also idolize money, Hollywood stars, sports figures, and famous people. None of these things will save us. The Lord is not going to heal our land, unless we tear these idols from our hearts and live out 2nd Chronicles 7:14: *"If my people, who 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."

Again, the thing that will give us the power to abandon it all for the sake of the call is a realization of God's personal love for us individually. James 4:5 in the Amplified Bible says: "*Of do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says: The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us, and He yearns for the Spirit* [to be welcome] with a jealous love?"[34] The New Century Version puts it this way: "*Do you think the Scripture means nothing that says, "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for Himself alone?"*[35] And The Message Bible paraphrases it: "*The proverb has it that "He's a fiercely jealous lover." And what He gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find."*[36]

Rick Renner, a global Bible teacher and Greek scholar, tells us that the Greek word that translate *yearn* in Amplified text is *epipathen*, which means intense desire, a craving, a hunger, an ache; a yearning for something or longing or pining for; intense, abnormal, excessive yearning. He goes on to explain James 4:5 in his excellent book, *Sparkling Gems from the Greek*: "*The Spirit has an all-consuming and passionate desire to have more and more of us. In fact, this desire to possess us is so strong that He literally yearns, craves, and pines after us."*[37]

It almost sounds too good to be true, but the God of the universe loves us with a greater love than we have ever know or can even comprehend. I believe that a revelation of His love will be one of the greatest needs of His people in the challenging days ahead.

Chapter Twenty-One

Come and Die
The Remnant Dying to Self

Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:4
21st Century King James Version

What the Lord wants to do with us is kill our flesh nature so that we can walk in His Spirit. This is a painful process that usually takes a lifetime. It

is especially painful to this *Me Generation* that has lived in unprecedented wealth, luxury, and comfort. Even our poorest people in America seem rich to most of the world. We have become a spoiled, pampered, self-centered people more interested in comfort than in sacrifice, more inclined to spend hours in front of the television than even a few minutes in the prayer closet. This is a generation that has a difficult time making a commitment to anyone or anything, a generation quick to give-up when there is the least amount of stress, and a generation that loves pleasure more than God. We have lost our work ethic and our moral bearings because we want to be made to feel good and be satisfied. Even our church services are measured by how much they entertain rather than how much they convict.

I am just as guilty as the next one, but it makes me feel sick. I pray that the Lord will kill my flesh nature so that His Spirit may be full in me and my nature may become His nature in me. Paul warns the Colossians to put to death the flesh nature: *"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world"* (Colossians 3:5). Lord, help us all to crucify this flesh nature in us!

Dying to the flesh means letting go of ungodly relationships. 1 Corinthians 5:11 warns us to stay away from those who are not walking the way of Christ: *"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such an one, no not to eat."* Paul goes on to remind us that we are "*bought with a price"* and are not to be "*servants of men"* (Corinthians 7:23). He tells us what every parent knows: *"Be not deceived; evil company corrupts good morals"* (1 Corinthians 15:33). Therefore, we are not to be "*…unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"* (2 Corinthians 6:14). This sounds like such a simple thing. Don't hang out with non-Christians. Yet, it is very difficult, especially for young people, to drop relationships that pull us away from Jesus. We must die to this thing in us that makes us hold on to ungodly influences. We must not be men pleasers but God pleasers, if we really want to go to the next level in the Lord.

Those in the Remnant Company also must be willing to die to wordly success. Some in the Remnant Company will no doubt be very successful from a wordly point of view, and the Lord will use these ones as a Joseph

Company who will fund many of the end time initiatives of the Body of Christ. Yet our main goal in life should never be to be successful in a wordly sense but should be to know and to grow in Christ. John reminds us in 1 John 2:16: *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world,"* and the Living Bible Translation in Colossians 3:1-3 says, *"Since you became alive again, so to speak, when Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasurers and joys of heaven where He sits beside God in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in heaven with Christ and God."*[38]

The Remnant Company must die to the love of money, which the Bible says is the root of all kinds of evil: *"For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"* (1 Timothy 6:10). Money in itself is not evil and can be used to support many godly causes, but we are not to love money. Matthew 6:19-21 says, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasurers in heaven, where neither*

moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is there will your heart also be."

Furthermore, we must die to the power of sin in our lives. Romans 6:11 reads, "*In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God"* (Contemporary English Version).[39] How do we do this? Romans 7:6 in the New Living Version tells us: *"But now we have died to what used to control us. We have been set free from the law. Now we serve in the new way of the Holy Spirit. We no longer serve in the old way of the written law."*[40] Basically, this passage of scripture tells us that we die to the power of sin in our lives by walking in the Spirit and giving the Holy Spirit dominion over our lives.

We have a wonderful example of one who died to the flesh nature so that Christ could live through and in him. It costs him his very life. He was an African pastor. Rebels demanded that he renounce his Christian faith. He refused, and the night before they took his life, he wrote the following lines on a scrape of paper:

"I am a part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed." I have the Holy Spirit power. The dye is cast. I've stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back

away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals!

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned away, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, or burn up till I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops.

