

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



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 2.15.1

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

Meat From the Meek

Meat from the Meek - Part 1

Joseph Herrin
(03-14-09)

Yahweh perfectly orders our steps. He brings into every life experiences of sorrow and joy, perplexity and understanding, that which is good and that which appears evil.

Yahweh also brings a variety of people into our lives. Though widely different in character and experience, there is a purpose for every encounter, a reason for every conversation.

I have known many difficult experiences over the years, and I have met many people who, like Joseph's brothers, would gladly be rid of me, especially if they saw some worldly profit in the transaction. There have been plenty of relationships with men and women that

have brought pain and sorrow into my life. Yet God is not unjust that He would give us all bitter without some sweet.

Over the years I have been blessed to come to know some very precious men and women. I have known some of whom the world is not worthy. They have appeared in my life as lights in the midst of darkness. They have been wells of refreshing in a dry and weary land.

I want to tell you about one particular man through whom the Father has refreshed my soul on many occasions. He is a nobody. You will not recognize his name. You would

probably think nothing of it if you passed him on the street. Yet I am fully persuaded that he is a precious vessel whom God has fashioned for honor. He is an exceedingly rare find among men for he has embraced a fiery path of refining. He has gone to the cross and has remained willingly in order for the Father to complete the necessary work of subduing the passions and desires of the flesh, and bringing an end to the self-life that arises from the soul.

I have known Brad Daugherty for some time. He used to reside in Georgia with his wife Jaylene and his son Brodie. Some years ago the Lord directed them to

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move to Wyoming. I considered it a testimony of the Father's estimation of this brother that when my wife experienced a crisis of faith and departed from me some five years ago, the Lord directed me to drive two thousand miles and to spend a week with Brad and his family in an hour of much pain and darkness in my life.

At the time I understood that God had fashioned a man who was exceedingly humble, and very careful in seeking to know the mind of the Father. Yahweh is intent upon fashioning sons after the image of Christ, yet few are making significant progress in this hour of spiritual paucity. The cost of conformity is exceedingly high, and a sensual generation abhors the working of the cross.

Because Brad has submitted patiently over a prolonged period of time to the cross appointed to him, he has developed many evident characteristics of the Son of God. One such characteristic is a slowness of speech and an aversion to judging by sight.

Isaiah 11:3-4

And He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge...

There is only one way to judge with righteousness. We must have the mind of Christ. The majority of Christians today know little of judging righteously. They have adopted a set of doctrines and formed a moral code through which they judge all things. When they observe a situation they process the information in the natural mind, comparing actions and outcomes to the moral code they have embraced, and a judgment presents itself to their mind.

Tragically, in a great many instances, the saints who operate in this manner end up condemning that which God has justified, and justifying that which God has condemned. Judging by the letter of the Law, they bring forth death rather than life.

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.

[Amplified Bible]

If you do not understand the difference between judging by sight and hearing, and judging by the Spirit, I would recommend to you the writing *Are You Judging Righteously*. I do not want to spend too much time on this topic here, but it is necessary to comprehend the matter to understand why God sent me to Brad's house at this particular time in my life. You can find the article here:

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id192.htm>

Consider for a moment the outward appearance of my life at the time. Six years earlier the Lord had directed me to leave my employment as a computer professional and to minister full-time through writing via an Internet ministry. I had no church to support me, and was not attending any church. In those six years since casting all over into the hands of God and looking to Him for all the needs of my family, we had experienced many things both good and bad.

God had been faithful and had never allowed us to go without food, or shelter, or any necessary thing. Yet our lives and manner of living were much different from the majority of Christians in America, and very different from our previous experience when I was employed as a computer professional.

We were often in financial peril, looking to God to come through lest we suffer the lack of some necessary thing. We had to constantly pinch pennies. We did not eat the meats and rich foods we had formerly dined upon, but ate a much more basic diet most of the time. We moved frequently in those years, possibly as many as fifteen times in a six year period. We sold off all of our possessions save a few

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things necessary for living. We did not have the money to buy new clothes as we once had done, but made do with wearing the clothes we had longer, buying second hand clothes, and my wife even sewed her own dresses.

We had no health insurance, and I desired none, for God had said that He would be our health if we would look to Him. We had no savings, living day to day. Many who observed our lives, whether family, or friends, or Christians, judged me to be deceived, for they had been taught to believe that those who walk with God will always be supplied with an on-time abundance of the goods of this world. In an hour when a prosperity doctrine influenced the minds of the least to the greatest, the man who did not provide abundantly the world's goods for his family was considered to either be lacking faith, or to be walking in sin.

When my wife experienced a crisis of faith and chose to leave me, it was the judgment of all around me that I was a great transgressor and I had brought this distress upon both myself and my family. In the months after my wife departed I was homeless for a period of five months, living out of my car and a small tent along with my family's two dogs. I spent two forty day periods camping in the Oconee Forest of Georgia, with little food or water, and I lost over forty pounds during this five month period.

At the end of five months of homelessness, the Spirit of Christ directed me to go to a homeless shelter and ask for lodging. I ended up living in the homeless shelter for a year.

Upon seeing such a man, and examining the matter by sight and hearing, what conclusion would you arrive at? Would you consider the man to be pleasing to the Father, or a great transgressor? Would you believe He was following God faithfully, or that he was deceived?

I do not share these things to justify myself in the sight of man, for I am aware that many who hear such a description will arrive at a very negative con-

clusion. They would not applaud me, but rather condemn. The more gracious and patient saints may simply withhold comment, or scratch their head in wonder.

