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# OUR FINEST HOUR

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Change is Coming  
Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj
- 6 May the Bride come Forth  
Andy Tiplady
- 11 The Cosmic Deception  
Mark Johnson
- 14 Evil Twins  
Bobby Conner
- 20 What Does God Want  
Kent Mattox
- 24 Becoming a Partaker of the Divine Nature  
Joe Sweet

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Earlier this year, whilst considering the times we live in, the Lord said to me *"don't worry about when things will happen, you know what signs to look for, Prepare for them"*.

The new Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett announced his intention to build the 3rd Temple within three years (by 2024). When this Temple is built it is signaling the last 7 years in the End-Times.

We shouldn't need any more encouragement to prepare ourselves, the Lord is returning very soon. Make yourself ready.

Stay strong and trust in the Lord.

Mark Johnson

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# CHANGE IS COMING

SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

I saw a beautiful glittering crown come down,  
like a spacecraft descending to earth

**O**n January 24, 2008, I was awakened by the Holy Spirit at 2 AM. Since 2:30 AM was my normal prayer time I thought I'll rest for another thirty minutes. Try as I might I could not get back to sleep. I was wide awake. So I decided to wait on God. After sanctifying myself I quieted all that was within me to wait on God. In a few minutes I fell into a trance (*cp.* Acts 10:10).

I felt I was being transported to a certain place that looked as large as a football field, though it was not exactly a football field. Then I saw a beautiful glittering crown come down, like a spacecraft descending to earth. The crown, I noticed, was not golden as crowns usually are. Rather this crown was snow-white in appearance. As I recall, it seemed to be made from a translucent substance that glowed with light. It was the light from within that gave the crown a snow-white appearance. To all appearances, it seemed to be a crown of light. I perceived in my spirit that this was the Crown of the Lord Jesus Himself (Isa

28:5; Rev 14:4; 19:12).

The crown came and rested in the open field. As it touched down it grew in size and eventually occupied the whole field. The crown became like a command center, and my spirit perceived the Lord Jesus seated inside on a throne as its Commander-in-Chief. As I looked at the crown more closely again, I was surprised at what I saw. Usually, you would find all kinds of precious stones embedded in a crown. Instead of such precious stones, I found elderly men of God standing embedded around the crown. I noticed that the saints had a very dignified, serene, and meek demeanor. The Holy Spirit then quickened my understanding to know that God embeds His choice servants like diadems on His crown (Isa 62:3; Zech 9:16; Mal 3:17).

As I was looking at these men of God I was drawn to look towards my right. There I saw many young men. They were dressed from head to toe in black like the Ninja warriors of Japan.





Only the area around their eyes was not covered. They each had a sword in one hand and a shield in the other. They stood as if they could spring forth and pounce on anyone at a fraction of a second. I saw immense agility reflecting from their penetrating eyes and battle-poised demeanor, which is consistent with the ninja as depicted in Japanese history, a warrior honed in the martial arts and capable of executing a variety of unorthodox arts of combat such as assassination, espionage, stealth, camouflage, and specialized weaponry.

As I looked on, a signal seemed to come from within the crown and the elderly men stepped out from their places around the crown. As they came forth they looked very lovingly and kindly at the young warriors and motioned them to take their places. Without a second thought, the young warriors stepped into the crown to fill those vacated places. Even then, they stood with ready agility, awaiting their orders.

That was the end of my vision and I was back in my bedroom. I was dumbfounded by the experience and pondered the rest of the morning for an interpretation. Just before sunrise, the Word of the Lord came unto me:

*God has commanded - decree the Changing of the Guards to take place in this year. Older men of God who had walked with God and had served God faithfully and truthfully will be called home in this year. Younger men of God will be appointed in their place instead. These younger men were waiting; they were prepared; they were in training for such a time as this.*

Let us look at the Bible for a few examples of such changing of the guards.

1. Moses and Joshua. When the time came for the Prophet Moses to die the Lord God told him to lay his hands upon Joshua and ordain him (Num 27:22-23; Deu 34:9). Joshua was a much younger man compared to Moses. The Prophet Moses was a man who was always found waiting on God. Joshua, however, was a warrior (Josh 1:2).
2. Elijah and Elisha. When the time came for the Prophet Elijah to be taken up to heaven God asked him to anoint Elisha as his successor (1 Kg 19:16,19). Elisha was a young and robust man.
3. The Lord Jesus and the 12 Disciples. Although many of the disciples were not physically younger compared to the Lord Jesus in age, they were robust and ready to abandon all to carry out the work of the ministry after the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven. They, together with the Apostle Paul, went around the whole world to preach the gospel (Acts 8:4).

On February 20, 2008, a saintly man of God in India, Brother D.G.S. Dhinakaran (73), was called home to be with the Lord. At his memorial service many servants of God with good intentions and wanting to encourage his son Dr. Paul Dhinakaran (46) paid tribute by saying that he would have a double portion of his father's anointing upon his life. When they were all done, without hurting anyone or putting down any servant of God who spoke with good intentions, Dr. Paul Dhinakaran said that he felt his father's mantle would rather come upon his son, Samuel Paul Dhinakaran (18). Seated on the stage observing all this I recalled the



vision I saw on January 24, 2008—that the older men of God would be replaced by younger men.

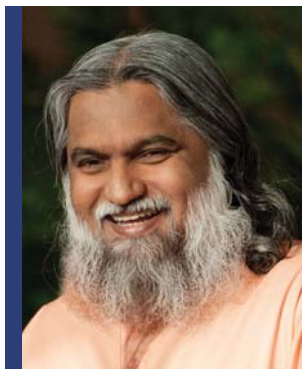
This decree it seems does not only apply in the spiritual realm but is also true for the natural realm—even in the realm of politics. In recent times, many nations in the world are seeing changes in their leadership as the elders are replaced by their juniors: Russia saw a younger President Dmitry Medvedev (41) replacing the older Mr. Vladimir Putin (54); Bhutan saw a younger King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (28) coronated in place of his older father, King Jigme Wangchuk (52); and many years ago Americans voted for a younger man, Mr. Barack Obama (42), to replace Mr. George Bush (62) as the next president of USA.

