

# **Water That Doesn't Run**

New Life  
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**Water That Doesn't Run  
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## **Introduction**

### **Water That Doesn't Run**

I almost hate to illustrate the theme of this book in the way that I am about to. That is such a beautiful poetic title. However, if you have read any of my books before this one, you probably know that beautiful and poetic doesn't sum up my writing style. I, as the kids at school say, "get down to where it's at". A lot of the poetic sounding beautiful Christian literature fails to hit the mark. It just isn't in reality and it isn't where most people live. The Bible Itself has some poetic moments, but as a whole it is very plain spoken. If some of the Old Testament prophets came in today's churches, they would probably be dismissed and not welcomed back because they were just too abrupt or vulgar. In today's churches we want to be comfortable. We don't want to be shaken out of our comfort zone. We want an eloquent, beautiful, educated, poetic sounding sermon that is pleasing to the ear. We want preachers who are educated in all of the world's knowledge, preachers who present themselves in a polished manner. Paul might sum us up in the way he summed up the congregations of his day by saying this in II Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. II Timothy 3 tells a lot more about this subject. It also tells what we are to do when these things happen in II Timothy 3:14, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them". Verse 16-17 tells us, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works". We need the truth. We need the whole of the Word of God. We need to get down to the nitty-gritty of where we are before God. If we don't, we may find that the judgment of God concerning our "seem right" lives will rock our comfort zone. (Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.")

I guess you have figured out by now that my illustration of the theme of this book is not going to be poetic. You are right. Here goes. I grew up on a farm. Many of the neighboring farms around us had ponds on their farms. Now this is not to be confused with the beautiful little lakes that are placed strategically in subdivisions for scenic purposes. These were

holes that were dug out of the dirt and filled with water so that the cattle or whatever livestock would have a place to drink. The cattle or sheep or whatever would come in to drink at the pond. They would stir up the mud and silt. They would leave behind deposits. I have no idea why a pond for drinking water becomes the favorite bathroom spot. Guess that shows you one of the things that separate man and beast. Flies gathered there and all manners of those insects and larva that surround that sort of stuff. All kinds of scummy type characters would begin to hang around. The livestock would use all this to wallow in, rolling around in the filth and mud. This didn't help. Not a very clean place to play. When we were little, before germs were invented to bind up the undelivered souls that fall prey to this fear, we would climb out on little docks that were built over the water and jump in. Hey, water is water, and wet and cool is wet and cool on these hot July days. The middle of the pond was a little better than the outside edge, but only a little. Have you ever heard the phrase "filthier than pond scum"? A farm pond was probably the place where this saying was born. The filth around the edge of the pond often collected in the middle in a foamy slimy scum. This would ferment in the sun. You have to admit that even though this scene isn't beautiful it is descriptive. I have a reason for wanting to be so descriptive. Just bear with me. Whenever you think of water that doesn't run, I want you to picture this so that you never become like a farm pond.

You can imagine our joy when we got to go to the lake in the summer. It was beautiful and scenic with wonderful clear clean water. No scum. Fresh water. What a joy. What was the difference? No cows or sheep for one thing, but even if there were, it wouldn't have made that much of a difference. You see in nature, water is made to run. Water is made to cycle. Man made ponds have no inlet or outlet for water to flow. They were just a hole dug in the ground that was filled by some artificial means. There is no flow of the water. So the filth that collected stayed there, stagnated, and turned to scum.

Too many times both we as Christians and our church as the body of Christ becomes like the pond. We need to keep the water flowing. We need to have both an inlet and an outlet to be an effective river of life that flows. One inlet is the Holy Ghost who brings this living water. If we allow Him to flow in our lives and hearts, and we allow him to flow in our church services as well, we will keep our pond clear and flowing free. This is the inlet, the source of our water. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:14, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall

give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” We have a river of life, Christians. We have a river of life, church, that the world is dying to drink. We need to keep this river flowing in our hearts and in our midst as a church.

We also can keep water flowing by having an outlet. Matter of fact, if water doesn't flow out, no matter how much fresh clear water comes in, it won't help the water there to stay clear and clean and life sustaining. One example of this in nature is the Dead Sea. It is 1,292 feet below sea level, the lowest sea. It is the lowest body of water in the world. As you can imagine, it has lots of inlets, but the water never flows out. Since it is in a hot climate, the sun evaporates the water from the sea. This leaves a very high concentration of salt. It has such a high concentration of salt that things cannot sink. It would certainly be a great place to learn to swim. It has such a high concentration of salt that it kills things for miles around. The salt that actually preserves in other instances is in such a high concentration that it kills. Hence the name “Dead Sea”. Many times we as Christians and we as the church, the body of Christ, become like the Dead Sea.

Things flow in, but nothing ever flows out. We hide ourselves away from the world and become wrapped in our own little world. Instead of bringing life to those around us, instead of being the salt of the earth, we actually kill those around us. At least the Dead Sea just kills vegetation and the animals that are foolish enough to drink from its waters. Tragically, when we as Christians or as the body of Christ collectively become stagnant we unwillingly bring spiritual death to those around us, even to those who are foolish enough to drink at our waters.

This is the theme of this book ***Water That Doesn't Run***. I pray that through its pages, you as a child of God make sure that both your inlet and outlets are running with clear life giving water from the rivers of life, Jesus Christ. I pray that your church can catch a new and fresh vision anointed from on high as to how it can be a well of living water springing up giving life to not only those who drink of its waters but also to those who pass by. Read on and find out more about how to keep from being ***Water That Doesn't Run***

## **Chapter 2.**

### **The Water**

In John 4:7-30 Jesus met a woman at the well. We all know that story. He told her that He had living water. He said in verse 14, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Jesus is the living water. When I am thirsty, my soul longs for His refreshing. Psalm 42:1-2 tells us, “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” No matter how hard the battle and how dry and parched my day may get, if I can just get to myself and spend time resting in His love, I’ll be OK. David knew the touch of God. When he wrote Psalm 23 he mentioned those same still waters. In verses 1-3 he declares, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul...” Those sweet, deep, still waters where the peace of God rocks your soul is where we are renewed and restored and our strength is made like the eagles. (Isaiah 40:31, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”) Nobody else can touch you like God can. No one else can love you with that restoration love that Jesus has. We serve a wonderful Savior and He is very, very personal. He is my closest and best friend. He understands me like no other. He is there at all hours of the night and day. He is my shield and protector. He brings me joy in the morning. He is my everything. I just have to rest by those still waters, and let that water flow into my soul, and I am renewed. I have written a song that talks about that personal, one on one love that our Savior has for us. It is called A Table For Two. I’d like to share it with you. It talks about that most special place, that table for two in our heart where Jesus sits with us. It is there that we will find that river of life.

#### ***A Table For Two***

##### *Chorus*

*I have a place that’s a table for two in my heart.*

*A place for Jesus and me, where I rest in His arms.*

*No other place can give me strength peace of mind or a brand new start*

*Like this table for two in my heart.*

*Verse 1*

*I know in heaven there's a banquet table ready.  
 Spread as far from end to end as eyes can see.  
 With all the good things you could imagine.  
 Waiting for His invitation to be complete.  
 But as precious in my heart there is a table.  
 Where He draws me aside from my struggle.  
 It's a quiet little place this table for two.  
 I feast there and I'm hungry Lord to be with you.*

*Verse 2*

*When He draws me aside at this table.  
 It is real this relationship with Him  
 He loves me like no other though I'm one in the whole world.  
 So very special I feel.  
 We sit sometimes He talks and I listen  
 Or I pour out my heart, He always hears  
 I've traveled the world over, no more precious place I've seen  
 Than that table where Jesus sits with me.*

Isn't He precious that Savior of ours? Who else can love us like He can?  
 Who else can bring to us that refreshing water from on high?

Now if you don't have an up close and personal relationship with Jesus, if you don't understand all together what that little song is all about, then you need to find that. You need to find that table for two that is just for you. You need to find that spring of living water that flows up from **your** soul. The first step is coming to know Him. To do so, you have to give your heart to Him. That is what is meant when we say that you are saved. You ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive you of your sin. You dedicate yourself to Him. When that happens, Jesus really does come into your heart. You can know for sure whether or not this happens to you. You will be changed. You will know that you know. The devil will still try to come and convince you that nothing is different. You will know, though, that it is not the same. You will know that you are not the same. Maybe you know Jesus, but you have been following Him from a distance. Maybe you have not really committed yourself to Him. In any relationship, for it to be real, there has to be commitment. There has to be submission. You have to give in to let Him be Lord of your life. If you haven't, then you are following Him at a distance. To know someone's love you have to get close enough to them to feel that love.

The same is true with Jesus. How do you change in these things, if you feel that you aren't as close to Him as you want to be? Get real with Him. Repent of sin and change from these things that are wrong. He will help you. He will draw you to Himself. Draw close to Him, and you will find that He has drawn close to you. (Jeremiah 30:21-22, "...I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me; for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? Saith the Lord. And ye shall be my people and I will be your God.")

We do have to let Him draw us near to Him. We have to take time to let that heavenly water flow. If we are too busy to spend time with Him, then that water won't flow. If your mind is too full of other things beside the things of God, then that water won't flow. If your heart is centered on everything else, that water you may not know why your strength is low and your battle has become harder. That life giving water isn't flowing freely in your life. Maybe, like the church in Revelations, He has stopped being your first love. (Revelations 2:4, "Nevertheless I have some what against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.") We need to fall in love with Jesus over and over again. Every day I find something new to love about Him. (That is the way, too, to keep your marriage fresh and new. Any relationship can tend to get stale if you don't work on it. Find new things to love about your husband or wife daily, and see if you don't put the spark back into your marriage that you may have lost.) We need to fall in love with this wonderful Savior more and more every day. It isn't hard to do. Just remember the price that He paid to be able to love you. Just remember the promises that He gives you. Remember what He did for you last year, last month, last week, yesterday, and today. The more we get to know Him, and the closer we grow to Him, the more we long to know Him more. He is that wonderful.

Another source of living water is the Holy Ghost. Now some people, several years ago, stopped calling the Holy Ghost, Holy Ghost, and started calling Him the Holy Spirit. They had some sort of notion that because He isn't a ghost like the ghosts that we think of we shouldn't call Him ghost. They were afraid that the term Ghost was too scary. Now as the scriptures go, the Bible calls Him both. I think it is more important to get to know Him than it is to squabble over what to call Him. Without the Holy Ghost, we could not even get to know Jesus. He is what drew us to the Lord in the first place. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to obey God and live for Him. (Ezekiel 36:27, "And I will put my spirit

within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”) It is the Spirit of God that enables us to know the truth. (John 14:17, “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”) It is the Spirit of God Who teaches us. (I John 2:27, “But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but that the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”) It is His Spirit that fills us, and baptizes us, if we ask and seek this wonderful gift. (Matthew 3:11, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”) It is the Holy Ghost who gives us power to serve God. (Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”) I could go on and on. This part of God, the Holy Ghost, is often overlooked today in our churches. I think this is tragic, because this is His dispensation. This is His time. This is when He is to do His work.

We know that the Holy Ghost never acts independently from God, Jesus, or God’s Word. All these will always, always agree. If something tells you to do something, which is against God’s Word, then you know that it is not His Spirit. They will always agree. They are One in their nature, and in the work that they do. (John 16:13, “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.”)