It was at a very low time in my life when I appeared on the doorstep of Brad Daugherty. He had not seen me in a couple years, and we had only met in person very briefly. Yet it was to this man's house that God directed me while I was experiencing the greatest loss of my life. My wife and son had left me, and my daughter was to be separated from me for a period of time. I had already been stripped of earthly possessions, and God had even informed me that it was His will for me to lay aside the ministry of writing that He had called me to six years previously.

I was an empty man. In God's great grace and mercy He sent me to the doorstep of another man who had been emptied. Brad too knew the cost of discipleship, and he had not shrunk back from it. The long dark night of the soul had worked a great change in his life, and he did not judge this brother who appeared on his doorstep as some had, an object of hissing and derision to be abhorred. He invited me into his home, and it became to me a sanctuary of peace and rest. My soul which was storm tossed and weary at the time, found solace and comfort in the presence of Brad and his family, for they did not judge, but with quiet grace they became a channel of God's comfort when I sorely needed comforting.

I shared my heartaches and struggles with Brad. I wept while at his house. And I was able to come to a place of giving all over into the hands of God. As Abraham, I laid the sacrifice on the altar, despite great sorrow in my heart.

I considered at the time that there was a reason God sent me on a journey of thousands of miles at that time. Broken vessels who have embraced the cross are in short supply. They are few and far between. Such men and women are exceedingly rare in a land in which Christians have despised the cross and have sought to cling tenaciously to all the comforts and pleasures that the world can afford. When

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Christ hung on the cross there was only one of His twelve disciples who was there with him. All the others had scattered. The cross was a horror and an offense, and they could not understand it. I do not know that John understood it, but he would not be parted from the one his soul loved as He experienced the pain of the cross.

So too, it is rare today to find a brother who will stand beside us as we endure the spectacle and pain and loss of the cross. Close associates flee away. The religious revile and cast insults. Could it be that John was the only disciple to not die a martyr's death for his soul had already gone through the bitterness of death as he watched his beloved Master die on the cross? There is a cross appointed to all who would be Christ's disciples. The church today has largely rejected the disciple's cross, thinking that it was sufficient that Christ suffered in this way. In doing so they have failed to become conformed to the image of the One who was perfected through suffering.

Luke 9:23-26

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. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits his soul?"

It has been my continued privilege to correspond with this brother since that time some five years ago. Whenever I correspond with Brad I am brought to consider deeper things of the spirit. My thoughts are directed to ponder weighty matters, and to see the experiences of this life in a light that is altogether different than the vast majority of Christians view things today. In this series of writings I am going to share with you some correspondences and writings I have received from this man of God. I use the phrase "man of God" intentionally, for he is truly one who sees himself as belonging to God and existing for His pleasure.

There are meaty things shared in these writings and letters, and those unaccustomed to solid food may find it difficult to process. Yet for those who are mature, and those who long for the taste of something substantial and full of wisdom and life, the effort of chewing patiently on what is set forth will be well rewarded.

Brad has been led of the Spirit to separate himself from many of the distractions of the world, and does not have Internet access, a computer, or television. From time to time I will send him something I have written, and he will share appropriate comments and words of insight, most often hand written on note paper. I am going to begin with a recent letter that Brad wrote to me in response to some writings I sent to him.

Dear Joseph,

I pray you are doing well brother, and are at rest in our Heavenly Father's hands. If He is indeed the God of our circumstances, then He is Lord of them as well. They are His chariots, to lift us higher still, bringing us ever higher, into a life that has ascended above all that is of the earth.

As one writer I recently read put it, "No words can express the glorious places to which that soul shall arrive who travels the chariots of God... but they do not look like chariots. They look instead like enemies, sufferings, trials, defeats, misunderstandings, disappointments and unkindness. They look like juggernaut cars of misery... waiting to crush us into the earth; but they are really chariots of triumph in which we may ride to those very heights of victory for which our souls have been longing and praying. If we would ride on the high places, we must get into the chariots that can take us there."

Deuteronomy 32:11-13

He found him in a desert land... a howling wilderness; He encircled him, instructed him and kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its

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wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings... He made him to ride in the heights of the earth.”

Deuteronomy 32:26

There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides in the heavens to help you, and in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge.

The hallmark work, I believe God will accomplish in His remnant in these end days, is that work of the inner life, reigning supreme over that which is outward.

We often talk about judgment in these last days. There is that of course. But there is also love in loss. A love which causes the outward man to perish, yet the inward man to be renewed day by day. A love for which Paul said he had suffered the loss of all things, but considered them “rubbish,” that he may gain Christ Jesus.

The circumstances of the last days will become the ultimate chariots, I believe, which will cause us to ascend to heights thus far unknown. We will manifest corporately what Christ did on the cross. “Disarming” the principalities and powers of wickedness, “triumphing” over them, making a “public spectacle” of them. It is not a victory won by outward pomp and glory, but inward meekness and humility.

The same writer writes, “Our king essentially rose superior to His surroundings; and it is given to us who are reigning with Him to do the same. But, just as He was not a king in outward appearance, but only in inward power, so shall we be. He reigned, not in this, that He had all the treasures and riches of the world at His command, but He had none of them, and could do without them. And so shall our reigning be. We shall not have all men bowing down to us, and all things bending to our will; but with all men opposing and all things adverse, we shall walk in a royal triumph of soul through the midst of them.”

