

Passing the Baton 20
'You can hear the Voice of God'
Unblocking the well

6th December 2008

Today we are going to learn to still our hearts and hear what is happening deep inside us. God speaks to our hearts, not our heads, to the inner man of the Spirit.

Thanksgiving praise and worship are our entry point into the Presence of the Lord.

It's all about making a connection and engaging with Him, so we are going to be looking at what you are currently connecting or engaging with, and whether you need to pull the plug on that and connect with something or Someone, else.

Hearing God is **relational**.

Before we start, I want to run through some possible hindrances to hearing Him, so we get that out of the way first.

Apart from the obvious one which is occult involvement, the **number one** thing that will prevent you hearing Him is disobedience, delayed obedience is – disobedience.

It isn't just delay.

It is disobedience.

When we are in disobedience, He ceases to speak. So, if He has spoken continually to you about something, it may have been going on for years, and you haven't done it just settle it now, you are going to get that thing done and you will open the channel to hear Him again.

Second thing is any sin that is unconfessed is unforgiven.

Sin is dealt with; but on a day to day basis we must keep short accounts with God or our windows get dirty and we end up neither seeing Him nor hearing Him clearly. So don't make a labour of it, just let's ask the Holy Spirit to show you and you can do business with Him. We want to start the New Year with a clean sheet.

Number three will be attitude sins, am I angry, resentful with God or anyone else? Access your own heart now. Have a little look and be honest with yourself. Am I in unforgiveness anywhere? Am I disappointed with God Himself?

Number four; are there any relationships where you need to say sorry to someone? Or make restitution in some way for the fruit of the Spirit malfunctioning in you?

A new year is fast bearing down upon us and all I can hear the Lord shouting in my spirit is one word – relationship, *"I want My people to know Me, know Me"*.

Hearing God is relational.

The nearer I get to Jesus the less I have to shout!

Hearing is about connecting with Him through His indwelling Holy Spirit.

There is no short cut. He desires an *intimate* relationship with His people; for them to know Him as He really, really, is.

He created us to have a close relationship with Him and even after the Fall, Adam and Eve still heard His voice.

Genesis 3:8-10

*“⁸And they **heard** the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid** themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I **heard** Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I **hid** myself.””*

Adam continued hearing His voice after his rebellion in the garden; but he *mistrusted* God’s motives and was *afraid* of Him, so he hid.

Many of us relate to the Father in exactly the same way today with fear, apprehension and distrust. But Jesus said –

John 10:27

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me.”

John 14:9.

“If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.”

As I waited on Him for the agenda for next year, I found that the first, maybe four or even five teachings, will all revolve around our *relationship* with Him.

He wants us to understand where He has placed us, in Christ and what that means. That He has sent His Holy Spirit to indwell us, and what that means. *“Christ in you, the hope of glory”*

Colossians 1:27.

*“²⁷To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”*

Just as this year, the starting theme was submission to His sovereignty, so this coming year starts with intimacy in our relationship with Him.

- **January** finds us looking at the issue of Spiritual Warfare part III, all relational
- **February** ‘What’s a faith?’ What do we mean when we talk about believing God for something, or ‘being in faith’ over an issue? I have subtitled that ‘*Disappointment with*

God' - because that is what happens when we lack relationship and our prayers are not answered as we hope.

- **March** sees the title 'I have called you friends...' What exactly does it mean to be a friend of God? What are the implications of that?
- **April** finds us with another session on Spiritual Warfare as we explore the Majesty, Supremacy and Excellency of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
- **May** and we will be looking at what it means to be 'In Christ'. If we don't fully understand this, we will live out our lives in the wrong place, never coming into the fullness that Jesus won for us on the cross.
- **June** and we will be looking at 'Enjoying the journey' we think Concord, God thinks camel - how to reconcile ourselves to His way and His ways. It's all about You, Jesus!

We as His people must come into a full realisation of this fact; it is all about Him and our amazing eternal destiny as the Bride of the King of kings and Lord of lords. We are the eternal companion of a glorious King.

Today, I want to examine why we find it difficult sometimes to hear the voice of our Beloved, and to move us on into a place where in this coming year we walk with Him the intimacy and joy He so desires for us.

How would it feel to wake up every morning with anticipation of the excitement of watching Him work and wondering what He was going to do today?

Slight mindset change maybe?

The good is the enemy of the best.

Dullness is our number one enemy.

Monotony is number two and they are both rooted in -

Distraction:

Luke 10:38 - 42

Mary and Martha and example of Worship and Service:

*"³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was **distracted** with **much** serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has **left** me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things: ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.""*

“Martha, Martha, you are cumbered about with many things, but Mary has chosen the better part.”

Familiar story, Mary and Martha, we laugh about it, but I think sometimes we really miss what Jesus is saying here.

There was nothing wrong with what Martha was doing it was good, it was just – inappropriate - Jesus was there; and when He is there the appropriate thing is to be with Him, not running around seeing to everything and everyone, else.

It is apparent from the text that Mary had been with Martha, but sensing enough was done she left her sister and went to sit at the feet of Jesus, thus choosing the better part.

The good is the enemy indeed of the best.

Jesus stopped at Bethany one day and Martha bustled to fix his lunch and make Him comfortable. She chose to minister to His humanity. Martha would feed Him.

Mary stilled herself in worship before Him. She chose to relate to His divinity, to feed **on** Him.

Martha complains, *“Mary is not working, rebuke her Lord. Correct her, she’s got it wrong.”*

Instead of correcting Mary, Jesus commends her -

“Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken away from her”.

Martha’s life was cumbered about.

She had many **distractions** she was confused by many self-loves; convinced of her own abilities; lived in her head; marched in her self-sufficiency.