The Holy Ghost is real and vital for your victory. If you submit to the work of the Holy Ghost in your life and allow Him to control you and flow out from you, you will find out about this powerful source of living, life changing water. He will bless you, strengthen you, renew you, heal you, touch and restore you. It is so important not to cut off this source of water. If the Holy Ghost comes to bless you, whether it is in a church service or in the middle of Wal-Mart, don’t shove Him away. I have watched people who shied away from submitting and allowing God’s Spirit to flow in their life. Maybe their pride was so great that they didn’t want to give in totally to Him. Maybe they were afraid to give up control. People who can’t give up control have a really hard time in

submitting to the work of the Holy Ghost. It is hard for them to give in and let God take control. For whatever reason, down the years I have watched all those who refused to let the Holy Spirit control them and move them fall by the wayside. The battle was too great. All the while they had this supernatural source of strength that they would refuse to tap into. They had dammed up this source of living water so that it would not flow freely in their life. This life giving water was stopped up so that it failed to run in their own life, and definitely didn't flow out to those around them. Eventually these people, if they aren't careful, will not be able to feel the touch of God's Spirit. God's Spirit and a real relationship with Him will come in the way that God says it will. It will come according to His will. It will come according to His Word. If you sit around and think to yourself that you will give into God's Spirit only if things are this way or that way, you may be easily deceived. If you think that you can control God's Spirit, or you won't participate, then you may have to do without. If you think that things have to be your way for you to participate in a move of God's Spirit, then you will just sit in your way, and you will be in your way until the Lord comes back. It will be His Spirit that carries us home. If you constantly stop Him from moving in your life, will you know how to submit to Him when He comes to carry you home?

Disobedience is another way to stop the flow of God's Spirit in our lives. If God leads you to do something, whatever it is, whether or not you feel like doing it, do it anyway. If you don't, you will stop God from flowing through you. God's Holy Ghost will move in church services with the gifts in operation. This is a wonderful thing. If you go to a church where the gifts are in operation as they should be, then cherish it. This is a wonderful church and these churches are few and far between. If you aren't familiar with what I mean, see this scripture in I Corinthians 12 and 13. If you a part of a Spirit filled body of Christ and God is trying to use you, give in to that. Let Him. You may be sitting there on the pew saying to yourself, if someone would call on me, I would be glad to use this gift. If God is calling on you, that is enough. Obey Him. Don't worry about getting in the flesh. We are in the flesh. We can't operate outside of the flesh. Let God take care of your flesh, and let Him use you. The results of your obedience will be His. To be sure, when you obey God, the devil will be right there to criticize everything you do. Give it to God and keep on obeying. The gifts operate through obedience. If you are seeking a gift, or seeking to be used by the Holy Ghost in another way from what you are, obey God in what He gives

you today. There are many people who want to do something great for God but they fail to daily obey Him. No wonder that He doesn't give them something to do when it is important that they obey Him. Don't be afraid that you aren't worthy enough to be used by the Lord. Remember that none are perfect. If God only used perfect people, then He wouldn't be able to use any of us. Step out by faith, and give Him your weaknesses. He can use you in spite of your imperfections. It will be His perfection that people will see, when you allow His Spirit to flow through you and use you.

When the Holy Ghost moves in our personal lives and in our church services it will bring conviction. I believe that is why so many people and churches have stopped yielding to the Spirit of God. We want to hold on to our seem-right ways and so that we don't have to be convicted. We settle for halfway. There is no halfway in God. When we do this, God's Spirit moves away from our church and us. We need to as a body of Christ to repent and draw back to him. We need to open up that inlet and let that cool fresh water in. We were at a 3-night revival. The Holy Ghost really poured out. People were saved, filled with the Spirit, delivered, and healed. That was on the first night and it got steadily better as the meeting progressed. We were in that living water. That day, after the first night of the revival, the Holy Ghost was still real and pouring out in my life. That is the wonderful thing about that living water. It doesn't just pour out in church. You get to take the blessing home. The Holy Ghost began to convict me of some things in my life that I needed to work on. One of His jobs is to present us to the Father without spot or blemish. The next night of the revival I looked for the people who had gotten such a blessing the night before. They weren't there. That was OK I thought, there was another fresh new crowd there, and they received the same wonderful touch from the throne of God. The next day, the Holy Ghost tore into me again convicting of new things. On the last night of the revival there was a whole different crowd. I asked God what was going on with the crowd during that revival. If they all would have stayed for the whole week, we would have had a tremendous crowd by that last night? However, every night it was a new crowd. How come nobody came back especially since they had gotten such a tremendous blessing? He reminded me of what my days had been like during that revival. When the Holy Ghost is around He will do a work in your very marrow of your bones, just like the Word of God will. It is not always comfortable. When we allow God to have His way, it is not comfort that He is trying to achieve in our lives. If we as parents only

let our children have comfort, have what they want, have an easy life with no soul searching allowed because it is not good to be uncomfortable, what kind of children will we be forming? God is wiser than we are. He sends His Spirit to seek out those things that need to change in our hearts. Without it, where would we be? Without His Spirit, eventually these wrong things will creep in that will destroy us. God showed me that the same Holy Ghost that had blessed and healed and delivered the night before had gone home with the people who had been touched to complete that work, so that they would be able to keep that which He had done. They had turned away from this because it had made them uncomfortable. Also, the devil had worked to steal their blessing. Between the two, they failed to come back for more. What I received on the 3 nights of that revival (and the days in between) changed my life. I wouldn't give it up for anything. Yes it was very uncomfortable, but praise God it wasn't!

Another source of water is the Word of God. (Ephesians 5:26-27, "That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.") It is easy to stop making God's Word a priority in our life. We read it when we are in church, or once every once in a while, or at night when we fall asleep after the first verse. God's Word has the power to change us, deliver us, and keep us.

Here are some truths about the power of God's Word.

Psalm 119:89, "For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven."

Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.

Matthew 5:18, For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle (one dot on an i or one cross over on a t) shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Deuteronomy 8:3, "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

II Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (How many times has this Word set your feet on the right path, and cause you to leave behind the things that you needed to leave behind, reproof, correcting and leading you in the right?)

Deuteronomy 11:18, “Therefore shall ye lay up these my Words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.”

Psalm 119:11, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Read on. Here are some more: Psalm 19:8, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:9, Psalm 119: 72, Psalm 119:82, Psalm 119:97, Psalm 119:130, Proverbs 6:23, Jeremiah 15:16, John 17:17, John 20:31, Romans 15:4, Ephesians 5:26, I Peter 1:22, II Peter 1:19.

We need to remember that for the Word of God to work in our lives, we have to do what it says. If not we will be like the man who looked in the mirror to see what a mess he was, but went away without fixing any of the mess. He stayed a mess even though he saw what a terrible sight he was. We can read the entire Bible and memorize it word for word, but if we don't allow it to work in our lives and obey it, it will do us no good. There are many sinners out there who are sitting around bars discussing the Word of God. If you don't think there are, remember back to your sinner days. I am saying this out of experience. If you don't obey God's Word, it will do you no more good than it does those sinners.

Keep all of these sources of water flowing in your life. They are your strength. Just as you will die without water in the natural, you will die in the spiritual without this water of life. God has provided water for us to refresh us. It gives us life. Just like we can't live without water in the flesh, we can't live without it in the spirit. God has sent it fresh, clear, and life giving. We need to drink. We need to let that water flow into us like that river of life. When we do, it will not only change our lives, but it will change our world.

### **Chapter 3.** **The Inlet**

The most important thing to consider when investigating any body of water is the source-where the water comes from. Where the water comes from is extremely important in how clean, pure, and refreshing the water itself is. If you remember our farm pond had no free flowing source. Either it had been pumped in from some outside source, or it had just been allowed to collect rainwater. Sometimes we as Christians can become like the pond. We can cut off our source of fresh water. We let our inlet get stopped up. Our water no longer runs. We can do this by forgetting Who our source is. We become stagnant because we lose contact with the one Who supplies us with that free flowing water of life. It stops being a priority to spend time with Him. We draw away from Him and let the cares of this live cause us to become so encased that the water no longer flows. We get so carried away in the things of this world that our pipeline to heaven gets all clogged up. Or maybe we have one foot in the world and one foot in God, and when we do this we become double minded. (James 1:8, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Verse 7, "For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." If you are being double minded in your relationship with the Lord, go on home. Part way home is only pure misery.) Maybe we start to dabble in sin and we stop wanting to hear God's voice gently reminding us to turn around. Maybe we've let attitudes creep in and we drown out that inlet of fresh clear water with all those muddy things that aren't so clean.

Remember those pigs and cows in the pond. They sure made things messy. If we aren't careful, all those things can stop up an inlet and we no longer have fresh clean water flowing in. Then the things that drain it out continuously drain us day to day of our strength. We gradually lose our victory and wonder where it has gone. We lose our strength and our joy in the Lord. We may not even realize why. The devil doesn't pre-announce what his plans are before He does his thing. He creeps in unawares. I have known many people who lost their relationship with the Lord and their victory in Him. These people seldom did this all in one instance. This is never a sudden thing. It is process that happens slowly through time. They don't realize it until it is already done. We need to guard this inlet as being precious. In ancient times the source of water in the desert was a strategic spot. Many a battle was fought to guard a well. Those who gained control over the source of water controlled many a

town or a people. Isn't this the same for our inlet? Isn't our inlet much more precious and life giving? After all, our inlet is a source of eternal life. How much more should we guard this inlet of living water that refreshes our very soul?

We have talked about some of the things that can stop our inlet as individuals. What are some things that can stop up our inlet as a church? I think that the number one cause for churches failing to allow the "water of life" to flow would be not recognizing what it means and how important it is to allow these sources of water to run free. I don't care what denomination, doctrine, or belief you have, it is the Word of God to let the Holy Ghost have His way in your congregation. It is God's Word for you to allow Jesus Christ to be the Lord of your midst. It is God's Word for the whole truth and nothing but the truth to be preached and taught from your pulpit and the classroom lecterns. It is God's Word that the Word of God be lived from the pews. If these things aren't the main focus of your church, then what is the point in having a church at all? That may seem harsh, but isn't it true? Without the Spirit of God, the presence of God in your midst and without the full truth of God's Word, then all you have is a social gathering and the world has enough of those. Let the world do the social scene. Church, let's get back to God. Matter of fact, if you only let God's Spirit move as you will and not as He wills, and if you only have a little bit of the truth, then you are doing more damage than good. We need to get real with what church is all about. I know that this is uncomfortable to talk about. But if we don't get out of our comfort zone, we may be guilty of allowing those who sit on our pews to face the discomfort of hell's eternal flames. Bear with me and hear me out. After all what I am presenting to you is the Word of God.

