



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.7.9

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF concludes the book *Evidence of Things Unseen*.

As you finish reading this book I invite you to consider some matters. Christ has been preparing certain men and women to serve as leaders to a larger body of Christians who must pass through their own trials and wilderness experiences. I have been blessed to walk as one of the forerunners.

The things you read of my life, although they may appear exceptional at this time, will not be considered to be unusual in coming days. A great many sons and daughters of Christ will be led to embrace a life of com-

plete abandonment and trust in God.

It does not matter where you are, you can live an abandoned life to Christ. You can commit to do whatever He asks you to do, without reservation. When He finds such a yielded heart, He will not be stinting in opening up doors of opportunity for such a one to be used.

You may be in prison, but this fact does not diminish your usefulness to God. Neither does it serve as an excuse to not give yourself in full obedience to the Father. Many of God's choicest servants have spent extended periods of time in prison.

The apostles were imprisoned, and many of the books of the Bible were written while in prison. Such Christian classics as *The Pilgrim's Progress* were written in prison. The apostle Paul said that due to his imprisonment the entire Praetorian Guard had come to hear the gospel proclaimed.

Your bonds do not limit your service to God. The only thing that can limit you is the degree of your surrender to God.

Will you count the cost and give your life wholly to the One who gave all for you? He will not reject your offering. He will take what you give Him and adorn it with His glory.

Food for Thought

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure."

Hellen Keller

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

Sally Koch

Scripture Memory

Galatians 6:10

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

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Evidence of Things Unseen

Addendum: A Testimony of a Dying Son

(Written 07-09-2008)

This addendum continues the history that leaves off in the last chapter of the book. It is offered for those who have written to ask me what has occurred in our lives since the book was completed. The trials have continued, and so has the grace of God and His supernatural intervention. He has not spared His people from suffering, but He has never left our side.

I Corinthians 15:31

I die daily.

Luke 9:23-24

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

Yesterday, a Christian sister from the West Coast

The trials have continued, and so has the grace of God...

wrote to me and inquired as to how I am doing. We have corresponded often, and I am knowledgeable of her many trials, as she is of mine. I understood that her question was more than mere politeness when

she asked, "How are you doing?"

Yesterday had its own set of specific trials, including a letter from a lawyer threatening legal action and sanctions. The threat was a direct result of my walking a path that the Spirit of Christ has led me down. The Spirit of Christ has put me in peril's way. Such a thought is foreign to most Christians today, and it would even produce a rebuke from more than a few. "Surely," they would contest, "the Lord will bless the man who is a true servant of God. God would not bring His obedient children into reproach and disrepute."

In a recent writing I shared that since 1999, when I completely surrendered to the leading of the Lord in my life, God has led me down much more difficult pathways than when my own will was the determinant. He has led me to experience more trials, more reproaches, more rejection from Christian brothers and natural family, more perilous situations, more perplexity, and more fear than when I was still hold-

ing the reins of my life. This was certainly the experience of the apostles when they fully yielded control of their lives to God.

Romans 8:36-37

Just as it is written, "For Thy sake ***we are being put to death all day long***; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

II Corinthians 4:8-13

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ***always carrying about in the body the dying of Yahshua, that the life of Yahshua also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Yahshua's sake, that the life of Yahshua also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you.***

Certainly I knew some trials in the many years preceding 1999. After all, I had a sincere devotion to Christ, and a desire to please Him. But my trials were fewer and far between. There were great seasons when the Lord simply left me alone to follow the desires of my heart. Since 1999, when I understood that Yahweh needed to do a work in my life of bringing all things in this soul of mine under subjection to His rule, the pace has greatly accelerated. I said, "God, bring me to a quick death, for I want the life of Christ to be revealed in me."

He began by stripping me of all that I had acquired through many years of covetous living. In 1999 I was forced to file for bankruptcy. I surrendered my home, and my custom van to the creditors. At the direction of the Spirit of Christ I held a yard sale and sold all my furniture and worldly goods. He then led me to trust Him for all of my provision as I focused on fulfilling the ministry of writing to which He had called me.

I had a wife and two children, and my faith was far from perfect. The Lord led me to trial after trial in the area of provision, and at each test I had to wait patiently, not seeking to deliver myself by carnal means, and in every instance He came through. What a sifting it was to this man who has feet of clay and a mind unsettled by many fears, doubts and unbelief. In six years time the Lord led our family to move over fifteen times, and at each new move I had no idea where I

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was to go, or through what means my family's provision was to be manifest. As I obeyed, and put my feet to the path the Father showed me, He always opened up a way. His pattern was always, "Put your feet in the water and then you will see them part."

Joshua 3:13

"And it shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of Yahweh, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above shall stand in one heap."

It would do the Israelites no good to protest that everyone else who crossed the Jordan did so by boat. Why should they have to do things differently? I also knew that it would do me no good to protest that no one else I knew was living the way I was. I did not know of anyone else who was going out to move their family time after time without knowing where they were going or how they would find their provision. This was the path the Spirit led me on. I had to do as He directed. It did make things more difficult that even the Christians I knew called me a fool and condemned my walk. I was reproached for my obedience to the Spirit's leading.

Romans 15:3

For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

Have you ever considered that Christ was reproached for living in the manner in which His Father directed Him to live? He had no job. He had no home. He traveled about with a number of disciples, and they received their substance from whatever means the Father provided. Oftentimes the Lord's provision came from the hands of a group of devoted women who followed Him.

Luke 8:1-3 And it came about soon afterwards, that He began going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

I can hear the Jews now. "Why don't you get a job and quit sponging off of others? Be a man and quit living off the money of these women. If you are God, why don't you turn the stones into gold? You are just a pretender. If it weren't for these women you would have starved to death long ago."

Oh yes, I have heard similar charges. Sure, God could have dropped a bag of money out of heaven and taken care of all of my needs. Why then did He choose the methods employed? It was that I might learn humility, even as His own Son learned obedience from the things that He suffered. Had he turned the stones into diamonds, or the dust into gold, the lesson of humility that comes from being often reproached would not have been learned.