Mary was focussed – her attention honed and distilled to the one thing she considered paramount – the object of her love, Jesus.

She rested in her insufficiency and delighted in her inability.

She couldn’t work things out, and she knew it.

She did not choose because she knew to choose, she chose because of her need – she was totally aware of her own poverty.

She required Him as her supreme necessity.

Her soul recognised He was her existence, her heart believed He was her sustenance, her mind knew He was her reality. He was enough. To be with Him was - sufficient.

Mary let Him fill her; Martha filled her emptiness with - herself.

We are all made up of both Mary and Martha, there are things, tasks, jobs, and chores we must all do. But what if your daily tasks were done in companionship, in Bridal partnership with Jesus, and the awareness of the indwelling Holy Spirit?

How would that feel? What mid-course corrections would you need to make right now to make that possible?

To be in such communion with Him, through the Holy Spirit, that you never lost touch and you were always available to Him, He could help Himself to your life any time He wished, and you, you could always call on His wisdom in any situation and your life would be filled with His love, His wisdom, His rest, His grace, and His peace.

What if His life could be lived through you, in such a way that the greater works that He promised we would do, were manifested through you? What would that look like?

What would it look like to become accustomed to the miraculous in your life, to expect answer to prayer; to live in the heart of God each day? Just something to think about.

Maybe something to aim for in the New Year that lies ahead of us.

Martha Kilpatrick in her book *'Adoration'* says this about Martha –

"In God's family, 'flesh' become workers and 'spirit' become worshippers. Flesh is Martha's vain delusion - 'I know it; I can do it'. Spirit is Mary's instinctive reality 'I don't know, I can't do it, Oh God!'"

Mary and Martha represent the age-old conflict of flesh versus spirit.

Before we are born again, we are totally unaware of any internal conflict between our soul and our spirit. But once the Holy Spirit gives life to our human spirit and we are born again from above, the conflict begins. The soul, which is earth bound, wants to do one thing, the spirit which is heaven bound, desires something else. Your soul is always *'cumbered about with many things'*; your spirit is in a constant state of adoration of Jesus.

Flesh and spirit are at war, there are no longer two lives to be lived, but one, His through you.

Both cannot rule, and they cannot co-exist, they are incompatible.

One or other must be given the mastery.

We get to choose who we will serve, our soul, or the spirit. Mary and Martha.

In Genesis we see that Cain brought God an offering of the sweat of his brow – earthly - and it was unacceptable. Abel brought an offering of the flock of the field in accordance with God's instruction - spiritual. Cain was furious; he rose up against Abel and slew him. God rejected the offering of the work of Cain's hands, the labour of the fields, sweaty effort, He is not

interested in our vain attempts to do it ourselves and get the credit for it. Abel watched the flock, and in due time offered one, he gave back to God what God himself had done.

Worker or worshipper, you get to choose.

Age-old battle, Martha and Mary.

Do not be distracted:

Distractions are many and varied. You may find yourself distracted by your need to be needed, and subtly get satisfaction and feel fulfilled by featuring in someone else's life, so you fill your day with helping others.

We love to feel indispensable and without knowing it, we are using other people's problems to satisfy that deep need to be recognised, to be noticed, to be needed.

Or you may be distracted by your thought life, having imaginary conversations with people, and writing scenarios where you are able to speak out what you wanted to say.

Another distraction, and this is in the church, is that of personalities - the charismatic preacher may get everyone's attention, but he may operate to the detriment of integrity.

God will not have us follow people, no matter how 'anointed' they may appear. The flesh craves the sensational and the desire to follow only that which appeals to our senses, will rob us in terms of hearing and following the Lord.

Because hearing the Lord is sometimes difficult, many of us become frustrated and substitute our own plans rather than waiting on the Lord but if He doesn't answer initially, He will eventually. The delay may simply be Him stretching your faith and your patience. Maybe He is simply waiting for you to ask Him *how* to pray instead of giving Him the answer!

We must always remember that He initiates, we respond. We are the bride, He is the Bridegroom, He doesn't need our good ideas that are not God ideas. As we commune with Him, He will tell us what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go. Our part is to position ourselves to hear, not approach Him with our agenda.

This is where the battle of the flesh versus spirit really takes hold. Try stilling that thing...

There are a multitude of distractions, not the least of taking ourselves too seriously.

One I need to address, because this is something which constantly crops up amongst Christians old and new, are the twins of guilt and condemnation.

There is now therefore **no** condemnation or judgement for those who are in Christ Jesus, but **there is** the conviction of the Holy Spirit – this is where we mistake the one for the other.

When the Holy Spirit convicts, it is sweet, He always shows you what you need to do, when the enemy points the finger, he accuses – simple way to distinguish who is doing what to whom.

Guilt is not an enemy, it is a friend if it is coming from God, because He is saying *“We need to make a mid-course correction here darling”*, which is guilt leading you to repentance, a change of mind, having another thought. Brilliant.

You don't have to work anything up to 'feel' spiritual. One of the enemy's lies is *“No-one else thinks the way you do”*, *“No-one else has those ungodly thoughts, call yourself a Christian?”* – this is just one of his tricks to make you feel constantly unworthy, useless and the only one with a problem. When it happens again, remember it is one of his tricks and it is a distraction.

Distractions are traitors, they have the appeal of importance and significance, but they stop us from enjoying the Lord and spending time with Him and hearing from Him.

God is taking us on a journey into glory.

This begins when we allow the Holy Spirit to train us to **sit** in the Presence of God.

To train us to **behold** God, because when you behold Jesus, you are transformed into His image.

There is something amazing about the Presence of God – when you get into His Presence, when He touches you, something happens on the inside and change begins to take place.

