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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I'm sure you will be blessed by this month's E- Magazine. It has been an extremely busy time for us all here at the Academy. We are moving our Word for the Week videos from YouTube because the owners of YouTube have begun removing lots of material that offends their worldview. This of course relates to a lot of Christian content and it's only a matter of time before our videos will be removed from YouTube. We have set up a streaming service on our web site which you can access at: www.theacademy.org.au

Blessings

Neville Johnson

6th July 2019

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NEVILLE JOHNSON

CHRISTIANS & YOGA

I realize this article will stir up many Christians who use yoga for exercise without realizing what they are doing is extremely dangerous

I have through the years had many Christians asking me about Yoga

Many have taken offence at my reply, saying "I only do it for the exercise!" and are insulted at my explanation of this deception. I realize this article will stir up many Christians who use yoga for exercise without realizing what they are doing is extremely dangerous.

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1 Corinthians 15:33

*Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.
1 Corinthians 15:34*

It's all about who you are

communicating with

Yoga is from the Sankrit word Yug, meaning "union with the Divine", your higher "SELF". Yoga is a path for transcending the ordinary mind (who you think you are) in order to merge with your "higher SELF" or "God SELF." Yoga means "to yoke" –this is a very important aspect of Yoga - It has the meaning to yoke with Brahman, i.e., the "Infinite," the "Universal Spirit," the impersonal force that the Hindus call "God") this is achieved through the realization of an altered state of consciousness, thereby theoretically releasing oneself from the bondage of endless reincarnation.

Yoga comes out of the Hindu Vedas. It can be traced back to Patanjali, who was a religious leader. Shiva, one of Hinduism's

three most powerful demon gods, was known as, "The Destroyer." He's called Yogi Swara or the "Lord of Yoga." Yoga has its roots deeply embedded in Hinduism.

"It is estimated that there are 15,000 yoga teachers in the United States, who teach between 4 and 7 million students a week. Yoga is a program that involves conscious stretching, deliberate movements, and controlled breathing and relaxation exercises. Its purpose is to develop strength, flexibility, balance, body alignment, body awareness, muscular balance, calmness and controlled breathing. (Don't be deceived) Yoga originated from a school of thought in the Hindu religion, which suggests that postures can isolate the soul from one's spirit.

Whereas Christianity is about Christ in us coming into union with the Holy Spirit

In the Western world, yoga is used mainly as a form of exercise. Yoga comes from the original Sanskrit word, 'joga,' which means to join. (That in itself is suspect and is very significant.) Yoga means to join body, mind and breath; to get them to work together in harmony. This of course is a lie! It's very gentle, slow and meditative; but it requires concentration.

Yoga instructors say they have received a handful of complaints from people who believe yoga

is intertwined with mysticism and the occult. They comment saying "We acknowledge that yoga does indeed come from a portion of India's Hindu religion, our classes deal mainly with the physical aspects of yoga, and do not in any way coerce people to become involved in Eastern religion". (Source: *The Bloomington Herald-Times*, 1991.)

Sadly, even professing Christians have bought into this lie. Every Yoga teacher is, in effect, a Hindu or Buddhist missionary, even though he or she may wear a cross, and insist that Jesus was a great Yogi, and protest that Yoga is not a religion, but science. **This is the most blatant of lies.** Yet it has been so widely proclaimed and believed that in public schools, beginning in kindergarten and in almost every other area of society today, Yoga and other forms of Hindu-Buddhist occultism are taught and accepted as science. In contrast, Christianity has been thrown out of the schools and is being crowded out of every other area of life in the 'broad-minded' move to replace religion with the New Age 'science'!"

Yoga is clearly a New Age conception that is deeply religious and pantheistic in its origin. It is widely practiced and supported by New Age proponents.

The New Age movement denies the reality of sin and total



depravity, and believes that man is generally good and is divine. They teach that there is a god within us, and we are to harness that and develop it through meditation and other metaphysical techniques. They teach that the only thing people need is enlightenment regarding their divinity. They believe that through reincarnation man is reunited with God. They believe in *karma*, which is a debt one owes because of his previous life. They also believe and teach the evolution of man as opposed to the Creation that is taught in the Bible. Yoga is also associated with imagery, visualization, hypnosis, mind magic, chanting of *mantra*, positive thinking, and Silva mind techniques, which are not only unbiblical, but are potentially dangerous. When practiced by professing believers, it allows and sanctions certain external spiritual influence in their lives, which is inconsistent with, and disallowed (2 Cor. 6:14-18), in the teachings of the Holy Scriptures (2 Cor. 4:4).

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will

dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14 -18

The practice of yoga is pagan at best, and occultism at worse

Its teachings emanate from the Eastern religions, all of which teach that *self* is God, only we just don't realize it: The word yoga means union, the union of the physical self with the spiritual self, a complex concept to grasp. Yoga is one of the six fundamental systems of Indian thought. So if you want to get closer to Krishna or Buddha, go ahead, but you won't get closer to the God of the Bible by altering your consciousness and stretching.

While the promoters of Christian yoga insist it will get a person closer to God, it is a spiritually very dangerous practice designed to expose people to demonic influence. There is no way to modify yoga and make it acceptable for Christians. Listen to one man explain what happened to him when he began to practice Yoga and the breathing techniques:

I read this report of a person who stated to delve in to Yoga..."I was assailed by all sorts of perverse and defiling emotions. My body



started to move, and went on like this in a confused sort of way.... After a time, my breathing changed, becoming disturbed. Sometimes my abdomen would swell with air, after which I would exhale it with great force. Often the breath that I took in would be held inside me. I became more and more frightened... my mind was sick with fear."

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

"The goal of Yoga is 'self-realization' -- to look deeply within what ought to be the temple of the one true God and there to discover the alleged 'true Self' or 'higher Self' and declare self to be God. Nothing could be more religious than that, yet with straight faces all of the Yogis insist that practicing Yoga will not change anyone's religious beliefs. Really?

This is the religion of the Antichrist; and for the first time in history it is being widely practiced throughout the Western world as Transcendental Meditation and other forms of Yoga." (Source: *The Seduction of Christianity*, p. 54.)

Yoga calls itself science. "By calling itself science, Yoga (which is the very heart of Hinduism) has within the last 40 years become an integral part of Western society, where it is taught in nearly every YMCA or YWCA, in clubs, in public

schools, in industry, and in many churches.

Dressed in Western clothes, Yoga has gained acceptance in medicine, psychology, education, and religion under such euphemisms as 'centering,' 'relaxation therapy,' self-hypnosis,' and 'creative visualization.' Yoga is designed to lead to the 'realization' of one's true 'godhood' through an inward meditative journey that finally locates the ultimate source of everything within the human psyche." (Source: *The Seduction of Christianity*, p. 110.)

Tantra, sometimes called Kundalini Yoga, is the worship of God as the Divine Mother; (for those who are femininely inclined) it stresses the union of the male and female aspects of the individual, to awake the Snake. Tantra's most important and unique characteristic is its use of sexual imagery to portray enlightenment, the return to Oneness beyond duality of life.

When Kundalini (which is a demon) has been awakened, as a result of secret yogic techniques, she rises through the *chakras* of the spine slithering like a snake upward to reunion with Shiva at the crown of the head. When god and goddess unite in sexual embrace, enlightenment occurs, illusion vanishes, and there is only one. This rising Kundalini flow also causes one to go into an altered state of consciousness, as the heart chakra opens.



This can be one of the most dangerous practices in yoga and is not to be underestimated in its capability to harm. Connected with the Kundalini practice is an elaborate occult system that sees the human body as integrated to within and without. The occultists world view is summed up by the statement as "within so without." Yogis have the ability to slow down their breathing surviving on almost no oxygen and to remain motionless for hours, thus freeing themselves from the supposed "illusion" of this life. Tantra is also the basis for tantric sex and the Kama Sutra.