I can imagine the charges brought against Yahshua. "You are not a very good provider for your followers. They haven't eaten all day, and now they are making a meal by walking through the fields and threshing grain in their hands. Can't you do better than that? You have job skills. Why don't you get a job and provide them with a real meal?"

There were days when the members of my family and I had no more than a sandwich, or two, and a glass of water for lunch and supper. One day we had only a bag of grits in the house. Yet we never went hungry. God always provided something. When we allow God to begin choosing our path for us we will find that we are met with many circumstances we would not have chosen for ourselves.

Christ was reproached for living in the manner in which His Father directed Him to live...

Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Deuteronomy 8:15-16

He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. In the wilderness He

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fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

Yahweh still chooses to perfect His sons and daughters by letting them know lack, by them being cast upon Him for daily provision, and at the same time

Yahweh still chooses to perfect His sons and daughters by letting them know lack...

He teaches them humility. I have certainly been reproached for the care I provided for my family. It would be one thing to experience such humble means in a third world nation, but I was living in

the midst of America, the land of plenty, the land of idolatrous consumerism. How could I justify such experiences to members of the church who had been inculcated with doctrines of prosperity and the love of mammon?

The answer is that I could not justify myself in their sight, so I quit trying. I simply had to bear reproach. I had to choose to die daily to the respect and affirmation my soul desired. My hope was that I might attain to all that the Father had for me and my family as I persevered and continued to follow the Lord wherever He would lead.

After six years my wife had enough. She had listened to other Christians telling her that it was not necessary that we live as we were. She had heard numerous criticisms of her husband, often from pastors and their wives. The decision to leave troubled her soul, for she had seen the hundreds of ways in which the Lord had intervened in our lives to manifest provision during the years of full-time ministry. Yet, she did not see any others living as we were doing, and she desired to be free of the trials and afflictions that seemed to beset our family more than all others around us.

In 2004 my wife left. Our son went with her to live with a wealthy Christian family who had boys his age. My daughter remained faithful in her desire to follow wherever God would lead, and the Lord opened a door for her to stay with a family in a Mennonite community, with my blessing. I was left by myself. Since I was by myself, the Lord was able to accelerate the trials even further. I found it much easier to endure hardship alone, than with wife and children.

II Corinthians 11:23-30

Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern? If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

My suffering has not been to the degree of Paul's, but I can testify that I have endured far more than most of my Christian brothers in America. I spent five months living out of a car, eighty days camping in the forest in a small tent. During this period many days I was without food, and often was low on water. I spent a week one time without eating, and at another time I went seventeen days before the Father provided something to eat. In five months I lost forty pounds.

I knew exposure to the elements, camping out in a small tent in the woods in November and December. Some days I awoke to ice on the ground, and I had no winter clothes with me. I wore layers of summer clothing and had one fleece pullover. For months at a time I had no other human companionship, no one with whom to carry on a conversation, no one to share my burden. Yet through it all the Lord was with me. He made it abundantly clear that this was a path He had chosen for me. It was a cross appointed unto me to bear. I had to remain until He released me, and I received abundant grace to do so.

While camping the remnants of a hurricane passed through the area. The ground was already saturated from another tropical storm that had come through earlier. For three days it rained constantly until water began to seep through the sides of my tent. The wind was blowing and the ground so saturated that huge trees began falling over in the forest all around me. I lay in my tent listening to the thunderous crashing of huge pines as they fell close by. A restless night was

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spent listening to the sounds of the wind, rain, and crashing trees. I thought to get out of the tent and sleep in the car, but I considered that it afforded no better protection. My safety was in the Father's hands. He had led me to this place. He would be my shelter.

After five months living as a homeless man, the Lord directed my steps to an inner city rescue mission. I was there a few months and they asked me to fill the position of Resident Manager. I was given a small room in the men's dormitory, and I was responsible for the oversight of the Mission after staff hours. This required 80-100 hour work weeks, and my pay was room and board and \$100 a week. In eight months time I had three days off (I worked every week-end from sunup to sundown). In this the Lord was teaching me endurance, patience, and many other needful things.

While at the mission I received notice that my wife had filed for divorce. Papers were served to me on Good Friday 2005. This was the day the church remembers the Lord being brought before the courts, falsely charged, and delivered to be scourged and crucified. The Spirit spoke to me that day and said "This is a cross I have appointed for you. You are to bear it willingly as My Son bore His."

Luke 14:26-27

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and **wife** and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**"

The Lord said I was to accept this cross in the same way His Son accepted His own. He directed me to Peter's writing.

I Peter 2:21-23

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and **while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...**

The Spirit of Christ revealed that I was not to hire a lawyer. I was not to mount a defense, or make accusation against my wife. I was to go to the divorce proceeding and entrust myself to the care of the Father.

When the date arrived I did as the Lord instructed. I had no counsel, no witnesses, while my wife had brought both. I was accused of neglect of my family, of being heartless and uncaring, failing to provide for them as I was capable of doing. It was recounted how many times we had moved during the six years of walking in faith and performing the ministry entrusted to me. How irresponsible this seemed to those who did not judge things by the Spirit. False accusations were added that I might be made to look utterly reprehensible.

The judge gave me opportunity to speak, and I recounted how the Lord had led us as a family to this walk of complete trust in Him. I shared that we had seen God's provision miraculously an uncounted number of times, and we had even seen our son healed of a hereditary bone disease that caused him to fracture 12 bones by the age of seven, when we cast ourselves over onto God at obedience to His direction. I shared that since my wife had left me that she had gone back on what God had spoken to us as a requirement to see our son healed. We had been told to cancel his SSI and Medicaid benefits and God would keep him from breaking bones. For seven years God had been faithful to this. Yet one of the first things my wife did after leaving me was to take out government benefits on our son once more. Just a few weeks later he broke his elbow when a friend jumped into the swimming pool and landed on him. He had to have surgery and to wear a cast for months.

While at the mission I received notice that my wife had filed for divorce.