Beloved, we need to get back to the heartbeat of God, we are nothing unless He touches us, nothing unless He speaks to us, nothing unless He initiates something in our lives. Vulnerability, inability are my favourite words – He is all. There is a delight in God's heart over you that He wants you to experience – for yourself. He will not have a vicarious relationship with you.

Do not be distracted from your journey into the heart of God. The moment you lose your focus on Him, you begin, like Peter, to sink. Notice Peter didn't go straight down, miraculously, he *began* to sink. No-one walks on the water and begins to sink in the natural. There is a subtle ploy of the enemy to get your eyes off Jesus and on to – just about anything else – the good is the enemy of the best.

Once he has done that – he has you. Your mind is then totally occupied with...whatever.

If what has distracted you is a problem, you begin perhaps to beseech the Lord for a solution. But nothing comes, no response – seemingly - from Him. Relationship is lost, desperation, maybe even anger, takes its place. Before we know it, we have an attitude that is stinking the place out.

Sometimes, instead of turning to the Lord and seeking Him, the 'phone is the first thing we reach for. We go to the phone instead of the throne.

When we finally come to Him, as a last resort, instead of a first resort, we pour out our problem. giving him multiple choices, as to how He can answer. And most often again, He appears silent.

We leave disappointed and end up saying “*God doesn’t answer prayer.*”

Do you really think that is the way He intends your life in Christ to be?

We are coming into a time where we are, as a people, going to wage war on mediocrity and dullness.

Where we are going to come into the fullness of what God has for us, where we no longer stand on the periphery, on the outside looking in, we are going to be entering into everything Jesus won for us on the cross.

We are about to experience the Kingdom and the King Himself, we are going to learn to walk in His grace and favour upon our lives and today we will lay the foundations for that by clearing our airways in order that we may know how to approach Him; how to pull heaven down to earth because He cannot resist us; we are His bride, He cannot say ‘no’ to us He loves us to distraction.

He is a God of joy and laughter:

God is a God of joy and laughter, He is the most amicable Person I know, cordial, good humoured, kind; He is always approachable; always available; never rushed; always has as much time for me as I want; and joy of joys, I can have as much of Him as I want.

How much of Him do **you** want?

Putting Him **first elevates** all our other relationships it does not detract from them. Wherever God is at the centre, there is fullness and richness of life. Whenever He is on the periphery, there is poverty, of spirit and life.

When He is central in our lives His love flows from us into all relationships around us and nobody is safe from a blessing. When we live in what He created us to be rather than what the world conforms us to be, we **become** that which He intended in the first place. Living as Graham Cooke would say, in our persona rather than our personality.

My personality is who I am to my family, my persona is who I am when I stand in His Presence. But my personality is **enhanced** and **enriched** by my persona, who I am before my Father.

As I come into the freedom of being exactly what and who I was created to be there is a freedom to ‘be’ all He created me to be. It takes the limits off God and off us and releases those around us, because we are living in that which He created us for and that which He created us to be. It’s the GOOD NEWS which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born.

It is a place where the citadel of your heart is totally occupied by the goodness, the greatness, the mercy, the kindness, the joy, the happiness, the Majesty, the Supremacy, the Sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ, a place where your joy is full because He is a God of fullness, not measure.

His Presence is sweet; in it is fullness of joy. He is full of rest and peace, He has no fear, He is full of confidence, His nature is full of stillness and quietness and endless patience, kindness, gentleness, and goodness. Who wouldn't want to spend time with someone like that?

It is attainable beloved, it's your inheritance. Do not be **distracted** from your journey into the heart of God.

When we put **Him** first, as we are commanded to do, we first **receive** from Him His fullness, His love for us, that in turn causes us to extend love, grace, mercy and peace into all the relationships that surround our lives. Loving the unlovely becomes easier, tolerating the intolerable becomes possible, joy is our portion. You know pleasure is physical, happiness is circumstantial – it depends on what happens – but joy is spiritual, in **His Presence** there is fullness of joy.

But it is perfectly possible to have our eyes on the church, the enemy, the problem, the pain, the lack, ourselves, and our inabilities – what's that got to do with it – or any other good thing, instead of on the Lord – in a word, we are **distracted** and before we realise it something else happens.

We become takers not receivers.

Takers or receivers?

Subtly we move from being **receivers** to being **takers**, from **asking** to **demanding**, from **receiving** to - **raping**. *"Lord, correct her, she's got it wrong..."*

This is a manifestation of self-centred, self-seeking, grasping, love.

It is perfectly possible to seek God not for Who He is, but for what we can get; to satisfy our own desires.

We do not seek God for His own sake, Who He is, but for ourselves; for me, what's in it for me? My need, my healing, my provision...

We can approach the whole question of our relationship with God with a 'gimmie' mentality because we are so self-absorbed - what is in it for me? Healing, deliverance, health, wealth, happiness, and husband.

These are all very valid and necessary and require to be pursued, but they must not **consume** us to the point where we forget what it **is** all about - Jesus and our relationship with Him must be paramount. It is the only thing that is of eternal value.

Mary had it right.

So, what takes place with us when we move from Spirit to flesh? From Spirit to sensual? From Mary to Martha?

Now, I worship God for my own improvement, so that I may feel better about myself, not for Who He is, and who I am to Him - I am my Beloved's and His desire is towards me - but for what I can get.

He's supposed to possess us, but we can find ourselves pursuing Him to possess Him. ***I want you to be here for ME, meet my needs, so that I can feel more spiritual; better about myself, get my prayers answered...***you finish the sentence.

This has caused a move in us - we think that God is there to serve us and meet our needs.

This seeking to get something out of God, is a highly refined form of self-centredness, self-interest, self-seeking and self-gratification and it springs from the old nature. It declares - *'I'm using You, God to get what I want.'*

It is Eros.