*I recently gave much thought to the aspects of the cross and sword after the presidential election. I could not escape the dramatic contrast between the great fall of one man and the meteoric rise of another. The Lord led me to read II Thessalonians 2:3. “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the **falling away** comes first and the man of sin is **revealed**.” I will not suggest in this letter that Barack Obama is the Antichrist. I will leave that for others to decide. My focus instead became what these two men represented symbolically in prophecy.*

President Bush was the most powerful “Christian” leader in the world. Barack Obama was a man who ascended to the heights at the expense of Bush’s great fall. Great hopes were placed on one man, as great despair built for another.

As I have mediated on this I have come to believe President Bush represents symbolically a Christianity who has tried to rule in the flesh, who lives in the flesh and glories in the arm of the flesh, the sword. They are caught up in a war against flesh and blood when the war is to be fought in the heavens. They have been much busy trying to establish moral law through earthly kingdoms, rather than heavenly law through transformed hearts.

Catastrophically, I believe, it has led to the ascension of an anti-Christ spirit that is mesmerizing the nation and the ends of the world. It is a Christianity inept to disarm and triumph over principalities of darkness because it glories in the flesh, and lives by the sword rather than dying to self and enduring the cross.

On the one hand I feel many will be deceived in this day in following after something which seems “good,” but comes of the devil as an angel of light. On the other hand I feel many will lose further sight of God by trying to continue to win in the flesh, even to the possible point of violence.

Then there will be those few who choose that nar-

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row way that leads to the gate of life. There is no greater victory than that which Christ wrought at the cross. May He lead us there that we would triumph over evil and soar in the heavenlies with Him. I believe God will raise up a church in these last days who will do just that.

What Satan meant for evil, God will use for good. God will use great loss, and great affliction, even the works of Satan, to become for us His chariots that lift us to the high places where the love of God reigns supreme. God will have His bride for His millennial return.

Your Brother,

Brad

Meat from the Meek - Part 2

Brad and I continued to dialog back and forth. We began to converse on the subject of the need of power in the life of the Christian. I began by sharing with Brad the following writing.

The Power of God to Accomplish His Will

Joseph B. Herrin (7-28-2003)

Just this morning the Spirit of Yahweh has revealed to me that a pattern is being worked out among His overcomers and called out ones that will lead to great power being released. This power will be displayed in the form of healing being performed, miracles being manifested, and tremendous signs and wonders occurring. These things are absolutely necessary in order for the purposes of God to be accomplished.

Many in the church, perhaps most, have come to the conclusion that the power of God is not really necessary. They are content to preach their messages and conduct their programs and make some mediocre

impact upon the world around them. Yahweh, however, has much more planned in soon coming days, and nothing short of the manifested power of God will suffice. He is seeking to raise up a people who will be to the praise of His glory, a people strong and mighty who will do exploits in the earth. He is seeking to have a people who will be renowned for their faith and love and holiness. Such a people will not be raised up by the effort of man, not even sincere men who love the Lord.

The vast majority of the church are blinded to their impotence today. They have not observed the lack of power present in the lives of the saints and in the ministries in which they are engaged. Satan is rampaging freely through the church, leaving death and destruction in his wake, having conquered the saints with false doctrines, deceptions, moral failure and a growing conformity to a darkened world. The tide of these things will not be reversed without power, and right now power is absent from the body of Christ.

Are you crying out for the Spirit to endue you with power? Do you even know that asking that your life and ministry might be attended with signs and wonders is both Biblical and necessary, and the reason that it is so lacking is that the saints have become content to not have it? "You have not, because you ask not." When was the last time you asked for power when you prayed to God, or when have you heard others asking for it? Yet it is absolutely necessary if a body of overcomers is to accomplish those things the Father wills to be done in this hour.

I want to show that the manifested power of God has always been necessary to accomplish His purposes. I think that some have developed a mindset where they have come to despise such power, thinking that true faith does not require signs and wonders. Such a mindset was foreign to Christ and the early church. The manifested power of God was given to bear witness to the truth and to testify to the people that the messenger and the message had their origin in Yahweh.

The early church was marked by a profusion of power, and they depended upon this power to ad-

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vance the gospel of Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah. The early church expanded greatly and made an impact largely due to the power in which she walked. Consider the following descriptions of Christ.

Luke 4:14

And Yahshua returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit**, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

Luke 4:36

And amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, "What is this message? **For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.**"

Luke 5:17

One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; **and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.**

Luke 6:19

And all the people were trying to touch Him, **for power was coming from Him and healing them all.**

Yahshua understood that this power was necessary to accomplish the task assigned to Him. He walked in great power, and He gave this same power to His disciples, for they too needed it to advance the Kingdom of God.

Luke 9:1-2

And He called the twelve together, **and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.** And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

This power continued after Pentecost as the Spirit rested in power upon the apostles and other saints. Yahshua commanded the church to not try to do the works of the Father apart from this power. He instructed them with great earnestness to wait for the endowment of power to come upon them. They were not to attempt to do the works of God in the strength of the flesh. They were to receive heavenly power.

Luke 24:49

"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but **you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"

Acts 1:7-8

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Only AFTER the power of the Holy Spirit had come upon them would the disciples of Christ be able to go forth as His witnesses to the world. What a tragedy has occurred that the church in these last days has become content with a powerless existence! The early church knew great growth and advancement because she had great power, and this is seen throughout the New Testament. The book of Acts is a book of power.

We would be wrong to think that because the Spirit is present among the saints today that the power of the Spirit is therefore present. The power is rarely seen today, and the apostle Paul declared that in the last days men would have a form of godliness while denying the power thereof. The saints of Laodicea may have truly been born of the Spirit, but they did not know the power of God in their midst. They falsely assumed that material possessions and great blessing and ease were a sign of their godliness, and

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they did not consider how poor and blind and naked they truly were. They were overcome by the world, rather than overcoming it. They were overcome by immorality and a pursuit of mammon, and truly the church of this hour bears the same marks.