The judge listened somewhat impatiently, and then said, "Mr. Herrin, in some ways I find your faith to be admirable, but I must conclude that it is my judgment that it is misguided." The judge granted the divorce and required that I begin paying alimony and child support amounting to \$900 a month. At the time I was only earning \$400 a month, but the judge based this amount upon what I had earned six years earlier while employed as a computer professional.

After the divorce was granted, my father came from out of state to visit me. He and my mother had concluded years earlier that I was a religious heretic, filled with many ideas relating to God's word and life in the Spirit that were unsound. I knew it would probably be a trying meeting, so I prayed before I

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went to meet him that God would give me grace to simply express my love for my father and to not allow my tongue to say anything disrespectful.

My dad shared that he placed the blame for my divorce upon my shoulders. He said that if I continued to do as I was doing in seeking to be led of God in all things that I would probably end up in jail for not paying child support. I told my father that I understood how he arrived at his conclusions in this matter. I told him that if I had lived the life that had been mine since 1999 because I had chosen it for myself, and that God had not chosen it for me as he believed, then he could only judge me to be a great fool. In response my father replied, "That is right. I believe you are a fool."

After we finished sharing a meal together, we went to part. My father stuck out his hand in parting, but I drew closer and hugged his neck instead. I told him I loved him, and I have not heard from him since that day.

As I drove back to the rescue mission I told the Lord that I did not know what the future held, but if it was His will for me to go to jail as my father suggested, then I was willing. My life had been so much like Joseph's, the son of Jacob, that I could almost imagine it to be God's will that I also suffer this ignominy. I confessed to the Lord that my life was in His hands. He had told me not to hire a lawyer or mount a defense, but to entrust myself to His care, and I had done so. I told Him I would continue to rest in His care.

The next day a man from New Zealand sent me \$5,000. This was the largest gift I had ever received. Five is the number of grace, and it was as if the Lord had answered the challenge of my father, and said, "You trusted me in this, and I will provide for you. You will not go to jail for lack of ability to pay child support." Right after this happened, the director of the mission approached me and said that he was going to fire the two managers of their thrift store that day, and he wanted me to step into a management position there immediately. In this way the Lord provided the means to pay my wife every month.

In February of this year my son turned eighteen, and

my child support obligation was fully met, and paid on-time. God has been faithful. There were more trials to come, however. Little did I realize how much my own trials were to resemble Joseph's. My wife's wealthy friend that she moved in with hated me with a passion. She was very restless in seeking to cause me trouble, despite her confession of being a Christian. She began to go down to the Mennonite community my daughter was in and tell the people my daughter was staying with that I was a terrible person and that Kristin should not be helping me in any way. My daughter Kristin had been receiving my mail and forwarding it to me, but due to the influence of this woman the people at whose house my mail was being sent decided they should not be involved anymore.

This was merely a minor inconvenience to me, but it disturbed me that this woman was going out of her way to spread evil reports. My wife accompanied this woman and listened quietly as her friend made charges against me. This woman heard that I had been hired by the mission in a staff position, and although she had been the driving force behind the demands that I pay child support and alimony, she sought to get me fired from my job. She called the mission director and accused me of being an abuser of my wife and children. The director called me into his office later and related these things to me. He said that he informed her if these things were true that there was no better place for me to be than at the mission, for their goal was to help troubled men.

This woman called repeatedly to the director, and then she even had the pastor of her church send an e-mail to the director to warn him of the type of man he had hired. This pastor had never even met me, yet he gave forth this evil testimony. The director called me to his office again and shared with me the e-mail he had sent back in response. He informed the pastor that he had known me for over a year and had sufficient knowledge of me to form an opinion of my character. This director had recently given me an award at the mission's holiday banquet, saying that I had been the best Resident Manager the mission had ever known. Thus, the attempts of the enemy to cause me discomfort were thwarted.

Isaiah 54:17
No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.

Like Joseph of old, God had given me favor with my

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employer. The director of the mission became my defender, negating the need for me to defend myself. Yet the worst actions of this woman were still to come. She went to this Mennonite community again, and she openly suggested that the reason my daughter had sided with her father was that there was an unrighteous relationship between us. She went so far as to suggest that my daughter and I had been having sexual relations together.

The woman in the home my daughter was staying at was so appalled at this suggestion, knowing the purity of my daughter, that she told her husband that she never wanted to meet with that woman again unless her husband was present. This wealthy Christian woman began spreading this accusation around to others who were willing to listen, and I even heard the report come back from the mouth of my own mother.

When the Lord desires to prepare a son to share His glory, He does so by first subjecting the son to shame, reproach, falsehood, and many trials. Joseph, the son of Jacob, spent many years in prison being known as the man who attempted to rape Potipher's wife. God did not remove this reproach from Joseph until the day he was brought into Pharaoh's presence and made second ruler in the land. It is also appointed to the sons of God in this age to suffer many things. God is seeking to bring forth a humble, forgiving spirit in His sons. He wants them to die to the opinions of men that they might live only for His opinion, His judgment.

Yahshua, the firstborn Son of God, learned much from the things He suffered as well. He heard the crowds cry out "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Just a short while later these same people were crying out, "Crucify him!" God must bring all of His sons to a place where the opinions of men no longer move them. They must recognize that both the praise and condemnation of man are without weight. All that really matters is what God thinks.

At the same time, being subject to persecution, unjust accusation and the enmity of men and women provides the child of God with an opportunity to die to all offense that arises from their soul. As they clothe themselves with Christ they can cry out, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." This has been the confession the Spirit has brought forth from my mouth time and again as offense has been added to offense. Ours is not a ministry of condemna-

tion, but of forgiveness and reconciliation.

John 3:17

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

Matthew 18:34-35

"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

It is a true statement that declares, "by the judgment you have judged others, you shall be judged." Those who are merciful shall obtain mercy. When we are reviled we are to speak a blessing in return. How can we do these things if there is no one to revile us, to speak evil of us, and to unjustly accuse us? If they did these things to the Lord of glory, how much more will they do so to those who are His disciples?

II Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Yahshua will suffer persecution.