A love that seeks self-satisfaction.

Eros doesn't seek to be accepted by its object, but to gain possession of it or gain something from it. You see it in marriage all the time *"If you really loved me you would...."*. Eros.

We become fanatical, fanaticism is anything we do to increase our intensity, when a former experience doesn't yield what it used to.

You can see this sometimes in our 'worship', it gets louder and louder, more and more intensified, but we are not coming into the Presence of God, but the presence of man – the worship leader – we are endeavouring to get back something we touched before and we are using fleshly effort to try to work it up.

What we actually need to do at this point is to go back to **receiving** instead of taking, to be still and adopt the position of humility, You are God, we are Your people. Subtle shift.

What we have been doing in order to satisfy our spiritual needs, is trying to **take** something from God.

Jesus said it is the Father's good pleasure to **GIVE...**

The whole issue is one of receiving.

So, relax and adopt the position - you are going to receive from Him, you can't pull something out of Him no matter how hard you try.

Right now, we are entering receiving mode - we are not striving for anything, we are waiting for Him to come and touch us.

Learning to wait on God is an absolute essential.

He initiates, we respond, we are the bride, He is the Bridegroom. We are His inheritance, His treasured possession, and He seeks bridal partnership with us.

God desires relationship. You really do not have to twist His arm in any way – you are His beloved treasure. He says so.

Salvation is the starting point:

When God reveals Himself to us in salvation, it is the *starting* point, not the finishing line. We enter into a process, into a journey into the heart of the One who loves us with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength. We find that He is for us, not against us. We begin to dare to believe it. His plans for me are good. Salvation is the beginning of a process of God being Who He wants to be for us. He desires relationship with us above all things.

In the garden, God sought relationship with Adam and Eve, and in the final garden, the heavenly one, His determined purpose will be fulfilled He will have a people for Himself.

So, everything we experience is intended to take us deeper into the heart of this glorious Father of Lights.

When we really encounter the living God something happens inside of us which means we leave with a different motivation. We leave with a different thought.

It's all about Him. When you've seen into His face, you have to put yourself into His hands.

Maybe you are seeing or experiencing something right now which makes you say, *"I cannot go away and ignore that there is more, I cannot remain in a place where I am not meeting with Him continually, my appetite for Him has been whetted"*.

What have you discovered about God that you did not know before? How is He revealing Himself?

What's happening?

Having seen Him you must go and commit yourself into His hands; to be different; to do differently.

From this point, something will be emerging for some of you.

So, when He commands us to love Him first, it is not from a selfish motive on His part, but because it is the **best** way to live our lives, focussed on Him and then radiating out to others, with His love.

When Jesus spoke about Mary and Martha, he said that Mary had **chosen** the better part – there's a choice going on here. He also said it would not be taken away from her. You can allow distraction, or you can stay focussed, the choice is yours.

There is always a fight for intimacy; the devil hates believers who live close to the heart of God and in the heartbeat of God.

Being able to hear the voice of our Beloved should be our **first** priority and distraction is one of the enemy's main weapons against us in the quest for intimacy. Never ever, ever, ever doubt that the Lord doesn't want intimacy with you – He desires to be with you with all of His

great heart. He loves every connection He has with you. The problem does not lie with the Bridegroom, but with the Bride. She is cumbered about, like Martha, with many things. The problem in the Old Testament was never with the Husband, but with the wife, Israel. She was the one who went off and committed adultery with other gods. We are no different, there is a battle raging for our *attention* and *affections*, everything presses in.

He desires our unshared love:

We enjoy the *fullness* of His love for us, He does not share it, we have His fullness, He asks for nothing less from us, unshared love, He wants to be first in our lives, and then we can have everything else, because it will not endanger our primary relationship, which is with Him.

His love starved bride:

It is quite possible to be like a love starved bride; to be like the woman who has everything, big house, lavishly furnished, cars, friends, children - but no intimacy with her husband. As a consequence, she is a candidate for adultery. If someone or something comes along that will satisfy that need, she will be drawn into adultery. It is perfectly possible to have children and a family without intimacy.

Sometimes we are like that love starved wife, we have everything but intimacy with our Bridegroom and as a result we will commit adultery in our hearts by chasing or focussing on something else. *Something* must fill that eternal need within us, to belong, to be known, to be loved, intimately.

It all comes back to keeping the first commandment first, "*loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength*" – then, and only then, can we love our neighbour as our self. But first we must learn to stay in His Presence long enough to allow His love to permeate us; to saturate, soak, and flood us, *then* we return to Him the same love He has given us.

We love because He first loved us.

It takes God to love God. He is the Creator, we are the created; we wait, He initiates, we respond.

Not rocket science, but for a race brought up to 'stand on their own feet', 'look after themselves', it is next to impossible to just – receive. We must be *doing* something. Beloved, our **who** comes before our do. Unless we train ourselves to spend time in the Presence, we will never get our prayers answered, we will never understand and know how He feels about us, we will never make any difference in our families, our street, or our work place.

Hearing the voice of God is foundational to our relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Rejoicing in Who He is and where He has placed us is the entry point to hearing from Him.

If we really, really understood where we are, who we are, rejoicing would be a way of life. We would not be overrun by the circumstances and situations of everyday life.

And He will not rest Himself until you know Him as He wants to be known, to you personally.
“Who I am for you; for you.”

This New Year we are approaching is going to see us jettison our ideas of what we think faith is, what we think church is, and begin to see things from a Kingdom perspective. We are in for a time of change and restoration to the purposes of God for our generation, not the purposes of man.

Twenty years ago or more now, there was a prophetic word, God was saying, *‘Give Me back My church’*.

I don’t believe we did.