And when He comes to get His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear.[41]

Surely, the Lord, when He comes, will have no trouble recognizing the Remnant Company of the Last Days.

Chapter Twenty-two

He's Coming Back, Just Like He said!
The Remnant Waiting

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema [cursed].
Maranatha [Our Lord Cometh].
1st Corinthians 16:22

Every Christian believer should be excited by the fact that we could be that generation that will not pass. Jesus might well come in our lifetime. He might appear in the Eastern sky, and we shall behold Him. This should also

wake us up, stir our hearts, give us a feeling of urgency, burden us for the lost, give us strength for what lies between now and then, and fill us with gladness. *"John, to the seven churches which are in Asia; Grace be unto you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before His throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loveth us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. And hath made us a kingdom of priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He cometh with clouds and every eye shall see Him, and they also who pierced Him and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending," said the Lord who is and was and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Revelation 1:4-8).

We know that the Lord said we would not know the day nor the hour, but he chided his disciples for not knowing the season of the Lord's return. Surely we are in that season now. A wonderful song written by Gordon Jensen several years ago captures the feeling that spirit-filled believers everywhere have:

Years of time have come and gone since I first heard it told,
How Jesus would come again some day;
If back then it seemed so real, then I just can't help but feel
How much closer His coming is today.

Wars and strife on ev'ry hand, and violence fills our land,
Still some people doubt He'll come again;
But the Word of God is true-He'll redeem His chosen few;
Don't lose hope, soon Christ Jesus will descend.
Signs of the time are ev'ry where
And there's a brand new feeling in the air.
Keep your eyes upon the eastern sky,
Lift up your head, redemption draweth nigh.[42]

Jesus is coming back just like He said, and there *is* a brand new feeling in the air. Those who walk in the Spirit feel it and know that soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

In a time similar to ours, the Prophet Habakkuk had a vision: "*And the LORD answered me* [Habakkuk] *and said, "Write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come. It will not tarry*" Habakkuk 2:2-3.

We know this vision was of the 2nd Coming of Christ because of Hebrews 10:37: "*For yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry.*" At the same time there is yet another unfulfilled prophecy about the Second Coming in Habakkuk. This prophecy has to do with God's ultimate purpose on the earth and is recorded in both Habakkuk 2:14 and in Isaiah 11:9: "*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*"

Habakkuk comes to the Lord with a burden and almost an angry tone, asking the Lord how long he, Habakkuk, will have to cry out and be ignored by the Lord. He is perplexed at the state of the nation of Israel, just as many of us are perplexed at the state of the nation of the United States of America. There is no doubt that Habakkuk loved his people and that he also loved the Lord, and the Lord did answer him. Then He gave Habakkuk a vision that so changed Habakkuk's heart that he ends his prophetic book with these verses (Habakkuk 3:17-18): *"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall; Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will joy in the God of my salvation."* The Message Bible paraphrases it this way: *"Though the cherry trees don't blossom and the strawberries don't ripen, though the apples are worm-eaten and the wheat fields stunted, though the sheep pens are sheepless and the cattle barns empty, I'm singing joyful praise to GOD. I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God."*[43] The vision of the Lord's Second Coming changed a man's doubt into glorious faith, and we too must rejoice, even when we see things in our nation in disarray, knowing that He is coming back for His own.

Before He comes, there are some major events that will take place. Some are already becoming more and more evident. There will be a great falling away as people lose their zeal and love for the Lord: *"While He was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, "Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end-that is, the completion, the consummation-of this age?"* (Matthew 24:3 AMP)[44] Jesus answers: *"…the love of the great body of people will grow cold, because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity"* (Matthew 24:12 AMP).[45] I suspect that no Christian would doubt that this is taking place today.

Also, we are seeing another major event taking place in the world today, the persecution of Christians worldwide, especially in Islamic and Communist countries: *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved* (Matthew 10:22).

Men's hearts will fail because of fear: *"And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after these things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken"*(Luke 21:26).

Yet, in spite of all this, there will be a Great Harvest of souls at the end of the age: *"Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house, and His disciples came unto Him, saying, Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that sows the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world, the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sows them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the age. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and them who do iniquity and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (Matthew 13:36-43).

Some of the Remnant Company of the Last Days will be of the Sons of Issachar. They will have an anointing to uniquely understand the times, and not only to understand them, but also to know what to do: *"And of children of Issachar, who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do…"* (1 Chronicles 12:32a). We desperately need sons of Issachar in the Body of Christ today. We especially need genuine

Christians in United States's governmental positions. I believe there is a territorial spirit over Washington, D.C. that has to do with confusion! Our lawmakers don't seem to have a clue of how to get us out of the mess they have gotten us into! Jesus is the only answer.