My trials did not end with these things. For two years I labored at a menial job at a thrift store. Had I chosen to do so I could have returned to the computer field and made a large salary, but this was not the Father's will. Instead I was called to toil at a thankless job that was fraught with many difficulties. It would have done me no good to say, "But Lord, I can do so much more. I remember the days of heady success when I worked as a computer professional. I made a good salary and had money to spend upon many things. I remember the years I worked in ministry, writing books and teaching your children." We must submit to whatever the Lord chooses for us. He alone knows what is necessary for our perfecting as sons.

When we are reviled we are to speak a blessing in return.

If we will surrender to the direction of the Lord in all things, we will find that He brings us into circumstances where it is necessary that we die daily. The desires, thoughts, and ambitions of our soul must be subjugated to the will of the Father. We must walk according to the leading of the Spirit, not according to

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the natural course of this world.

All those who do so will certainly be considered odd. They will be met with many reproaches. In the hour when their commitment to obedience is producing in their being the greatest sacrifice, they will find the world, and a worldly church, casting condemnation at them. If they hurled insults at the Son of God as He was offering Himself as a sacrifice in obedience to His Father, will they not do so with all those who follow in His steps?

In closing the letter I wrote to this sister yesterday, I wrote the following:

I have been thinking recently whether we truly have a proper mindset in regard to suffering. We are Christ, for we are a part of His body. Yahweh has appointed a cup of suffering that Christ must drink.

I realize that suffering is appointed to us in this time.

Yahshua drank the largest portion of it, and then He has presented the cup to the rest of His body. Most have chosen to not drink from the cup at all. Yet a remnant have acquiesced. Some have sipped at it,

trying to only get a taste, but no more than they had to. It has been a mere remnant among the remnant that has had the mind to drink fully that the sufferings of Christ might be brought to completion and that they might set an example for others.

Are we not brought to a quicker death if we drink deeply? Christ's sufferings were intense, but short lived. Others have seemed to smolder like a wick all their lives. Their sufferings have never burst into flame, but Yahshua is so gracious that He will not even extinguish a smoldering wick. They will have to smolder a long time, however, before the work of purification is accomplished in their life.

Consider that the three Israelites who were cast into the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. They were in the furnace but a moment, and even then the visible Son of God was present with them. The more intense our trials, the greater the manifestation of the Lord we will be met with. He is near to the brokenhearted, to the sorrowful, to those suffering for righteousness sake.

So be encouraged sister. Suffer well with me as we embrace the cross God has appointed unto us. And

thanks for asking about my welfare!

Back in February of this year I was led by the Spirit to leave the mission after three years of service. The Lord has indicated that I am to prepare for a ministry of teaching. I believe I will be traveling and the Lord will provide open doors of opportunity. Yet even in this time of preparation the trials continue. I still find that I must die daily. The message the Lord has given me to proclaim is the message of the cross.

I am no glutton for punishment. However, I realize that suffering is appointed to us in this time. My great hope is that I might not resist this work, but that I might willingly drink deeply from the cup of suffering presented to me. This willingness is of itself a triumph, for it goes against the inclinations of the natural man. It is choosing identification with Christ above self-preservation.

I expect the trials will continue even as the Lord sends me out on the road. Yet I look to the Lord to walk with me through every trial. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Let us encourage one another with these words.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

[End of the book *Evidence of Things Unseen*]

The following writing is not from the preceding book, but I thought I would include it to fill out the remainder of this issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF. It too is an autobiographical writing, so it seems appropriate to include it here.

Yahweh Speaks Through a Heart Attack

Joseph Herrin (01-18-2008)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week I experienced a heart attack. It was an experience of chastisement by my Heavenly Father, and He was very present with me, speaking to me His thoughts the entire time. I wish to share with you the things He spoke to me, for in this experience there is a message for all of God's children in this late hour.

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This past Sunday, as I have done for several months, I led a Bible Study at the home of an older brother in Christ. The teaching given was titled “Possessing the Land.” This presentation has been posted to the Heart4God website, and I strongly urge all who have not viewed it to do so. The teaching reveals the parallels between Joshua leading the children of Israel in to take possession of the land of Canaan and the Christian taking possession of the land of his flesh under the leadership of Yahshua.

After the meeting I stopped by a Chinese restaurant on the way home and picked up some food for supper. Some months back the Father had told me that He wanted me to focus on losing weight, and He gave me a specific goal to attain to before my next birthday in May. I have struggled with weight issues most of my life, and for most of my adult life I have been brought to think about the matter of weight loss and eating a healthy diet, as the Spirit has brought conviction time after time.

This area of my life has been a real stronghold, as I find in myself a desire to eat many things that are not healthy, or profitable for my body. Like many Christians, I managed to ignore the still, small voice of the Spirit, and I put off until a later date becoming serious about the things the Spirit was speaking to me. I figured that I had time to attend to this area of my life before it led to any serious consequences.

As some of you know from reading the book “Evidence of Things Unseen,” back in 1998 I began to experience symptoms of diabetes. I had a very sedentary job as a computer professional, and with plenty of money I was very willful in the things I chose to eat. Over time my weight ballooned to 285 pounds, and eventually it led to my becoming diabetic. This got my attention, and at the Spirit’s leading I cut out fats and sugars from my diet and I quickly lost down to 235 pounds. All the symptoms of diabetes went away, and I became comfortable at that weight, and began to eat limited amounts of unhealthy foods while maintaining this weight.

For many years I saw no more consequences from my unhealthy eating habits. I was eating better than I had most of my life, but I still had not fully destroyed the stronghold of the flesh in this area of my life. In the

past year I began to feel tired at work, and when I drank coffee I felt my heart pounding in my chest, so I gave up coffee, and once more the Spirit spoke to me. About five months ago He gave me specific instructions to lose down to 165 pounds, and to surrender my eating habits to Him.

I became excited about the prospect of getting down to this weight and becoming physically fit, and Yahweh said He would give me great grace to attain to this goal. He also indicated that arriving at this weight would be preliminary to certain things happening in my life, including a release into a greater and more effectual ministry. I listened to the Spirit and began applying myself to attaining the goal He had set before me. I was reading books on healthy eating and lifestyle, and I threw out the things I could no longer eat. I began exercising, and I got a set of scales and began weighing myself once a week on Fridays.