There were many churches in Revelations that received the blessings of the Lord. There were many that received the judgment of the Lord. Let's read about some of them. Let's study it out, so that we can receive those blessing. In Revelations 2, in the church of Ephesus, verses 1-3 tell of a church that received high marks. It received high marks for its works, its labor, and its patience. It had high marks for how it had separated itself from those who were evil. It had high marks for laboring for the Lord's namesake. All these things are lights to our churches today. Verse 4 though talks about the thing that was about to cause their candlestick to be removed. They had lost their first love. They had lost that spark. Do you remember how it was the first time that you fell in love, or when you first fell in love with that husband or wife. Remember how, if they were

gone, you would sit and listen for their footsteps. Remember how it was your delight to be with them. You could call and talk for hours on end. You delighted in their company. You would give everything to be with them just for a little while. Jesus died to love you. How much more so should we fall in love with Him? We need to go back to our first love. We need to do so as individuals and as a church. If you are a church leader, then you can't present this to your church, until it is true in your own relationship. Sometimes it is easy to serve God with all your strength, and be so weary of the battles and the challenges of the people that you serve, that you forget why you are doing all this to start with. If you lose your love, you will be in danger of eventually losing your drive to go on in your service for the Lord. Church congregation, for you to go back to that first love, you have to renew your love with those around you, for after all, aren't they the body of Christ? Let's get back to that first love. Of all the things that we can do to unstop our inlet, this is one of the first.

Now let's look at the church at Pergamos in verses 12-17. It had high marks in holding fast the faith, even though there was a group that allowed satan to sit in their midst. This church's epitaph starts with the Lord's sword. There are some in the church in verse 13 that "holdest fast my name", but there was also a seat of satan in the church. I have recently heard something that was disturbing. It wouldn't have been so disturbing if I hadn't heard it from many people spread out over the US. There are churches in the US who practice witchcraft, who teach "wikka" which is supposed to be harmless witchcraft. Go back to the Word of God and find out what it says about witchcraft and witches. There were some that God instructed to be put to death because it is such a wicked thing. This is not of God. It is right straight out of the pits of hell. This is such a sad thing. Has the church become so far removed from the truth that it can't see that this is a bad thing. I think this has happened because we have walked slowly away from the truth because we wanted to hold on to our sin. Let's get back to God. Be a lighthouse in this world. It surely needs one.

Also, I think that there is another way that we can have a seat of satan. Sometimes if people fail to let their flesh be controlled by the Spirit of God, then they allow satan to control them, even though they don't see that this is happening. Have you ever watched what God was trying to do be stopped by someone who was walking in the flesh? Then you know what I mean. Many times the church can be controlled by someone or

something that is not God. We have a lot of family churches in our area. One family controls the church. A large part of this family is in the church, and maybe they are even the ones who founded the church. God can move only if He gets their permission first. Since the Holy Ghost doesn't operate that way, usually these churches are empty of the presence of God. There are many pastors who let other things beside God control them so that this seat of satan stays in their midst. Instead of being the shepherd of the sheep, under the leading of that great Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep, they compromise to keep their pay check, keep the people there, or even just trying to keep the peace. They wind up keeping nothing. If you have been given a calling, a mandate from God to preach the truth, and you fail to present it in its entirety to your congregation, then that Word, that sword, will be what will judge you. I would much rather face the wrath of the people than I would that sword.

The church of Thyatira in Revelations 21:18-29 had received many high marks. Some of them were: works, charity, service, and faith. They also received high marks for their patience, and their works were mentioned. However its weaknesses reminds me of a lot of our modern churches. Many churches today have adopted the attitude that whatever we do, it's OK. God won't judge our sin. He is a God of mercy. Some teach that we can purposefully continuously sin and still get to heaven. Some even teach that what is right for you may not be right for me and what is wrong for me might not be wrong for you. Where is the truth in all that? Where is the Word of God? We need to get back to the truth no matter what our doctrine is. Only the truth will set us free. (John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.")

We cannot use the grace of God as an excuse to do what we want. (I Peter 2:15-16, "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.") Let's read the parable of the wise and foolish virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13. In this parable we read about 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins. The 5 foolish virgins let their lamp run out of oil. It was time for the bridegroom to come. The feast was ready, but the bridegroom wasn't there in the expected time. (The Bible bears out that the Lord, our bridegroom won't be in an expected time. It says that many will grow weary of waiting for Him and return to the world.) While these foolish virgins were away getting the oil they needed, the bridegroom came.

When they returned they found the door shut and they couldn't get in. Let's not be foolish in our relationship with the Lord. Jesus is coming for a bride without spot or blemish. He is definitely not coming for a people who have so little love for Him that they take an attitude that they can do as they please. His blood is precious to me. I honor this sacrifice He paid to forgive me of my sin. I certainly won't be caught in sin with an attitude that it doesn't matter what I do because He will forgive me. Matter of fact I do what I do because He loves me and I love Him. I want to be ready for Him when He comes. I keep my lamp trimmed and burning, because He may come today.

We need to make sure all our inlets are open and the water is flowing in free and life giving. One of the ways to make sure that the water is flowing into our churches free is to praise the Lord. The Bible says that He inhabits our praises. If we praise Him from a heart that is in love with Him and thankful to the brim for His goodness, He will be sure to show up and join in.

After I wrote this chapter, I worried that I had preached a little hard here. But then I know that someone might just hear that truth and be changed in the direction of their life. When I wrote that last sentence, I thought of all the pastors who have stood up and declared the truth in the face of opposition. If you have done, or are doing that, stand firm. Declare the truth in love for the people, in a humbleness of spirit, but declare it nonetheless. Hang in there and stand for the truth. When you do, you'll find that the Truth will stand for you.

Keep your inlet flowing free. God is easily reachable. When He feels out of reach, something is getting in the way. When it is out of the way, oh how joyful that restoration will be.

## **Chapter 4. The Outlet**

Now let's go back to the description of the Dead Sea for just a minute. If you'll remember it had plenty of inlets. However, because it is so far below sea level in altitude, there is not one outlet. It is lower than everything else, so everything comes in, but nothing goes out. Instead of being life-giving water, like some of the higher bodies of water, it actually brings death instead. It actually kills anything that comes into contact with it. If we as God's children, or as a church, fail to let that living water within us flow out to others, than we are in danger of being just like that Dead Sea. Have you ever known congregations who never reached out in any type of ministry? What kind of congregation did they usually have? Let me give you some examples that I know. I remember hearing about a church where a young couple started a children's ministry. They were excited about doing this for the Lord and soon the church was filled up with children running everywhere. Everything went fine until the church voted in new carpet. When the new carpet went down, the children's ministry stopped. The church board and later the congregation voted to stop the ministry. They decided that they didn't want to soil that new carpet. Too expensive. They didn't stop to realize that the price of a child's eternal soul comes at a much higher price.

I heard of another church. They had a children's ministry that grew until it weekly reached 80 children. They decided to stop it. Why? It had gotten too large, so they stopped it all together. Many, many times I have heard of ministries, outreaches of the church that were stopped because they became too much trouble. Many of them had to stop because they couldn't find enough people interested in working with the project. For example, how many visitation teams have you watched fall by the wayside because people of the congregation declared that there was too many things going on to become involved in that too? After all they already had to be at church Sunday and Wednesday both. Another night was just way too much. I remember a young person who started attending a church. She was saved there. Her husband was what you would call a rank sinner. He forbid her to go to church. When she was able to go, she had to slip out of the house. When she did, if she got caught, she was sure to get a beating. Still she loved to go. Sometimes when she did, she was only able to go in whatever clothes she happened to have on, because if she dressed for church, he was sure to know where she had been. The church where she was attending objected to her "not

so Sunday best” clothing that she was wearing. They met with her to tell her so. She never came back, and to my knowledge isn’t serving God to this day. Here’s another story about another church that had no outlet. A family attended a church. None of them had attended church much in their whole lives. The daughter was unwed, and she had a baby. God did a wonderful miracle for that family that day. They were all wonderfully, and gloriously saved. The entire family gave their heart to the Lord. Before they were out of the church, some of the older women of the church got together to meet with that young mother. They wanted to be sure that she knew since her baby was not born in a marriage that it was of the devil. Don’t ask me what they thought they were doing, but it was surely pure flesh, and not Spirit to tell this young girl this. This girl had already been through enough condemnation to last a lifetime, and there on this day she had met a Savior who had taken it all away. Before she got out of the church door it was laid back on her.

These were some examples of some churches that lost their outlet. They stopped letting that life giving water flow out of them freely to those that were hurting and lost around them. Most churches that have stopped up their outlets become self centered, and spoiled, and forget the reason that they exist. We as individuals, and as the church, the body of Christ, have been given a mandate from God. It is one of the reasons that we exist. This mandate, this order from God, is called the Great Commission. This wasn’t given to just a few folks, or to just Jesus’ disciples, or to just the preacher of the church, or to just those few who are busy in the church, but it was given to me and to you, all of the body of Christ. Mark 16:15 tells us Jesus’ own words. “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” This isn’t just for a few people, but it says “you”.

You have a Divine purpose. You are to declare God’s Word to those who are lost. You are to declare God’s Word to this coming generation. You will never be happy and fulfilled until you find your place in God’s plan and fill it. If your life is filled with everything else but this, it is probably full of strife and discontent as well. If your church is filled with everything else but this, it is probably full of strife and discontent as well. We are to reach out. That is part of our purpose. God didn’t save us to sit in our own well-being and not see those suffering outside our

doors. We are to reach out. We are to be the light of the world. We are to be the salt of the earth. Matthew 5 13-16 tells us so. Some of the highlights of this section of scripture are, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." We need to let our light shine as individuals, and we need to let our light shine as a church. We are to be the salt of the earth. Salt preserves. If it becomes like it is in the Dead Sea, it kills. Keep your outlets free and flowing clear.

I remember hearing a true story about a lighthouse on the coast. The lighthouse guarded the coastline. It began to lose its focus. It became a party spot, the place to be. Before long the light wasn't kept on. No one considered it a priority to keep it going. They were all too busy having good time. They lost the reason for their existence. Ships began to run into that rocky coast. Soon another lighthouse was set up to make up for the one that had failed to keep to its post. It wasn't long before the same thing happened to that new lighthouse. The world crept in to it as well and it lost its focus. Another lighthouse was built. Soon there was a whole string of lighthouses all up and down that coastline. They are still there today. Church, you are a lighthouse. You are to be a light not only to a lost and dying world, but also to the brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. We are to warn the world, and the body of Christ, of the dangers of the rocky coast of sin. We are to warn them to stay away from the world, yet often we become so engulfed by it that we no longer can warn them.

Is your church a light to the world? Are you a light as a part of that body? Are you a refuge for those who long to find shelter from the world? Are you drink to the thirsty and rest and refreshment for the weary? What is the purpose of your existence? What is your purpose and focus as a church? What do you concentrate on the most? Is it to have dinners for the old and gatherings to draw the young? Is it to have fried pie and hot dog sales to be able to pay the bills? If you have lost your focus, no wonder that God isn't meeting your financial needs. Are you lifting up Jesus so that He is drawing all men to Him, or are you lifting up worldly activities and social gatherings so that you can draw a bigger crowd? If you are, the crowd you get will be there for all the wrong reasons, and they will generally do more harm than good in the long run.

Is that cool, refreshing, living water from the throne of God flowing out from you to those that are around you?

One of the sections of scriptures that best sums up what I am trying to get across to you in this chapter is found in Matthew 25:34-46. Read this section of scripture. It is summed up in verse 40, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Who are these brethren that the Lord is talking about here in this verse? Certainly it would be our neighbor who is in need. What about that young person across the street that is going through such a hard time? What about that young single mother? What about that widow with no family left? What about those lost and dying without the Lord, but who might one day serve Him, if you’ll only give them a chance by reaching out to them? Let that water flow. It will not only change the lives of those around you, it will change you as well.