Hatha-yoga is a popular form of Yoga practiced today by those looking for a form of relaxation and non-strenuous exercise. "There is a common misconception in the West that hatha-yoga, one of about ten forms of Yoga that supposedly leads to self-realization, is merely a neutral form of exercise, a soothing and effective alternative for those who dislike jogging and calisthenics ... **However, Hatha-yoga is 'one of the six recognized systems of orthodox Hinduism' and is at its roots religious and mystical. It is also one of the most difficult and potentially spiritually dangerous forms of Yoga.**

"The term *hatha* is derived from the verb *hath*, which means 'to oppress.' ... What the practice of hatha-yoga is designed to do is suppress the flow of psychic energies through these channels

"symbolic, or psychic passages on either side of the spinal column", thereby forcing the 'serpent power' or the *kundalini* force to rise through the central psychic channel in the spine (the *sushumna*) and up through the *chakras*, the supposed psychic centers of human personality and power.

Westerners mistakenly believe that one can practice hatha-yoga apart from the philosophical and religious beliefs that undergird it. **This is an absolutely false belief.** You cannot separate the exercises from the philosophy. 'The movements themselves become a form of meditation. The continued practice of the exercises will, *whether you ... intend it or not*, eventually influence you toward an Eastern-mystical perspective. ***That is what it is meant to do! ... There is by definition, no such thing as 'neutral' Yoga***"

Chakra means *Wheel* in Sanskrit. The body has spinning energy centers that look like spinning wheels and are called, Chakras. they are linked to sound, light and color. To heal, is to bring the chakras into alignment and balance then understand the nature of creation and your purpose in it, The word comes from the Sanskrit "cakra" meaning "wheel, circle", and sometimes also referring to the "wheel of life". (Yoga is centered on chakra points)

In Hinduism and its spiritual systems of yoga and in some



related eastern cultures, as well as in some segments of the New Age movement -- and to some degree the distinctly different New Thought movement - a chakra is thought to be an energy node in the human body.

The seven main chakras are described as being aligned in an ascending column from the base of the spine to the top of the head. Each chakra is associated with a certain color, multiple specific functions, an aspect of consciousness, a classical element, and other distinguishing characteristics.

Note that the Kundalini Spirit rises along the spine.

Other types or brands of Yoga you can get caught up in

Laya Yoga: Path of Universal Body -- In Laya Yoga, the Macrocosm (the Universe) is directly networked with the Microcosm or (the human body). There are five centers (*chakras*, or "wheels") along the spine and one between the eyebrows that directly corresponds with some aspect of creation. These *chakras* are linked through an etheric channel along the spine. A primordial creative energy (*kundalini*) lies dormant at the base of the spine in the root *chakra*. The Laya Yogi (someone who practices Laya Yoga), through meditation and *Asanas* (posture exercises), will coax this *kundalini* energy (a demon) into traveling up the channel through each *chakra* until it reaches its point of origin at the top of the skull. At that

point, the yogi will have merged with the source of creation. If the yogi then chooses to reverse the process, the *kundalini* energy will travel back down the channel recharging each centre with an increased amount of *Prana* (life force energy). The result is that the yogi will then have more understanding of, and control over, all aspects of creation each time this process is done.

Karma Yoga: Path of Selfless Action -- Action performed for the purpose of satisfying a desire has the effect of generating new desires that require additional actions. Addiction to pleasure (in any form) is a good example of this. Once the desire is satisfied, it generates more desire, which then needs to be satisfied at *ad infinitum*. In Karma Yoga, one seeks to end this cycle by not being attached to the outcome of anything he does. Actions are thus performed based on what seems appropriate in a given situation. The person performing the action has no concern about whether the end result is "good" or "bad." Since the actions are not performed for self-gratification, the person is free of them. As a result of not being attached to the outcome, a person can become completely involved in whatever he is doing. In this way, yogis seek to end the eternal cycle of death and rebirth.

Jnana Yoga: Path of Transcendental Knowledge -- This type of yoga is geared toward those who have an



intellectual curiosity, who like to reason and analyze. The ordinary mind can never know *Ultimately* and *Absolutely*. Therefore, the goal is for the ordinary mind to realize that and, thereby, get out of the way. In effect, one uses the ordinary mind to transcend the ordinary mind. Gradually the ordinary mind reveals its true nature to itself. In the "Who am I?" inquiry, as taught by the great Indian guru Ramana Maharshi, the mind's false identities are discounted one by one until it is exhausted. Once the mind has exhausted all its answers, then the higher Self may emerge.

Bhakti Yoga: Path of Devotion -- Bhakti Yoga is considered the simplest of the Yogas. Bhakti is a practice of self-surrender for the purpose of eventually identifying with the source of love, or the higher Self. It is not unlike devotion and service associated with religion in the West. The yogi selects a Saint, Guru, or another figure to direct his devotional love. Every act in daily life is done to serve the beloved one. Visualizations and *mantras* are also part of Bhakti Yoga practice. The goal is to visualize the beloved one all the time. At first one may have a picture or representation to look at as the visualization skill is developed. A sound is repeated at the same time as the visualization. Although there are many words that can be selected, the sound of "GM" (A-U-M) is one anyone can use. This practice is especially

suitable for people with intense emotional natures. Key words are: worship, devotion, self-surrender, visualization, and *mantra*.

Raja Yoga: Path of Stillness -- In Raja Yoga, the goal is to quiet the mind through meditation where the attention is fixed on an object, *mantra*, or concept. Whenever the mind wanders, it is brought back to whatever is the object of concentration. In time, the mind will cease wandering and become completely still. A state of focused, uninterrupted concentration will occur. From this state, the yogi will eventually merge with the higher SELF.

Kriya Yoga -- Babaji's Kriya Yoga is a scientific art of perfect God Truth union and Self-Realization. The great Master of India, Babaji Nagaraj, revived it as a synthesis of ancient teachings of the 18 Siddha tradition. Kriya Yoga claims to bring about an integrated transformation of the individual in all five planes of existence: physical, vital, mental, intellectual, and spiritual. It includes a series of 144 techniques or, "Kriyas," grouped into five phases, or branches.

Kriya Hatha Yoga: including "Asanas," physical postures of relaxation, "bandhas," muscular locks, and "mudras," gestures, all of which bring about greater health, peace, and the awakening of the principal energy centres, the "chakras." Babaji has selected a particularly effective series of 18 postures,



which are taught in stages and in pairs.

Kriya Kundalini Pranayama: the “potential” technique, is a powerful breathing exercise to awaken powerful latent energy and circulate it through the seven principal *chakras* between the base of the spine and crown of the head. It awakens their corresponding psychological states and makes one a dynamo on all five planes of existence.

Kriya Dhyana Yoga: meditation, the scientific art of mastering the mind: to cleanse the subconscious; develop concentration, mental clarity, and vision; to awaken the intuitive and creative faculties; and bring about the breathless state of communion with God, “samadhi” (not the God of the Bible).

Kriya Mantra Yoga: the mental repetition of subtle sounds to awaken the intuition, the intellect, and the *chakras*; the *mantra* becomes a substitute for the “I” centred chatter and facilitates the accumulation of great amounts of energy. The *mantra* is supposed to cleanse habitual subconscious tendencies (it is a religious repetitive chant).

Kriya Bhakti Yoga: devotional activities and service to awaken pure Divine universal love and spiritual bliss; it includes chanting and singing, ceremonies, pilgrimages, and worship.

If someone is interested in

physical exercises that are designed to help one's body, he should not take Yoga, which is designed for death, and teaches how to reach this state of consciousness where one gets a better reincarnation.