The first 20 pounds came off quickly, and I began feeling more energetic at work, and healthier in general. Many other things were happening at this time as the Lord provided a projection system and opened the door for me to teach a local Bible study. He told me to begin putting presentations together, and I began doing so. Yet after losing the first 20 pounds I once more began to make compromises in my eating.

I was down to 215 pounds, and I felt better, and I reasoned that attention to this matter of losing weight was not as important as preparing the teachings the Lord had given to me. For a couple months my weight stayed the same, and even began to inch back up. My focus on the goal was on and off. I made some right decisions in eating, but I was making a lot of exceptions. This past Sunday I stopped at the Chinese restaurant and ordered chicken and vegetables on fried rice with egg rolls. Part of my choices were healthy, and I reasoned that it was good enough to get by.

This past week I experienced a heart attack.

That night, January 13th, I began to feel tightness in my chest, and my left arm began to ache. I was not

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able to lie down due to my heart pounding so hard, so I sat up in a chair all night. The Spirit began to speak to me about how I had lost focus in doing the things He had commanded me, and how I had been walking in disobedience. I was very chastened, and I confessed my disobedience, and asked for His mercy.

On Monday I was feeling poorly and stayed home from work. The Spirit continued to deal with me, relating what was happening to the message I had given the day before on establishing the kingdom of God within our beings by ruling over every enemy, casting down every stronghold, and fighting the good fight of faith. I realized that for all of my 46 years I had allowed a stronghold to remain in the land of my flesh, and I had made peace with it. God, however, had not. He would not rest until everything within me was brought under His dominion. My fleshly appetite for unhealthy food had not yet come under His lordship.

I had never felt so bad physically as I did Sunday night and Monday. God had gotten my attention. This matter

During this time I felt an extraordinary peace.

was all I could think about. I went and threw out some unhealthy food items that I had brought back into the house, and I went shopping and bought only those things I knew the Spirit had set His approval upon. I was much stricter in my selections than I had ever been before, seeking to be completely obedient to God.

Yahweh knew that I needed further chastening, however, as this was a mighty stronghold in my life, and I had let it remain in defiance to Him for many years. Monday night, January 14th, I began feeling even worse than the night before. The pain in my left arm increased. I could feel my heart laboring tremendously, and I had a slight feeling of nausea. I could not lie down, and once more sat in the chair in my room.

I considered calling a friend to let him know of my distress, and I considered whether the Lord would have me go to the hospital. I did neither, however, as I believed that this was a dealing of the Lord that I needed to place completely in His hands. As the night went on I was unable to sleep due to the discomfort.

My heart's laboring became more pronounced, and I could tell that my body was growing tired from the struggle. Between 2 and 3 A.M. I felt that I was reaching a critical point where God would either have to intervene and heal me, or my heart would give out.

During this time I felt an extraordinary peace. I knew I was under the chastening hand of God, and I had a sense of His great watchfulness over me. Although I felt alone in regard to human companionship, I knew I was in the presence of Yahweh. I reached a place of contentment where I was at peace whether my Father in heaven chose to take my life, or to spare me for further service and a more complete conformity to the image of Christ.

I keep my music on my laptop computer, which is connected to a stereo system in my room, and I felt led to turn it on to a playlist of songs which were all taken from the Psalms of David. As they played I found my soul agreeing with the words, and my prayer going up to the Father. One song was from Psalm 25, which contains the following words:

Psalms 25:1-11

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in You I trust,

Do not let me be ashamed...

Make me know Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

For You I wait all the day.

Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses,

For they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

According to Your lovingkindness remember me,

For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;

Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

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He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the humble His way.
All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
For Your name's sake, O LORD,
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

I knew I had failed to obey the leading of the Spirit of Christ all these years, beginning in my youth, but I also understood that Yahweh is a God of mercy and lovingkindness. I could trust Him even in discipline.

I was reminded of David when his sin led to a severe chastisement where he was driven from Jerusalem before his son Absalom. David responded with a humble heart, confessing his iniquity, and being content with whatever Yahweh chose for him. David said:

II Samuel 15:25-26

“If I find favor in the sight of Yahweh, then He will bring me back again and show me... His habitation. But if He should say thus, ‘I have no delight in you,’ behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.”

We can have no better attitude when confronted with the discipline of God. God takes no pleasure in judgment. He prefers that a man should repent, as His goal is always that righteousness and holiness be formed within His children. Yet, at times, our stubbornness requires that Yahweh deal with us severely.

As I endured the struggle within my body, my soul found comfort in the Psalms of David. Another song came on that the Spirit used to speak clearly to me.

Psalms 30:5

For His anger is but for a moment,
His favor is for a lifetime;
Weeping may last for the night,

But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

As I listened to the words of this Psalm I felt encouraged that Yahweh would bring me through this trial victoriously. Some time around 3 A.M. I fell asleep. When I awoke in the morning the pressure in my chest, and the great laboring my heart had known, were dissipated. I felt greatly improved.

I was mindful that Monday was the 14th, a number denoting transition from one state to another (See Matthew chapter 1). I felt that the Spirit was signifying that this stronghold that had ruled me all my life would rule over me no more, for I had learned the fear of the Lord, and I understood His commitment to bring me to victory over every enemy in the land. Tuesday as I awoke feeling better was the 15th of the month. This is 5+5+5, signifying a fulness of grace.

I worked half a day Tuesday, and a full day Wednesday and Thursday. I still experienced a dull ache in my left arm, and a slight discomfort in my heart, for Yahweh has allowed these to remain as a reminder that I am to walk very carefully in this area of my life. I am filled with peace, however, knowing that God is watching over me to bring me forth to victory in every area of my life, and to bring everything within me under the dominion of His authority.

This chastisement of the Father has actually given me a hope...

This chastisement of the Father has actually given me a hope that I previously lacked. Formerly I had doubted that Yahweh would give me victory over every area of my life that has been a source of trouble, leading to sin. Now I am confident that He will not rest until He brings me forth into complete victory, and that no enemy in the land of this flesh can stand before me as I follow Yahshua into battle.