We are still in our organisations and institutions, doing things the same old same old, but I believe with all my heart, He is coming soon for His church and this next year will change things and turn us on our heads and we will love the freshness of doing it His way.

The joy of His Presence – In His Presence, there is **fullness** of joy.

Jesus said I have come that they might have life and have it to the full – if there is fullness, why are we settling for measure?

Poverty is not just about money; it is about relationships – it covers the whole of our lives. If we walk with a poverty mindset, we will proclaim a poverty gospel with our lives. As Graham Cooke would say, we have the *“all right news”*, instead of the *“Good News”*.

In 2002 at Christmas time, the Lord spoke to me from -

Matthew 15: 8,9

“These people draw near to Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me, teaching for commandments the doctrines of men”

I have meditated on what He was saying on and off for six years now. I know Him, He is not being condemnatory, but what exactly is He saying? I am coming to the conclusion that it is largely because we live on somebody else’s experience of Him and not our own, we do not live continuously in loving intimacy. Our experience of Him can be vicarious – it is experienced through somebody else.

Our testimony is not made up of the things **we** have seen Him do, but the books we have read about other people’s experiences, or the latest conference or speaker, and our hearts are indeed far from Him because we lack an *intimate* relationship with Him - and His heart is aching with longing.

This has led to us becoming demanding in our relationship with God. *“God, You’ve done this for somebody else, do it for me!”* That is what I mean when I talk about ‘raping’ Him. We are insisting that He does things the way we want them, after all, He is perfectly able, so why doesn’t He just get on with it and do it? Demandingness.

No **love** relationship.

Demandingness.

Disappointment and a recipe for disaster born out of lack of intimacy.

We are so unaware of the **emotional** shift that took place in the earth at the fall that we are totally oblivious to how it affects our relationships both with Him and with each other. This is something we will be addressing next year, what we perceive as being love and how, although we become Christ's, we still operate from the same value system as the world – we live out our lives in Eros, not Agape; in self-centred, self-serving, self-seeking, not self-giving love.

Proverbs tells us that the *“fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*. Anyone who is railing at God does not fear Him. So, the first thing you are displaying when you rebel against Him is where **you** are in the relationship. Stands to reason, if you think you could become a crisp at any given moment, it puts an edge on what you say and how you approach someone.

At the heart of our love relationship with God is a proper fear of the Lord. Unless you fear Him in the right way, you will not be able to either receive His love or love Him.

When I describe this I mean **honour** and **respect** for Who He is. I love the Lord with everything in me, but I also have a reverent respect, awe, and fear of Who He is.

Honour and respect are so lacking in our society that it spills over into our relationships, even with God Himself. How often do we treat Him as though He is our servant, instead of the other way round? But He is so lovely, He absorbs all our rebellion, our strife, our dissatisfaction with Him, our ugliness and He just keeps on loving us. He waits. He waits for us to see who needs to move their feet. He doesn't hit us, discipline us, or castigate us, He loves us, faithfully, patiently, endlessly and in the end, it is this love that breaks us.

What a God. What a God.

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit: an essential ingredient

Another area of misunderstanding is the role of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:1-31

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

“¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know.”⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

The Father Revealed

⁷ *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”* ⁸ Philip said to Him, *“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”*

⁹ Jesus said to him, *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”* ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

The Answered Prayer

¹² *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Jesus Promises Another Helper

¹⁵ *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Indwelling of the Father and the Son

¹⁹ *“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”* ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, *“Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”* ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”* ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

The Gift of His Peace

²⁵ *“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.”* ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I. ²⁹ *“And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.”* ³⁰

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. ³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.'

When the Holy Spirit comes in, He comes in as God.

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is undeniably the sweetest wine.

By the end of this session, I do pray that you will understand **why** He indwells you.

Beloved it is **not** simply in order that you may speak in tongues, blessed assurance though that is, there is so much more to His role in our lives that requires to be explored. He is a Person, and He is God, and He desires to be *known*.

It is His fruit that must come forth from us; and if He is to bear fruit in and through us, we must decrease that He may increase. There isn't room for the two of us.

In the book *'Rees Howells, Intercessor'* the Holy Spirit told Rees Howells, *"If I come in you go out."* And he gave Rees until 6 p.m. one evening to make his decision.

At a few moments to six, Rees was sweating about what he saw he would have to relinquish and the Holy Spirit said to him, *"Would you like some help?"* Oh the wondrous help of the Holy Spirit. As the clock struck 6, Rees relinquished his hold and the Holy Spirit came into him in all His power – as a result of that man's prayers for England, we are a free country this day.

One person wholly surrendered to God.

When He came in, Rees Howells went out.

The Holy Spirit is our personal trainer, given by the Father at Jesus request, *"I will pray the Father and He will send you another comforter"* – literally, another just like Me - to enable you to live the life that I want you to live, that you might do greater things than I have done because I go to the Father.

Beloved, **that** is our inheritance.

Read the book of the Acts of the Apostles and you will see what happened when the early disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4

Coming of the Holy Spirit

"¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Unless we are tuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we will miss God's best for our lives and His purposes will not be fulfilled in and through us, because He cannot do **through** us what He has not been able to do **in** us. Beloved, something is at stake here.

There is great grace upon us right now, and His Kingdom will not come here on earth as He intends unless we appropriate that grace to live a life far higher than we are currently.

We are the means by which His Kingdom is intended to come – we pray *“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”*

It is entirely possible to hear from God on a daily basis, a moment by moment communion and connection, in fact it is imperative that we should; it is God's desire that we should, to do that panic must go and peace must come in, we will hear nothing until we bring *ourselves* to peace. He won't do that bit for us.