Whether we are Issacharian in spirit or not, we can certainly recognize the signs of the time. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees for being able to recognize the signs in the sky but not the signs of the time. He gave us many signs of the end of the age. I will lists a few of these:

1. The Spirit will be outpoured on all flesh: *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions"* (Joel 2:28).
2. The Gospel will be watered down with preachers preaching the doctrines of men rather than those of God, such as a Works Gospel that denies the deity of Jesus Christ: "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that, in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons"* (1 Timothy 4:1).
3. False prophets and false christs will arise and deceive many: "*For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall show great*

signs and wonders, inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

4. The Gospel will be preached to all nations: *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"*(Matthew 24:14). And *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of his judgment is come, and worship Him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the foundations of waters"* (Revelation 14:6-7).
5. Israel will be restored as a political state: *"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land, which I have given them, saith the LORD, thy God"* (Amos 9:14-15).
6. Earthquakes, floods, famines, plagues, diseases will come such as the world has never seen: "*For nations shall rise against nation, and*

kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7).

7. Wars will increase: *"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified; for these things must first come to pass, but the end is not at once. Then He said unto them, nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom"* (Luke 21:9-10).
8. Times will be perilous and men will become more and more wicked and turn more and more to witchcraft and the occult and Wiccan religions: *"This know, also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power of it; from such turn away"* (2 Timothy 3:1-5). *And "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but, after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables"* (1 Timothy 4:3-4).

9. People will not believe the signs of the times. Even some Christians scoff at the 2nd Coming of Jesus in this generation: *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation"* (2nd Peter 3:3-4).
10. Christians will be increasingly persecuted: *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake"* (Matthew 24:9).
11. There will be unusual phenomenon in the heavens: *"And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in the heavens shall be shaken"* (Mark 13:25).
12. The Lord will use His people, especially the Remnant Company, to make His enemies His footstool: *"The Lord* [God the Father] *says to my Lord* [Jesus, the Messiah], *Sit thou at My right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool"* Psalm 110:1).
13. The days will be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot: *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood*

came, and destroyed them all. And as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

14. People will run to and fro and knowledge will be increased: "*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased"* (Daniel 12:4)

Chapter Twenty-three

A PERSONAL WORD TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH
Wake Ye Sleepers

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
Romans 13:11

Because of the being in an interdenominational ministry, I am asked to go into many different types of churches for various reasons, whether to speak or to be an encourager to someone who is speaking or leading worship. I see clearly that so much of the Church is asleep in these critical times before the coming of the Lord. I want to exhort and encourage this sleeping giant in this personal word to the American Church.

First, I want to exhort you to never doubt God's love. No matter what happens in the world in the days ahead, know that there is a God in Heaven who passionately loves you. He wants relationship with you even more than you want it with Him.

Secondly, I want to say that the time is shorter, before end time events begin, than most American Christians realize. In fact, I believe we are already seeing the beginnings of judgments poured out all over the world. Just pick-up a newspaper and read the headlines.

Yes, it is later than you think. This does not mean that Jesus is coming next year. I am not a date setter, but I do not believe that all prophecy has yet been fulfilled, and I believe His return is some years off. I do believe, however, that many living today will be alive when He comes in the Eastern sky. Furthermore, I feel very assured that we are entering the season of the end of the age.

I caution you, however, using one of the parables of Jesus that most puzzles me and sometimes even troubles me, *The Parable of the Ten Virgins,* in Matthew 25. Virgins in scripture type the Church. There were five wise virgins and five foolish virgins. All ten of them, even the wise, however, went to asleep while waiting for the Bridegroom.

These virgins, I believe, specifically type the modern day Church, especially the Church in the Western World. This Church is not awake and is not walking in the power and anointing and "salt and light" ministry to which it has been called. We are weak, and, for the most part, spiritually dull. We hear entertaining sermons but see little action. And so much of the "action" is flakey and unbiblical and brings glory to men instead of to Jesus. We are not feared by the world because we are too much like the world. We need the friends of the Bridegroom, the prophets and seers of our day, to shout that the Bridegroom is coming so that we can wake out of sleep.

What made the virgins *wise* or *foolish?* It was the amount of oil they carried. The five foolish virgins carried so little oil because they thought the Bridegroom was coming at any minute to "rapture" them out of their situations. These foolish virgins felt no need to make extra preparation. The wise virgins, on the other hand, carried extra oil and were prepared, even though the Bridegroom did not come until the midnight hour.

Much of the American Church feels no need to prepare for the coming of Jesus. We have been taught an "escapist" mentality and expect to be raptured away before troublesome times. We do not expect to suffer for the Gospel.

I believe the Scriptures make it clear that we will suffer persecution and tribulation before He comes. Whatever position you hold on this matters, it is still helpful to consider some questions: *What if we are not raptured away and face great trials and tribulations? Will we keep the faith and stand for Jesus like those Revelation brothers and sisters who overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and who love their lives not unto the death?* (Revelation 12:11) In other words, these believers overcame Satan by their status as true born again believers and by quoting the Word of God. But hold it! There is one more thing: *They loved Jesus so much that they were willing to die physically, if necessary, and, perhaps in some ways even more difficult, to die soulishly, dying to their egos and ambitions and plans and dreams in order to please Him!*

I believe the Church in America is at a Gethsemane moment and in the same place spiritually as those disciples who slept while He prayed? Yes, many in our America ministries and churches cannot seem to rouse out of sleep. We feel the gracious and gentle rebuke of the Savior, who understood so well the eternal significance of what He was about to suffer as He wrestled in prayer in the garden. His most intimate friends could not wait for Him one hour and did not pray as He prayed. He prayed with great agony, so much so that sweat drops of blood filled His brow.