Even the physical positions in Yoga come right out of the Hindu scriptures, and are designed to put one into this state of consciousness where you imagine that you're God.

Therefore, Christians who believe they're getting relaxation and/or exercise, are really getting Hinduism! They think they're getting science, but they're getting religion. It's mislabeled and it's dangerous! (Source: a 1988 John Ankerberg Show program, “The New Age in Society.”)

John Weldon and Clifford Wilson wrote in - *Occult Shock and Psychic Forces* that Yoga is really pure occultism. Hans-Ulrich Rieker, in his book *The Yoga of Light*, also warns that misunderstanding the true nature of Yoga can mean “death or insanity.” **Another little known fact is that virtually every major guru in India has issued warnings similar to these; i.e., deep-breathing techniques such as the ones taught in Yoga are a time-honored method for entering altered states of consciousness and for developing so-called psychic power.**

So Yoga is one of the basic means of reaching this altered



state of consciousness. And the altered state is the doorway to the occult. Sir John Eccles, Nobel Prize Winner for his research on the brain, said the brain is "a machine that a ghost can operate."

We are spirits connected with a body. But in an altered state, reached under drugs, Yoga, hypnosis, etc., this passive but alert state, the connection between the spirit and the brain, is loosened. That allows another spirit to interpose itself, to begin to tick off the neurons in the brain, and create an entire universe of illusion. You've then opened yourself up. It's called sorcery.

People are literally teaching themselves how to be demonized, all in the name of developing one's full potential.

This counterfeit is very dangerous and many Christians are deceived into thinking "I only use it for exercise"

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2 Corinthians 6:16-17



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PREPARING THE REMNANT FOR A

Righteous Revolution!

BOBBY CONNER

What you feel within your spirit is a divine disturbance driving you to seek God on a deeper level

God is preparing a remnant of true overcomers for a righteous revolution! The Spirit of God has been fanning the flame of discontentment within the hearts of the Saints causing them to feel a deep dissatisfaction with mere powerless religious actions. There can be no true revolution with contented people! What you feel within your spirit is a divine disturbance driving you to seek God on a deeper level (see Isaiah 44:3-4).

The Secret Place

This is a season of seeking the secret place (see Psalms 91:1)! First let's discover more understanding concerning the importance of seeking the secret place. Never forget the secret place is not a location but the holy presence. It is very important to understand that we are not seek-

ing a *place* but rather a *person*. The saints of God discover that true intimacy is stirred in the secret place of the Most High, a desire not merely for power but for His living presence.

Deep Calling unto Deep

The first step toward the "secret place of the Most High" (Psalm 91:1) begins with a desperate, hungry heart (see Matthew 5:8). This longing draws us to seek *true, deep intimacy with Christ*. One can hear the cry of David's longing heart in Psalms 42:7

"Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me." Psalms 42:7

Beloved, now is the time to go deeper into the Word of God in order to go higher with the Lord. We must avail ourselves



of the Sword of the Spirit to battle against the spirit of fear and doubt. The Spirit of God has stirred this desire! None will be satisfied with a stagnated life. He has been fanning the flame of discontentment within the hearts of God's people, resulting in a deep hunger for not merely the power of God but the abiding presence of God (see Psalms 15:1). To advance the pathway into Psalms 15:1 it is Psalms 51:1, this deals with the need for a clean upright heart (see Psalms 51:10). Only with a clean pure heart will we dare approach God (see Psalms 24:3-4). We must never forget; "the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart." (see 2 Corinthians 7:1)

David's Burning Desire

Many in our day can relate with the hungry heart of David as he pens the Psalms. These love poems to God are filled with the heart-cry of a man seeking for a deep, personal relationship with the Lord Himself. Again and again, David expresses a burning desire to intimately know the Lord on several levels of experience. First, he desires to know the Lord *face to face*. In this regard, I so appreciate the Message Bible Psalms 63:1-4

"God—you're my God!

I can't get enough of you!

I've worked up such hunger and thirst for God,

traveling across dry and weary deserts.

So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open,

drinking in your strength and glory.

In your generous love I am really living at last!

My lips brim praises like fountains.

I bless you every time I take a breath;

My arms wave like banners of praise to you."

Psalms 63:1-4

This desperate hunger is again stated.

"As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalms 42:1-2

David's Repentance

David has gained the knowledge that he cannot find the *soul satisfaction and fulfillment* that he deeply desires from other relationships. He now desires to know the Lord as a Person with whom he can share times of intimate fellowship. When he fell short of this experience, David repented before the Lord.

"I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

Psalms 32:5 NKJ

Now, after coming clean with God David is free from all guilt and condemnation and he can say from within the depth of his being:



"You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance." Psalm 32:7 NKJ

David has come to understand that *only the Lord* can satisfy the longing of his soul. He has completely abandoned himself to the Lord as his "*hiding place*." With open arms the Lord awaits your return to Him. He is ready and willing to forgive and restore all who turn to Him. He will take the yoke of sin and shame and give you abiding peace and the marvelous joy of His presence (see Psalm 16:11).

David's Trust

As a result of this deep heart rending repentance, David then desires to know the Lord as *one in whom he can place infinite trust*. In Psalm 56:11, David the Psalmist writes:

"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what can man do to me."

Psalm 56:11

There is a bold clarity in the expression of David's trust and expectancy in these words as they flow out from a heart of love, appreciation, and worship. With clean hands and a pure heart David discovers he has been brought into a new level of intimacy with God, the Lord spoke to him and imparted this very encouraging promise:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule,

which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you."

Psalm 32:8-9 NKJ

David's repentance has brought him into such an intimate closeness to the Lord ("*I will guide you with my eye*"), that David is able to sense the *desire of the Lord* concerning him, apart from words being spoken. Seeking to take David even further into true intimacy, the Lord exhorts him to be both responsive and obedient: "Do not be like the horse or like the mule." As followers of Christ we should not be self-willed, like a horse, nor should we be stubborn like the mule. Our goal is to become easy to lead, swift to obey. Desiring to fully follow the Lamb wherever He will lead.

Unwavering Desire and Focus

We also desperately need this same clarity of Spirit-led protection and guidance that David experienced. As world pressures and religious confusion increase, we must heed this exhortation in the Word to *unconditionally* make the Lord our portion, He alone is our impenetrable rock, and refuge (see Psalms 59:16-17)!

Psalm 91 promises deliverance and victory in the time of trouble to those abiding in God's presence. "He that dwells in the secret place of The Most High." This "secret place" is a place "set apart" where we can withdraw from the activities of our every-



day life experience. Here, we will be able to clearly hear with our spiritual ears, and then appropriate His Words into our spirit and digest them until they become a personal reality within us. Only as we learn to act upon the Word of God does our life start to transform and true change occurs. (see James 1:22).

There are many distracting influences that seek to draw us away from a sincere devotion to the Lord. These forces have absolutely no power or control over us, unless we allow them to do so. There must be within each of us an *active resistance* to anything that will hinder our times of fellowship with the Lord. It is when we resist the devil that he takes flight from us (see James 4:7).

The Lord will not over-ride our will, He will urge us and prompt and provoke us but the choice must be from our heart. He will guide us, but we are given the freedom to choose our level of response to Him in every area of our life encounter. We must *abide continually* in an attitude of choosing to respond to His wooing our hearts into this place of "a secret abode of intimacy with Him."

The foe of our soul will do all he can to distract us away from our quest for the secret place. The enemy's strategies that pull away from this secret place are many and manifold: there continually lurks in the shadows the desire for success, recogni-

tion and earthly security against what might happen. If allowed, these things will step forward to obscure Jesus. Our goal is to truly seek first the Kingdom of God (see Matthew 6:33). As this becomes our quest then everything else will find its proper place in our life.