Beloved, the Lord God has decreed SHIFTINGS, CHANGES, RE-ALIGNMENTS, and TRANS-LOCATIONS (shifting from one nation to another). The Watchers (Dan 4:13,17,23) have decreed changes to come upon

ministries and churches in such a manner as to do the works of God according to His plans and purposes. Consider carefully Hebrews 7:11-19. The priesthood was only to be from the sons of Aaron, the tribe of *Levi*. But the Lord Jesus was from the tribe of *Judah*. How then could He be the High Priest if He was not from the tribe of Levi? The Lord God, by a new decree no less, effected a change in the priesthood from the *Levitical* priesthood to the *Melchizedek* priesthood, establishing a new divine order patterned in heaven. But it is not just a priesthood after the Lord Jesus, the founder of the Melchizedek Order, that is being prepared but an entire Army, which is waiting in the wings to be released for the outpouring of the former and latter rain (Hos 6:3; Joel 2:23).

Another change is coming. This is a change of cleansing. A cleansing of the church, the leaders, and the believers.

Behold, the Lord is coming to His temple!



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# MAY THE BRIDE COME FORTH AND SHINE FOR HER BRIDEGROOM

ANDY TIPLADY

the Lord is about to pour out a new wine and a new oil

**W**e know the story well. At the time of Pentecost, the disciples were all together in one place. Tongues of fire came to rest on each of them and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4)

We read of the boldness that came upon Peter, just his shadow alone healing the sick, and maybe you whisper quietly that you too would have loved to be there personally to participate with their adventures!

We have been born for such a time as this, for a reason and a purpose. Not a day too early, or too late. So what are we pushing towards, what are we aiming for? Are you expecting Jesus to return any moment?

Let's look at the words of Jesus Himself, regarding the question of His return and what signs we should be looking for.

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all*

*the nations, and then the end will come.*

*Matthew 24:14*

Has this gospel of the 'Kingdom' been preached throughout the whole earth? Most churches here in the west seem to be confusing 'building their church' for 'seeking the Kingdom and His Righteousness'. What about the Father's business that Jesus was devoted to?

We have been born for this time, to not just see the problem, but be the difference! We must and we can change this, becoming the new wine skins that the Lord will pour His new wine into, and new oil.

As the Covid19 restrictions lift here in the UK and across the world, many churches will go back into their 'holy huddles' and seek to pick up where they left off in March 2020. But we would all totally be missing what God has been wanting to show us, namely that it is not business as usual, but we must now come out of the spirit of this world and totally separate ourselves





and totally give ourselves to the things of the true Spirit and be faithful to what the Lord is calling His Bride to become, which is to become like Him in nature, and His alone!

*the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To 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.*

*Colossians 1:26-27*

We look in wonderment at the accomplishments of the early church, but we must not forget that it wasn't plain sailing, and in fact, they almost lost it. Let me explain.

Remember the two times when Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets again when they had spent a whole night of fishing and caught nothing?

- One was at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The nets were full but almost broke and they almost lost their catch.

*Similarly, just as this event took place at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, the early church was nearly destroyed through the historical period that we call 'The Dark Ages'. The net almost broke.*

- The second time was at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry in John 21. What happened? They caught some big fish, nearly causing the boat to sink. However, the nets did not break. How many fish were there? 153. *Similarly, this is very prophetic for us living in this age and is prophetically foretelling what will happen at the 'End of Time' and how the end-time Gospel of the Kingdom will be taken throughout the whole earth. This will also happen at a time when the earth will be at its*

*darkest.*

Isaiah 60:2 tells us this. However, this glory will arise on a small body of people who have totally given themselves over to the purpose and call of God with complete faithfulness. They will 'follow the Lamb wherever He goes, and they will learn a new song. They will be instrumental in bringing down the spirit of this age and, in the not too distant future, the spirit of Babylon the Great.

*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*

*Revelation 17:14*

This group of people have been called and chosen by God. Handpicked, but they will be faithful to this calling, as His Bride.

Matthew 22 tells us that this call is an invitation to the whole church to a wedding feast for 'the King's Son'. You see it's all about a wedding. A Ketubah. A contract between two parties; between two families; between a Bride and a Groom. This invitation has gone out twice. The first time was to the Jewish nation and then a second invitation to the whole church.

*"first for the Jews, then for the Gentile."*  
*(Romans 1:16b)*

**But look how much of the church have responded.**

*But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*

*Matthew 22:5*

What we see here are people more consumed with the Gospel of Church, and not the Gospel of the Kingdom. We must be about our Father's business, and seek and welcome the Lord's correction in our lives to separate the



chaff from the wheat. Some traditions serve a Kingdom purpose, others don't. Some 'church' activities can even be counter-productive, and we need to be open for these to be removed from our lives.

*"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

*Matthew 22:14*

People of God, we are all called to the wedding feast, but will we prepare ourselves and make time for this invitation, wearing the garments of righteousness given to us through Christ?

Again, just look at the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins. Both groups had been invited to a wedding, but what drastically different outcomes. I think one of the saddest verses is found toward the end of this parable:

*"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"*

*Matthew 25:6-12*

Oh my, to have the Lord say that you are not known to Him or acquainted with Him is something we need to avoid at all cost! The oil represents our relationship with our 'First Love' which keeps our lamps, our ministries, burning bright. It's our love for Him and for each other that will be a light to many.

This is the time for the Bride to make herself ready, by keeping our side of the contract of marriage. Jesus kept His side of it by dying for us, He can never be unfaithful. He signed and sealed this Ketubah with His own blood. It's really not rocket science, it's all about relationship.

### **Back to the second catch of 153 fishes!**

Let's have a look at the Hebrew Gematria, the use of the letters of the alphabet where letters represent numbers, or where the numerology in which the letters of the Hebrew or Greek alphabet are substituted with the corresponding numbers.