I use to condemn the disciples here and wonder why they failed the Lord in His hour of greatest need. But then I discovered in a close reading of the scripture in Luke what was going on here. Luke was a medical doctor. He was very attuned to emotion stress. He wrote in Luke 22:45 that these disciples *"slept for sorrow."* Perhaps they knew that what lay ahead of them was going to rock their world and leave them with fear and dread. Perhaps they were filled with such great depression over what He had spoken to them. They did not specifically understand, but they knew intuitively that something terrible was ahead for them, and so they were overcome with sorrow and slept.

Jesus also understands this time we live in, when we should be wrestling in prayer for what is coming to America. Surely we live in what Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:1 would be *"perilous times."* Yet the Church in America, as a whole, just does not get it.

David Wilkerson was a modern day prophet. I have watched his ministry over the course of my lifetime. I saw no man on the national scene who is preaching with more conviction and lack of compromise than this man. He had no desire to please men. He had a long track record that has been vindicated over and over by the coming to pass of prophetic words he spoke.

He said a couple of years ago that something so frightening is coming to America that it is going to cause even the righteous to tremble.[46]

Where are other watchmen, like Wilkerson, who since this book was written but before it was published has gone to be with the Lord. We need men who will speak truth and warn this generation of what's to come, even if it is not popular? Where are the Ravenhills today? Where are the Tozers? How I pray that the Lord will raise up men like Wilkerson, Ravenhill and Tozer, who will speak the Word of the Lord with boldness and no compromise. We need the same kind of prophetic spirit that has operated in their lives to wake-up a sleepy Church. We need to prepare for major world events which are about to happen in these last days. This is a critical time in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Instead, although there are exceptions to this, I see a mostly indifferent Church in America, more interested in entertainment that preparation. I see little abundant life. I see preachers who have abandoned the true teachings of Jesus Christ in the world's hour of greatest need. I see a Church that is more like a country club than the glorious, blood-bought Church of the redeemed. I see a Church that has left its first love and in many cases is teaching doctrines of demons, which are directly contrary to Scripture, such as the blasphemy that there are many roads, besides Jesus, to Heaven.

Against this backdrop, the Remnant Company is being called. I believe any Christian can be part of this company. But there is one requirement. A member must lay it all down for the Lord. We must become His bond slaves totally in love with Him.

As bad as some think the world situation is now, the worst is yet to come. It will get worse and worse until He comes because He is not coming back to set up His kingdom until the Babylonian World System falls. Yet is it not time to quit or to walk in fear. We have come too far to turn back now. We need to run to the battle for we have been called as Mighty Warriors in the end time army of the Lord and have been called, I believe, to make His enemies His footstool.. The Mighty God of Israel laughs in derision at the raging heathen. He calls true believers to *"Kiss the Son"* (Psalm 2:12). In other words, He is calling us to more intimacy with Jesus, and we can only have that intimacy by spending time with the Lord. Psalm 2 concludes, *"Blessed are all they who put their trust in Him."* It does not matter how bad things get on the earth, the Lord will always be there for His people. He is our source. People or things are not!

In spite of the calamities that have already taken place and the calamities to come—and I assure you that America *will not* be exempt from great calamities, and they are coming--, we must still hold on to God's Word. He

promised that He would never leave or forsake us, and He has never promised anything that He would not do. We must take heart and remember that we can still pray and believe and move the heart of God. *"If my people, who 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"* (2nd Chronicles 7:14).

In Luke 19:13 the Lord tells a parable of a nobleman who went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself. He tells his bond servants, before he leaves, *"to occupy,"* which literally means *to do business,* until he comes back. The Lord is calling us *to occupy* or *to do business*, the *Lord's business*, until He comes.

One thing we need to do, if we are to do His business, is to stay out of Egypt. Many Christians get so caught up in worldly pleasures that they spend more time in the world than with the Lord. I have seen many of all ages who started the race with great zeal and commitment. Some had great gifts badly needed in the Church and had the potential to change the world. But they gave up because they wanted the easy way out. Some got offended by other Christians. Some wanted to please men instead of God. Some got blindsided by the pleasures of this world and the cares of this life. Some fell into sexual sin so they gave up and went back to Egypt or the world.

Another thing we need to do as we occupy until He comes is to keep our focus on Jesus and not on each other. Hebrews 12:3-4 tells us, *"Consider Jesus who endured such a contradiction of sinners against Himself lest you be weary and faint in your minds. You have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin."* Somehow I think that, if you really consider Jesus, you would not be so easily offended by your brothers and sisters and would not walk in unforgiveness. Isaiah 52:14 prophetically tells us in the original language that he was beaten so badly for *you* that His body was not recognizable as human when He hung on the cross. (By the way, did you know that the only man-made things in Heaven are the wounds in His hands and feet and side?)