Even as a church can deny that the gift of tongues is for the saints today, or the gift of prophecy, or the word of knowledge, they can also deny the power that is available from the Spirit. In their denial they will not see manifested that which they have despised. The early church relied upon expressions of God's power to see the gospel spread and the Kingdom of God increased.

Acts 3:1-8

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "***I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you:*** In the name of Yahshua Messiah the Nazarene -- walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Peter said that he did not have silver nor gold, but he was willing to give from what he did possess. What was it that he and John had that this lame man needed? They had received POWER from the Holy Ghost. The Jewish leaders recognized that Peter and John had power, and they questioned them about it.

Acts 4:1-7

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and

the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Yahshua the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. ***But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*** On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "***By what power, or in what name, have you done this?***"

By this one demonstration of power five thousand men were added to the church. The Jewish leaders wanted to know where this power had come from. The Jewish leaders were not winning five thousand converts a day. They were jealous of these men who were seeing such great effect to their ministry. They coveted such power, but it was not for sale.

The Jewish leaders threatened Peter and John to no longer preach in the name of Yahshua the Messiah, and, in response to the threats of these men, the saints prayed that God would give them even more power and even greater boldness to walk as witnesses of Christ.

Acts 4:29-31

"And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ***while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Yahshua.***" And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Notice that the saints did not merely ask God to give them boldness to preach the gospel. They asked that Yahweh would extend His hand to heal and to grant

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signs and wonders to take place. Why do we not ask for the same today? Do we need such attesting signs any less than these early saints? Some might argue that we have the complete Bible today, which the early church did not have. Yet there are many religions and cults today that have their own religious writings that they claim are divinely inspired. Do we have any less of a need for Yahweh to attest by signs and wonders that His book is the authentic book today, even as the saints of old needed God to attest to the fact that they were God's messengers bearing His message?

How badly we need to begin praying that God would grant that power would be given to heal and that signs and wonders might take place at the hands of His servants today. We need to have spoken of us what was spoken of the early church:

Acts 4:33

And **with great power** the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Yahshua, and abundant grace was upon them all.

We live in an age of hardened people and the church itself has become hardened against the will and mind of Christ. How futile it is for ministers today to speak truth to such a skeptical and wayward body of believers. True ministers everywhere need to cry out for a return of power to their ministries. How unusual would today's ministries appear to the apostles of old as they observed the lack of power. The apostles of old would surely get down on their knees and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be granted to today's ministers before they would encourage them to lift a finger to perform the will of God. Paul spoke of this power that was present in his own ministry.

I Corinthians 2:4-5

And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of **power**, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the **power of God**.

Ministers today have a need for people to witness the power of God that their faith should also rest upon a firm foundation. Paul also relied upon this witness of power to silence those who were detractors of his calling and ministry. He used it to prove who were true and false ministers.

I Corinthians 4:19-20

But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant **but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.**

Paul relied upon this power everywhere. He did not want the faith of those he preached unto to rest merely upon his words, but upon the attesting signs and wonders that God granted to accompany his preaching. Even Yahshua spoke to the people and told them that if they would not believe Him because of who He was, then at least they should believe due to the wonders He had worked among them. Yahshua testified that because He had done so many wonders among them and they did not believe that their guilt was upon them.

John 15:24

"If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well."

So hardened was the generation that Christ came unto that even though He raised the dead and healed many and cast out demons and performed many signs and wonders they would not believe.

John 12:37

But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.

If Yahshua performed so many works of power in the sight of the people, and He granted this same power to His disciples, and they too relied upon it in

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order to be His witnesses, then how can we possibly be His witnesses without this same power today? God used signs and wonders to attest to the authenticity of His messengers. He did not send His Son, and later the disciples, to proclaim a message that originated with Him and not give some sign that the message was truly from Him. The signs and wonders were Yahweh's stamp that these messengers were from Him.

Acts 2:22

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Yahshua the Nazarene, **a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst**, just as you yourselves know..."

The world we live in is filled with false prophets and false religions and cults. People are besieged with many, many voices all claiming to be speaking truth. Many are professing to be messengers of God. The servants of Yahweh just as surely need their words attested to as having their origin in the One true God as in any day since the time of Christ. Even among the church there is a mass of false doctrines that are being proclaimed, and those ministers that the Father would send forth to restore the church to a foundation of truth are faced with great opposition and many who speak arrogantly against them. Where words fail, power will prevail.

We err greatly by relying upon our feeble strength to accomplish the works of God. The apostle Paul confessed that his own appearance and speech was not impressive, but the deeds that he performed were a manifestation of the power of God.

II Corinthians 10:10-11

For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.

II Corinthians 12:11-12

Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

It was not merely apostles that were granted manifestations of the power of God. On Pentecost there were 120 saints gathered in the upper room, and of this number 108 were NOT apostles. Yet the Spirit came with power upon all of them and they all began to speak in other tongues which was a sign to the people in Jerusalem. In the book of Acts we read of saints who were not apostles that performed great signs and wonders.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of grace and **power**, was **performing great wonders and signs** among the people.

We should also note that the apostles' prayer for God to grant signs and wonders through the saints was a request for all those gathered, and God moved upon all of them.