One of the places that we need to be sure to let this water flow is to one another in a church. It should never be said that in the middle of the body of Christ that someone was in need. We are to take care of one another. This means physical and spiritually. We are to lift one another up. We are to lift one another up before the throne of God as well in prayer. Prayer is the greatest thing that we give those we love. Prayer can move mountains in their life. This kind of prayer, though, happens when we sacrificially love those around us. To be able to take a burden, we have to lay down our flesh and walk in the Spirit. To be able to obey God and reach out in whatever way that we do, we have to do the same. We may not have a lot in the flesh to give, but in the Spirit, we have exactly what they need. The Scriptures tell us a lot about what it means to function as a body. We find especially in I Corinthians 12 rules for living as a body. Verses 25-27 tell us, “That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” When one hurts, the whole church should hurt. When one rejoices, all should rejoice. We should minister to one another through the gifts of the Spirit. We are to love one another as we love our own body, even as Christ loves us as part of His own.

## **Chapter 5. Such As I Have**

Peter and John were walking by the gates of the city one day. Read this story in Acts 3:1-10. There was a man there who had been lame from his birth. His only place in life was to sit and beg from those that passed by the gates of the city. Peter and John passed by him. They noticed the man. Or rather we should say that the Holy Ghost in them noticed this man and prepared a miracle for him. The man turned to them expecting to get gold or silver, some type of coin. What he received was a miracle. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee." He had empty pockets, but he sure had a spirit that was full of the Spirit of God, and that was even better. The Holy Ghost in him reached out and touched the man and he was made whole. He went away praising God for His gift. What a witness. For us to be able to give, we have to be able to recognize what it is that we have to give. We have within us the Word of God. We have within us the power of the Holy Ghost. First we have to be filled to be able to pour anything out. We need to take in the Word of God so that we can pour it out. We need to be filled with the Spirit of God so we can pour it out.

One of the keys to being able to pour out the Spirit of the God is to be filled with Him. We need to be baptized with the Holy Ghost. For us to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost we have to seek it and desire it with all of our hearts. God will allow His Spirit to control only the things that we allow Him to control. When we say, God, I have decided to do it your way. Come and fill me up to the brim. Then we are ready for the Baptism of God's Spirit. He fills us up all the way with His Spirit. That is what the Baptism of God's Spirit is all about. Here is what God has to say about it in His Word. We first read about it in Acts Chapter 2. Here we read that the disciples were all gathered in one mind and accord. In verse 4 it tells us, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." What was the outcome of this? These few who were hiding in fear after the crucifixion, became bold enough and so full of God's Spirit that they turned the world upside down. Without the Baptism, they would not have endured to start the church, and keep the Gospel that was committed to us today. Verse 41 tells of the outcome of that day, "Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

This didn't stop here. We read about this throughout Acts. In Chapter 8, verses 14-17, these men received the gifts of the Holy Ghost. In Chapter 10, verses 44-48, the Holy Ghost is again on the scene filling the Gentiles. In Acts 19: 1-6, these men also received the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Ghost since they had believed. These men were already saved, but they had something in addition to salvation that they were about to receive. They answered, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." In verse 6 the Holy Ghost came on them and they spake with tongues and prophesied. I think of myself when I read their answer to Paul, "We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost." I hadn't heard, but God found me anyway. How do you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? I was blessed to find a church that believed this way. The congregation laid hands on me and prayed for me in the same way that Paul laid hands on the men in Acts 19:6. But I still didn't receive it that night that they prayed. Several nights later, when I was by myself, the Holy Ghost fell on me and I was filled. I prayed in tongues for the first time that night. You can receive it through the prayers of others, or you can receive it through your own prayers. It is a gift of God that He has given us to empower us against the battle of satan. It is a gift that gives us boldness in our witness, like it did those on that first day. It is for you.

I have heard many people argue against the Baptism of the Holy Ghost being real. They argue that it is not for us today. When I hear this I know several things about those people. I know that they are ignorant of God's Word. In Acts 2:38-39 we read, "Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." I would say that means us too. I also know when I hear people argue that the Baptism is not for us today, that these people do not know God. I know that He wants the best for His children. He wants us to overcome and be victorious. I also know that we live in the last days, which has to be one of the hardest times to live on the earth. Why would God give a gift to help the early disciples, tell us about it, and then deny us the right to have it or make it so that it is not available to us who need it the most? That is not the God I know. Another reason that I know that it is real, it has happened to me and thousands of others that I know.

I think that one of the things that hinders people in receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that it comes along with the gift of speaking in tongues. For many, that is a stumbling block. This is because the devil wants to scare people away from our being able to pray in the Spirit, or pray in tongues. What it means when we pray in tongues is that the Spirit of God prays through us in His own language. He is praying directly through us using our vocal chords. We may not understand what He is saying, though sometimes He will allow us to interpret it or others to interpret it for us. Whether or not we understand, the devil knows when we start praying that something is being done to bind him and to lose the power of God on the scene. No wonder he works overtime to confuse people about this powerful gift. Have you ever wanted so badly to pray for someone but didn't know how to pray? All you could do was to say a general half way prayer, when you know you needed to do more. The Holy Ghost knows exactly how to pray in God's perfect will. When He prays through you that is a powerful prayer that will get the job done.

Also, when we pray in the Holy Ghost it strengthens our inner man, Who is the Spirit of God in us. (Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." When we are filled and consumed with the Spirit of God, and we allow Him to pray in us, we are submitted to His Spirit in a way that nothing else can do. We strengthen His Spirit in us. We submit our flesh and our flesh man takes second place in our life. With all that going on, our flesh doesn't stand a chance. God's Spirit rises strong in us and we take on His likeness. Then we have within us the same thing that Peter and John had on that day when they passed by the beggar at the gates. We have something to give that is supernatural.

Then when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, the gifts of the Spirit will operate in our lives. I have heard people talk about what spiritual gifts that they had, and these people didn't believe in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, let alone possess it. If we aren't filled with the Spirit of God and walking in the Spirit instead of walking in the flesh, then the gifts that we are trying to find are just characteristics of the flesh. This isn't good enough. This isn't what those around us need. These are only what you might call "cheap imitations". No matter how hard we try to operate in the spiritual realm when we are in the flesh, we won't be able to do so. The two won't mix. We cannot find our gifts in the Spirit by living in the flesh. When we are filled up with God's Spirit and we live in daily obedience to Him, letting His Spirit operate through us, then the gifts of

the Spirit will begin to operate in our lives. They will not only operate in church services, but also in our every day lives. I teach school. I often have to counsel these young people. I can just forget doing that in the flesh. There is no way. Without the gift of discernment, and the gift of wisdom, and even the gift of love, I don't have a chance to reach them. I don't have to be in church for these to operate. The Holy Ghost is with me daily to help meet my needs and to meet the needs of those around me. When we witness to the man on the job who is going through a hard time, and we have just the right thing to say that he needs to hear to be encouraged, that is a gift. When we use discernment to keep the mechanic who fixed our car from ripping us off, that is a gift. When we use the gift of faith when dealing with our day-to-day finances, that is a gift. These gifts don't operate when we are in the flesh. If we think that they do, then we are in danger of letting the devil slip in a cheap imitation. But we can be in the Spirit when we are outside as well as inside of the church. Matter of fact, we have to walk in the Spirit every day of the week. The devil is real there. The battles there are just as real.

The gifts of the Spirit do operate in the church. They are used to minister to God's people. You can read about how they operate in the entire chapter of I Corinthians 12 as we mentioned before. Verse 11 lets us know that these gifts operate through the Spirit of God by the will of God, not by how and when we pick and choose. They do not operate to lift up whoever is being used by the Lord, but to minister to the body of Christ. In other words, they don't operate to give us something to be proud about as something that we personally have accomplished, but they operate in love to minister to the body of Christ. When the gifts operate in you, never get a prideful attitude because God has chosen to use you, but be humble before Him. The gifts of the Spirit will flow together and fit together in the body of Christ. They will never cause confusion. They will always match the Word of God, because the Spirit of God will never operate in opposition to what the Word of God says. If confusion reigns in a service because the gifts of the Spirit are in operation, then this makes you to know that the author of the confusion is flesh, and not the Spirit of God. The devil is ruling the flesh, not the Spirit of God. If this happens what is done is not done by God. We also have to remember that the gifts of the Spirit are not given to the perfect to use. God will not give any gifts to those who consider themselves to be perfect. How do I know? I know because nobody is perfect. He gives gifts to those who seek to perfect themselves in Him. There is a big difference in the two.

How do we find our gift? How do we seek for it? I Corinthians 12:31 tells us, “But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” This the preamble to what is one of the most famous love passages of all times, I Corinthians chapter 13. If you want the gifts of the Spirit to operate in your life then you need to seek the love of God. When you have the love of God so that you hurt for the needs of those around you, then the gifts will operate in your life. If you are seeking the gifts of the Spirit because you don’t want to get left out, or because you want to be special, or because you feel it is something that you should do, then the gifts are very unlikely to operate in your life. They are given to minister, and you can’t minister without the love of God. Seek the love of God for others, and perfect your love for Him, then you will find the gifts of God.

Pastors, if you don’t have the gifts of the Spirit, you need to seek for them. How can you minister to your sheep in the flesh and be effective? Teachers, how can you teach effectively without the outpouring of the greatest Teacher of all, the Holy Ghost? Youth leader, how can you reach these young people who so desperately need the touch of God if you aren’t filled with His Spirit? Lay person, how can reach that lost family member, or that lost coworker without the right words to say, and that right touch that can only come through the Savior Who died for them? If the lame man would have reached out to you and all you had to give him would have been silver and gold, then would his life have been changed? Church, we need to get out of the flesh and let the Holy Ghost reign in our midst. As a body, we need to let Jesus minister to His people. We need to be filled up with His Spirit and let Him reach out through us. That will get the job done.

Luke 11:5-13 is a section of scripture that tells us how to seek things from the Lord. It starts with the importunity of someone who knocked and wouldn’t quit knocking until he had received. It goes from there into the “seek and ye shall find” passage in verses 9-10. Sometimes, if we aren’t careful, we miss the closing of the section of scripture that is found in verse 13. It says, “...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” This section of scripture is not only talking about the physical things that we need. It is also talking about the Holy Ghost. Our Father knows how to give you the gifts of the Spirit. He certainly desires you to have them.