Take the number 153 and apply this principle, 153 comes to 'Ben Ha-Elohim' meaning 'Sons of God'.

'Ben Ha-Elohim' is used 7 times in Scripture, 7 meaning spiritual perfection.

However, one of them is slightly different, "Sons of the living God." Thus, the human and divine element is seen here depicting the perfection of man in complete spiritual maturity coming to the fore in these end times.

- If we take 153, in the Greek, using the Gematria = the factors of 3213 are 153 and 7 and 3 ( 3 stands for "solid, real, substantial, complete and entire.) which is  $3 \times 7 \times 153 = 3213$
- "Joint-heirs" amounts to 1071, the factors of which are 153 and 7,  $153 \times 7 = 1071$
- Take fishes in Greek which is "Ichthus" in Gematria = 1224 which is  $8 \times 153 = 1224$
- "Net" in Greek Gematria = also  $1224 - 8 \times 153 = 1224$
- Lieutenant- Col. F. Roberts found that amongst the multitudes who received a





direct blessing from Jesus were recorded exactly 153 special cases.

We are looking at the 153 fish signifying a people coming forward with such incredible anointing on them with these following attributes:

- They won't abuse or use this power for themselves
- They will be spotless
- Purer and brighter
- Holy
- Driven out of a heart of love for Him, their first love
- A remnant

The perfect, mature remnant will come forth in these last days. The fully matured man from Revelation 12 that will come forth with such power the world has never seen. They will be a witness for the Lord to the ends of this world in these last days that will soon be upon us.

*Hebrews 6:5*

*...and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,*

There have been people in the past who have tasted this power in the past, however, many of them had flaws. Competition, pride, money, fame, ministry and a whole variety of different reasons. This next group of people will be and must be totally different and will have the fulness of the Holy Spirit resting upon them.

*Isaiah 11:2*

*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,*

*The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,*

*The Spirit of counsel and might,*

*The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

Their delight will be

*His delight is in the fear of the LORD,  
Isaiah 11:3*

When this group comes forth out of darkness they will shine with the brilliance of the Holy Spirit. Just like when Jesus came out of the River Jordan after being baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit rested upon Him. Some of these people who touched on the 'power of the age to come' had the Holy Spirit come to them but not rest continuously. This end-time Remnant group will be different. The Holy Spirit will rest on them and not leave. They will have an 'Open heaven' above them. They will be trusted not to abuse or misuse the power and authority, but complete the greater works, as Jesus started in John 14:12.

*They will be baptized by "the Spirit of the Lamb" and follow Him wherever He goes or sends us. They will overcome the spirit of this world by 'the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and not love their lives to the death.*

*Revelation 12:11*

The disciples' work was incomplete, and so were some of the greats that have gone before us. It is our job to make their work complete.

*And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

*Hebrews 11:39-40*

*They are waiting for us to make their work complete.*

We are to finish what they started.

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the*

*race that is set before us,  
Hebrews 12:1*

They are shouting, and praying for us  
"Go, go go remnant."  
The Baton has been passed to us. How  
will we finish this? This is up to us.

David Livingstone said this: *"Those  
who are yet to come, let them not  
forget us."*

Absolutely and amen to that. There  
are always frontier men and women  
who have pushed the boundaries to  
enable others to follow. As this remnant  
becomes smaller it will become:

- Purer
- Brighter
- And be a Holy Bride

*"Behold, I send My messenger,  
And he will prepare the way before  
Me.*

*And the Lord, whom you seek,  
Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant,  
In whom you delight.*

*Behold, He is coming,"  
Says the LORD of hosts.*

*"But who can endure the day of His  
coming?*

*And who can stand when He  
appears?*

*For He is like a refiner's fire  
And like launderers' soap.*

*He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of  
silver;*

*He will purify the sons of Levi,  
And purge them as gold and silver,  
That they may offer to the LORD*

*An offering in righteousness.  
"Then the offering of Judah and  
Jerusalem  
Will be pleasant to the LORD,  
As in the days of old,  
As in former years.*

*Malachi 3:1-4*

This passage tells us nine particular  
things:

1. Jesus will send His Messengers
2. To Prepare a way for His Second  
Coming
3. The Lord will come to His Temple  
– Us
4. These Messengers will declare  
the ever-existing COVENANT of  
Marriage
5. This company of people will be  
made pure and will be refined  
in fire, at a time of persecution  
and darkness the world has  
never seen, as a witness for the  
Lamb, their Bridegroom
6. He will do the refining and  
cleaning
7. They will be willing
8. They are an offering of  
Righteousness to the Lord
9. They will be found pleasant to  
the Lord

Listen.....

The Sheep will be looked after and  
protected, but the Goats will be  
slaughtered. The Wheat will be  
gathered and stored, but the Tares  
will be burnt.

The Chaff in the wheat will be blown  
out, SEPARATED.

This is the year of separation.

God bless you.

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# THE COSMIC DECEPTION

MARK JOHNSON

As this topic becomes more and more in the headlines, people will begin to question the validity of God

**O**n the 25th May 2021 the Pentagon released their findings on UAP's (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena), formally UFO. Whilst there was nothing revealing about their report, it shows that this is a real concern. The questions left unanswered, were blaring, what are they and where do they come from.

As children of the creator, should we not have the answers to these questions? Is not God the creator of everything? Can we turn to the pages of the Bible for the answers? The answer to these questions is YES!

As this topic becomes more and more in the headlines, people will begin to question the validity of God in the universe. This is exactly what the satan wants, question whether God is real. The church needs to have the answers, answers that do not sweep it under the carpet or brush it off as 'just demons'. If we don't then people will turn to the world for the answers and that will be disastrous.

## The Fall

In order to create a framework we need to go back to the beginning, before humanity was created, a time before time of Heavenly beings, Angels. Angels are not of Earth, so they would be classified as "alien", please remember this.