He has also let me know that this is the message that He wants proclaimed in these days. He wants His children to walk holy and perfect before Him. He is not content for any area of our lives to remain in willful disobedience to His leading. He will judge His people, and He will chastise all who are allowing strongholds

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of sin to remain in them.

I share a house with a man who is not a Christian. Monday, as soon as I had returned from buying healthy food, my roommate came into the house and he had also been to the store. He said that he had bought cookies and ice cream for me. I told him I could not eat them, but he insisted they were for me. I replied that I had to eat things that were healthy, as my body could not take anymore unhealthy foods. Right after this he came to me and said he had bought two new movies, and he gave me one to watch, and later he brought me the other.

As soon as he presented the movie to me the Spirit spoke and showed me that the world is not only offering

Yahweh is warning His children that we must cease feasting on the refuse of the world...

God's children things that are unhealthy for their bodies, but things that are unhealthy for their souls, as well. I returned the movies to my roommate without watching them. The Spirit impressed upon me that even as He is serious about the things we feed our bodies, He is even more concerned for what we feed our souls. Disobedience in the latter will bring forth His judgment and chastisement as surely as my disobedience in the former brought on a heart attack.

I had often been in the habit of watching T.V. after work. This too had been an area of my life that I had struggled with for as long as I have struggled with my eating. There had been times when I fell under conviction, and for some years I did not even allow a television in my house. However, I had compromised in this area, and I had watched many things that were impure, and an offense to a holy God. Although in recent years I had been selective about the things I would and would not watch, there was as much mixture between obedience and compromise with the flesh in this area as there had been in the area of eating.

Yahweh has been signifying that great judgment is coming to those who continue to feed on things that are unclean. A sister in Christ recently sent me a link to an article about a group of bald eagles that began to

feed upon refuse left in an open trailer at a fish processing plant in Alaska. The eagles began to eat this fish refuse and they became covered in slime and were unable to fly. Some of the eagles began to freeze, and some were crushed among the refuse. The last update I read on this story said that 22 eagles had died. This is once more a number denoting judgment upon the flesh.

This sister wrote the following insight concerning this story:

It is such a picture of our nation - feasting on garbage, being covered with slime, and finally succumbing to it.

It is also a picture of the church. Yahweh is warning His children that we must cease feasting on the refuse of the world, or we will be covered in sin and no longer be able to rise above the depravity that is in the world. Already many saints have succumbed to the sin they have fed upon, and many lives have ended in spiritual death and ruin. The hour is late. Yahweh is sternly warning all His children to separate themselves from the world and its corruption.

We must be radical in our determination to live sanctified (set apart) lives that are pleasing to the Father. It is not necessary for God to bring His children to the point of death before they will repent and change direction. He will deal with us according to the stubbornness within us. Those who are humble and respond quickly to the conviction of the Spirit need not experience a harsh correction. As the Psalmist declared:

Psalms 32:9

Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.

God will jerk our head around forcefully if that is what is required. Yet we can make ourselves sensitive to His voice where such force is not needed. We can choose to obey when we hear that still, small voice speaking

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to us.

I urge all who read this to consider that Yahweh has given us the illustration of Joshua leading the children of God in to take possession of the land of Canaan as a pattern and instruction for our own lives. Yahweh is determined that we drive out every enemy in the land, and bring everything under His dominion.

Many on this mailing list know that God has called them to be ministers in the last days, leading others to repentance and righteousness. Understand then that all who would be used of the Lord in coming days must themselves be set apart as vessels of honor fit for the Master's use. We must flee from all that is unrighteous. We must respond with great focus when the Spirit points out some enemy in our land that He wants us to exercise dominion over. If we would rule with Christ as overcomers in the age to come, we must first rule with Him over this flesh until we can declare that "the kingdom of God is within [us]."

I would once more urge all those who have not read the writing "Possessing the Land" to do so. You can find this writing here: . In it you will see the desire of God for His children to place every enemy under their feet.

In closing, I desire to allay the concerns of those who are startled by my health issues, and my choosing to not see a doctor. It is difficult to not be influenced by the attitude of the world concerning almost all things. One thing that the world manifests is a fear of death. Death for a child of God is not to be feared. It is something that all must experience. I am content to allow Yahweh to choose the limits of my life on earth. I would that we might all have the attitude expressed by the apostle Paul when he said:

Philippians 1:21-24

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

I do look to that day when I can depart this life and go to be with Christ. Yet, I also desire to complete the course He has chosen for me. I desire to depart on a note of victory, rather than on a note of defeat. Any child of God who can say, "For me to live is Christ," can also say, "and to die is gain." The Lord knows I desire to be found pleasing to Him. He showed me Monday night that there is no fear in death. Let us all seek to live a life of obedience that at our appointed time we might face death with neither fear nor sorrow.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

Joseph Herrin

Yahweh Speaks Through a Heart Attack - Part 2

Joseph Herrin (1-19-2008)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Yahweh has used this recent experience of a heart attack to speak many things to me. It has been a time when His voice was very active, and He used a number of saints as His instruments to speak through, without them knowing how their words were being used. In the previous e-mail I spoke of the sister who sent me her comments on the 22 eagles who perished while feeding on refuse. There have been others whose words were very timely, and which the Father used to bring insight, and I will share a couple of them presently.

I desire to depart on a note of victory, rather than on a note of defeat...

As I was going through this experience I received a correspondence from a precious sister in Christ who questioned me concerning comments I had made regarding the role of the Law in the life of the saints today. She was very gracious in her questioning, and she asked the following:

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How does one teach their children about believing and following the Messiah without teaching them that it is a sin to steal, lie, commit adultery, bow before idols, eat the proper diet and etc? There are those in churches that teach the Law is null and void... Without law what do you have?

Without the Law how do we know what sin is?

The sister in Christ who wrote this has children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Her questioning arose from a sincere motive of wanting to teach them to walk in a manner that is pleasing to the Father. The Lord used the correspondence between the two of us to speak something profound to me that I needed to hear. I am therefore going to include other portions of our communication here that you might more fully understand what it is the Spirit of Yahshua is declaring.