What other things can we give to those around us? We talk a lot in the church about giving our tithes, and if we want to be blessed financially,

this is very important to do. The tenth that we give will keep the other 90% that is ours from literally being cursed. Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Luke 6:38 says, “...give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” II Corinthians 9:6 says, “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly. And he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” If you want to receive a blessing, give. Give, even if you are giving out of your need. Many have been the times that I gave when I had nothing to give, and God supplied my need and more. We need to remember, though, that there are many other things that we can give besides our money. What other things can we tithe? What about our time? What about our talents? (By the way, if you shrink from using a talent that the Lord has given you, He may turn and give it to another. I have seen this happen.) When we speak about our talents, often we think only of musical talents and gifts to teach or preach. What about that talent of working with children, or working with the elderly? These are definitely gifts. What about that gift of the ministry of helps, just being a help to those who are carrying a load? We have been blessed through the years to have some people in the congregation who had a gift of cleaning. No kidding. This is a wonderful gift. Every church has to be cleaned. We have had some people that when they came through and cleaned, they not only cleaned away the dirt until the place sparkled, but they also swept the devil out with the dirt. Things would shine physically and spiritually. They loved doing this and when they did, instead of doing it begrudgingly, they did it with joy and with prayer. As they cleaned they would bind the devil and pray for those in the ministry. The devil and the dirt would both leave. There is the gift of joy, the gift of bringing a rejoicing. There have been people who when they were in our midst, they brought joy with them. The worst jobs got lighter when they were around.

There are many talents and gifts. In I Corinthians 12:24 we see that the more comely or attractive, or more noticed parts of the body may not always be the most important, and they may not always be the back bone of what is going on. Our toes are tiny and seem unimportant. On the other hand, talk to someone who has lost their toes as to how important

they are. Never compare what you do, or your gifts with others in the congregation. God doesn't give them to you to compare them with others and feel either unimportant or important. He gives them to us to use for His glory. Use them and give the results to Him. Use your talent or gift for the glory of God and watch it grow. As the gifts operate in the church and people begin to use their talents as well, the body of Christ will come to life. That living water will flow in and flow 25 out. We will be giving to others and giving of ourselves. That will keep our attitudes right before the Lord in His love. We will be giving out and pouring out life to those around us. The Lighthouse will have its light shining strong. Jesus will be lifted up, and He will draw men unto Him.

## **Chapter 6.** **The Will of God**

For us as individuals and as a body of Christ to let that living water flow out, we have to learn the importance of obedience. Without obedience, our outlet will flow in all the wrong directions and in all the wrong currents.

We have two ways of thinking. One way is to let our flesh control our mind and our responses to things. Another is to let our Spirit man inside of us control. When we do this we have the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:14-16 tells us, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that He may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” When we need to make important decisions that may affect our future or influence our lives, we need to make sure that our thoughts are controlled by the Spirit of God. His way and thoughts are so far above ours. We can’t even really see today let alone the results of the decisions we make that will affect tomorrow. All too often split minute decisions can change our lives. Sometimes we don’t know the results until it is too late. In the course of day-to-day life we may have many such choices. We will be successful, healthy, and happy only if we let the Spirit of God lead us and we obey Him.

First and foremost in obedience, we need to read the Word of God, the Bible, and obey Its commandments. There are hundreds of promises that come for those who obey God’s Word. Some of them are:

Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Matthew 7:21, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

Exodus 19:5, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine.”

Deuteronomy 5:29, “Oh that there were such a heart in the, that they would fear me and keep all my commandments always that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever.”

John 14:23, ‘Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.’”

WOW! We will be blessed beyond measure if we obey God’s Word and we have His Word for it.

Then we need to daily obey His voice as He speaks to us through His Spirit. We need to learn to hear the voice of God. When we first start listening to God, it is sometimes hard. We have to learn to recognize His voice. When I first started learning to hear God’s voice, I asked Him to help me. He showed me this picture. I was upstairs and someone who I had never met came in downstairs. I did not know them at all so I did not recognize their voice. The next time they came in I was more familiar with their voice, but it still took several times for them to come in before I right away recognized who they were. We have to remember that there are three voices in our minds and hearts that we will hear. First we have the voice of our own flesh, our own mind and heart. Then we also have the voice of the enemy who will put feelings in our hearts and thoughts in our minds. Then we will have that still, small, inner voice, the voice of God’s Spirit speaking in our hearts. When we first begin obeying God, and listening for Him to lead us, it will be hard to tell the voices apart. Just like in my illustration, if we keep listening for Him, it will become easier to tell His voice. Just like He helped me by showing me the illustration that He gave me, He will help you. He will show you things that you need to know. He will lead you. He will convict you when you get wrong attitudes. He wants you to hear His voice. Your voice is precious to Him. He is your shepherd, and you are His sheep. He Himself promised in John 10:4, “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.” One of the dangers of disobedience is this. If we do not obey His voice, then we will come to the place that the sin of our disobedience will separate us to the place that we can no longer hear His voice. That is why it is important to obey. When God speaks to your heart, listen. Make obeying Him a priority. Don’t put it off until later. Later may be too late. Treat His voice with the utmost respect.

I remember a time when I was on my way to church. I was late and in a hurry. I had washed my car earlier that day and I had left my car mats out on the grass to dry. My husband's last words to me before he left were, "Be sure and get those car mats in." I left them lying there and got in my car. I knew I needed to obey my husband, because God had placed Him over me in the Lord. The Spirit nudged me to get those mats in. I got back out of my car and was standing there with my mats in my hand when I heard a loud bang. The ground shook. I lived on a very narrow street that went into a one-lane road in a huge curve just above my house. A car had come too fast around that curve and had lost control in my neighbors yard. It slammed into a tree so hard that the motor was wrapped around the man who was driving the car. As I stood there looking at that terrible accident, I knew that if I had not obeyed God, this car would have slammed into me. Now at the time, I didn't want to stop. I was in a hurry. My flesh would have led me into either being killed, or seriously hurt. The Spirit of God knows our future. I listened to Him. And I listened to my husband. One important thing to remember about obedience is this. If we cannot obey those that the Lord puts over us, then we will fail at obeying His voice. I see so many women who want to have control. They don't want to submit to their husbands. Their life is usually full of conflicts because they are not obeying God. If we cannot accept authority in our life, then we can't accept God's either. This goes for parents and husbands, and those that the Lord has directed to become our Spiritual elders and leaders.

I have had the Spirit of God lead me away from danger many times. I have had Him to lead me into safety. I have had Him to lead me into right decisions that led to success, away from failure. I have had Him to lead me to stay away from certain people and lead me to get close relationships with others, who became life long friends. You can't go wrong when you obey God. Obedience is not just something that we do once in a while. It needs to be a characteristic of our daily walk with God. Obedience can only come in its fullest measure in our life when we learn to walk in the Spirit. I would like to say that I have always walked in the Spirit. The only time that we will be able to say that is either after the rapture when we have a perfect flesh, or after we die when our body will be changed to be like His. Until then, we are prone to mess up. We constantly will have this struggle between flesh and Spirit. As we grow, though, and as we practice obedience, this struggle grows less.

I remember this particular time when I did not obey God. You'll see why I remember it so well after I finish my story. It was nearly 30 years ago. I was getting my horse ready to take a ride. God spoke to me not to go. I went any way. I had gone riding thousands of times before, and talked myself out of obeying. I thought to myself, why shouldn't I go. I was thrown and suffered a spinal injury that gives me pain still, 30 years later. It reminds me often about how disobedience affects our lives. One of the worst things that we can do is to let our mind talk us out of hearing and obeying. We can think away what God tells us. Practice obedience daily, and you won't have to suffer circumstances that come when we don't obey. I have had people tell me that God punished my disobedience by letting this happen. I don't think that is the way things go. God wants to lead us away from things that bring us harm. If we choose to go ahead and do those things, then harm will come. If I tell the students in my classroom not to play in the four lane, but they do any way, if something happens to them it didn't happen because I was punishing them. It happened because they put themselves in harms way by not listening and obeying.

Another reason to obey God comes because we are in a world of lost and hurting people. Those around us need God to reach out to them. Even many of the Christians around us are bound and need deliverance, strength, or encouragement. The only way that we can reach out to people around us is by walking in the Spirit and obeying God. Unless He shows us, we won't even know who needs help. Most people are the opposite on the outside than they are on the inside. When people are hurting, and are the most in need, they will put on a front to keep people from seeing this. Without God's love, we can't love them enough to reach out to them, and without that love, they would not respond to us. Without God's knowledge of their hearts, we won't know what their problem really is. Even if they tell us, it might not be all we need to know to be able to help them. Only the Spirit of God can discern hearts. Hebrews 4:12 says that God is a "discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." He sees what has happened to break the heart of those we are reaching out to. He sees what their need is, even when they may not know themselves. He knows how to reach out when we can only guess. When He does He will bring healing, deliverance, strength, peace, and what it takes for them to overcome. When we are reaching out to others, we need to remember that we are reaching out to one of His children, or to someone who has the potential to become of His children. We need to be careful and as concerned as if He were reaching out. Indeed, we need

to let Him reach out through us. Psychiatrists have all kinds of methods to help people. The most common is to make them face what is bothering them and helping them to come to terms with it, even if this takes 20 years. God can heal hearts. God can deliver and mend broken spirits. He heals scars in their minds and makes them whole. No matter how severe the hurt that they have been through, He can fix it. He can deliver from bondages that the devil has put against them. We don't have to settle for the pain and learn how to come to terms with it. If we want to help someone, we have to flow with Him and let His Spirit flow through us to them. We have to become His mouthpiece to speak His Words of healing and life. We have to let His love reach out through us because our love won't have the power to heal and deliver like God's love. Our love can't lead the sinner to repentance like God's love. Face it-we can't help. But when we walk in the spirit, the lives of those we touch will never be the same. We have to obey God to reach out to others. When we reach out, we need to make sure it is God that is reaching through us and not our ornery flesh. Obey God. Walk in the Spirit. You can change your world upside down.

Obedience is a key to unlock many of God's gifts. Matter of fact, the Word of God says that God gives even the Holy Ghost to those who obey Him. (Acts 5:32, "And we are His witnesses of these things: and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.") Deuteronomy 28 is a study in itself on the blessings of obedience and the curses of failing to do so. It will surely make you desire to be obedient.

We have talked about how we need to obey as individuals. How is it important for us as a church to obey God. For one example, we talked in an earlier chapter about the gifts of the Spirit. For these to operate we have to obey God. These don't operate in the flesh. We have to walk in the Spirit for these to operate as God intends. If we function on our own, and we don't yield as part of the body, these gifts won't operate. This can only happen through obedience to the leading of God's Spirit. If we aren't in a day-to-day obedient relationship with God, then we need not expect the gifts to operate in our lives when we are in church.

A church needs to have a God mandated vision, a mission of purpose, a plan of action. Proverbs 29:18 tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Without a vision, the church and its people will perish. A vision will keep them motivated and interested. A vision will keep them going when the battle

is rough. A vision gives purpose. Where is your church headed? Is it operating in obedience to the vision that God has given? Or is it hanging on to the end of the rope fighting for survival? If so, then a lack of a vision may be the reason. That is another reason to keep this outlet of water flowing freely.

The book of I Timothy gives excellent guidelines for churches. Chapter 3 gives details concerning the qualities that the leaders of a ministry should have. I am sure that obedience is a key to all of these qualities. If leaders are not obedient, then they can't expect the congregation to be. If leaders of the congregation are proud, then they need not expect the congregation to walk in submissiveness. If leaders have their role as being something less than a priority, they need not expect the congregation to put a priority in their activities with the church. On the other hand, sometimes if as a leader you do all that you can, and the church doesn't respond, then you should not beat yourself up spiritually. Sometimes people won't do what they should no matter how good the leadership. Ask Judas Iscariot. Don't be discouraged when you try your hardest and no body responds. You are doing what you do for God. Just keep obeying Him. Who knows what the end result of your labor will be? One thing for sure, you will reap what you sow.