When the satan rebelled, taking with him an unknown number of Angelic beings, God punished them by casting them out of the 3rd Heaven. They fell, that fall was not just a metaphor, but was literal. Why did they fall, could they not fly out of Heaven? When God dispelled them from Heaven, they "lost their wings", hence they "fell". Can we see this pattern in the Bible to back this up?

## Garden of Eden

The first incursion into the human race happened in the Garden of Eden. When Eve was tempted by a creature to eat of the tree of "Knowledge of Good & Evil". We need to understand who that creature was. He was not an





animal, but a being created before time, an Angel. We can identify exactly what type of fallen Angel this is by careful study of the scriptures. But before we do that, how did God punish this fallen Angel? By removing its arms and legs.

*So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and every beast of the field! On your belly will you go, and dust you will eat, all the days of your life.*

*Genesis 1:14*

First God removed the wings from the fallen Angels, then He removed the arms and legs of this particular fallen Angel. So the question remains, what was this creature and how does this connect to an alien deception.

### **The Serpent in the Garden**

In order to identify this fallen Angel, we need to look at scripture from the Hebrew text.

*Above Him stood seraphim, each having six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.*

*Isaiah 6:2*

The word here "seraphim" comes from the root word saraph and means the following in Hebrew.

saraph: serpent

Part of Speech: Noun Masculine

Transliteration: saraph

Phonetic Spelling: (saw-rawf')

Definition: fiery serpen

From saraph; burning, i.e. (figuratively) poisonous (serpent); specifically, a saraph or symbolical creature (from their copper color) -- fiery (serpent), seraph.

The creature that deceived Eve was a fallen Seraphim Angel (an alien to Earth), manifesting in physical form. What form did he take? A reptilian alien. What is one of the "types" of aliens that the alien community say exist? A reptilian from the Alpha Draco system. This is a complete deception perpetrated from the satan to remove God. Do not believe the lies that is coming about alien's being from other planets, regardless of the physical proof they will show, "real life living breathing aliens".

Not only will one type of "alien" be revealed, but many. This will bring worldwide confusion to believers in Christ. Many will turn away because the "proof" is right in front of them.

Let's look at another example of this alien masacaraed from the scriptures.

### **Two Angels in Sodom**

*The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.*

*"My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."*

*"No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."*

*But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.*

*Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house.*

*They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."*

*Genesis 19:1-5 NIV*



Two Angels sent from God appeared in physical form in the city of Sodom, they even ate bread with Lot's family.

From this account these two Angels must have been extremely attractive. Every man, both young and old wanted to have sex with them.

Now the satan himself and his followers disguise themselves as angels of light as this scripture tells us.

*No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

*2 Corinthians 11:14-15*

In physical form, certain fallen angels fit another type of "alien creature". The Nordics or Aryan race. According to the alien community these "aliens" are extremely attractive, have blond hair and blue eyes. These are the same race of being that Hitler was obsessed by. They are in fact, fallen angels.

It is very important that we ourselves don't become obsessed by this deception. All you need to be aware of is the truth, the truth is the "alien discloser" is a deception. Don't be pulled into it, focus on the truth - that is Jesus.

### **Fallen Technology**

As I said earlier, the angelic beings that rebelled lost their wings, they also are not creative beings. They have knowledge and technology but are unable to reproduce it. Including not been able to reproduce physical being without out the human race (see Genesis Chapter 6). Therefore, fallen angel technology has been given to the human race over thousands of years (The Book of Enoch Chapter 8).

The aim of this is to ultimately deceive mankind. The satan has read the Bible, he knows he will be thrown down to Earth.

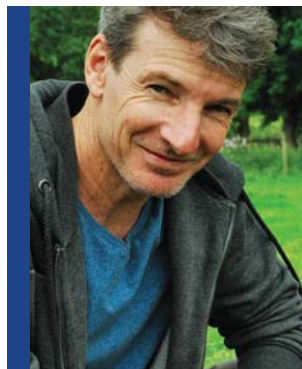
*And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

*Revelation 12:9*

As he will once again lose access to a Heavenly realm, he will need technology to continue his plan on Earth. Therefore he is giving it to mankind so we can create it for him. This is why we are seeing UAP's/UFO's, They are both man made and spiritual craft. One only needs to read Ezekiel Chapter 1 to realize God uses some sort of craft that flies. What does the enemy do, counterfeits everything that God does.

As children of God, we must be prepared to answer these questions with sound scriptures. Lest the people be deceived by a strong disillusion. If you are reading this, that means you.

While this has been a very brief summery, it is enough to stand against the coming Cosmic Deception.



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# EVIL TWINS

I was able to observe evil twin demon beings.  
These beings come from the bowels of satan himself

On May 9, 1998, I was given a powerful prophetic experience. I was seeking the Lord for an answer concerning the constant whirl of confusion and mistrust that is pervasive among leaders in the Body of Christ. There had to be an answer to the breakdown in communications. The Lord permitted me to go into the second heaven, which is where the devil formulates his wicked schemes, and there I was able to observe evil twin demon beings. These beings come from the bowels of satan himself. These twins were not identical but were extremely wicked.

## Deceptive Disguise

I observed them in their dressing room, watching them as they made preparations for their malicious mission. Putting on their deceptive disguise, they dressed as telephone repairmen. Each had a very winsome personality and had the appearance of being so very helpful. In their disguise, they appeared *handsome* and even *charming*. No one could ever detect their dark demonic

plans and purposes in the natural. This type of activity must be revealed and seen by the realm of the spirit.

## Malicious Mission - Contaminate Communications

They were dispatched to every home and office of all those in leadership. Their mission is to place "bugs" in the telephone receivers. These "bugging devices" were planted in the telephone receiver to distort what was being said and heard. I was given their names. The names of these two evil twins are "**Accusation**" and "**Suspicion**." Their mission is an attack against Christian leadership's communication. Their goal is to ultimately contaminate our communications to breakdown our unity and trust in one another. They seek to hinder our exchange of information and expression of ideas by clouding and confusing our words.