I wrote the following to this sister in response to her query.

Dear Sister,

I believe that this one question lies at the heart of all that you have commented on here, and is the basis behind all your other questions. Some who hear a teaching that declares that Christians are no longer bound by the Law, assume that lawlessness is being taught. I am assuming that you have read some of the teachings on the Heart4God website that reveal that such an idea is the antithesis of sound doctrine. The second book I wrote was "SABBATH." This book reveals that the high calling of all Christians is to enter into the Sabbath rest of God which is defined as no longer doing anything of our own initiative, but living to do the will of the Father.

In this book, Christ is shown to be the pattern for the Christian. Yahweh is seeking to conform us to the image of His firstborn Son. This firstborn son declared the following:

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative... I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 12:49
"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak."

This is Sabbath rest; when we come to the place where we no longer do anything of our own initiative, but we live to do the will of the Father. This is not lawlessness, but total submission to the rule of the Father. It is becoming one with His will and desire, with no striving, no sin, no rebellion. It is Yahweh's desire for His children that they come to an end of all self-initiative, and that they be directed by Him in every action and every word.

The Law is limited in many ways, and was never intended to be the perfect solution to bring man into Sabbath rest.

The Law was limited in that it could not produce in us the spiritual life necessary to perform the will of the Father.

Galatians 3:21
For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

The Law was limited in that it entered through man's flesh, rather than through man's spirit.

Romans 8:3-4
For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The Law was limited in its ability to make known the mind of God.

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Matthew 5:21-22

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two."

Matthew 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

In each repetition of the phrases "You have heard..., but I say," Yahshua was revealing that the Jews had not arrived at the perfect mind of God through their study of, and focus on, the Law. Men tend to focus upon the letter of the Law while neglecting the spirit of the command. Yahweh wants us to be perfect as He is perfect. There is a VAST DIFFERENCE between serving the letter of the Law and being conformed to the Spirit of Christ.

II Corinthians 3:6

It is He Who has qualified us making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant of salvation through Christ, not ministers of the letter of legally written code but of the Spirit; for the code of the Law kills, but the Holy Spirit makes alive.

The Law could tell us that these things are not the will of God. The problem is a man may think he is righteous, having kept the Law of God, if he has not stolen, lied, committed adultery, or murdered. Yet a man can refrain from doing all these things and still not love his neighbor. A man can do such things from a desire to be self-righteous, or from a false understanding that such things will merit the approval of Yahweh. Yet these things are legal code, and they are often distanced from the spirit from which they arose. The Spirit behind the Law was one of love for God and love for one's neighbor.

Yahshua said all the Law and the prophets were summed up in the two great commandments to love God and love one's neighbor. Many men do not love as God would have them love, yet they believe they are righteous because they have not stolen, or lied, or murdered. Only the Spirit of Christ can produce the love of God in the heart of a man or woman.

Only the Spirit of Christ can produce the love of God in the heart of a man or woman.

Romans 5:5

Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The Law was imperfect and it made nothing perfect.

Hebrews 7:18-19

For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

God has set aside the Law because something better has come. God has put aside that which was temporary and weak, because that which is permanent and powerful has come. What is it that has replaced the Law in the role of revealing righteousness; in making known the will of God; and in producing in us the very life of God?

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The Spirit convicts of righteousness.

John 16:7-8

I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...

The Spirit makes known the will of God.

Isaiah 30:21

Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

The Spirit leads us into all truth.

John 16:13

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

The Spirit teaches us all things.

I John 2:27

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

The Spirit empowers us to put the flesh to death.

Romans 8:13

If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The Spirit produces in the child of God the desire to do His will.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and

desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

(Amplified Bible)

When I instruct the saints that they are no longer bound by the Law, I always do so to lead them to that which is superior in every way, the SPIRIT OF GOD. If a child of God is led by the Spirit they will not be lawless. On the contrary, the Spirit will only lead a child of God to be completely obedient to the will of the Father. In all the things listed above concerning the Spirit of Christ, the Law could only perform a partial work, or no work at all. The Spirit is that perfect thing that has come. Those who walk according to the Spirit do not need to hold onto that which was temporary and imperfect. We have been given liberty as sons of God to be directed by the Spirit residing within us. We need no longer be held in check by an external set of laws. The Spirit brings the perfect law of liberty. The Law brings bondage.

Galatians 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

How then do we answer your question:

We know both sin and righteousness by the Spirit Whom Christ sent to us. The Spirit goes far beyond what the Law could ever do. It makes known the will of God in every decision, leading us in the way of life. The Spirit goes beyond the ability of the Law in producing in us the desire and the power to perform the will of God. The Spirit brings life!

I hope these words will allay your concern that I am teaching the children of God to become lawless in their conduct. Far from it. I am teaching them to be conformed to the image of Christ who ever lived to do the will of the Father. Listen to what the apostle Paul said concerning the Law:

Hebrews 7:19

The law made nothing perfect...

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Compare this with the command of Christ.

Matthew 5:48

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

If we are to become perfect, it will not be through the Law. Only the Spirit of Christ can present men perfect before God.

[End Letter]

This sister in Christ has been teaching her family to be Torah Observant, which is to keep the Law of Moses, in order that they might live lives pleasing to God. She wrote me a very gracious response, and in it she shared the following, which is what the Spirit used to speak to me.

We find that the biblical dietary laws work very well. We eat no pork or beef. No sea food except fish with fins and scales.

This family has been blessed with great health because they have sought not only to follow the dietary laws of the Old Testament, but they have also been sensitive to the leading of the Spirit in avoiding chemicals and other unprofitable foods of which the Law does not speak. It is pretty amazing to hear that her mother BEGAN a 25 year career at the age of 62, an age when most people are retiring.

Have I been wrong, then in telling people that we are no longer bound to the Law, but are to be led by the Spirit of Christ within us? No! Not at all! The Spirit spoke the following to me as I read this sister's e-mail.