Acts 4:29-31

"And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Yahshua." And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, **and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

The New Testament is a witness of the power of God being displayed through weak vessels. The power of God is despised and rejected today. To be despised means that something is given no attention, and the saints have given little attention to their need for the power of God to be manifested in their lives. Yet if

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we are to be witnesses of Christ today, then we just as surely need the power of God as did the saints of the early church. Yahshua revealed the pattern:

Acts 1:8

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Being a witness of God is preceded by receiving power. When Yahweh assigns man a task He also provides the power. He does NOT want His servants to attempt to fulfill the tasks appointed to them in their own strength. Moses was a man whose life clearly demonstrates this principle. At the age of forty Moses went out to see his fellow Hebrews, and we are told:

Acts 7:23-26

Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ***For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.***

At the age of forty Moses already knew that God had appointed him to the task of delivering his brethren from the hand of the Egyptians. Yet Moses thought that this work could be accomplished through his own strength. This Moses had many strengths. He was a powerful man in many ways, as is recorded in Scripture.

Acts 7:22

And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

What a temptation it is for ministers today to observe their own abilities and, knowing that God has

a call on their life, to believe they might be able to accomplish this call in their own strength. Like Moses they go forth to deliver the people, but no deliverance comes. It required forty more years on the backside of the wilderness for Moses to reach the place of humility where he would never again seek to perform the work of God through his own strength. So broken was Moses that when God called him at the burning bush Moses declared that God had chosen the wrong man for he could not even speak. No longer was he "mighty in words and deeds," for now he had been broken and placed no confidence in his flesh.

Yahweh has been taking many of His children through wilderness places of their own that they might be emptied of all confidence in the flesh. Many had a small and fleeting taste of entering into their calling, but what looked promising was suddenly cut off, even as was the career of Moses when at the age of forty he set out to deliver his brethren. Many know that God has called them to a task, but in the wilderness they have become so aware of the weakness of their own flesh that they have begun to doubt the vision. Their eyes have seen their own impotence and inability to accomplish a single thing for the Kingdom of God.

This place of awakening to our absolute weakness is right where God must bring us in order that He might bestow upon us His power. He will allow no flesh to glory in His presence, and He will have none of His servants taking credit for accomplishing anything of value through the power of their flesh.

After Yahweh called Moses at the burning bush, Moses proceeded to go to Egypt, and a very important event occurred.

Exodus 4:24-26

Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that Yahweh met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me."

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So He let him alone.

Circumcision is a symbolic removal of the flesh, and it speaks of a man not attempting to do the works of God through the power of the flesh. Moses had failed to circumcise the flesh of his sons, and God could not allow Moses to proceed to accomplish this great work until the flesh had been removed. There could be no mixture of the works of the flesh and the Spirit. All had to be done in the power of God that Yahweh might be glorified.

As God prepares a people to walk in great power in this day He must also do a thorough work of cutting away the flesh. There can be no confidence in the flesh, and no reliance upon the strength of man. Perhaps you know that God has called you to some great work, a work of deliverance, or a work to lead a people into their inheritance in Christ. He cannot accomplish this work through you until He has dealt thoroughly with your flesh, for the work must be one that is performed in His power, and He must receive all the glory.

Consider now that Yahweh did send Moses to bring the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt. Yahweh has also called His elect and overcomers to many differing tasks in His kingdom. When Yahweh sent Moses, He revealed His power through Moses. It was not Moses who delivered Israel, it was God. None could deny this, for all were witnesses of the signs and wonders and mighty miracles that God performed through this man. It was the power of God that brought Israel out, and it will be the power of God that accomplishes any good work in this day.

After the deliverance was accomplished, all who heard of it knew who had done it. After coming out of Egypt, Moses met his father-in-law Jethro and recounted to him all that God had done. Jethro's response reveals that the glory went where it should.

Exodus 18:10-11

So Jethro said, "**Blessed be Yahweh who deliv-**

ered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, **and who delivered the people** from under the hand of the Egyptians. **Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all the gods..."**

The pattern seen in Moses is being revealed in many of God's servants today. Many have been aware of their calling for some time, and some have attempted to enter into this calling in the power of their own flesh. What was begun was suddenly aborted, and then a wilderness period ensued where Yahweh has been working to break down all confidence in the flesh as He prepares vessels to receive His power. Many have begun to hear the call anew, only to experience a further flesh cutting. The power of God is coming, and the power is absolutely necessary. Let none think that the purposes of God will be accomplished apart from His divine power.

Many sons will soon be walking in unprecedented Kingdom power and authority. These will not glory in their flesh, but they will give all glory to God as He extends His hand to heal and to grant that signs, wonders and miracles be performed. Do not think that such power is unnecessary in this hour. Do not think that we have grown too sophisticated for such things, or have graduated to a level of faith and spirituality where this power is now optional. It is needed, for the flesh is powerless to bring forth the Kingdom.

Prayer:

Father,

Grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Yahshua.

Amen

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Meat from the Meek - Part 3

Joseph Herrin (03-18-09)

This post continues the correspondence between Brad Daugherty and me. Brad wrote me back and shared some excellent thoughts regarding the power of God revealed in the saints to empower them to bear the cross.

Dear Joseph,

Thank you so much for your recent letter and sharing your concerns... I can say with great assurance to your heart, that I believe it is impossible for an inward transformation of our hearts to occur without having outward results. Surely the word of God says to us, "out of (our) hearts will flow rivers of living water." If we are truly being transformed into the image of Christ, how can we not be a reflection of His beauty and worth to a dark and depraved world?