- True spiritual growth in the church will not be realised until we accept **His** purposes for our lives, and cease to pursue our own goals.
- It will not be realised until we recognise we are His purchased possession. We are His inheritance, and He, is ours. We are the eternal companion of an incredible King.
- It will not be realised until we are in a position to hear and respond to what God is saying to us as individuals.

He made us for His delight:

God created us for relationship - intimate relationship. He did not create us to speak to us once a week at our Sunday morning service, but to have an intimate, ongoing relationship – He placed Adam and Eve in the garden so that He could *fellowship* with them. He walked in the cool of the evening and talked with Adam. **Genesis 2.**

When we first become Christians, there is a period of intense happiness and joy, the new birth has stimulated our human spirit and we hear God's voice very clearly, obedience is not a struggle, and we look forward to our communion each day with Him.

Sadly, often this doesn't last long, and we find ourselves caught up again in the mundane, ordinary things of life and the thrill of hearing from the Almighty is lost, His voice grows fainter, until we are accustomed to no longer hearing Him.

First love has cooled into routine married life and like the church at Ephesus *“We just don't love Him any more”* - we have left our first love.

Or is it the parable of the sower? Even the seed which fell on good ground brought forth a variable yield, some 30, some 60, some 100-fold. Even with *good* ground the crop is not guaranteed, though the seed is top quality.

Or is it ground where the seed is snatched away before it can really root?

There is no doubt that people are born again, it is just that they never seem to go on to maturity, or desire to do so; something is stunting their growth, diverting them from the pursuit of God.

As weeks turn to months, the new believer hears less and less of the voice of God, the distractions have been successful and in church, well, the pastor will just find more jobs for them to do.

Get them filled with religious busyness and never mind training their spirit. All emphasis is now on the outer life, activity and 'doing', rather than the inner life and 'being.' As a result, the inner man doesn't develop as he should and the new Christian just "*follows the parade without knowing where it is headed*", as A W Tozer would say.

Beloved, busyness is not a sign of fruitfulness.

A new Christian said to me recently "*No-one can interpret the book of Revelation*" and from this I gathered that the opinion of the denomination had already taken root, and ears would be closed to any idea that Jesus *meant* us to understand this Book.

Beloved, we are ***indoctrinated*** and we are following the parade without knowing where it is going, we are trusting that the man at the front knows where he is going, but we have no guarantee; and perchance he is going round in circles!

In reality, all outside direction and stimulus should only serve as a *confirmation* of the voice of the Lord which is *within* the spirit of the new believer. "*Test all things, hold fast to that which is good*". **1 Thessalonians 5:21.**

There is nothing wrong with information outside, as long as it is confirming what the Spirit is saying on the inside.

What usually seems to happen is that we are trained to trust the pastor, he's a nice enough guy after all; or the latest book, the latest information we receive through the Christian network, rather than the inner voice of the Spirit.

But when push comes to shove, and we are in crisis, we find that we cannot hear what God is saying to us. How many of us have found ourselves in that situation – I don't want a show of hands.

This results in 'foxhole faith', by that I mean, when we are really up against it, we cry out to God out of our foxhole, we are desperate to hear from Him in order to alleviate our current circumstances, and when He responds in His grace, we return, with much relief, to our normal existence, over that crisis; thank You Father.

I spent many years like that before I was born again. Did you know God hears and answers the prayers of unbelievers? Well, He does, I can testify to that. He answered my prayers many, many times before I became His. In fact, I came in to Christianity knowing that God hears and answers prayer because that had been my experience as an unbeliever.

We appear to have completely lost sight of the New Testament principle that we have the Holy Spirit ***indwelling*** us to teach us and train us in the way we should go. But we have not

been taught to listen to our inner man and we have churches full of 'dwarf' Christians – who have a growth hormone deficiency - who are incapable of knowing when God is speaking to them, or even believing that He might want to – as Bob Mumford would say our reaction most likely is when God speaks to us *"I rebuke you devil"*.

Jesus said, *"My sheep hear My voice, another they will not follow"*

So, the aim of today is to sharpen your hearing in order that you may indeed hear the voice of the Master - and follow.

Another quotation, this one is anonymous -

"If you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle...then, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven."

So, how would your life look if you became His love slave?

Whilst I was praying about this session the Holy Spirit said to me *'Tell them about Me'*. So that is what I am going to endeavour to do just now. I want to tell you Who He is for me in order that you may understand the kind of relationship He desires with you.

He is my Beloved. Without Him, I can do absolutely nothing, without His constant and consistent encouragement and love in my life, it would be empty. He is the personification of Jesus to me. He speaks to me of Jesus, He brings the love of the Father, He makes the scriptures real to me, He is my constant companion – and I love Him.

I would not trade the relationship I have with the Holy Spirit for anything this world offers. Nothing. He is so dear to me I cannot express it. It is not so much what He imparts, that is wonderful enough, but Who He is, He is the kindest Person I have ever known. He always tells me like it is. He doesn't let me get away with anything, and I don't want Him to. He is my constant companion on my journey. I love Him.

He is the source of all my revelation, my power, my anointing, my strength, my stamina, my provision. He teaches me to worship, He teaches me about Jesus, He is always there, He never, ever departs from me. I have received his admonition, but I have received His comfort too. He is altogether lovely, and He burns with love for me. I am overcome by Him. He is the Spirit of Jesus and I am His love slave.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

So, Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is our friend; our Comforter; He is the Promise of the Father; He is the Spirit of Christ. He is as Jesus to us and will glorify Jesus to us. He is a Person, please never, ever, refer to Him as 'it' or 'the power' or 'the force' and please, never think that you can control Him, you don't

have Him, beloved, **He has you**. He is the third member of the Godhead and is Eternal and co-equal with Jesus and the Father.