We easily forget His promise in John 16:33. "*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" Here, Jesus is saying, "Do not fear, in Me you will have peace." He has promised to care for us, for He is our Good Shepherd. As we have need, we can freely partake of all that He won on the Cross in our behalf (see Romans 8:32-37)!

Set Our Affections Above

If we are not receiving His care and protection, we have either chosen the wrong dwelling place or we have set our affection on something or someone other than Christ Jesus, our King. When this happens, He patiently waits, ready to help us when we finally turn to Him.

His "word" to us is that we enter into "the secret place" where He dwells and then make this our real, experienced *home*. David erected a tent on Mount Zion for God to dwell in, but *David's heart* became the Lord's abode. The Lord promises to reward those who seek Him. This reward is God Himself. Nothing can compare to this eternal treasure!



Super Victorious

In Romans 8:28, we are presented with exhortations, promises, and the marvelous word that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (to those who make Him their secret abode). Then comes the encouraging words, *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*

The answer to this question is extremely clear in Romans 8:37 amid all that the foe can send

our way in Christ Jesus we are super victorious.

Victory is guaranteed, as we put our trust *completely* in Christ Jesus and seek this place of rest in His presence (see Psalms 16:11). As we do this, we will be eternally grateful and satisfied (see Phil.4:6-8)!

Abiding in Christ's presence produces the peace that surpasses all understanding.

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Becoming a Dwelling Place for the Fullness of God

- a prophetic dream with instructions -

JOE SWEET

If we are following the Lord, we should be able to experience more of God's glory in our gatherings

“Lord, remember David and all his afflictions; How he (David) swore to the Lord, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

“Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Psalms 132:1-5

Could David's vow, to find a resting place for the Lord, have been one of the characteristics that endeared him to the Lord? The Lord called David “a man after My own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22) “who will do all My will”. I think so.

David passionately pursued

his vow to find a resting place for the Lord. Consequently he was given revelation from God on how to prepare a dwelling place for God. Because of the order of worship raised up under his leadership, the manifested, visible glory of God filled the temple so that no one could stand. (2 Chronicles 5:11-14, 2 Chronicles 7:1-2, 1 Kings 8:10-11). Today we live under a better covenant with better promises (Hebrews 8:6). If we are following the Lord, we should be able to experience more of God's glory in our gatherings today than David did! Where is the visible, weighty, manifested glory of God?

In Ephesians Chapter 2 the apostle, Paul, reveals God's will for the New Testament church:



to build us together into His holy dwelling place, where God dwells in and among the saints in His FULLNESS.

Paul declares that we are..

"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:20-22

Understanding God's purpose for the church, we realize that we are supposed to "grow into a holy temple". We are to be "built together for a dwelling place of God" in His fullness. In Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul prays that the church would grow in love until we are "filled with all the fullness of God" (vs. 19). Did you get that?

The Word of God says that it is God's will for the church to grow in love until we are "FILLED with ALL the FULLNESS of GOD". This has been our quest as a local church in Southern California: to become His dwelling place; to be filled with all the fullness of God.

The fullness of God is not so we can enjoy better meetings. It is so that His Name and His glory are manifested in our cities and nations. It is to answer the needs

of the lost, the broken, the blind and the prisoners all around us.

Gross darkness is spreading across the earth. The present level of the glory of God in and through the church is not enough to answer the level of darkness and perversion in the world. We need radical change. We need the FULLNESS OF GOD abiding in and flowing from the church.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you."

Isaiah 60:1-2

A Prophetic Dream

For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.

Job 33:14-16

Recently the Holy Spirit gave me a dream with instructions for His body to become the resting place of the weighty presence of the fullness of God. These instructions are not only applicable to us, but to the larger body of Christ. We are in a time, across the globe, of major transition. It is no longer



“business as usual”. It is time to listen to the Lord and do exactly what He says. It is time for the glory of God to manifest. It is harvest time.

In this dream I found myself driving in a car with my earthly father to his house. We were approaching my father’s house (where I grew up) when, instead of pulling into the driveway of the house, the car stopped across the street at a vacant sand lot. Immediately I was outside of the car and saw my father had exited the car and was laying face down, sleeping on the sand. As he lay there he had no clothes on but was covered with a blanket.

I felt an urgent need to get him off of the sand lot and bring him into the house to rest. However, I tried to pick him up and could not. He was unusually heavy. In the natural, my father weighed about 185 pounds, but in the dream when I tried to lift him he felt like he weighed closer to 500 pounds. It seemed impossible. I couldn’t even budge him.

Suddenly one of my sons, John Michael appeared. He put both arms under my father and I was shocked at his strength as he was able to help me lift him up. As strong as he was, we could only get him part way up but still could not move him toward the house. I started to feel anxious wondering if we would ever be

able to move him.

Just as suddenly as before, my other son, Elijah Gabriel appeared. Again I was surprised at how strong he was. He put his arms underneath and lifted and now, between the three of us, we were able to begin carrying my father into his house. As we began to walk toward the house, the blanket that was covering him came partially off, exposing his nakedness. Both of my sons turned their eyes away and would not look at him uncovered. I placed the blanket back over him and we proceeded.

As we headed toward the front door, carrying my father, I saw that my wife, Melinda, had run ahead of us and opened up the double-wide front doors so we could carry him in. We entered the house and laid him down on the living room floor where he continued to sleep.

As I awoke and pondered the meaning of the dream the Holy Spirit began to speak. This dream was not about my natural father, my sons or my wife. The dream was about the qualities and characteristics needed in the church in order to usher the weighty (kabod) glory/presence of the Father into His house, so that the church would become His resting place. It was about bringing the fullness of the glory of God back to the church.



My father being unclothed, but covered with a blanket spoke of the incident in Genesis chapter 9 where Noah was naked and asleep in his tent. One of his three sons, Ham came into the tent and saw his father's nakedness. Instead of covering his father, he dishonored him by going and telling his two brothers, Shem and Japheth. His two brothers were more honorable than Ham and went into the tent backwards, with a garment to cover their father while their faces were turned away to not see his nakedness.

When Noah woke, he knew what had happened. He pronounced a curse on Ham who had dishonored him and a blessing on Shem and Japheth who covered and honored him (Genesis 9:24-27). This part of the dream speaks of the importance of honoring God with our hearts and actions and not just our lips. Only those who truly honor God from the heart, who reverence Him, will be used to usher in his weighty and glorious presence.

If we are to become His dwelling place (Eph. 2:22) we must be free of the sins of uncovering others: faultfinding, finger-pointing, gossip and a critical spirit. When we sincerely love our brothers and sisters instead of uncovering them, we are honoring our Father.

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."

1 John 4:20-21

The Holy Spirit reminded me of Luke 17:26 *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man"*. He said *"Just as Noah built an ark of deliverance in his day, My glorious Presence in My House will be the ark of deliverance, salvation, redemption, healing, safety and provision in your day."*

The name "John Michael" represents two of the qualities required to usher in the abiding glory of God. John means "beloved of God" and Michael means "like God". We must have cultivated a lifestyle of seeking God. The Holy Spirit emphasized Proverbs 8:17 *"I love those who love Me and they that seek Me diligently shall find Me"*. God loves everyone, but he loves those who seek Him diligently. We must also intentionally seek to be conformed into the image of His Son (like God). Cultivating the character of the Lord Jesus Christ and learning to abide in Him is not optional if we are to be His dwelling place. Practically everyone in our local church is pursuing this. We



are seeking God and pursuing transformation into His image. Still, this was not enough to usher in His glory.