One of the definitions of the word "**accusation**" deals with charging someone with a crime by using our words. If we give ear to the accusation,





soon we will receive the evil ministry of suspicion, which fosters mistrust. This evil suspicion causes the suspicious person to always look for the very worst in others, whether they be one person or a large group. Additionally, a person with suspicions seems to be blinded to the good qualities of the other person(s).

### Deception in Perception

"These evil twins affect what is being said and heard. They cause deception in one's perception. These bugs infect communication, causing doubt, skepticism, and apprehension; these breed mistrust and distrust, which brings about cynicism. Their goal is to bring about the paralyzation of pessimism. They bring about slander and all types of false allegations and contentious complaints. Our words are twisted and are used to promote a lack of trust that paralyzes the people of God.

### Skepticism Separates

Because of this strife and debate, many in leadership are driven to solitude and detachment; they detach and disconnect from walking in real unity. When these two evil spirits minister their deception, it brings about a spirit of self-pity and a feeling of being alone. (This makes it seem that no other Christian can be trusted.) The foe of our soul strikes best when we are going through self-pity and a feeling of isolation. An example of this was **John the Baptist**, when he had been placed into prison. The once bold prophetic voice who stood proclaiming the Lamb of God now sits in a lonely prison cell, and the thief of his soul comes to rob him of his faith. The dark cloud of doubt moves over his heart, and soon he is questioning if anything he has done is truly, of God (**Matthew 11:1-8**).

We can make terrible mistakes while in this spirit of desperation and

detachment. Look at **Elijah** after he withstood the hundreds of prophets of Jezebel. He now flees and asks the Lord to take his life. He is so misguided he thinks he is the only one left (**1 Kings 19**). **Identification of the Bugging Devices** I was shown the names of some of these bugging devices. They are *rivalry*, which produces a spirit of competition, *slander*, *gossip*, *faultfinding*, *murmuring*, *smearing*, using our words to bring about insinuation and *bitter backbiting*. When this happens, the very poison of malice is in our mouth. The Lord said He would give the Church power to take the sword of the Spirit and cut the throats of these two evil spirits, but this can only be accomplished by bringing every hidden feeling into the light.

We must be open and transparent with each other and willing to confront issues of the heart. We must guard our words when doing this. Our words are to be used to build up the Body of Christ, not to tear people down. Our words can be used by the Spirit of God to help or by satan to hurt, to minister healing, or inflict wounds. Words have a potent effect on people!

Once a lady in the community had gotten very bitter in the local Church. She had let hatred build up in her heart, and she began to go all over the community spreading slanders and lies about the Pastor, and this went on for days. She would gossip to all who would give her their ear. Soon, the Spirit of God began to move powerfully on her, bringing about deep regret, moving her to go to the Pastor and apologize. The Pastor said, "*Oh, yes, I forgive you, but please come with me.*" He took a pillow filled with feathers and led the repentant woman to a windy hillside, where he cut open the feather pillow. The strong swirling wind took the loose feathers, blowing



and scattering them all across the community. Then the Pastor said to the woman, *"Now, please go and retrieve each feather."* She exclaimed, *"that is impossible! The feathers have gone all over the town!"* I could never gather them all up. The Pastor answered, *"that's right, and neither can you take back all the lies and allegations you spoke."*

God will give grace to bridle the tongue if we are willing to face these foes. One of these demons' main intentions is to bring about such contamination in communication that all lines of communication are shut down. They intensely seek to foster allegations, malicious words, and spiteful slander so that people in leadership will totally separate themselves from one another. The Word of God reminds us that our tongue is an indicator of a person's spirit. It reveals what is in the heart.

Jesus said,

*Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say unto you; That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words, thou shalt be condemned."*

*Matthew 12:33-37*

The Lord warns that our words are a window to our heart. So, what comes out of our mouth is a revealing of what is deep within our heart.

Additionally, Christ declares

*"Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever enters in at the mouth goes into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."*

*Matthew 15:18 (KJV)*

### **Taming the Tongue**

In the timeless New Testament passage on the tongue, the Apostle James warns precisely against the evil of an uncontrolled and uncharitable tongue.

*"Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check."*

*James 3:1-12 (NIV)*

**When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

*All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*



*With the tongue, we praise our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both freshwater and saltwater flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."*

### **Small but Powerful**

The tongue is a small yet powerful organ used for talking and taste. The Bible reveals many different descriptive examples using the tongue. For example, the tongue can be sharpened like a sword.

David states,

*"Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; guard and preserve my life from the terror of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel and conspiracy of the ungodly, from the scheming of evildoers, Who whet their tongues like a sword, who aim venomous words like arrows, Who shoot from ambush at the blameless man; suddenly do they shoot at him, without self-reproach or fear."*

*Psalms 64:1-4 (AMPC)*

The tongue can be used to speak forth words as a weapon for attack (**Jeremiah 18:18**), wounding like a sharp sword (**Psalms 57:4**). The tongue can be deadly like a serpent (**Psalms 140:3**). Like a serpent refers to the tongue's ability to utter sarcastic, caustic, and poisonous words. The tongue is like a warrior's bow, in that the tongue can project lies (**Jeremiah 9:3**), which can fly like an arrow, striking down with its deadly deceit (**Jeremiah 9:8**). The tongue can be used for flattery, which can be just as deadly and destructive as criticism. (**Psalms 5:9, Proverbs 28:23**) Also see *Backbiting* (**Psalms 15:3,**

**Proverbs 25:23**), *Cursing* (**Hosea 7:16**), *Deceit* (**Psalms 50:19**), *Destruction* (**Psalms 52:2**), *Craftiness* (**Job 15:5**), *Unrestrained speech* (**Psalms 73:9**), *Lying* (**Psalms 109:2, Proverbs 26:28**), and *Strife* (**Psalms 31:20**).

The tongue can be yielded to the Spirit of God and used for good. Or yielded to the evil spirit and used for harm and hurt. Our words can heal or wound. People may use the tongue to sin (**Psalms 39:1**) or speak of the Lord's great grace and tender mercies (**Psalms 35:28**). Our tongue can be used to sound out the praises of God (**Psalms 126:2**).