No, few believers in America have yet had to resist unto blood. Many most likely *will* before Jesus comes. Some will be counted worthy to be among the brothers and sisters who come out of great tribulation in Revelation 7:14b-15: *"…These are they who came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, are they before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple, and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."*

A third and final thing we need to do as we occupy until He comes is to take up our cross and follow Him. Jesus came to give us two things: a cross

and eternal life. Some are quick to respond to the invitation of eternal life, but they want to forget that He has also given us a cross, an ugly instrument of death. Yes, the Lord wants us to die—to die to our flesh nature, to die to our egos, to die to our offenses towards others. Jesus said in John 12:24: *"Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."*

If you stay out of Egypt and separate yourself from the world, keep your eyes on the Lord, and take up your cross to follow Him, even in the worst of times, you will start walking in the Kingdom and in Kingdom principles, and your life will be characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Being part of the Remnant Company is a Kingdom call, and it centers around worship of the King of kings. Jesus is the hero of the story. There is no other. The Apostle Paul, whom many regard as the greatest Christian who ever lived, had a divine encounter with this hero. Paul's number one goal of his life became to know Christ (Philippines 3:10). In Scripture, *know* is generally a term of great intimacy, as in Adam *knew* Eve, and she bore a son. Daniel wrote in Daniel 11:32: *Those who know their God and are strong will do exploits.* The Remnant Company is called to know Him more, and they will do exploits on this earth before He returns.

Do you want to know Him more? Will you give Him your life and recognize that you have been bought by the price of His blood? He wants all of you. I tell you again: He loves you more than anyone anywhere and longs for relationship with you. I also tell you again that the time is short. Today is the day to give your undivided heart completely to Him.

Chapter Twenty-Four

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Be Filled with Power from on High!

And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
Luke 24:49

I could not write this book without including a chapter on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, although it would take a whole book to cover this important but very broad topic. My desire to stir up your curiosity and to encourage you to seek this experience, which is for *all* born again believers.

I grew-up in a good church but was never told about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. In fact, I was told very little, if anything, about God the Holy Spirit. But all the information on the Baptism is right there in the Scriptures.

Take off your Baptist glasses, your Methodist glasses, your Presbyterian glasses, your Catholic glasses, and search what the Word of God says concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In a secularized world full of violence and unbelief, the one thing perhaps most needed in the Body of Christ today is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I was raised a Methodist and the founder of Methodism describes this experience as his heart being strangely warmed. The Methodists refer to this as the Second Blessing, although most Methodist today have not experienced what John Wesley was describing. This is typically not taught in traditional churches, and in some churches is even incorrectly labeled as demonic. There are, however, some "spirit-filled" believers in almost very denomination, and the Word totally backs this experience as valid and real.

First, I want to say that I consider this the most important spiritual experience, apart from being born again, that I have ever had. Secondly, I want to say that I see absolutely no scripture that says this experience died with the original apostles. I also have read enough early history of the Church to believe that the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit continued to be manifested and used long after the original apostles had died and indeed continue today. There is much evidence that believers down through the ages have operated in these gifts and in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

It was very eye opening, to me, when an elderly Southern Baptist missionary to Japan said that almost all the Southern Baptist missionaries had been baptized in the Spirit. She said that missionaries, regardless of what the Southern Baptist Convention leadership said, could not make it on the foreign missionary field without the power of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Some erroneously, perhaps because of denominational prejudices or fear or ignorance, teach that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a distinct experience from the new birth. Let us look at the pattern Son, Jesus. One of our main goals as a Christian is to become like and follow the example of God the Son. The resurrected Christ came to His disciples in an upper room where they were hiding for fear of the Jews. He breathed on them and commanded them to receive-(this is in the imperative case, 2nd aorist, which is *always* followed by immediate obedience)-the Holy Spirit: *"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit"* (John 20:21-22).

Since Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Holy Spirit has come into the world to "*convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment; of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness because I go to My*

Father and you see Me no more; of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged" (John 16:8-11). It is only by the Holy Spirit working in our lives that we can know Jesus and be born again. But there is more!

Later, after breathing on them, the risen Lord gave His disciples specific instructions. He told them to wait until the Holy Spirit came upon them or baptized them. The Spirit gloriously did baptize the followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost, before they were to go into all the world and preach the Gospel: *"And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have already heard from Me. For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"* (Acts 1:4-5). And "*But ye shall receive power* [dunamis] *after the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

But is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit a distinct work from the new birth? Acts gives us several incidents where the believers were born again but had not received the Holy Spirit: "*Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John, who, when they were come down, prayed for them,*

that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:15-17). They received by the laying on of hands after they had been born again.

Apostle Paul was converted on the Damascus Road. The powerful experience left Paul blind but obviously born again. Later when Ananias, a disciple of the Lord, laid hands on Paul, Paul not only received his sight but also was filled with the Holy Spirit: *"And Ananias went his way and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 9:17).