The children of God are no longer bound to the Law, as the Scriptures declare:

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

When Christ died, having fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the Law, we died with Him. Through death we were released from the covenant of Law, and we have been made partakers of a new and better covenant of the Spirit. Our problem arises when we consider ourselves dead to the Law, but we do not come under the rule of the Spirit of Christ in us.

Let me say that again, "Our problem arises when we consider ourselves dead to the Law, but we do not come under the rule of the Spirit of Christ in us."

If we lay aside the Law only to be led by our own intellect and desires, then we truly become lawless people. This was my condition in regard to the foods I chose to eat. I had laid aside the Law's commandments, but had failed to come fully under the leadership of the Spirit of Christ in regard to the food I ate. It was not that the Spirit was not speaking to me regarding what I chose to eat, but that I chose to follow the desires of the flesh. I had become lawless in my eating, and I reaped the consequences in my body.

If a child of God is led by the Spirit they will not be lawless.

The Spirit is expressly testifying that we are not bound by the Law of Moses, but we are bound to obedience in Christ under the direction of His Spirit which resides in each believer. The Spirit will lead us even more exactly to obedience than the Law was capable of doing. This is seen in the testimony of this sister who wrote to me. The Law could tell us to not eat fat and blood and various unclean animals, but it says nothing of the use of chemicals, and sugar. Yet the Spirit has directed them to make right choices in areas in which the Law is silent, and they have reaped the rewards of obedience.

Recently, the Spirit has testified to me that I am to remove fats and sugar and salt from my diet, and to eat much more fresh produce, fruits and vegetables. He has directed me to avoid red meats, and to eat baked fish. He has also led me to exercise, and has even provided an elliptical trainer at a small fraction of its original cost. The Spirit is able to lead us very

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specifically, and He will do so if we listen to His voice.

My failure was not that I had come out from under the bondage of the Law, but that I had not submitted to

I had not submitted to the Lordship of Christ through His indwelling Spirit.

the Lordship of Christ through His indwelling Spirit. There are a number of things Yahshua has spoken to me as His Spirit has illuminated some passage of the Law of Moses. The Law forbid the people to

eat the fat of animals, as well as describing many animals that were not to be eaten.

The Law says that only animals who chew the cud and have a split hoof are clean. Only seafood that have fins and scales are clean. I do not teach any saint that it is a sin to eat such foods forbidden in the Old Testament, yet the Spirit is declaring that it would be unprofitable for any believer to make such things a regular part of their diet. This is what Paul expressed in the following verse:

I Corinthians 6:12

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

There are things that are not profitable for us to consume. They are not unlawful, but a Christian should not be mastered by anything. I had an appetite for unprofitable foods that was acting as my master and keeping me from obedience to the rule of the Spirit. Yahshua is not content that we should be mastered by anything. He wants us to learn to be Spirit led in all things, including the foods we eat. Christ was so perfect in this that even after He had fasted for forty days, He would not of His own initiative find a provision for His hunger by turning the stones into bread. Instead, He waited on the Father to reveal His provision for Him.

Our Father in heaven is working to conform us to the image of His firstborn Son. Yahshua always walked after the leading of the Spirit of God Who was within Him. This is our goal.

The Spirit is testifying that we will get into great error if we lay aside the Law while neglecting to be led by the Spirit. This will truly result in a condition of lawlessness, and lawlessness brings judgment.

A brother in Fort Wayne, Indiana also wrote to me recently, before I had sent out any writing on the eagles who had died while feasting on refuse. Yet the Spirit was declaring to him the same message. He shared with me that on two consecutive days the Spirit spoke to him the following messages.

1st Word: "My Spirit is grieved over all the abominations that are done in this land, but what grieves me more is that my people who are called by my Name are not grieved over such wickedness. Hearts have become calloused and the love of most has waxed cold. Who will stand in the gap and plead my cause in the earth? Who will blow the trumpet in Zion and call sinners to repentance? The kingdom of Heaven is at hand and it is time to cry aloud and spare not and command all men everywhere to repent. You must work while it is still today, because night is soon coming when no one can work. Time is short. Do not delay. Pluck as many from the fire as possible before it is too late."

Note: This word reminded me of the passage in Ezekiel 8 and 9. If you recall, the Lord sends out six destroying angels to slaughter everyone that is not grieved of the sin being committed in the city (see Ezekiel 9:4). May we all grieve and lament the detestable practices done in this land.

2nd Word: "Preach to all with ears to hear. Tell them that tribulation is coming. Make straight paths for your feet. Prepare the way of the Lord. For He who is coming will surely come and will not delay until He makes His enemies His footstool."

Let me share again, the Lord is concerned that we be careful what we eat both physically and spiritually. The more important matter is what we feed our souls. There is much that is unprofitable and spiritually unhealthy that is being offered up by this world for the saints to feast upon. Many are doing so, but like the eagles who perished and lost the ability to fly, so too will dire consequences be incurred by any saint that

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continues to feed upon the corrupt, sinful, and unprofitable things of this world.

Brothers and sisters, the hour is late. The Lord is soon to return, and before His return will come a day of great tribulation. He would spare as many as possible the judgments to come upon those practicing sin. I am grateful that He has disciplined me as a son that I might share in His holiness. I encourage all who read these words to “pursue righteousness, pursue humility, that perhaps you may be hidden in the day of Yahweh’s anger” (Zephaniah 2:3).

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

Joseph Herrin

Brothers and sisters, the hour is late. The Lord is soon to return.

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PARABLES PRECEPT— The Bible

BIBLE STUDY



GET INTO THE WORD!

The Old Testament of the Bible is often categorized by theologians in divisions of books. Some of the common categories are Law, Historic, Poetic, and Prophetic books.

Christ spoke of the Old Testament as “the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 7:12

“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Luke 16:16

“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached.”

We see in these words of Christ that there is a shift in the message of God to mankind from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The Old Testament Law and Prophets looked forward, however dimly, to the coming of the Son of God. Since Christ came a new message of the kingdom of God is proclaimed.

The word Gospel literally means “good news.” When Christ came He proclaimed a new message.

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Christ commissioned His disciples to proclaim this same message.

Matthew 10:7-8

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.”

This was a new message of power. It is a message of victory.