I think that now is a good time to bring up this point. Walking in the Holy Ghost in obedience to God is what church is all about. If your activities focus on everything but what God is leading you to do, then you are missing out. Line your church up to God's Word. It will make a difference. Obey God. You will turn your world around. If you are obedient in your personal life and in your church, the water of life will flow freely out of your midst. You will be become a fountain of living water.

## **Chapter 7. The Church**

When I speak of the church, I mean three parts, even though they are part of the same thing. One is you as an individual. You are a part of the body of Christ. Then I mean your local church body. And I mean the church as the entire whole body of Christ worldwide. You might even add another church body. That would be the church body that has gone on before us. The body of Christ is definitely an international organization. It is an organization that is not even limited by time. I have been to churches where no one spoke my language, but I could understand well what was in their hearts. They loved and served the same Savior that I did. They were a part of my family. There was a tie there that no language difference could undo. The church is precious. The church is very precious to God. It is indeed His bride. The church needs to be as precious to us. I am talking about the entire body of Christ world over. We are all a part of the body of Christ. We get this all confused sometimes with denominations and with little groups. Our ministry has always been one that unites churches together. It ministers to all churches of all denominations. At one time, we had a food program that provides food to churches that are feeding the hungry. Hunger has no denominational barriers. We also have a school and a college program. Educating our children has no denominational barriers. Our college reaches out to many different denominations. Our ministry operates three radio stations. Now we don't have a denominational filter on our station that prohibits those of a different denomination from getting our signal. Everybody is welcome. One of the greatest challenges that our ministry has faced has been that of getting churches to unite in a common cause. On one particular project that I remember, we had five different denominations working on one project. That is a picture of what the church should be like.

We have allowed so many things to separate us. Sometimes we are even caught in competing against one another. How sad we must make our Savior Who died to love us all. What is the church supposed to be like? Let's look past the splits and differences of today's churches into the Word of God to see. What is the church? A good place to start talking about how precious the church is can be found in Ephesians 1:18-23. We all need to have the "eyes of our understanding enlightened". We need to be enlightened past what many of today's churches have become to see what we can be and what we are in God. This passage closes with verses

22 and 23, “And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” Church, this is our destiny. Walls and buildings surely can’t divide this body. This is the place of the body of Christ.

God didn’t save us as individuals to keep us as individuals. God operates in unity. That is how love works and God is love. Nor did He set forth churches to become little individual groups. We are all to be led by the Spirit in love with Jesus, and in love with one another, functioning in unity as His body with Christ as the head. Ephesians 2:19 tells us, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” We are not strangers to one another. We follow the same Savior. If we walk in the Spirit we walk led by the same One. Ephesians 3:14-15 tells us, “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.” We are a whole family. Romans 8:17 tells us, “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.” We are His children and children from the same Father. We are named as a whole family. We will be glorified together not as little individuals or groups, but as a whole part. Ephesians 5:30 tells us, “For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.” It is God’s desire that we function as one body. Ephesians 4:13-16 describes how that body should function.

In I Corinthians 12:12-27 we find a picture of the body of Christ. This can be taken on an individual level. I know that we have discussed this before. Please reread this section of scripture. This time read it with a worldwide view of the church without denominational walls, and without considering the walls of your local body. This scripture also gives us a promise both as to how we fit into the body and how important we are individually to the Lord. It is also a lesson for a local church level illustrating how important the gifts of God are and how they should operate in the local church and other guidelines for our local churches. But it also is talking about how the entire bride of Christ world over is to be. We are all “the body of Christ and members in particular.” Verse 25 says, “There should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” We have to be careful that not lose sight of this in our local churches. We also have to be careful not to lose sight of this as the whole entire body of Christ.

How precious are we as the church? Here are some verses that tell us: Acts 20:28, Ephesians 5:23-30, Deuteronomy 14:2, Isaiah 62:5. What is our future as the bride of Christ? It is glorious! Revelations 19:7-9 tells us what lies ahead. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb. And He saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Church, we need to be about our Father’s business. We need to come out from the world and be a separate people. We need to reestablish our purpose according to God’s Word. We need to lay aside all the weights that so easily beset us. We need to lay aside the flesh and walk in the Spirit. We need to set aside our differences for the love and respect of the One Who has called us. We need to get real and get ready. We need to let Jesus prepare His entire bride. The marriage supper of the lamb will come when the church is made ready, glorious without spot or blemish. Let God do that work in you. We can only do this when we let that river of life flow freely in our midst.

**Chapter 8.**  
**Who Do We Reach Out To?**  
**Who Needs Us?**

Before we can answer the question, who needs us, we have to ask the question, what do we have to give? If we look at ourselves in the natural we may think that we don't have much to give. If we look at ourselves through the Spirit and through God's word, that is a different thing all together. You have within you the Holy Ghost of God and Jesus Christ. You have in your mind the power of God's Word. God wants to reach out through you to those that are lost and hurting. Luke 4:18-19 tells us in Jesus' own words why He came. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." This is still why He is here. That is your purpose as well. You have that same anointing that desires to do the same thing. The Holy Spirit can do a lot without using us, but He can do a lot more when we place ourselves at His use.

We also have the truth of God's Word to carry to those around us. The world is dying without this truth. The truth of God is precious. It is not only precious to the lost, a means of salvation whether they may recognize it or not, but it is also precious to the saints. There have been many times when some precious saint of God has spoken just the words that I needed to hear from God's Word. God's Word has the power to give life to those who aren't saved, and to sustain life to those of us who are. Think about how many times the Word of God has been your source of strength and guidance, your peace in the storm. Remember how it was before you found this source of living water. Never underestimate what you have to give others, when you carry the Word of God.

There are two kinds of Words from God that we can give to others. One is the written Word of God, the Bible. Another is the spoken Words of God. How many times has someone given you a word of encouragement, a word of guidance, or even a word of chastisement from the Lord? You knew that the words that they were speaking were directly from the Lord. Let the Holy Ghost use you to minister in the Word of God.

Now another thing that we have to ask before we can answer the question, who needs us, is do we have anything to give. If we don't

consider ourselves to be very important, then we won't think that there is anyone out there who needs us. If we are looking at ourselves in the natural and all we can see is our shortcomings, then the devil will jump in with condemnation and self doubt, and by the time that he is done, we'll be convinced that no one needs us even to be around, let alone to minister to them. We have to look at who and what we are in God. Also, it doesn't hurt to be reminded that we are weak. We are sometimes pitiful, but that means that God can use us even greater. When I was a young Christian, I was afraid that I wasn't good enough to be used by the Lord. I loved to sing, but I thought that my talent wasn't good enough. Someone told me this lesson story. They told me about two singers. The first singer was professionally, highly trained and sure of themselves. They were proud of their talent. The other singer was unsure. They came before the people with a humble heart and with a prayer saying, "God, I can't do this on my own. Please use me." Of the two singers, which could God use the most? The polished one or the humble hearted one? If we come before God admitting our weakness and admitting that we can't do it on our own, then God will be there to use us. We will find His supernatural anointing and that will be what will change lives.

I am reminded of the story of Balaam and Balak found in Numbers 22 and 23. Read this story with this question in mind. Who was the real hero in the story? Who did God originally use to get the job done, to turn the course of the action? If he hadn't used this particular someone (or something) the outcome of this story would have been wholly different. You are right if you guessed the donkey. The donkey was the hero. Remember this the next time that you think that God can't use you because you aren't special enough. He can use anything or anyone who places himself at his command. What are the qualifications of those who God can use? We can find them in I Corinthians 1:25-29. See if you fit into one of these categories.

Now we can finally answer that question that we started out with, who needs us. We established earlier that the lost without God are definitely in need. However, let's not forget those who sit beside us on the church pews every Sunday. There may be someone who is feeling all bottled up inside, ready to explode, and all they need is a listening ear. There may be a young divorced parent who needs someone to baby-sit a while to give her a break. It may be a young person who needs to be made to feel important. It may be someone who is hanging onto that last thread of

hope that needs to hear a word of faith. It may be that person that is edging out into temptation that needs chastising. It may be someone that needs a word of guidance. It may be that friend that needs to know that they are special to God. How many times has God used your brothers and sisters in the Lord to encourage you and lift you up? Put your self at the Lord's command and you can do the same for others. We can go on and on in things that we need. Most of all, we need to love them. Many times we want to be a spiritual giant and we forget the first rung of that ladder is love. I John Chapter 4 gives guidelines for that love. Also, remember that I Corinthians 13 tells us how to find those spiritual gifts that we are seeking God for. Now, who needs you and do you have something to give?

## **Chapter 9.**

### **Hell**

We live in a society today that does not want to be made to feel uncomfortable about any issue. This type of thinking has crept into the church. We no longer use the altar for repentance. The conviction power of God is no longer allowed to move in our churches. The judgment of God is no longer preached from the pulpit because it might offend someone. We have shoved away the thought of judgment for so long that we have even adopted the teaching that God will not judge us. After all, He is a God of love. There is also a prevalent teaching that there is no set right or wrong, that what might be right for you might not be right for me, what is wrong for you might not be wrong for me. Another teaching that has crept into the church is the idea that we can do whatever we want, because God will forgive us. This is often called the once saved always saved doctrine. Because of all these teachings, sin abounds not only in the church, but also in the pulpit. No wonder God has lifted His Spirit away from many churches today. The church today often acts no differently than the world, more like a social institution rather than an institution established by God. No wonder it no longer has a drawing power. Jesus is no longer lifted up. The truth is not taught. People live in bondage. Why should the world want to be part of such a church?

In the middle of all this, because we have lost sight of God's judgment and we have in many cases lost sight of the truth of there even being a hell, we no longer see the need to evangelize, to reach out. Our reason to reach out is often just an idea of increasing our numbers, or an idea of our being like a social service organization and we need to help other people. No wonder that we no longer have a burden for the lost. No wonder we don't see any reason to separate ourselves from sin. When is the last time that your congregation gathered at the altar to weep for their own sins, and for those who are lost? Count yourself blessed if you are in this type of church.

There is a very real hell and those who go there are there for eternity. This is God's judgment. God has made a way for us to escape because of His great love for us. He sent His only begotten Son (John 3:16). He is not willing that any should perish. He has given us all that we need to be able to live a life of victory. If we choose to neglect such a great salvation and go there, that is because we have chosen to do so.

There is a very real judgment and there is a very real hell.

Here are some scriptures that discuss hell:

Psalm 9:17 Isaiah 5:14 Ezekiel 31:16

Matthew 5:29-30 Matthew 10:28 Matthew 11: 23

Matthew 23:33 James 3:6 II Peter 2:4

One of the greatest passages about hell is found in the story of Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. The rich man longed for just a drip of water. What eternal torment hell must be

We have established that there is a hell. What about why people go there? Matthew 24 and 25 tell more about who will go there. The Bible tells us that hell was not prepared for people but for the devil and his angels. When we turn away from God's righteousness and we choose to walk ungodly then we will face the same judgment as they. In other words, God has done miraculous supernatural things to provide us with a way of escape. If we choose to walk away from these, we put ourselves into hell.