The Holy Spirit even fell on Gentile believers. While in the house of Cornelius, a believer, Peter preached and the Holy Spirit filled the believers as he spoke: *While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them who heard the word"* (Acts 10:44).

When Paul preached in Ephesus to the disciples there, they reported to him that they had not *even* heard of the Holy Spirit. After being baptized in the name of Jesus, they subsequently received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: *"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:5-6).

These are four examples from the book of Acts that scripturally show that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct work from the new birth. It is also a subsequent experience that follows being born again.

The Holy Spirit gives the individual believer power or *dunamis* to be a witness. A Holy Spirit-powered church has three main characteristics:

1. People genuinely care about the lost and are evangelical: *"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry"* (Timothy 4:5). One of my first acts after receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was to start up a ministry, which was designed to reach teenagers and especially troubled youth. I received the Baptism sometimes around 1972. I was filled with a love for people and an even greater love for the Lord. My prayer life and Bible study took off in a way that I had never experienced before. I loved my students and wanted them to have what I had. I initiated some citywide crusades in the Warner Robins, Georgia area, and I started a ministry in the Perry, Georgia area called Youth Aglow. All of these experiences prepared me for what was to come. In 1979 I started a weekly worship service where

teaching the Word was the primary focus, but which also has been greatly used to train people how to do ministry. I named this ministry *First Love Ministries*, because I wanted all to know that Jesus was our First Love. All these efforts did and do focus on bringing people to a relationship with Jesus. I found that I had new power after the Baptism to boldly share Jesus with others.

2. There are definite changes. First, there is a change in the hearts of the people: "*Now when they heard this* [that they were responsible for the crucifixion of the Lord], *they were pierced in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God, shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"* (Acts 5:28)

Church members who have received the power of the Holy Spirit are easy to recognize. They tend to be those in the church who have the most zeal for spiritual things. They hunger for more of Jesus, and they appreciate the teaching of the Word. They know the value of prayer and long to know the Lord in a deeper and more intimate way.

From my own experience, I can say that my whole life was changed by the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I became passionate about the things of God. I loved the Word so much more and saw it as a guide to how to live my life. And again my prayer life was greatly accelerated. Within me was a deep desire to pray almost constantly and to spend time with Jesus. While I loved Him before, I was in love with Him now and wanted to stay in His presence.

Secondly, there is a change in places: *"Saying, did not we strictly command you* [the apostles] *that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us"* (Acts 5:28). To this day, people tell me that they feel the presence of the Lord in the house church, where much of our ministry takes place, and many have testified to hearing angels singing in this place. All of this came after the Lord baptized me and others in the Holy Spirit here. Since then, He has

has launched many out in anointed ministry from our little house church.

3. Finally, those who have been baptized in the Spirit have the power to turn the whole world upside down: *And when them* [the Thessalonican leaders] *found them* [Paul and Silas], *they drew Jason and certain brethen unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come here also* (Acts 17:6). Today the churches that are genuinely making a difference in their communities are those churches that teach and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit which comes through being baptized in the Spirit.

With the Baptism in the Holy Spirit comes spiritual gifts. These gifts are listed in 1st Corinthians 12:1-11: *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore, I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God called Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the*

Spirit is given to every man to profit. For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gift of healing by the same Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the very same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will."

Thus, the gifts may be divided into three categories:

a. Gifts of Revelation (Think like God)
    1. **Word of Wisdom:** a supernatural revelation of God's purpose
    2. **Word of Knowledge:** a supernatural revelation of facts in the mind of God
    3. **Discerning of Spirits:** a supernatural insight into the realm of spirits
b. Gifts of Power (Act like God)
    1. **Faith:** a supernatural trust in God for the miraculous
    2. **The Working of Miracles:** a supernatural intervention of God's power in the ordinary course of nature
    3. **Gifts of Healing:** a supernatural manifestation of power to heal diseases
c. Gifts of Inspiration (Talk like God)-vocal gifts
    1. **Prophecy:** a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue
    2. **Divers Kinds of Tongues:** a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue
    3. **Interpretation of Tongues:** a supernatural giving forth of the meaning of other tongues

We base the above categories on the listing in 1st Corinthians 12:8-10.

There are other lisiting of the gifts in at least two other places. Romans 12:6-8 indicates that prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, and showing mercy are gifts. 1st Corinthians 12:28 includes apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healing, helps, government, and diversity of tongues as gifts. I prefer the listing of the nine gifts of 1st Corinthians 12:8-10 as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are available to those who have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, a wonderful experience open to all born again believers.

To receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to completely surrender to the Lordship of Jesus and die to ourselves. We must ask the Lord to fill us with His Spirit and submit every part of us-spirit, soul and body-past, present, and future to the Lord. We begin to magnify the Lord in praise, and we receive by faith. If we truly desire and truly surrender, we will receive. Sometimes the manifestation is not immediately evident, but it will come.

The Baptism is necessary if we are going to be a real threat to the kingdom of darkness, but it is not a stopping place. We must go on to maturity and constantly be refilled. The Lord designed us to be leaky vessels so that we could pour out on others, but that means we ourselves must continually go before Him and ask for more of Him each day.