My other son, Elijah Gabriel brought the needed strength to really carry the Father into the house. Elijah means "the Lord is my God" and Gabriel means "messenger of God". The Holy Spirit made me to know that the name "Gabriel" spoke of a people who will become His messengers; who will obey the Great Commission to "go" and "preach the Gospel".

My wife, Melinda, had run ahead of us and opened the front doors so my father could be brought into the house. The meaning of the name Melinda is derived from Melissa and means "honey". The Holy Spirit highlighted Ezekiel 3:3-4.

"And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them."

Ezekiel 3:3-4

This is another affirmation of God's will that His body must be engaged in "going" and "preaching His Word". Our local congregation has been lacking in evangelism. It's not that we

don't evangelize, we do. For years we have reached out to the poor every month, providing emergency groceries to hundreds of families (thousands each year). We preach the Gospel, lead people to Christ and pray for the sick in these outreaches.

Additionally, we have teams that go house-to-house throughout our city taking high quality Gospel literature to 1,000-1,500 homes each month. Still, a significant percentage of the people in our local church are not involved in evangelism. It is an area that I knew the Holy Spirit was saying we must improve. I take responsibility for this. We must capture His heart and burden for the lost. We must further equip and activate the body to "go" and "preach".

Without being critical, but merely as an observation, it is probably safe to say that the vast majority of Christian congregations in the USA are more like "Christian clubs" than "house of prayer/evangelism/discipleship" centers. Almost every meeting and service in the modern church is designed to "bless" the believers. Churches have devolved into Christian "bless me" clubs. This is very distorted and unhealthy. This is not pleasing to the Father.

If we, like the Lord Jesus, are to "be about our Father's business", then we will have



prayer meetings during the week. (My House shall be called a House of Prayer.) These will not be meetings to merely pray for more blessings for ourselves, but will include much prayer for the lost and backslidden. There will be prayer meetings for consecration, holiness and seeking fresh baptisms of the Holy Spirit and fire for outreach. There will be equipping and training for evangelism and disciple making.

Then He (Jesus) said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot

come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'"

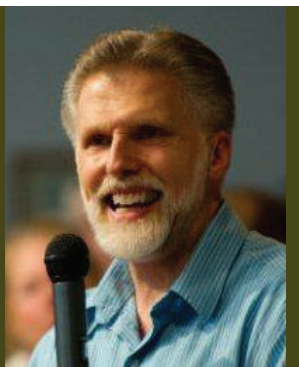
Luke 14:16-23

It is time to transition our lives and our ministries from seeking to "be blessed" into seeking to "become a blessing" to the Lord by doing His will.

Please pray with me: "Lord, forgive us for neglecting the Great Commission. Help us to lift up our eyes and look on the fields. They are white unto harvest. Forgive us for being so consumed with our own lives that we have had little room left in our hearts to carry the burden of the Lord. You have made it known that if we will seek You, if we will honor You, and seek to be conformed to Your image, and go and preach Your Word, You will come and inhabit our midst with Your weighty glory. We need Your glorious Presence."

Let's do this. It is harvest time. It is time for the glory of God in our midst.

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THE Ascending Life

Kent Mattox

We must rise to the Ascended Life to hear God talk...
in that high place there is no fear

Years ago a seed was sown into my life when I read Kelley Varner's book, "Secrets of the Ascended Life." In this gem of a book Varner's observations helped shape my spiritual quest as I have purposed to understand God's infinite plan for my own life. This is a nugget from Varner, "We must rise to the Ascended Life to hear God talk...in that high place there is no fear, all our enemies are beneath, defeated, under our feet...If you never see your worth in Christ, you will rob the earth of your reason for breathing." I was deeply impacted by his revelation and have never forgotten these words. It is clear that in this season God wants the Body of Christ to mature so that we, too, may live the ascended life. According to Deuteronomy 28:1-13,

"The Lord shall make you the head and not the tail, you shall be above only and you shall not be beneath."

Deuteronomy 28:1-13

The purpose of living the ascended life is to open our eyes to an invisible realm that exists but that many of us are not experiencing in our personal lives and especially in our prayer lives. Even though we can only live in the right now our future destiny, and purpose, is already here. God just has to open our spiritual eyes so that we can not only see into the heavenly realm but bring its power, provision and potential into our earthly realm. This may be new revelation for some of you reading this so whether you understand the potential of living an ascended life, or not, research scripture and begin to ask Holy Spirit to enlighten you

as you begin to pray specifically into this revelation.

One of the most incredible aspects of seeking to live the ascended life is that when we begin to live in this realm we begin to understand why we are born again. As we begin to seek more of God's promises for us we must ask Holy Spirit to lead and guide us on our journey. A great place to begin is 1 Corinthians 2:10-16,

"No one has ever heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything like it, what God has arranged for those who love Him. But you have seen and heard it because God, by His Spirit, has brought it all out into the open before you. The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along. Who ever knows what you are thinking and planning except you, yourself? The same with God, except He not only knows what He is thinking, He lets us in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life and salvation that He is giving us. We do not have to rely on the world's guesses and opinions. We did not learn this by reading books or going to school; We learned it from God, who taught us person to person through Jesus, and we are passing it on to you in the same first hand personal way. The unspiritual self, just as it is by nature, cannot receive the gifts of God's Spirit as there is no capacity for them. They seem like so much

silliness. Spirit can only be known by spirit, God's Spirit and our spirit in open communion. Spiritually alive, we have access to everything God's Spirit is doing and cannot be judged by unspiritual critics. Isaiah's question, "Is there anyone around who knows God's Spirit, anyone who knows what He is doing?" has been answered: Christ knows, and we have Christ's Spirit."

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

There has been a true treasure trove of revelation of spiritual gifts over the past decades but it is clear, in hindsight, that people should be taught how to believe, not what to believe. As we begin to look into the secret of the ascending life Hebrews 11:24-27 teaches us something very interesting,

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible."

Hebrews 11:24-27

Moses persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. I love this scripture because it is exactly the scripture God gave



to my wife and me when we were launched into ministry all those years ago to answer the call to accomplish what God has called us to do. We left an established, worldwide ministry, totally by faith, with no plan or security other to stand on this scripture. God spoke to me and said, "You need to leave where you are seeing what is invisible."

John 3:3 Jesus tells us this,

"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again."

John 3:3

It would seem that the main purpose for us being awakened spiritually is so we can see, perceive and understand the supernatural things that surround us. Our spiritual eyes have to be open. 1 Samuel 14: 27 describes illumination as enlightenment,

"But Jonathan had not heard that his father forced the army to make a promise (to fast) and he (Jonathan) had a long stick in his hand. He reached out and dipped the end of it into the honeycomb. He put some honey in his mouth and it gave him new life."

1 Samuel 14: 27

Isn't that the very essence of our eyes of understanding being enlightened? Ephesians 1:17-19 expounds upon that thought:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious

Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe."

Ephesians 1:17-19

What are the riches of the glory of the inheritance in the saints? We are already called and we already have an inheritance. All that needs to happen is that the eyes of our understanding open or become enlightened so that we may see into this invisible realm. This pursuit of all things spiritual and supernatural is pleasing to Him and is what God wants us to do. He wants us to see from Heaven's perspective. That is exactly what happened on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-33,

" Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus, Himself, came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing Him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along? They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him,



"Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" Jesus asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him; but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find His body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?" And beginning with Moses and the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if He were going farther. But they urged Him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to

give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke the bread."