If you take into context the whole of what I have written you over the years, you will find a steady witness to an extraordinary word God is doing in His people for an extraordinary time. You will note it in such writings as *Blessed is the Soul that Waits*, *Can These Bones Live?*, and *Beyond Midian*. Surely there is an outward manifestation that can only come from an inward transformation. It is a people that have been raised from the graves by the power of God.

I have no doubt God will give His children an especial grace to walk in an especially difficult time. I believe we serve a God who prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies. I have no doubt He will attend us with miraculous provision, protection, and the spirit of power in word and deed. May it be so that many might be saved and come to the knowledge of Him.

With that said, however, I do not believe we can find any greater demonstration of the power of

God than that which we find at the cross. I can find no reference in the Bible where the principalities and powers are actually "disarmed," "made a public spectacle of," or "triumphed over," than that which Christ accomplished at the cross.

Colossians 2:13-15

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

I believe many opportunities will be presented to the remnant in the coming days which will afford us the opportunity to exhibit this heavenly grace. I do not necessarily mean martyrdom, but a detachment so complete that it would render the things of this earth and the voice of the enemy powerless to move us.

It is this demonstration to the principalities and powers of wickedness that I last wrote you. It is something very seldom taught about, nor thought about for that matter, but for this purpose the church was raised up.

Ephesians 3:9-10

God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places...

It is quite and extraordinary statement that I believe will come to its climactic summation in these end days.

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We surely have a role to play in this earth in the saving of many lives. But yet there is something more which His holy remnant must accomplish, which I believe will disarm the powers that rule the air in an ultimate way that will release the earth from its bondage and usher in the millennial reign of Christ.

I believe, little do we know, in the daily giving of ourselves to the cross we have a profound effect on the principalities and powers that rule over the areas in which we live. I believe this giving of ourselves has the power to move the heavens and to release the captives in the areas in which we live. There is a ministry to this unseen world in the heavenlies that has a profound effect on the cosmic battle between good and evil.

I think of Stephen gazing into the heavens as they stoned him. He stood in a power and love few of us have known. He stood in a power where only love and forgiveness flowed like rivers of living water from his heart in the face of horrendous evil. There was no outward deliverance for him, but a power nevertheless that shook the heavens and had a profound effect not only on a city, but ultimately a nation. There is no doubt it had a profound effect upon a young Paul and later I believe greatly contributed to his conversion.

*Ironically, when you wrote I was in the process of reading Richard Wurmbrandt's book *Tortured for Christ*. In it there is a story of a man who endured inconceivable torture at the hand of the Russians. Through it all He would not deny Christ nor betray his brethren. There was a steady witness of the love of God toward his captors. Finally, they brought his young son in and began to beat him before his eyes. Heartbroken, the man finally called to his son and said, "Andrew, I must tell them what they want. I cannot bear to see you beaten." The child called back, "Withstand father! Don not betray Him (Jesus). I would rather die than live and know my father betrayed His name." The remark so infuriated his tormentors that they savagely beat the child to death before the eyes of his father.*

There is no doubt a glory and power that rested on that child that had profound ramifications on the powers of heaven. I have no doubt that what looked to be evil's victory was to God's glory and went to great lengths to further the name of Christ in Romania.

Whatever graces God may allow in these coming days, whatever spiritual manifestations of His power and glory, must lead one back to the knowledge of His death. Christ crucified must be what is preached and demonstrated to those who are being saved and to the principalities and powers of the air.

The people of Jesus' day could not get enough of signs and wonders. No matter how many He did, it never seemed to be enough. Incredulously, after He fed the 5,000, they came to Him the next day seeking more bread, and yet another sign. They turned away from Him when He preached the very practical matter of turning away from their lives and coming to partake of His own. I believe they looked into the face of that humility and suffering and could not bear it. Maybe for the first time they finally realized the cost.

Similarly, after all the signs performed in Egypt, and the parting of the Red Sea, the Israelites turned back from God when they faced the purging of their soul in the wilderness and the testing of their faith.

I say this to simply point out that as wonderful and important as the signs and wonders are, they in themselves do not have the power of the cross to transform hearts. They are only tools in God's hands to bring one to the divine knowledge of the cross. The cross is the power that the enemy truly fears. It is why he goes to great lengths to discourage us at every turn. He knows in it lies the power to transform the caterpillar into a butterfly.

Now, before there is any misunderstanding whatsoever about this letter, let me say I realize you are keenly aware of the importance of the cross. You

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certainly don't need me to lecture you on its benefits... My intent has been to expound upon and clarify a question I have been asked. I, in fact, would welcome your insight and humbly submit what little insight I have in the matter to see if you have a witness in your spirit of these things. Maybe this demonstration to the principalities and powers would be something that would present itself as a subject you would present to your readers?...

As I sat and meditated on these things the Lord put on my heart to read the March 9th devotion in Streams in the Desert. It was almost verbatim the things both you and I had just written. I had no idea beforehand what the devotional would say. I pray you might read it also. We surely serve a precious God.

It is obvious we both have a very similar impression of things soon to come upon this earth, and feel there is a simultaneous work of extraordinary proportions being done in His remnant...

With Much Love,

Brad

Streams in the Desert (March 9th)

Descend from the crest. (Son of Songs 4:8)

Bearing the burdens of crushing weight actually gives Christians wings. This may sound like a contradiction in terms, but it is a blessed truth. While enduring a severe trial, David cried, "Oh that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest" (Psalms 55:6). Yet before he finished his meditation, he seems to have realized that his wish for wings was attainable, for then he said, "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you" (Psalms 55:22).

The word "burden" is described in my Bible commentary as being "what Jehovah has given you."