The tongue of the wise renders health (**Proverbs 12:18**). The tongue of the righteous is a treasure, like choice silver (**Proverbs 10:20**). The Bible speaks of keeping the tongue from evil (**Psalms 34:13**), of guarding the tongue (**Proverbs 21:23**), and bridling the tongue (**James 1:26**).

Note the following verses from **Proverbs (NIV)**:

*"All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse."*  
*Proverbs 8:8*

*"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise."*

*Proverbs 10:19*

*"The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them."*

*Proverbs 12:6*

*"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

*Proverbs 16:24*

*"A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered."*

*Proverbs 17:27*





*"The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook."*

*Proverbs 18:4*

*"The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts."*

*Proverbs 18:8*

*"Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."*

*Proverbs 19:27*

*"The eyes of the Lord keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful."*

*Proverbs 22:12*

*"Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach."*

*Proverbs 22:17*

*"Teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve?"*

*Proverbs 22:21*

*"Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words."*

*Proverbs 23:9*

*"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."*

*Proverbs 23:12*

*"Servants cannot be corrected by mere words; though they understand, they will not respond."*

*Proverbs 29:19*

*"Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them."*

*Proverbs 29:20*

*"Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.."*

*Proverbs 30:6*

Hatred, Strife, and Contention are as a fire. It burns and sears the soul, burns up all that is good, and puts families, friends, and even entire societies into a consuming flame.

In **Proverbs 26:20-22**, we are told how that fire is commonly kindled and kept burning so that we may avoid the occasions of strife and so prevent the devilish consequences of it. The Scriptures warn that ***we must not give ear to talebearers***, for they feed the fire of contention with their verbal fuel. Each time we permit ourselves to join in slander or gossip (***it does not matter if we are the one speaking or the one listening***), we are guilty of spreading wildfire set on fire by hell itself (**James 3:6**). These words we speak are fireballs, causing devastation and destruction everywhere they fall. The souls of men are in a time of drought because of a lack of unity and mistrust. These winds of mistrust and doubt have fanned the flames of these wildfires into a burning raging fire. We cannot continue to give ear to anyone busy revealing secrets and misrepresenting words and actions. These people are doing what they can to make relations, friends, and neighbors jealous of one another, to alienate them, one from another. This work is the work of the **accuser of the brethren himself**. When a person is used for sowing discord among believers, they are working against the Spirit of God. Whisperers and backbiters are incendiaries not to be allowed to burn out of control.

In **Proverbs 18:8**, the word declares **that the words of a talebearer are as wounds - deep and dangerous wounds** (see also **Proverbs 26:23**).

*"Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips. Incline my heart not to submit or consent to any evil thing or to be occupied in deeds of wickedness with*



*men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their dainties."*

*Psalms 141:3-4 (AMPC)*

*"[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the*

*obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."*

*2 Corinthians 10:5 (AMPC)*

Let us take every thought AND WORD captive and submit it to Jesus Christ. Ask God to guard your tongue against speaking anything that would oppose Him!



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Kent Mattox

# What does God want

God had put the whole earth on pause to prepare us for the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen

The church is in a major transition, and as a people we are also transitioning from old structures and ways of doing things. We are transitioning from the Church Age to the Kingdom Age. If we are looking for normal as pertaining to the way the Church has been structured, we are going to be disappointed. There is no longer a normal to return to. Waiting for things to get back to the way it used to be is going to prove to be very frustrating and disappointing. Our culture and society will never function the way it was because it was not structurally nor foundationally sound. It is okay to be okay with this transition because the Lord is orchestrating it. During the COVID pandemic, there were cities that fought for their right to gather and worship. That is understandable, but when challenged by the fact that liquor stores and tattoo parlours are essential, but the church is not essential, as far as being able to gather, the question posited by the Lord to me was, "Is the church actually essential?"

Are we essential because we gather or could it be that God is saying

something to His church about how much more He has for us once we are equipped to share the good news of the Gospel beyond the church doors? My belief is that God is speaking to the church like never before. We can discern and sense the transition that the entire globe is experiencing. Yet there are people that still do not feel comfortable gathering to worship and that has to be okay with everyone. There are incredible opportunities to embrace as the Ekklesia to impart hope to those within our sphere who may have never even attended church or been part of a congregation. God is talking to us as individuals, and it is my strong belief that God put the whole earth on pause to prepare us for the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen. God is speaking and challenging His people to wake up to the harvest. Bob Jones prophesied that when the Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl it will begin a billion soul transformational revival. Well, as unlikely as it seems the Chiefs would win, they did in fact win the Super Bowl in 2020. And what happened next? The Pandemic comes and shuts





down THE GLOBE! There are far more questions than answers and many believe that the enemy is trying to stop the move of God but I believe that the Lord is preparing us for it, and the old ways of communicating the gospel is an old wineskin that cannot hold the new wine.

If the Pandemic had not happened we would still be having church exactly the same formulaic way that it has been happening since Constantine broke up meeting in homes and set in place a destination for Christians to gather so the state could watch over and dictate how, what, when and where services were allowed to take place. Any expectation of anything new, different, or what God wants to do or say has been effectively constrained to fit into ninety minute service orders that fit everyone's time schedule and feeds the consumer Christianity that has become so pervasive in our culture. I believe God put us on pause so we can ask, "What does God want?" In this season, it is not what I want and not what people want, it is what God wants. That is the question that I started asking God, "What do You want?" We made a decision to hold everything loosely and prayed, "God, You tell us how to gather, You show us what to do, You speak Your will into existence and we will follow You."