We have seen people try to coach people in speaking in tongues. We also see many ministers who feel they must help the Holy Spirit out and both pressure people to receive and push people over. This might temporarily make the minister look “spiritual” but it leaves the person being ministered to disappointed in the long term results because the experience was not really real. The Holy Spirit does not need our help. He will stir the hearts of those who seek this experience. If there are blockages such as unforgiveness or unconfessed sin areas, the Holy Spirit will show a genuine seeker these blockages so they can be taken care of. When they desire more of Him and seek Him with a pure heart, they will receive.

Chapter Twenty-five

Conclusion

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?
1 Corinthians 14:8 NLV

I have written the previous chapters with great conviction. I wrote almost the entire book two years ago in 2009. I believe the Lord had me study the Remnant Company of the Last Days the entire previous year, and I taught sections of this book to the hungry and gracious people at First Love Ministries in Perry, Georgia during 2009. I believe that many of these First Love people will be part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days. I believe the Lord is calling even now this Remnant Company, which will contain people from all over the world and will be the Church of the Last Days, which will do exploits for Jesus. These believers will fall head-over-heels in love with Him. They will be the church within the Church, the overcomers, who will stand on the Word of God, even if it costs them their lives. And what greater privilege could we, who love Jesus, have than to die for Him?

Do I really think America will become a land that persecutes Christians? I pray not, but we are sliding closer and closer to a point of no return. Unless a remnant comes forth and says, "No, more!", we might end-up looking like Nazi Germany, where we are told by historians that Hitler was worshiped in

the *Christian* Church instead of the Christ who died for us. Already the rights of Christian believers are being smothered in political correctness.

The Church certainly needs a wake-up call. As I have made clear in previous chapters, I think it is evident that much of the Church in America is asleep. Yet do not read in these pages that I think the Lord has given up on the Church, even if they are asleep. He gave Himself for the Church and loves His Body more than we can understand. This book is not meant to be a slam on the American Church, but it is a wake-up call.

Besides waking up, the Church also needs to draw a line in the sand and say we will not disregard the Word of God any longer, no matter if it is socially inexpedient or culturally unacceptable or politically incorrect. The only hope for the challenges ahead is our hope in Jesus Christ, and we can realize that hope only through the Word of God. We need to read it, learn it, sing it, speak it, preach it, and, most important of all, live it.

I believe the genuine believers in the United States are America's only source of safety. I believe that the Lord has held back His hand of judgment and kept us relatively safe because of godly, praying men and women in this country who have cried out to Him for mercy. He has been merciful, but He is also a God of justice, and He will allow anything, including judgments, to bring us back into relationship with Him. Obviously,

judgments are already being released all over the world, and judgment will soon come to America.

Unless America turns from its secularism, takes a stand against the Babylonian World System, repents of its immorality and the killing of innocent unborn babies in the womb, and quits trying to divide Israel, I am afraid that the greatness of America will go the way of the Roman Empire, and we will become a second rate nation with little power. Unless we turn, we also will be harshly judged for our iniquities, and the Lord will allow our enemies to bring us to our knees.

Back in 2009, I had a dream that I believe was from the Lord. I was told in this dream to go into big cities of America and to share the Gospel. I found myself in the inner city of a large metropolitan area. The outside of the buildings looked like ghetto buildings but inside were white collar workers with men in white shirts and ties and women dressed in the latest fashions. I went to these professional, well-educated men and women and tried to share Jesus with them. They were not impolite but told me that they definitely were not interested. I left the buildings with a heavy heart.

In my dream the Lord began to speak to me. He told me that the place where I was witnessing looked poor because the people were spiritually poor, that most of America's metropolitan areas in inner cities that once had

great wealth, were no longer following Judeo-Christian principles of the Bible. I thought of the church in Laodicea. I believe that we are living in the Laodicean age now. The Church is deceived about its condition and says, "*…I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing*" (Revelation 3:17).

I heard the Lord speak to me again. This time He said that many in America had already spiritually passed the point of no return. They had rejected Christ, and they had closed their hearts to the Gospel message. They had been given over to a reprobate mind because they refused to turn to Jesus, and they worshiped the creature, the human body, more than the Creator (Romans 1).

All of this made me very sad in the spirit, but it also made me feel a real urgency about the times in which we live. We have got to get the Gospel message out to the highways and byways so that we can turn the hearts of those who *will* listen to Jesus. Time is running out.

We were once a godly nation who sent more Christian missionaries to other countries than any other nation in the world. We once were the greatest lending nation in history but in just a few short years have become, most likely, the most indebted nation in the world. To most Americans, it is sheer lunacy that Communist China holds most of our debt. Because of

political expediency, we continue to buy from this country, which has a terrible human rights record and persecutes the Church of Jesus Christ. We continue to send aid money to our enemies and make treaties with those who hate us. We have gained a reputation in the world for giving to our enemies and double-crossing our friends.