Who will go to hell? Certainly those who refuse salvation. However in II Peter chapter two we read many things about who will go to hell. In verse 15 we read that these are those "which have forsaken the right way and are gone astray" Verse 30 tells us that these were ones who through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they have escaped the pollutions of the world, but "they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." That judgment that began with the ungodly will continue to include those who confess to know God but who have not in reality gained a real relationship with Him. Hell will also be a place for many a person who once knew God but turned away. Here are scriptures that bear this out: Matthew 10:22, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Revelations 3:11, "Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown. James 1:12, "Blessed is he that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which

the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” Hebrews 3:6-15, “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith), To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swore in my wrath They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day: lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.” II Timothy 2:11-13, “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us.” We can see that those who once knew God but came to a place when they turned away from Him, then He will turn away from them.

It is plain to see through the Word of God that when the church takes the judgment out of its services and no longer allows the conviction power of God’s Spirit to move, then we are plainly walking in the devil’s territory. When we as Christians defy the Word of God and declare that no matter what we do, we are still saved and we are far from God’s judgment, then we are far from God’s truth. Church, we need to go back to the whole truth of God. We need to realize that yes, there is a hell and yes, it is fearsome and it is eternal. We need to get a glimpse of its fires. Some of the greatest soul winners that I have known are those who prayed to get a glimpse of what hell was like and God, through a dream showed them. When we as a church get the knowledge of how hot hell is and how many are heading in that direction, then we will get real in what we do to prevent it. We won’t have to be dragged out on visitation day. We will be out there more than one time a month. We will be talking to those lost loved ones, even if we risk a family feud. We will be reaching out to those neighbors, even if we are afraid that they might reject us. We’ll be talking to the unsaved at the office even if we lose popularity. We’ll turn off that TV and hit our knees in prayer for the lost. Let’s get real church.

When we do reach out, we need to do so as led by the Spirit. There are two extremes to reaching out. One is when we don’t care whether we do

or not. The other is to get so fired up that we go out and in our zeal, without wisdom, we dive in and blast people telling them to get right because they are going to hell. In everything in God, there is a balance. We have to use wisdom, especially when we are reaching out to people's eternal souls. We have to do what we do with love as our motivation, not with fear. When we do, we will be careful not to damage those we are reaching out to. Remember back to the time before you were saved. Remember those who really reached you. Those who got to you didn't yell in your face. They loved you into the kingdom. They told you the truth, but in what they said, you could feel the love and drawing power of God. Most times this witnessing isn't done by a one-time visit. This is done when we take on a burden, when we weep, pray, and intercede. Our being there, a hand outreached to show them Jesus reaching out, does it. Can those you are reaching out to see Jesus in you? They will if you are submitted and committed and you let the Holy Ghost in you reach out. They will if you are walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh. When you go when the Lord says go, speak when He says speak and say what He says to say, they will see Him. If you are obeying God, then they will see Jesus in you.

Also most important is the life that you lead before them. If you are always full of doubt and negative thinking, if you do not show the fruits of the Spirit in your own life, then how will they see anything that they want to have? When the world crashes in on you and you stand firm in your faith, then they will know that you have something real to believe in. When everyone else is crashing in fear, and you are standing firm in what you believe, then they will know that there is something to believe in. One of the saddest true stories that I have heard is the story of a man who witnessed to others at his work place. He was an on fire Christian. Something happened in his life and he lost his victory, and he lost his experience with God. Gradually he stopped serving God all together. Some time after that, a coworker committed suicide. This man was pricked in his heart to find out what had happened to cause this. He asked the coworker's friend. The friend answered that this man had gone through a lot of turmoil in his life. He had watched this first man when he was on fire for the Lord. The coworker had found hope in this first man's experience with the Lord. He began to hope that he could find victory in his own life through Him. When the first man had stopped serving God, the coworker had lost hope and had taken his own life. We never know the influence that we have on those around us. Never

underestimate the power of your testimony. Guard your testimony because it may be a lifeline to someone.

We know that living a victorious life is an important testimony, but we have to be careful that we don't use that as a cop out. If God is leading you to do more, don't brush it away with the excuse that living your life before them is all the testimony that you need to give them. An outreached heart and hand will do more than a life lived at a distance.

I don't want to minimize the place of visitation ministries and the ministry of passing out tracts. However, we need to remember that this is only a place to start. We need to get real with the people that we witness to and love them and care for them enough to become a part of their lives. We need to reach out to them for real. We need to be careful when reaching out and ministering to those around us that we use discernment. The devil will surely throw in someone who can cause a problem. They may turn out to be someone who would turn around and make false accusations to try to destroy our testimony. They might be someone who would take up all our time and monopolize us so that we might miss the one person that the Lord wants us to visit or work with. That person may not want the truth so the devil is sure to put them in front of us to keep us from working with someone who does. I remember a young person that I tried to witness to who had a problem with alcohol. She would go to church on Sunday and be out drinking during the week. I told her to call me when she felt like she wanted to drink and I'd go over and spend time with her. She called me one night, and many nights after that. She would call our pastor and his wife at the same hours, just to talk. We all had a burden to help her. One night she called me and I went over. We talked and about 2:00 in the morning she more or less laughed in my face and took off to go get drunk. Don't let people or the devil that uses them to manipulate you. This girl took up a great deal of our time. I believe that at first she intended to turn around. As time went on, she decided that she didn't want to, that she wanted to stay the way she was. However, she enjoyed the attention she was getting from us too much to let that go. That's when the devil began to use her. Also, be wise in what you do. Don't look at everyone through rose tinted glasses. If you don't get real with them, you can't help them. Also, if you don't get real with them, they might do harm to you in the end.

Getting real with what hell is like will increase your burden for the lost. Those individuals and churches that lack a burden are in danger of

becoming like the Dead Sea with no outlet. If you don't have a burden or a vision to reach out, pray. God will certainly give you one. Then your outlet will run fresh and clean.

### **Chapter 10. He's Coming Soon**

I can honestly say that every born again, obedient, submitted to the Holy Ghost child of God knows in their heart that we are living in the last days right before the return of the Lord. I have heard many good teachers who have expounded on this. However, it is the Spirit of God that was revealed it to my heart. That when combined with the Word of God is irrefutable proof that it is so. When I talk with other Saints of God who are listening to the Holy Ghost I find out that He is telling them the same thing. These three tests are ways that we can try what is being said to our spirit. When the Word of God, the Spirit of God in our hearts, and the Spirit of God in other saints agree, then we know for sure that it is God. This is the greatest test that we can find to learn God's will for our life, or to try the spirits to see if what we hear is from God. We need to get all the good teaching and hear all the good preaching that we can. It is ultimately the Spirit of God that will get us where we are going. We need to have a close enough relationship with God that we know it is His voice. Then we need to check it out with His word. Then lastly we need to go to others. Sometimes it is easy to go by what our pastor says and not check things out ourselves. That isn't the Word of God. Also, if we place those around us on pedestals and make them to be Lord in our lives instead of God, then we are endangering them. Pedestals are made to fall off of. Isn't it wonderful though, that Holy Ghost witness that we have with one another. We all follow the same Holy Ghost. Paul went to a distant place, when he first came to the Lord. Then the scriptures say after He sought the Lord, then he made sure what he had learned lined up with what others knew from the Lord. We need to listen to the voice of the Lord. It is important as well to remember that there is safety in a multitude of counsel. The wisest man in the world, Solomon, wrote in Proverbs 11:14, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." Even Solomon found that he needed a multitude of counsel. We just have to be careful to pick the right counsel and make sure that the Spirit of God leads it. If the counsel that we have chosen to listen to doesn't reflect the Word of God in their day to day experience, then we know that we have chosen the wrong counsel, and we need to move on. When we are ready to make life-changing decisions, we need to seek out Godly counsel. Many times it is

easy to go to the world's counsel, and forget to seek out Godly counsel. Then we wonder how we got into such a mess later.

When I talk to Spirit led committed Holy Ghost filled and led saints the world over, I hear the same thing over and over. The Lord is coming soon. Sure there is a wide spread belief that the Lord is not coming back. There are many as well that say that it will be a long time before He comes back. Some even say that He has already come back. How do we know which is true? First we study out God's Word. We find out that these signs are coming to pass. Luke 21 is just one place where we can read these signs. The scripture are full of verses that bear out that we are living in the last days. We seek out the Holy Ghost Himself, and we hear His voice say, "He is coming soon. Lift up your head for your redemption draweth nigh." We talk with our brothers and sister in the Lord and we hear them say the same thing. That's how we know what the truth is.

When we know that the Lord is coming back soon, then this will make a difference in what we do. It will change our lives and our priorities. We need to live everyday like we know that this is true. We need to keep ourselves ready and we need to do what we can to help those around us that aren't ready. This world will be a horrible place after the rapture. Revelations 6:15-17 tells us "men will beg the rocks to fall on them". People will literally beg to die but won't be able to. We need to get real and get ready, and reach out to those around us to help them to do the same. Keep that outlet flowing free and clear. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come; and Who shall be able to stand?" When we get real about that day, then our burden for the lost will be great, and so will our determination to hold onto our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

## **Chapter 11.**

### **Your Life-Empty or Full Your Choice**

Picture just for a minute those people that you know who have a purpose for their lives. They are victorious. They have a reason to go on. The Bible says that when people lack a vision, a purpose for their existence, they perish. Proverbs 29:18 tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." How many times have you seen a death of a life long companion cause the other spouse to give up on life? How often have you seen retirement cause a long time worker to lose interest in life, because work had been their focus for so long? What about that parent who lost interest in life because a child had left home because that child had been the center of their life and the reason for their existence? We can get our life so focused on many things. And those things can temporarily give us a vision, a focus, a reason to life. We have to remember that there is only one focus that can give us an eternal vision. That focus is the things of the Lord, serving Him, and letting that water of life flow freely in and out of our lives. Matthew 6:21 tells us, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." I am not saying that families, jobs, spouses, and all these things are not important. I am saying that these things are not to be your treasure. The only eternal treasure that you will find will be serving God with all your heart. When you do, He will bless everything else and put it in proper perspective in your life. When He is Lord, your life will have a focus and it will be ordered by His hand. When our life is not focused on the Lord, then we will have constant turmoil.

I have known many elderly people who are waiting for death. They no longer feel that they have a purpose. The reason for their life, the things that they focused on, is no more. Sad to say, I also know many young people who feel the same way. I won't be that way when I get older, and I'm certainly not that way now. You might say to me, "Well, how can you be sure that you won't be that way? I'm sure that those people who feel that way didn't plan it that way." My answer to that is this. Yesterday, I focused on the Lord who gives me my reason to live. He is my eternal hope. I obeyed Him. He led me to do things and in doing those things, I was fulfilled in Him. I had a purpose yesterday. I woke up this morning and today I did the same thing. I started out my day asking

Him to lead me, and desiring with all my heart to be used for Him. Tomorrow I will do the same. When I am old and gray, by the grace of God, I will be doing the very same thing. How do I know? Because that is what I am doing today. My labor for Him is not in vain and neither is my life. (I Corinthians 15:58,

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”). All these things are other reasons to let that water of life flow out, and not just in. It is your choice whether you have a life that is full, or a life that is empty.