God began to give us a new strategy and prototype and encouraged me to really look at the way we do things because it is not His plan in this season for His Body to continue to gather just for the sake of gathering. We are not looking for people to gather just for the sake of worshiping, hearing a message and living their lives. I asked and He answered and said, "Tell people to meet God's needs and God will definitely meet yours." Most of us have gone to church all our lives thinking we are part of a church, faithfully showing up and tithing but our expectations and end game is to get our needs met. That is not why the

church was birthed. The church was birthed to meet God's needs. Well, at this juncture you may be responding with, "I did not know God has needs." Yes, God has needs. You may be asking, "What are they?" He told us in Matthew 25:31-46,

*"When I was sick, you came to visit me, when I was poor, you looked after me, when I needed clothes, you clothed me, when I was hungry, you fed me, when I was in prison, you came to see me. The disciples asked, 'Lord, when did we do this to you?' His response was, 'When you did it to the least of these, my brethren, you did it unto me.'"*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

Those are God's needs on earth. It would seem that He is saying, "I have laid it all out for you but you are still not actually doing what I want you to do." He wants us to live the lifestyle that He lays out for us in Mark 12:30-31,

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

*Mark 12:30-31*

In the Western church, we have bought into Jesus as Savior and thank God He is our Savior, but if He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

We have bought into a westernized gospel where the gospel is "say a prayer, get saved, raise your family, go work your job, then at the end go to heaven one day." After salvation is secure and you have your metaphorical ticket out of here then just go on about your life. There is so much more than waiting to check out of here and it makes sense to me that God, in His infinite Wisdom, would stop everything to get our attention to let us know we have been getting further and further off track. This may be a hard saying for some reading this



but one of the first things I would like to address is part of every church's platform. I love worship and the power there is in worship services but an interesting caveat about all of the worship directed at Jesus is that He never once said worship Me. There is not one scripture that instructs God's people to worship Jesus. What Jesus did say is, "Follow Me." Jesus is The Way, the Truth and the Life. That is why the early church was called the way and people listened to their counsel and followed them to Jesus. Following Jesus' example is the way to live. He is not just a salvation exit strategy to our life in the hereafter. He is The Way to live life now. He is very clear about what that looks like in Matthew 4:17,

*"Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven has come near."*

*Matthew 4:17*

There is another way to see and another way to live and to behave that is of another world that Jesus has brought to us through the kingdom of God. In my opinion, this is what God is looking for from us as His people and from the church. His need, if you will, is for us to be those people who put the needs of God above our own needs, trusting that just as Philippians 4:19 assures us if we will meet God's needs here on earth all of our needs will be met according to His riches in glory.

He promises if we will serve the poor, take care of the hungry and meet the needs of others, our healings and miracles will manifest and God's glory will be revealed. He promises He will be our rear guard, protect and look after us. In this season we have to really listen to what God is saying so we can be aligned with His plans and purposes in the earth today. I prayerfully considered this and asked, "Lord, how do we step into this and walk with You to accomplish this mandate?"

We only want what God wants and to follow His instructions, so right in

the middle of my seeking His heart God spoke very clearly to me and gave me Isaiah 58, which has been a foundational scripture for our church from the inception of this work. The only tweak that He gave me was this, and He said, "Kent, Word Alive will not have Isaiah 58, Word Alive will actually be Isaiah 58." When you read that scripture it is all laid out so clearly: "Shout a full throated, shout, hold nothing back, a trumpet blast. Shout, tell my people what is wrong with their lives. Face my family, Jacob, with their sins, they are busy, busy, busy at worship and love studying all about me. To all appearances, they are a nation of right living people, law abiding, God honoring. They asked me what is the right thing to do and love having me on their side. But they also complain. Why do we fast? And you do not look our way. Why do we humble ourselves? And you do not even notice. Well, here is why. The bottom line is on your fast days, it is for profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time, you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do will not even get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast I am after, a day to show off humility, to put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black, do you call that fasting? A fast day that I, God, would like? This is the kind of fast I am after, to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I am interested in seeing you do is share your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless, poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering, ill clad, being available to your own families. Do this, and the lights will turn on and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage and you will pray and God will answer and you will call for help and He will say, 'Here I am.'"



As I began to adhere to these instructions and to follow what I believe is the mandate of the Lord to get outside of the structure of the four walls of the church you can only imagine that there have been a lot of questions as to future plans for our church, the church at large and the big one, "Is Kent leaving the church?"

In conclusion this is where I have landed. I am leaving that church that is only built on consumerism gospel that we just want our needs met and we are not concerned about the needs of others. I am leaving the church that really has become anaemic and the lack of power that we have is because we do not have a revelation of the real mission that God has called us to in the earth. I am leaving the church that is based on a political agenda and not based upon God's Word in the power of His Holy Spirit, and I am leaving the church that is controlled by men and denominationality dictates and outside powers. I want to be part of the church that is led and empowered by the Spirit of the living God and we are recognized by one thing: we have the life of Jesus flowing on the inside of us.

The church that I am describing to you is the church we cannot leave. I know you are asking, "Why?" Well, you cannot leave it because you do not join it. We have to be born into that church. You can join the other church and you can actually decide to leave that other church, but you cannot leave the church you are born into. That is the church that Jesus said, "I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." This is the church that is built on one thing: We have the revelation of Who Jesus Christ actually is and on this Rock He will build His church, on the church where people have a revelation. That is the only church that I want to be part of. We do not join it; we are born into it. This church cannot be controlled by man because it is not earthly, it is heavenly. We are born

into it by the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. We have to have a revelation of Who He is. As saints, our revelation should be that we have been bought with a price and our lives are not our own. We belong to someone else. I belong to somebody. I am a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am already locked up. I have already committed my life to the Lord and I am going all the way to the end. I am not backing up, I am not stopping, I am not quitting and I am committed all the way and I do not belong to myself anymore.

But, I cannot be a part of the contemporary church structure. It is too wishy-washy and fickle with God's people just waiting for the next great thing to come along to see what can be done for them. I do not want to be a part of that church anymore. I want out of the church business of filling seats for money to pay bills. Therefore we have chosen to live our lives according to Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborer's labor is in vain." If God does not provide and supply, if God does not fill the house and He does not continue to build it then I do not want to be part. But, I can tell you with the deepest conviction and confidence that Jesus is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. That is the church we cannot yet see but the foundation is being laid and the Ekklesia is about to arise in the earth. That is the church I want to be part of.