Luke 24:13-33

These two disciples were walking on the Emmaus Road in what can only be described as a spirit of depression, when Jesus, after the Resurrection, came alongside and began to walk with them. Yet, they did not perceive or recognize that it was He. How many times do you think we may have missed the Lord when He was right there beside us but we did not perceive Him because we were not properly aligned with the Spirit of God for our spiritual eyes and ears to be opened and enlightened? As they walked He began to teach them from Scripture and revealed Himself to them from Moses all the way to the Cross yet it wasn't until He took bread and broke it that their spiritual eyes were opened and they knew Him. John 6:32-35 expresses this, "Jesus said to them, I am the Bread of Life. Whoever



comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus, The Bread of Heaven comes when we ascend into that other realm and are enlightened there. We begin to see heaven's perspective about our lives. Heaven sees us so much differently than we see ourselves. And yes, Heaven sees you and me and sees us in a whole different perspective than the way we see ourselves..

Once we have Heaven's perspective for our lives, we can then step into God's plan, purpose and destiny. As we begin to see God's plans for us unfold we can look at Numbers 13:31-33 with eyes of enlightenment,

"But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Numbers 13:31-33

This observation is very important and relevant now. The adversity and level of spiritual attacks that we face and battle are determined on the basis of how we perceive ourselves. In the simplest of terms do you see yourself

as victim or victor? The Israelites perspective of themselves and the enemy kept them bound for forty years because as they were in their sight, so they were in the enemies' sight. How we see ourselves has the power to keep us bound to our perspective not heaven's.

However, as soon as we grasp John 15:1-17 we have the spiritual tools we need to enter in:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my



Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I have learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other

John 15:1-17

Once we access the ascending life realm God begins to move us into another level of spirituality. Romans 8:23-25 describes where we are as a body best: "All around us we observe a

pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it is *with-in* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We are also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, do not see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy." The whole earth is groaning, waiting for the manifestation of the sons and daughters of God and those that have believed what God has said in that ascended realm understand that Jesus is coming back for a strong, bold, overcoming victorious Church. Jesus paid the price for us to live an Ascending Life and it is the revelation that we receive in this realm that will change the world.

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BE FOREWARNED OF COMING PERSECUTION

SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

With a voice choking with tears He said, "My people are going to be persecuted and killed, but they are not ready."

I had a sleepless night on May 13, 2019. For the past 1 ½ years, I have experienced this occasionally. That has never happened in my life before. So, up to 1:40 am, I rolled on the bed. Since I could not fall asleep and was wide awake, I decided to wait on the Lord.

I went to the living room and knelt to pray. As I quieted myself within a few minutes, I felt my spirit caught up into the heavenly realms, and I stood before the Lord Jesus Christ. He was seated on His Throne. He looked very glorious and very regal. He came down from His throne, and without saying another word started weeping profusely. I wondered why He was weeping and did not know what to do. When He was composed, I went near to the Lord and asked Him affectionately, "Lord, why are You weeping?" With a voice choking with tears He said, "My people are going to be persecuted and killed, but they are not ready."

Please ponder these words again. The Lord Jesus said, "My people are going to be persecuted and killed, but they are not ready." What does that mean? Persecution and martyrdom are coming, but the people of God are not ready. Does it mean

that if they are ready, something can be prevented? What is the purpose of the warning? When the Asian tsunami came in 2004, many nations in Southeast Asia even including India, and Sri Lanka was severely devastated. After that, many nations in the region began to put cones in the oceans for tsunami warning. You can find them floating in the oceans around the world. The Lord Jesus, too, was warned of persecution coming against Him. The Laws, the Prophets, and even the Psalms records prophesy of the sufferings the Messiah will go through (Ps 22; Isa 50:6; 53; Lk 9:30-31).

Jesus Warns Jerusalem

When the Lord Jesus Christ came near Jerusalem, He saw the beautiful city Jerusalem and cried profusely. He covered His face with His hands and cried. Why did he cry?

saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave

in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.
Luke 19:42-44

During the history of the nation of Israel, the Lord God had sent hundreds of prophets to warn them, but they killed them all (Lk 11:47-50). The Church today does the same thing. God is raising and sending His Godly true prophets from around the world to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and to warn the church of things to come. However, church leaders who are ignorant of the ways of God and the Word of God, are persecuting them and calling them false prophets like how it was done during the days of the Lord Jesus.

People of the living God, do not be fooled and misled by such false leaders. Put your faith and your knowledge on the Word of God alone. Open your ears to what the Holy Spirit will speak to you through the inner witness and the authority of the Word of God.

Persecutions Of Jesus

The Bible records of 21 incidents of persecutions, sufferings and finally martyrdom that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself went through.

- i. *When He was born, there was a danger to His life because King Herod wanted to kill Him* (Matt 2:13).
- ii. *His people rejected Him and wanted to kill Him* (Lk 4:22-29).
- iii. *Jewish people persecuted Him and wanted to kill Him* (Jn 5:16).
- iv. *Jewish people, at last, wanted to stone the Lord Jesus* (Jn 8:59).
- v. *The Lord's soul was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death* (Matt 26:37-38; Mk 14:33-34; Lk 22:44). Not only His body suffered persecution, even His soul travailed in suffering.
- vi. *He was betrayed by His disciple* (Matt 26:14-16; Mk 14:10-11; Lk 22:4-6).
- vii. *He was arrested and brought before judgment.*
- viii. *False witnesses were set up to falsely accuse Him* (Matt 26:59-61; Mk 14:55-58). The Lord Jesus said, "I have not spoken anything in secret. I spoke everything in the open. I was in your Temple daily teaching you." However, yet to persecute Him and kill Him, the Jewish leaders set up false testifiers. The same thing happens today; church leaders create false lies against

servants of God.

ix. *Soldiers spit on His face and slapped Him* (Matt 26:67)

x. *The Lord Jesus was hand-cuffed* (Matt 27:1; Mk 15:1; Jn 18:12). He was handcuffed and dragged from the garden in Gethsemane to the judgment court.

xi. *He was put on trial in the court before the Governor of Jerusalem* (Matt 27:11; Jn 18:28).

xii. *He was falsely accused by the chief priests in the Sanhedrin council* (Mk 15:3; Lk 23:2,10).

xiii. *The Lord was then brought before the court of King Herod* (Lk 23:11). King Herod mocked and treated Him with contempt.

xiv. *He was severely humiliated by the soldiers while in their custody* (Matt 27:28-30; Mk 14:65; Lk 22:63-65).

xv. *He was humiliated and insulted by soldiers with a crown of thorns* (Mk 15:17; Jn 19:2-3).

xvi. *He was spat at, beaten, and mocked by the soldiers* (Mk 15:19-20). When the Lord Jesus was lying on the ground with the crown of thorns on His head, every soldier who passed by Him, spit on His face, hit Him with their cruel boots, stepped on Him, and mocked at Him.

xvii. *He was condemned to death by the Pharisee's council* (Mk 14:64).

xviii. *The Lord Jesus was whipped with 39 stripes* (Matt 27:26; Mk 15:15; Lk 23:16; Jn 19:1).

xix. *The Lord Jesus was executed by Crucifixion* (Matt 27:35; Mk 15:24; Jn 19:18).

xx. *When the Lord Jesus was hanging on the cross, most passers-by reviled, reproached, and abused Him with filthy words* (Mk 15:29).

xxi. *The chief priests, standing at the foot of the cross, mocked and insulted the Lord* (Mk 15:31-32).

The Lord prepared ahead His disciples of the sufferings He as the Messiah will go through (Mk 8:31; 10:33; Matt 20:18-19; Lk 9:22; 18:32-33). This Scripture: "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;" (1 Pe 2:23) epitomizes the heart attitude of the Lord Jesus regarding how He handled persecution. We must emulate this attitude.

Persecution and martyrdom that will come worldwide are not to kill you but to cause you to rise again. The churches that will be destroyed is not to destroy them but to



cause them to rise again.

Jesus' Teachings About Persecution

The Word of the Lord came to me saying: "Show them what the Lord Jesus Himself taught about sufferings and persecutions that are going to come."