I believe that there is a demonic principality of confusion over our nation's capitol. So much of what our politicians are doing today makes no sense to common, everyday Americans. Our leaders seem confused and out of touch with the values of most Americans.

Our economy is in the final throes of death. No one, except God, can save us now. In spite of what the politicians and the left-leaning liberals say, we have been a nation called by His name. We have been known throughout the world as *Christian* America, and He has blessed us, as a Christian nation, beyond anything the world has ever seen. We have shown little appreciation for these blessings, and we are now at a time of reckoning for our disobedience.

The solutions of man will not work! The problems are too gargantuan--behemoths, spurred on by demonic principalities. So many of our leaders have become captive to these "princes" and love power and control, money and fame, position and men's applause, more than they love God and

country. I believe they are leading us down the road to severe judgment from a righteous God. If we don't turn, that judgment is coming soon, maybe even before this book is published.

My faith, praise the Lord, is not in the government, not in our wealth, not in the politicians, not even in the Western Church, but it is in Jesus, God the Son, the Christ who died for you and me. It grieves me to see America dying, but it grieves me more to see the America I love disdain the Ten Commandments, disregard the lives of precious unborn babies, become complacent, allow an "anything-goes" morality, and compromise basic Biblical principles.

If we ever needed a Remnant Company to rise up, we need it today! No doubt many are already feeling the call, and some, such as the International House of Prayer movement, are even now gathering together in 24/7 prayer meetings across America. If a handful of people can stop prayer in schools and permit abortion on demand, then a handful of people with God's power can turn America around before it is too late. I believe this Remnant Company could spark another great awakening in our land , similar to the Charles Finney revival meetings. Finney was a revivalist in the 1800s and saw entire towns turn to Jesus.

Even at the darkest hour, there is always hope in Jesus. Even today, in spite of the mess we are in, I see a generation coming forth who will seek His face more than His hand and who is ready to lay everything down to follow Jesus and to bring His Kingdom on the earth as it is in heaven. This generation will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit much like the first century disciples did, following the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Jesus is coming back just like He said, and all the world will behold Him. I believe that His coming will be sooner than most American theologians think. World events could happen and final prophecies be fulfilled so quickly that we could come to that very hour during my lifetime.

How can we live in fear when we know He is coming back for us? There should be great expectancy and longing for Him and peace in our hearts as we meditate on the fact that we are His, no matter what happens on earth in the days ahead. The Remnant Company will be ready and waiting for the Second Coming and will often rejoice in the last promise that Jesus gave in the Word of God, Revelation 22:20: "*He who testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus.*" Yes, even so, come Lord Jesus!

First Love Ministries
Our first love is Jesus!

First Love Ministries is an intergenerational, interracial, interdenominational ministry, which was started in 1979. It has evolved from a ministry to teenagers to a ministry open to anyone regardless of age. It is a multi-faceted ministry that includes discipleship, teaching, benevolence, prison, and prayer ministry. The main purposes of First Love Ministries are to train and equip people and launch them out into ministry and to lay a foundation of what Peter calls *present truth* into people's lives so that they will stand no matter what happens on the earth before Jesus comes. Charlie Walker is the founder of this ministry. Brandon Farmer is the president and leader. Matthew Hulbert is the vice president. Mark Hulbert is the children's pastor and the head of the *Gene McKinney Word Training Center*. Our elders are Darren Butler and Carl Farmer. John Hulbert is our attorney. Our main meeting is on Saturday nights at 7:30 PM. For more information, call Brandon Farmer at 478-987-1581 or e-mail Charlie Walker at charliegwalker@juno.com.

First Love Ministries holds a very special place in my heart. It is very difficult to put into a few words or sentences the incredible effects a small discipleship group on Saturday nights has had on my life. After spending eight exhausting years running from the Lord's call on my life, the Lord used this ministry to touch my heart and to turn it back towards God. During those difficult years of rebellion, I suffered through some awful experiences. First Love Ministries helped me find forgiveness and peace, a peace that had been missing from my life for a long time. The people at First Love took me in and loved me as I was. They helped me love Christ first, and He helped me love myself again.

Brett Bartels, United Methodist Minister, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

First Love Ministries was a place of love and hope at a time of despair and futility. Coming out of almost seven years of chemical abuse, I found the Christian fellowship and sound Biblical teaching at First Love that enabled me to break free from the past and

grow into the fullness of God's plan for my life. I realized that Jesus has been the difference, and no single ministry has been more significant in drawing me closer to Him and rooting me in the Christian faith than First Love Ministries.

Glenn Lawrence, Missionary and Former Pastor of Inner City Church of Miami

I am very thankful for First Love Ministries. Since I have been involved there, I have grown spiritually and have developed a devotion to the Lord I never imagined before. From the start, I have felt a peace at the meetings, and I have felt loved and accepted by people there in the ministry. If I had not gotten involved at First Love, I am sure the things most teenagers deal with would have gotten the best of me.

Adrianne Tucker McLendon, Youth Pastor's Wife, Byron UMC

Only one life, will soon be past; only what's done for

Christ will last!

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