The saints burdens are God-given, leading us to wait upon Him. And once we have done so, the burden is transformed into a pair of wings through the miracle of trust, and the one who was weighted down "will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

[End Excerpt]

Meat from the Meek - Part 4

Joseph Herrin (03-19-09)

The last two portions of this series spoke of the power of God being manifested in two distinctly different ways. In part 2 the power of God manifested externally in signs and wonders was examined. In part 3 the power of God manifested internally in a life surrendered to the cross was in view. The apostle Paul declared that the church of the last days would lack power.

II Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ***For men will be*** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, ***lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.***

It is apparent from the context of Paul's words that the power that is denied by men in the last perilous days of this church age is primarily an internal power that is able to subdue the flesh in order to allow a spiritual creation to arise. The list of characteristics named by Paul are things that issue from the heart of a man. If a man will deny the power of God to be transformed inwardly, he will also find that the power of God revealed externally will be lacking in his life.

My brother Brad and I are not disagreeing about the merit and reality of an external power that is available to the saints of God. Such a power is found

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throughout the pages of the New Testament, being manifested by apostles such as Peter and Paul; by deacons such as Philip and Stephen, and by the church at large.

I agree wholeheartedly with Brad as he declares that there is a power found in the cross that surpasses all other power. A man who will subdue all the sinful passions and desires of the flesh, who will crucify the lusts therein, and embrace difficulty, suffering and even death in order to please God, has truly triumphed in the most profound way possible.

In the presentation titled *Possessing the Land*, I have shown that the entire account of Israel's efforts to take possession of the land of Canaan is a parable of man taking possession of the land of their flesh. Our bodies were formed of the dust of the earth, and in a very real sense, these bodies are a small patch of real estate. These bodies are full of every form of evil and wickedness, much like the land of Canaan at the height of its sin. In these bodies there are walled cities, giants and fortresses. Christians are called to subdue this wicked land and establish the kingdom of God by transforming their lives into examples of peace and righteousness.

This internal struggle to rule over the flesh forms a perfect parallel to the struggle of the children of Israel to conquer the land of Canaan. Even as God raised up a man named Joshua (Hebrew Yahshua) to lead the Israelites to victory, so too has He raised up a champion for the children of God today who bears the same name.

It is truly a greater manifestation of the power of God to establish the rule of God over the evil within us, than it is to do battle or perform great signs that are external to man. Solomon understood this, and wrote the following words.

Proverbs 16:32

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Many Christians today desire to have the power available to them to cast out demons, to heal diseases, and to perform miracles, yet they care little about transforming their inner life into a land of peace and righteousness. God will not entrust great power to perform signs and wonders to sons who are not waging war over the enemies within. Yahweh is perfect in wisdom and He knows that external power cannot be entrusted to the spiritually immature anymore than one would place a gun or a high voltage electric line into the hands of a baby. Such an act would result in injury to the baby, or to others.

The purpose of this present age is to train up sons in the image of God that they might be entrusted with glory and power in the ages to come. Yet there is an opportunity even in this age to walk in a foretaste of the powers of the coming ages.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come**, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance...

Those sons who have submitted to the work of the cross in their lives will be qualified to bear authority and power. In the Old Testament we observe no greater manifestation of the external power of God residing with man than in the life of Moses. It is not to be overlooked that this great power was bestowed upon a man that was testified by God to be the meekest man upon the face of the earth.

Numbers 12:3

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

It required forty years in the wilderness, enduring circumstances that humbled the pride of Moses, in order to produce this meek man. So too must the sons of God submit to trials and experiences that

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are very grievous to the flesh in order to be made ready to receive power and authority. Where there is not cross, there is no power.

Men today, even Christian men, are seeking power apart from the cross. I believe this is directly responsible for the rise in the interest in martial arts and guns and other carnal forms of power among Christians. It was recently reported that the church in Maryville, Illinois where a pastor was shot and killed was offering a Kenpo Karate course to its members.

Not long ago Sylvester Stallone made another Rambo movie where the plot portrayed him being hired by a Christian agency to rescue some of their workers who had been kidnaped by guerilla fighters. Rambo serves as a symbol of the power of the flesh. He is a master of weaponry and fighting, and overcomes evil by the power of the flesh.

Last year we also observed Chuck Norris appearing on-stage with Mike Huckabee during the Republican presidential race. Chuck Norris is another actor who portrays a martial arts expert who overcomes evil in this world by the power of the flesh. Through violence bad guys are subdued in droves. Chuck Norris is a professing Christian, but the power he exhibits has nothing to do with Christ. Why then was he chosen to lend support to the campaign of Mike Huckabee, a former Baptist minister?

Christians desire to have an appearance of power. The apostle Paul declared that in these last days Christians would have a form of godliness while denying the true power of God. Such Christians who despise the cross and suffering are seeking for a manifestation of power where they may find it. In martial arts, guns and violence, they have found a source of power that allows their flesh to continue in its pursuit of pleasure, but it has no ability to produce godliness.

This turning to the arm of the flesh for power is being observed in many alarming ways in the church today. Churches are hiring armed security guards to

patrol their property during services. Last year a female security guard at a church in Colorado shot and killed an attacker who was intent upon harming the members of the church. She was hailed as a hero, and the actions of the ministers who hired security were applauded.

People of God, there is NO Biblical support for such a reliance upon the arm of the flesh. Neither Christ, nor the apostles, nor the early church martyrs of whom Stephen was the first, sought to fight against evil. The victory of the Christian comes through submission to suffering, not waging war against evil men with guns and bullets. The saints of God must look to God to defend them even as the three men who were cast into the fiery furnace. They confessed the following to a wicked king.