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# Becoming a partaker of the Divine Nature

*Joe Sweet*

when we are partakers of His love  
we escape the corruption that is in the world

**T**he first chapter of Peter's second epistle reveals the glory of the Gospel: the Divine nature, which is His love, in man! The miracle of Christianity is that God's grace completely transforms us to have the mind of Christ, to be filled with His nature, His love and His life.

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

*1 John 4:16*

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*2 Peter 1:2-4*

According to the above Scripture

God has called us, by His grace, to glory and virtue and He has given us everything we need to walk in that. We do this through the "exceedingly great and precious promises" given to us. As we believe and apply these "exceedingly great and precious promises" we become partakers of His Divine nature (love).

Peter goes on to tell us that when we are partakers of His love that we escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Partaking of His love is how we are freed from sin. The love of God in us and flowing out of us sets us free.

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lusts and enticed. 15 Then, when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

*James 1:14-15*

## **Love and Lust are opposites**

Partaking of His love (Divine nature) sets us free from the the power of sin.



Love and lust are opposites. Lust is selfish. Love is selfless. Love is God's nature filling us and flowing out of us for the good of others. Love is light and it is giving. Lust is when we are empty; when we are not partaking of God's love. Lust is dark, selfish and self-serving. It is an attempt to fill the vacuum where God's love should be abiding.

The only way to escape the corruption that comes from lust is by partaking of His Divine nature. We may think of lust as primarily pertaining to sexual lust, but lust is much more than that. Lust is the selfish and carnal desire to gratify the flesh or soul with something other than the Lord Himself. There is sexual lust, lust for material goods, lust for money, lust for power, lust for recognition, lust for approval, lust for food, comfort lust, etc., etc.

When lust is trying to take hold of our soul we can resist it (and we should resist it) but we can not permanently overcome it except by being a partaker of His Divine Nature. The love of God is what we were made for. Only the love of God abiding in us and flowing out of us will put our soul and flesh at rest. If we are not filled with God's love, we will seek to fill the soul and flesh another way and therefore be vulnerable to sin.

Paul tells us that it is by walking in the Spirit that the flesh is put to death. Our own fleshly strength cannot put the deeds of the flesh to death. The Spirit of God causes the deeds of the flesh to be crucified.

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

*Romans 8:13*

Since it is "by the Spirit" and not by our own ability, then our primary aim

must be to abide in the Lord. Rather than focusing on "not sinning" our focus must be on abiding. By abiding in Him, His Spirit in us sets us free from corruption and lust.

Following is one of the exceedingly great and precious promises given to us by God.

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

*Matthew 5:6*

God promises to FILL US with His righteousness!!!! He only requires that we hunger and thirst for His righteousness. What does it look like to be filled with His righteousness? It looks like the very life of Jesus, His love and the fruit of His Spirit filling us. This is what we were made for. We can, and must, possess our inheritance in Christ (the fullness of His life in us) by hungering and thirsting for it.

*Psalm 107:9*  
*"For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness"*

*God appreciates those who hunger to know and abide in Him.*

*"I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find me"*  
*Proverbs 8:17*

*As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."*  
*Romans 9:13*

What was it about Jacob that God loved? Jacob hungered and thirsted for his inheritance. He wrestled with God until he was blessed. (Genesis 32:24-29) God loves when we hunger and thirst for Him and His righteousness. God blessed Jacob and changed his name from "deceiver" to "prince". This is a picture of what happens when



we hunger and thirst for the Lord.

What was it about Esau that God hated? Esau did not esteem his inheritance. He was willing to sell it for a bowl of stew. Indifference toward the Lord and lack of hunger for His righteousness is very displeasing and an offense to the Lord. God loves those who love Him and He greatly rewards spiritual hunger for Himself and His righteousness. So He has given us an exceedingly great and precious promise. If we will hunger and thirst for righteousness, HE WILL FILL US. That means He will fill us with His Spirit and impart His Divine nature, transforming us into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

Someone asked me recently "How do we get more spiritual hunger?" Getting spiritually hungry is just the opposite of natural hunger. When our body is hungry and we eat a good meal, we are no longer hungry for a while. In the kingdom of God, when we really partake of the Lord, of His living Word and His Spirit, it makes us more hungry! The more we "eat" of Him, the hungrier we become. This is how we get more spiritual hunger.

We begin by praying and asking Him to draw us to Himself. We feed on His Word and do our best to apply it to our life. The more we feed on Him the hungrier we get. The less

we pray and feed on His Word, the less hungry for Him we become.

One sure sign that we have been neglecting Him is if we are not hungry for Him. If that is the case, we must fall down on our knees and ask for His grace to draw us to Him. Then, by faith, begin feeding on His Word. Prayer and His Word will always awaken more hunger.

This is the way of the Lord. There is not another way. Spiritual hunger is the path to fullness in Him. Without more hunger we do not go forward in our walk. Without hunger, we drift backwards.

*"Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple."*

*Psalms 65:4*

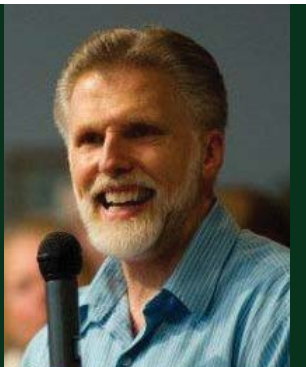
**Pray:** Lord, will you awaken spiritual hunger in me. Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word. Open my eyes to see the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ. Open my eyes to know You and the hope of Your calling. Cause me to see the vanity of everything outside of Christ, that it is "wood, hay and stubble" that will burn up on that Day. Lord, will You draw me to Yourself. Cause me to come to You. Deliver me from every distraction in Jesus' Name.

As God gives us the gift of hungering and thirsting for His righteousness, we must be careful to nurture it, feed it, protect it and steward it. As we continue to hunger for Him, He will continue to fill us. This is the path of life in Christ.

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

*Matthew 5:6*

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