Smith Wigglesworth said of Him –

“What a wonderful, divine position God intends us all to have, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is something so remarkable, so divine; it is, as it were, a great open door into all the treasury of the Most High. As the Spirit comes like ‘rain upon the mown grass’ (Psalm 72:6) He turns the barrenness into greenness and freshness and life.

God wants you to know that there is a place you may come to, in which you are dispensed with and God comes to be your assurance and sustaining power spiritually – until your dryness is turned into springs, until your barrenness becomes floods, until your whole life becomes vitalized by heaven, until heaven sweeps through you and dwells within you and turns everything inside out, until you are so absolutely filled with divine possibilities that you begin to live as a new creation. The Spirit of the living God sweeps through all weaknesses.”

The Holy Spirit wants to bring us to an ever greater, ever increasing, revelation of **life**; He wants us to be filled with all the fullness of God. If you really want to sell yourself completely to be His love slave, now is your time.

There is a place of fullness, not measure, for every one of us where rivers, not streams, **rivers** of living water flow from our innermost being and refresh every person with whom we come into contact.

God’s desire for you is that you should be so immersed, so covered and flooded with the light and revelation of this precious Person, that your whole body will be filled and not only filled, but covered over until you walk in the very Presence of the Power of God.

I want that don’t you? What is this life if it isn’t lived to the full for Him? I want fullness, and if I have fullness there won’t be any less for you – God never runs dry, He never runs out, He is never short. His quickening Spirit will put to death everything that needs to die in us in order that LIFE may be made manifest.

May God grant us that we may more and more abandon ourselves to Him until He has absolute sway over our bodies, souls, and spirits, until there is no room for anything but Himself that Jesus may indeed be made manifest in our mortal flesh that the world may believe.

Sometimes I think we completely lose sight of the purpose of our creation.

It was for **His** delight.

He made us for **His** delight.

It was that we might be the eternal companion of an incredible King. We have been translated into the Kingdom of light, from the kingdom of darkness, but that kingdom of darkness will not easily let us go.

There is a *universal assignment* to obstruct our hearing because the enemy knows that Christians who have an intimate relationship and constant communion with the Holy Spirit are a serious threat to his kingdom.

Jehoshaphat and the enemy coming up the hill at Ziz:

Those who hear the voice of God are capable to knowing the mind of the Spirit and receiving strategies in prayer from the Throne room, which will expose the work of the enemy. You only need a cursory glance at the Old Testament to see this – Jehoshaphat and his people surrounded by the enemy, desperate, *“neither know we what to do, but our eyes are on You”*, and the prophet hears the voice of God for the situation.

This is not a good situation; they are surrounded, and facing annihilation and Jehoshaphat is desperate to hear from God about what they can do.

There they all are, such a poignant moment, all there with their little ones too, totally helpless, looking to the Lord as Jehoshaphat says *“Neither know we what to do but our eyes are on you”*

2 Chronicles 20: 5 - 19

5‘Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court, and he said, “O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, ‘Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.’ Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives and their children.

Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; and he said, “Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s.

‘Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.'

The **first thing** he does is to go to God and remind Him of what He has done in the past, then he **calls** upon this Sovereign God to help them in their distress, then he tells the Lord they are **powerless** without His help.

God loves this, total dependency on Him, with the result that Jahaziel gets the prophetic word that wins the battle, which incidentally, isn't theirs, it is the Lord's, and they end up in worship.

They have received revelation about their problem because they went to Him.

We have to be *trained* to hear the voice of God and that training comes as we spend time in His Presence, there is no short cut.

To be present with God, you have to spend time in the Presence of God.

Let it not be said of us as it was to the Hebrew Christians *"...for I have much more to say to you, but you have become dull of hearing."* **Hebrews 5:11** - the implication in this scripture is that they were once able to hear but have become dull of hearing, they have become deaf, for whatever reason.

God loves to talk to His people and commune with them. Right now, if what I have said so far has made you realise that you haven't done justice to your calling by spending time with Him, and obeying what He has been speaking to you about, take a few moments to put that right with Him.

So, as we come to the end of this year, I want to read a prophecy by Bob Jones, it is dated March 2008 and came from a Lakeland meeting, after I have read it you may wish to respond

"Tell them of My ways. What do I require of them this day? That they may draw close to Me and stay that way continually. For I have come close to them this night. I have brought the golden earring and the awl with which to pierce your ear - so you would ever be a love slave to Me.

For I say those who are love slaves to Me, will be the closest to Me. They will come and minister to Me. They will say to Me "how they love Me and how that I am everything to them both night and day." So this is what the Lord is saying this day, "Come and totally give yourself..." come and give yourself to Him in every way so that His holiness can go through you and He can use you in these coming days.

For it is in many ways he will use you, because you will be right at His head. Your ear will be tuned to Him and you will hear what He says and you will take it to those to whom He speaks clearly.

“What will it cost you to have such great intimacy with me?”

Everything.

What have you got to lose?

What have you got to lose, for I have got everything waiting for you.

For you.

For you were created to minister to Me,” says the Lord.

“In this day I am calling you to come close to Me and I will put the golden earring in your ear and then your main testing will begin; for you will be responsible for obeying what you hear from Me.”

Get ready to hear clearly and obey.

It’s what you have been wanting, and those who surrender themselves to Me, out of them shall flow My river of life which has already begun this very day. Those that are My servants, sometimes they will heal, sometimes they will deliver, but they will always be in My will - in what I am saying that day.

So they will do many different things. Don’t major on one thing. My Son did many things when He was here with you in His day, and now I am raising up sons and daughters that look just like Him, for this is the only thing that pleases Me: that His nature is in all of you and that it will remain there continually, as relationship increases between you and Me.”

You may wish to consider that prophecy and your response to it. Prophecy frequently requires a response from us – a ‘yes Lord’ from us, and this one does so particularly.