1. *Women will be persecuted* (Lk 23:27-29). Pregnant women will be tortured (Matt 24:19), and their wombs will be ripped apart (Amos 1:13 ~ 2 Kg 8:12; 15:16; Hos 13:16). When women's wombs were torn, their fetuses were removed and dash against the rocks and stones (Nah 3:10 ~ Hos 10:14; 13:16).

2. *Believers will be imprisoned*. Matthew 24:9 says, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name sake. Look at the four essential words in this Scripture.

- Deliver you; Greek *paradidomi* means to put you in prison.
- Tribulations, Greek *thlipsis* means sufferings, mental anguish, and pressure put on your mind. You will undergo great mental agony. They will try to brain-wash you and cause you to break down mentally.
- Kill, Greek *apokteino* means to kill outright or slow put to death.
- Hated, Greek *miseo* means to love less; to detest or to persecute.

When the church was born in the first century, Saul, who later became the apostle Paul, did all that to the church: "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison" (Acts 8:3). The Spirit of God speaks expressly that this kind of persecution will be repeated in these last days. The Bible lists, for an example, of some prophets and apostles thrown into prison.

- i. *Prophet Micaiah was imprisoned for prophesying the real Word of God* (1 Kg 22:26-27).
- ii. *Seer Hanani was imprisoned* (2 Chr 16:7-10).
- iii. *Prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned and put in a dungeon* (Jer 38:6-12).
- iv. *The Apostles of Jesus Christ were put in prison* (Acts 5:18).
- v. *Apostle Peter was imprisoned* (Acts 12:2-5).
- vi. *Apostles Paul and Silas were severely*

beaten and put in prison (Acts 16:23).

3. *Ministers of God will be persecuted and killed* (Matt 10:17; Lk 21:12). The people who kill the faithful ministers of God will claim that they are doing the will of God. The Lord Jesus warned of this in John 16:12. I have seen a new innovative trend in the body of Christ today. Believers and leaders who falsely accuse other ministers of God writing on the social media or in their magazines, all claim of inspiration from God. That is a blatant lie because the Holy Spirit will never do such a thing. He will show you the sins that others are doing, but he will not cause you to shame others in public. He will ask you to go and speak to the people concern privately but for verification.

About more than 15 years ago, I read the testimony of a particular pastor in Canada called Alexander Ness. Once he suffered great persecution from the elders of his church with all kinds of false accusations. The church board called him for an inquiry. Pastor Alexander Ness now needed to defend himself. So, he prayed and asked God for wisdom. He then began to type on his computer his defense. As he was typing, he was also quoted all the evil deeds of the accusing elders. As he was typing, he even felt inspired. When he finished typing, he read through everything and began to pray, giving thanks to God for inspiring him with wisdom and revelation.

As he was praying, he heard the voice of the Holy Spirit, saying, "Alex, what are you doing?" So, he told the Holy Spirit what he had done. The Holy Spirit then said, "By doing this, what are you trying to prove?" He answered, "Oh, they are falsely accusing me, so now I need to set the records straight. I need to tell the truth." The Holy Spirit said, "By trying to defend yourself you are shaming your brothers. You are going to expose their shame. Is that the right thing to do?" Alexander Ness kept quiet, and the Holy Spirit further said, "Consider the Lord Jesus, who considered not His reputation (Phil 2:7). Can you do like what the Lord did?" As soon as he heard that Pastor Alexander tore all the papers and threw them away.

That is how the Holy Spirit leads by not shaming others in public. All those who write on the social media and in magazines shaming and defaming their fellow believers and leaders are not inspired by the Holy



Spirit but rather by the devil. Let us repent from such shameful acts today but your father—the devil, will always inspire you to do such evil works. So I say you this boldly, if anyone persists in doing such shameful acts of shaming your fellow believers and leader publicly, you are indeed inspired by the devil your father of lies who is a murderer from the beginning.

Let us look at a few examples from the Bible concerning ministers who were persecuted.

- i. *Saul went into every house dragging the believers and throwing them into prison (Acts 9:1-2)*
- ii. *Jewish tradition says that the prophet Isaiah was cut in two by King Manasseh (Heb 11:37).*
- iii. *Prophet John the Baptist was beheaded (Matt 14:3-10).*
- iv. *Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7:59).*
- v. *Apostle James was cut with a sword (Acts 12:2).*
- vi. *Church tradition tells us emphatically that the apostles Peter and Paul were killed in Rome. While Indian church tradition records say that the apostle Thomas was speared to death in India.*

What Must We Do Then?

What must we do to stand during the times of persecution? Let us take a cue from the lives of apostles Paul and Silas.

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Acts 16:22-26

The apostles Paul and Silas were in prison, and they were in great pain and sorrow. They were beaten mercilessly, and their backs were bleeding. Amid that situation – hunger, thirst, pain, and suffering, they lifted their heads and began to praise

and worship God. As they worshiped God with all their hearts, they forgot their pain. The presence of God came and surrounded them. That was the first miracle they received – they forgot their pains. The peace beyond all understanding came and filled them. The more they sang with joy, the more they sang, the greater the presence of God came upon them (Ps 22:3). Moreover, soon, the Glory of God came down, and the prison was shaken. Every prisoners' chains fell off them.

When I meditated on this account, the Holy Spirit showed me what must we do during times of persecution that cause to manifest the power of God to set us free. There are 11 things.

i. *Pray for your persecutors.* The Lord Jesus Himself did that: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34). Stephen, when he was stoned, did the same thing (Acts 7:60). When we pray with forgiveness, it must be done out of a heart motivated by love.

ii. *The church must pray together, thanking God for the privilege to suffer – Acts 4:23-31).* The church, as a whole, must not see persecutions as an evil thing. Instead, it must view it as a glorious privilege to suffer on the Lord's behalf. The whole suffering church must pray with such a positive attitude. When the suffering-persecuted church prays, the power of God will manifest to embolden you to do the works of God. You will not be defeated to sink under, but you will arise with greater strength, that.

iii. *Do not compromise your faith in fear but be bold – Acts 4:18-20.*

iv. *Trust God with all your heart for God to protect you and save you – Acts 12:6*

v. *Patiently bear sufferings without protest like how the Lord Jesus did – Matt 26:65; Mk 14:65.* He did not even open His mouth (Isa 53:7). So, do not open your mouth and protest, instead, bear your sufferings patiently.

vi. *Do not answer your persecutors, because they will find fault with your words – Mk 15:3; Jn 19:9.* When He was falsely accused, He kept silent. He did not open His mouth to defend Himself. He committed Himself to God, who alone judges righteously.



vii. *Praise and worship God during your days of captivity like the apostles Paul and Silas – Acts 16:25,26.*

viii. *The church must pray without ceasing for the deliverance of persecuted believers and ministers – Acts 12:5.*

ix. *Pray for your faith to be strong – Lk 22:31-32.* That was the counsel the Lord Jesus gave to the apostle Peter. He told Him, "Pray that your faith will not fail. Pray that your faith will not break down during times of persecution."

x. *Endure sufferings till the end – Matt 24:13.* In Revelation 2:10, the Lord Jesus said, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you a crown of life." The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:12 says, "Do not deny your faith but persevere in sufferings."

xi. *Count it a blessing when you are persecuted or put on trial – Matt 5:10-12.* Philippians 1:29 beautifully says that it is a great privilege and honor for a believer to suffer on behalf of the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion

The Lord Jesus said to me: "Persecution is the labor pains of the church to give birth to salvations." In Revelation 12:2-17, we read of a time persecution in the last days. However, we also experience a great display of the glory of God in the last days. Let me show you a pattern in the Bible regarding this. In Acts 16:27-33, we read that as a result of the persecution and sufferings the apostles Paul and Silas endured in the Philippian jail, witnessing the supernatural power of God that came to set them free, the entire jailor's household came to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

Persecution will also show you your true self
It will show you the level of your faith. In good times you can say, I am strong. You may even think that you will not deny your faith. You may think that you will stand firm in times of trials and persecution. Is that your actual level of faith?