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.

The victory of the Christian is found in placing their life in God's hands and letting Him choose whether we live or die. It is the will of God that many of His children die a martyr's death and receive a far surpassing reward for their obedience to His will. Christ is the believer's example and pattern for an overcoming life.

Acts 8:32

"He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He does not open His mouth."

I Peter 2:20-24

But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you

Meat From the Meek

patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 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...

Suffering and the disciple's cross are despised in this hour. A church that is addicted to endless pleasure and amusements will always gravitate to carnal forms of power, and they will employ it in ways that are contrary to the will of God. The overcomers have the following trait, they love not their lives even when faced with death (Revelation 12:11).

In coming days of calamity and distress when persecution arises against the church, a great divide will be observed. There will be a large group of Christians who respond with guns and bullets. They will form militias and seek to defend themselves through carnal means. There will also be found another group of saints. These will look to God to protect them, and should it be the Father's will that they suffer, and even die for their faith, they will accept the cost, entrusting themselves into the hands of the One who judges righteously.

I can say with all confidence that those who turn to the arm of the flesh to find power in this age will not be entrusted with the power of God. Following is a portion of a writing I received from Brad Daugherty some time back. Brad wrote:

*There is nothing more diametrically opposed to one another than the cross and the sword. The sword comes to change a man without. The cross comes to change a man within. The victory that Christ came to give was not procured through the heroism of the sword, but through the humility of the cross. **"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"** These were the words of Christ as they took Him to the cross. In*

other words, "This evil before Me today could be settled in a matter of moments if the answer were the sword, but the victory I come to give must go through the cross."

The cross then became a stumbling block for the Jews in the times of Christ, and I am afraid a stumbling block for Christianity and the world in the 21st century. The Jews looked for a Messiah wielding a sword, to deal with the oppressive evil of Rome and restore Israel back to its days of glory and prominence in the land. They did not look for a suffering servant, the meek and lowly Lamb of God, who did not come with a sword, but came with a cross. They sought a deliverance without. Christ came to deliver them from within.

*The eyes of our nation and Christianity itself do not seem to be on the mystery and wisdom of the cross... **II Corinthians 10:3 "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does..."***

*The world in its wisdom did not see the Messiah and recognize Him for who He was because He came clothed not in power, but in humility. **John 1:10 "He was in the world and the world did not know Him."** Jesus was a king, yet emptied Himself in nothingness, in poverty, unto death. Christ emptied Himself, bearing the shame of the cross, and was nailed between two thieves. This was the victory the world could not accept. This was the victory the world rejected. **Luke 9:23-24 "If anyone desires to come after Me, Let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."***

The cross presents a wisdom that contradicts all of our understanding of the meaning of victory. Yet it is in this apparent nothingness that we gain. It is in this poverty that we become rich. It is in losing our life that the love and Spirit of God fills us, and it is in all these things that the true transforming mira-

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cle of change really begins. In this way we bring the love and resurrection life of Christ into this world and are able to speak into the hearts of men.

[End Excerpt]

The Scriptures declare that “He who seeks to save his life shall lose it.” Christians are focused today upon saving their lives. They do not understand that the power of God is given that we might surrender our lives freely to be lived, and ended, in any way in which our Father might choose. God has an appointed cross for all of His children. This present age includes suffering. This suffering cannot be avoided by any who would receive the authority and power of the ages to come. Sorrow and tears and pain are the “first things” that all must pass through, and Christ came to show us the way.

Revelation 21:4

He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; *the first things* have passed away.

Two days ago a sister in Christ wrote to me and shared a word of prophecy the Father had given her for me. She said the fulfillment of this word was at hand. God was calling me to perform a ministry described in the following words of Scripture.

Acts 14:22

Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

I declare to you here, there is no other way to enter the kingdom of God. All must enter through tribulations. Those who seek to save their lives will abhor all tribulation. They will use every carnal means to avoid suffering. But the overcomers will love not their lives, even unto death. May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

"He did it with all his heart and prospered."

[2 Chronicles 31:21](#)

This is no unusual occurrence; it is the general rule of the moral universe that those men prosper who do their work with all their hearts, while those are almost certain to fail who go to their labour leaving half their hearts behind them. God does not give harvests to idle men except harvests of thistles, nor is He pleased to send wealth to those who will not dig in the field to find its hid treasure. It is universally confessed that if a man would prosper, he must be diligent in business. It is the same in religion as it is in other things. If you would prosper in your work

for Jesus, let it be *heart* work, and let it be done with all your heart. Put as much force, energy, heartiness, and earnestness into religion as ever you do into business, for it deserves far more. The Holy Spirit helps our infirmities, but He does not encourage our idleness; He loves active believers. Who are the most useful men in the Christian church? The men who do what they undertake for God *with all their hearts*. Who are the most successful Sabbath-school teachers? The most talented? No; the most zealous; the men whose hearts are on fire, those are the men who see their Lord riding forth prosperously in the majesty of His salvation. Whole-heartedness shows itself in

perseverance; there may be failure at first, but the earnest worker will say, "It is the Lord's work, and it must be done; my Lord has bidden me do it, and in His strength I will accomplish it." Christian, art thou thus "with all thine heart" serving thy Master? Remember the earnestness of Jesus! Think what heart-work was His! He could say, "*The zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up.*" When He sweat great drops of blood, it was no light burden He had to carry upon those blessed shoulders; and when He poured out His heart, it was no weak effort He was making for the salvation of His people. Was Jesus in earnest, and are we lukewarm?