## **Chapter 12.**

### **Love**

I started several times to use this chapter earlier in the book because it really is the focus for what we do. I decided to save it to last because it sums up what we have been talking about. It is the reason why we are here to do what we do. It is our purpose.

We had been through a trial in our ministry that lasted several years. It seemed that for a season of several years the devil buffeted us until it was only through daily miracles that we weren't destroyed. On the other hand, to a certain point, God withdrew His hand of protection and allowed the devil to do this. I have heard many ministries to say the same thing. Just before a time of a miraculous supernatural touch for a ministry, God will withdraw himself and allow the devil to do his thing to test your heart. This is true not only for ministries but for individuals. Before God lifts you up to a new plain of victory, He will allow satan to buffet you and try you. Stay true. Your miracle is just around the corner. God will do this to shake out of you anything that doesn't belong and try you so that you come forth like gold ready to offer His offering. Throughout the scripture you can see the same thing. The key is not to quit while this is happening, to stay pure in heart, and not lose your love. During this time of struggle that we faced, it was a struggle financially, physically, mentally, and spiritually, just to go on. At one time we had had over 30 employees in the ministries different departments. During this time we dropped to only a handful and this handful was doing more than the 30 had done. It was a strain just to keep everything growing. God, however, did a miraculous work, and we grew tremendously. In the middle of this time of trying, though, my love began to wax cold. I was tired and the last thing that I had was patience. I was running on the surface with what I was doing. You have to connect with people to be able to reach them, to be able to make a difference in their lives. When you don't, you just run on the surface. It is easy to get too busy doing other things, or too caught up in your own world, to reach others for real. Day to day I was doing my duty, but I was losing my hearts motivation. I was losing my love. I stopped being effective. The kids at our Christian School that I work with no longer opened up to me, they actually saw me coming and drew back. Before they would run to me and pour out their hearts. They had identified with God's love that was in me, and He readily had poured it out to them, reaching out through me. I was in a hurry now though and rushed through my day trying to get everything done. My outlet had become stopped up by the battle of the

hour. It took something extreme to unstop that outlet, to dynamite it out if you please. One of my students was killed in a car wreck. About that same time another attempted suicide and nearly succeeded. Another was nearly beaten to death. The only time that I had talked to the one who was killed in the wreck, I had been busy and my mind hadn't been on the Lord. I had rushed through our meeting. The devil had made sure that day had been filled with interruptions. My heart wasn't in tune with God and my love wasn't flowing to the place that this student was a focus. After his death God let me glimpse that young man sliding into hell. I came back to my focus.

We have motivations for our purpose and that motivation is set by the very nature of God. I John 4:8 tells us that God is love. I'm not talking here about human love, but about the love God that can only operate through us supernaturally when we walk in the Spirit. The kind of love that only comes about as a fruit of the Spirit. If you as an individual or you collectively as a church want to make a difference, then you must be founded on the rock of Jesus Christ and motivated by that same love that motivated Him to take up His cross. That same love will cause you to do likewise. Matthew 16:24 tells us, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." When we face battles, and we will, the strength that will carry us through will be the love of God that motivates us. The glue that will hold us together as a family, as a church, as a ministry, will be this same love. The light that will keep us in the path that God leads us will be this same love. Without love we have no reason to serve God and motivation to be able to go on.

How many times has God's love given you the strength to go on? We serve a wonderful God. Through the course of a week's time, I'm blessed to be able to talk with part of the family of God world over. Some can barely speak English. But when we talk about our Savior we have an instant connection. I know that they know and love this same One that I know and love. He is the same for them as He is for me. When they tell me things that He has told them, I recognize my Savior's voice, because He often has told me the same thing. When they talk about how wonderful He is because of what He has done for them, I know it is the same Savior because He has done so much of the same for me. It is so sad, these martyrs of Mohammed that we hear so much about-these suicide bombers, etc. who fanatically serve this cruel master. They wake up to find that this god that drove them to such a frenzy of hatred was satan and their reward for their life's devotion is hell fire for

eternity. What if that god that they think that they are serving was our God? Our God doesn't have to be love. He doesn't have to be the way He is. God could choose to have any nature He wanted, but He chose to be a God of love. What kind of love does He have for us? Here are some scriptures that tell us: Deuteronomy 7:8, Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-5, I John 3:1, Ephesians 3:17, and last but not least Romans 8:31-39 which is summed up in verse 35,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” That great love demands that we love one another in return: Matthew 22:39, John 13:35, John 15:12, Romans 12:9, I Thessalonians 3:12, I Peter 1:22. And how are we to live: Galatians 2:20 tells us how we are to do all these things.

That love that He has for us causes us to have that love for others. We can't love without His love. It is humanly impossible. To prove it, could you die for those you barely knew? Maybe you can say yes to that, but isn't that because you have the love of God, His love, in your heart. Face it, without the love of

God we have no motivation. The love of God holds us to the course. Because of this love for us, we want to live upright before Him. Without this love we can't even walk upright. Because of His love we have a love for those around us and this motivates us in what we do for Him. Because of this love we have a family, the family of God and it has a love that draws us together world over.

We need to keep before us a vision of just how big God's love is and remember who is in this love. If we aren't careful we forget this and shut ourselves behind the four walls of a church retreating into that security. The four walls of your church is not the household of faith or the bride of Christ. Nor is it the limit to your outreach as His hand extended. It is easy to become so wrapped up in our activities of the church that we forget the greatness and the bigness of God's Love. Who is included in that love? One day while I was sitting at a red light in town watching people pass. I thought to myself, "I wonder where these people are going?" I thought of how it really didn't matter that I didn't know who they were because they personally had nothing to do with my life. That is when God told me that He did know about them, and that they did have a connection with me. That is when He gave me the words to this song. I have put the words below.

***This is My Congregation******Verse 1***

As I sat at the red light one day, I watched the traffic go by.  
 One after one as they passed, I didn't know who they were,  
 Or where they were going.  
 Jesus told me, " I know every one. I can call them by name.  
 I know the secrets of their hearts. I know their heartache and pain.

***Chorus***

This is my congregation, the whole wide world over.  
 I see every battle every broken mind, every broken heart.  
 This is my congregation. Only my truth can set them free.  
 Give them my Word full and free, draw them to me. This is my  
 congregation.

***Verse 2***

Now I see things different than I did.  
 My eyes are not the same.  
 Everywhere I look I see them,  
 I feel their struggles and I feel their pain.  
 My heart reaches out to draw them to Him.  
 How can I make a difference everywhere I am?  
 Give them His Word full and free, draw them to Him,  
 This is His congregation.

This song changed my outlook. Now one of my favorite places to minister is not in the walls of our church but in Wal-Mart. You guessed it. We live in a small town and Wal-Mart is the happening place. Or I can minister in the grocery line, or wherever people are gathered together. I now see this as His congregation and that makes it mine as well. The love of God was not made to be confined to the four walls of a church, but it was to made to splash over on the whole world.

Some of those people may not look like we think that they should look. They may not live like we think that they should live or dress like we think that they should or act how we think that they should. One day maybe not so long ago as things go, you may not have either. When I start to think some of those things, I remember that there but for the grace of God might be I. Some times we can even get that kind of attitude with our own brothers and sisters in the Lord. We can start to concentrate on what is wrong with them, and not what is right. Either way, the love of God is there for them, too. It is our job to open up and let it pour through us, to let that water of life flow from Him. We can't

let judgmental, critical attitudes stop that water from flowing out or we'll be another Dead Sea.

As a caution, we have to remember that God's love is a righteous love just like His judgment is a righteous judgment. There is a wrong and there is a right and sin is sin. When we reach out, we need to stand firmly in this. Even though we love the sinner, we have to hate the sin. If we don't, they may never know the truth. If you reach out to those who are in sin, you have to be careful not to judge them, because only God's judgment is righteous. However, you can't wink at their sin either. You cannot compromise with what is wrong and right to be able to reach out. A lot of Christians and churches get into trouble because they do so. If you love someone with God's love, then that love will demand that you tell them the Word of God and declare to them a full counsel. When we compromise in our beliefs to fill our churches, or to lead others to Christ, then we are selling them a bad bunch of goods. We actually are drawing them closer to hell than to heaven. If we do this, we are in danger of facing God's judgment ourselves. Matthew 18:6 tells us, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." We are to be like the watchman of the city found in Ezekiel 3:17-21. We are to declare God's Word in full counsel and they have to choose what they want. If they choose to walk away from God's love, then that is their choice. If we deliver the truth then it is not our fault that they didn't receive it. If we fail to give them the truth, and they perish without it, then we are accountable.

There may be some that we need to tarry with until Christ can be formed in them. Galatians 4:19 tells us, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Paul had travailed and worked with these who were like little children in the Lord until Christ could be formed in them. I have had the Lord to lead me to love and minister to some people that I thought would never make it. He had me work with them for years, until they could understand this thing, be delivered, and get a grasp on it for themselves. Then I have had some people that the Lord would pour out His love through me for a season, but at the end of that season, He would lead me to tell them the full counsel of God's Word and present it to them in a get in or get out manner. They would either get in or out. Then I have had people who came into my office and I would open my mouth to witness to them, but God would stop me and literally lock my jaws so that I couldn't say anything. God would show

me that to speak to them about Him would be like casting pearls before swine. Matthew 7:6 tells us, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and rend you." I have had this to happen. I have tried to witness to certain people who turned around and violently mocked all that God stands for and you. They will certainly rend you. These people are the ones that God says to leave alone. In all of this we have to be led by Him. We can't even witness or work with people without God guiding us. We need to remember that the most precious thing to God is another soul. We have to act accordingly. However, we can't be so awed by this that we are afraid to say anything. It would be worse not to. God can use a mistake, but what can He do with nothing. He can fix a mistake that is made when we genuinely are trying, but what can He do with nothing.

In all that we do we have to remember that the Lord is doing the work and we are only the helpers. Sometimes if we aren't careful we'll take the attitude that we are doing the work. When we do this, then we feel responsible for the results. We may not always see the result. I have worked with some of the young people in our school for years without seeing results. Then several years later they would come by to tell me that they had given their heart to the Lord. I may have spoken to them in hundreds of altar calls, and another pastor at another church led them to the Lord. Sometimes, we need to remember that we may sow a seed, another would water it, then another would water it again, and so forth. Then the Lord would give the increase. His is the harvest, and we all work together in that process as the Holy Ghost leads. The important thing is not who gathered in the harvest, but that it was gathered, and you will be rewarded for your part. Ultimately when we lift Jesus up, He will draw all men.

## Closing

It is my prayer that through these pages you have studied to become life giving water, letting that river of life flow through you and out to others. You can make a difference to your world. Walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh, and Jesus will make a difference. Keep both your inlets and your outlets flowing fresh and clean. Remember where His congregation is and reach out accordingly, as He leads. Make it a priority to serve Him, and understand who you are and what you have to give, and know that it is well worth the giving. Understand that if they receive, it is their choice. Yours is the giving, the results of that giving are up the individual you have reached out to and to the Lord. Remember that you may sow the seed, but the reaping may be up to another. Yours is just to obey and trust God for the results. In all things, do it as unto the Lord. Keep the love of God fresh and clear in your life. Remember, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Proverbs 11:18). John 4:35-46, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Keep on sowing. In due season, you will reap. On this side or on the other, you will have a harvest, guaranteed.