May God grant that this coming year will be the year of our rising, the year when we know as we are known, the year when everything Jesus won for us on the cross begins to be made manifest in our lives to His eternal glory and fame.

God bless you and vivify His word to you all.

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NB: For those receiving the notes the following podcast put out by Graham Cooke was played during the meeting:

Divine Acceleration – Graham Cooke 2008

“We are in a season of Divine acceleration, there’s a quickening Spirit abroad in the earth, the Lord is redeeming time because the days we are living in are becoming progressively more wicked.

Time is the currency that our lives are running on, not money. God redeems time by speeding up the process by which we are transformed.

I say to you that there is a quickening Spirit upon your life, should you choose to accept it.

What you thought would take years will take months, what you thought would take months, will take weeks, what you thought would take weeks, will take days. The favour of the Lord is upon you to accelerate your development in this next 12 months.

The Lord will give you five years growth in the next 12 months - but you have to learn to run. You must say ‘yes’ much faster, and mean it. You must stick with the process.

Acceleration is a paradox. It’s not always easy, but it is, hugely enjoyable. I believe the Lord would say to you, this is how I want you to see the next 12 months – it’s a crash course in the glory of your God. In the next 12 months as you progress as you speed up in the Spirit you will receive an anointing to live life at a high level.

I will renew you in the spirit of your mind, I will open your heart, your eyes of your heart will be enlightened and you will see the hand of God everywhere in your life. You will learn to look at your life through My eyes, you will see what I am seeing and your heart will be overwhelmed with joy and with laughter, there will be a faith that rises up. There are many quick victories that I intend to give you, do not look at the next 12 months in the way that you have looked at the last ten years.

I am giving you new eyes, I am giving you a new heart, and I am giving you a new mind, you will perceive totally differently, you will believe more freely and you will think the way that I think because this is what I am doing. I am elevating your thinking to My level. You will think on a level that I think, you will behold in the Spirit what I am beholding. You will understand what I am holding out to you and you will take the provision of your God and spread it around in your own life.

You will come into a place of successive easy and quick victories, there will be some situations though, says the Lord, when I will deliberately hold up victory, just for a while, so that your revenge on the enemy can be complete. There will be times says the Lord when I will allow the enemy to contend with you so that I may establish you in something deep and powerful and profound. And Father says, when you come into a situation that is resisting you, I want you to smile because the hand of your God is with you. And I intend, through the resistance, to give you a double portion. It’s not about what the enemy is doing; it’s about what I am allowing. I

will allow him to come against you so that I may give you a double portion and that I may increase the anointing upon you in those days.

And your life will be a balance of easy victories and times when the enemy will contend, but it is on those days of contention that I have a divine increase for you. The Father says look for increase in a time when the power seems to have slowed down, look for the increase and stand and worship.

You will know Me for I will reveal Myself to you and I will come to you. I will establish in you the very things that I want you to have and you will behold the power of your God. You will start to think with a level of wisdom and intelligence you have never seen before, you will start to see in the realm of the Spirit in a way you have never seen before, and out of your mouth will come words of faith, says the Lord.

You will completely lose the ability to worry or be anxious because I am making war on anxiety, I am making war on panic, I am making war on fear. You will not be subject to those things, but you will know your God. You will be strong in the Lord and do exploits this next 12 months. You will do exploits in your own life. When those things are established in you, I will lead you. I will bring you across the path of people who are victims in the area that you have just broken through on, and you will assist them, you will help them, you will be a breakthrough anointing to them. As they break through your anointing will go to a deeper level, so that as you give out, so the anointing in you will increase and abide and it will abound.

In this way says the Lord, in the next 12 months you will make years and years of growth. You will become the man and woman you were always supposed to be and you will come into a place where nothing will overwhelm you. You will come into a place where you will cease to be a foot soldier in the body of Christ, you will take on the stature of a warrior, like one of David's mighty men, I will cause a greatness to rise up within you, even as you come to the end of this 12 months of training, says the Lord, I will begin to show you and declare to you what your personal inheritance is, so that you may be a stake holder in the territory of the Spirit that I choose to bestow upon you.

You will come into your ministry, you will come into your anointing you will come into your place of abundance, you will come into your place of favour and inheritance. You will begin to get an idea of what your assignment is, you will know who you are, you will know your identity and you will know your inheritance. You will begin to stand in and trade upon the favour that is present over your life.

In this next 12 months you will see the glory of God in your own life, in your own circumstances and I will cause you to rise up and occupy a place of overcoming. You shall overcome yourself and then you will no longer be your own worst enemy. For when you have conquered yourself, then I will send you out on a great adventure, nothing will overwhelm you because I will teach you that every obstacle is indeed an opportunity and every opposition can be laid low. That which will rise up in you in this next 12 months will be nothing less than the sovereignty and the declared majesty of your God.

It is My intention, says the Father, that you would know Me and that you would be strong, that you would be filled to overflowing with the goodness of God, that you would know the

majesty of God, that you would have the joy of the Lord, that the power of God will overshadow you and erupt within you. You will no longer be the person that you once were but I will turn you into a different man, and a different woman.

This next 12 months is for you to discover Who I am for you – it is for you to come to a place of trust, a place of peace, a place of rest and a place of faith. It is for you to discover Who I am for you as your Father. I intend to enjoy Myself this year, because during this year, you will actually stop whining, you will begin worshipping instead. I intend to enjoy Myself beloved, in this next 12 months I want to bring you into a place where your life is a joy and a delight to yourself where you will enjoy your life and you will be delighted with your life, and you will be ecstatic about who you are becoming. I am going to banish low self esteem, I will do violence to self-hatred, I'll bring you into a place where you are happy and relaxed about who you are, because when I look at you I'm happy, I'm relaxed."