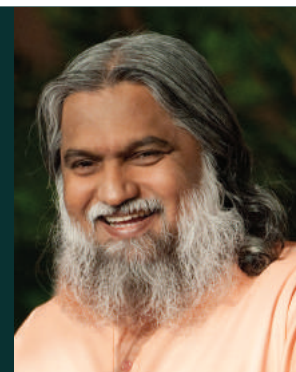
When the Lord Jesus was arrested, every one of His disciples forsook Him. They were all offended at Him and ran away. When the Lord Jesus first told them all that, everyone assured Him that no matter what happens, they will stand by Him (Matt 26:31-35). However, at the time of trial, the Bible

says that every one of the disciples for love of their lives and fear of the lives ran away when the Lord Jesus was arrested (Matt 26:56; Mk 14:50).

Furthermore, when the apostle Peter was threatened, he denied knowing the Lord Jesus (Lk 22:54-60). The very man and the very disciples who said full confidence that they will always be with the Lord when their faith was tested showed how shallow and weak their faith were. Persecution will show the exact level of a person's faith.

So, what must we do? Persecution is coming; be forewarned and brace yourself. Put a covering of prayer over your household, over your church, and your personal life. When you do that God will send the angel of the Lord to encamp all around you.

It is necessary for the blood of martyrs to be shed (Rev 6:11). Even the Lord Jesus' blood was shed as a martyr but feared not. He, who safely kept the body of Jesus from corruption, that same eternal God will surely protect you, preserve you, and will not allow your soul to be in captivity or suffer corruption (Ps 16:10).



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Dreams (Chalam)

as communication from God

BRUCE ALLEN

Dreams that come from God have a purpose
beyond just the prophetic.

“In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.”

Job 33:15-16 NKJV

“In a dream, a vision of the night [one may hear God’s voice], when deep sleep falls on men while slumbering upon the bed, then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction.”

Job 33:15-16 Amplified

In all the translations of the scriptures I have (and I have many), every time I look up this passage it alludes to the same basic idea of sealed instruction being given via dreams to us personally.

In the King James Version it says that God “*openeth the ears of men*.” The Hebrew word translated “*openeth*” is *galah*, which means “to lay bare,” “to reveal,” “to be intimate with,” or “to have intercourse.”

Dreams that come from God have a purpose beyond just the prophetic. Many rabbis see the Hebrew verb for “*openeth*” as a *piel* (meaning

intimacy) and so would conclude that dreams are a way in which God shares His intimate secrets with us.

Many of the ancient sages taught that during sleep, your soul is active and not influenced by your physical body. It is during this time that the Lord can become intimate with your soul. In such intimacy, you will see what He sees.

The Lord sees the past, the present, and the future. Thus, a byproduct of this intimate time with the Lord is that we get to see what He sees, including the future.

It is commonly understood that if we were to actually see exactly as the Lord sees, we would not be able to endure it, especially in terms of the future. Therefore, in His mercy, He wraps our dreams in symbols so that we will not be too shocked by what we see. In many cases, He will not even allow us to remember a dream because the knowledge of our intimacy with Him would be too shocking for us to endure.

This is why, as it seems to be in the



King James Version, that the Lord will “seal” our instruction. He will give us a dream, have an intimate moment with us, and then bury what He has shared in symbolism or cause us to forget it completely until an appropriate moment in the future.

In Job 33:17 give a reason why we may be caused to forget – because we would be lifted up with pride! (Joseph’s dream is a good example found in Genesis 37:5) Or it might be because we’ve had a dream about the future, and we are not yet ready to accept what is in store for us. There are times, however when our dreams are a caution; a warning as when Joseph, Mary’s husband was warned in a dream to flee to Egypt.

Have you ever wondered why the Lord created us to spend one third of our lives in the state of sleep? He could have created us without the need of sleep at all if He had wanted. Was there an ulterior motive or reason in His design?

There is a clue to be found in the meaning of the word “dream” in the Hebrew. The Hebrew word for “dream” is *chalam*. It means “to restore to health.” This word *chalam* is telling us that we find our life in our dreams, and it is our dreams that can restore us to health.

This is possible if we realize that our dream state can be an intimate time with the Lord. Our bodies may be unconscious, but our souls are very much awake. With our bodies at rest and not distracting us, the Lord can use our sleep time to share His heart with us. It is a time of communion with the Lord and a renewing of our purpose and focus.

Nearly one third of what we have as scripture today came through the auspices of dreams and or visions. Dreaming therefore is a time of communication with the Lord and receiving His wisdom, insight, strategies’ as well as comfort and refreshing.

Not all dreams however are from God. There are such things as nightmares. We must learn to discern and understand that sometimes dreams

are nothing more than the imaginings of our own subconscious, while other times they can be the expressions of intimate times with the Lord. Perhaps sometimes nightmares can be the result of our soul conversing or being influenced by the enemy.

Consider this question: before you go to sleep, what do you fill your soul with? Do you watch lewd and violent television? Do you read a novel about dark subjects? Remember, at night, your body may be in repose, but your soul does not sleep. It continues to remain awake. What did you feed your soul and give it to dwell on before you went to sleep?

Let me give you a life altering challenge.

“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”
1 Corinthians 14:32

Here is the challenge; before you go to sleep at night, pray and cover yourself with the blood of Jesus. Then command your spirit to listen to and worship the Lord as you sleep.

You can set the stage by meditation on a scripture or by singing a song of praise and worship to Him before you fall off to sleep.

As you make this a lifestyle, you will find that often you will be awakened in the middle of the night, worshipping and praising the Lord. At other times, the Lord Himself will come to you to share His secrets and His heart.



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THE POPE'S WORLD GOVERNMENT

Pope Francis told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica that the United States of America has “a distorted vision of the world” and Americans must be ruled by a world government, as soon as possible, “for their own good.”

The Pope made the observation in an interview with La Repubblica reporter Eugenio Scalfari.

“Last Thursday, I got a call from Pope Francis,” Scalfari reported. “It was about noon, and I was at the newspaper when my phone rang.”

He said Pope Francis had been watching Putin and Trump at the G20 and had become agitated. The Pope demanded to see him at four that afternoon, according to a Google translation of the Italian report.

“Pope Francis told me to be very concerned about the meeting of the G20,” Scalfari wrote. As translated into English which picked up the story, the Pope said “I am afraid there are very dangerous alliances between powers who have a distorted view of the world: America and Russia, China and North Korea, Russia and Assad in the war in Syria.”

“The danger concerns immigration,” the Pope continued to La Repubblica. “Our main and unfortunately growing problem in the world today is that of the poor, the weak, the excluded, which includes migrants.” “This is why the G20 worries me: It mainly hits immigrants,” Pope Francis said, according to AFP. Pope Francis's idea that Americans would be better off under a world government doesn't stop there. The radical leftist pontiff also went on record stating that Europe should become one country under one government. In the same interview, according to La Repubblica, Pope Francis said that Europe must take on a “federal structure,” resembling feudal times when the peasants were ruled by unimpeachable monarchs.

“I also thought many times to this problem and came to the conclusion that, not only but also for this reason, Europe must take as soon as possible a federal structure,” the Pope said, according to the Google translation of the La Repubblica article.

**This Pope obviously is in favour of a one world government centered in Europe i.e. the Antichrist world Government.
- NJ**

