

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**HOW TO KNOW
THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR YOUR LIFE
PART FOUR**

The apostle Paul wrote these words in his letter to the Church at Ephesus: "And He Himself [the Lord Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."¹ These "offices" in the Church are sometimes called "ministry gifts." An important part of knowing God's will for your life on a continuing basis is contained in the principle that I believe must not be violated: One should not criticize or harm God's anointed ministers, neither those who are walking in His will nor those who are not. Here is why.

Those Who Are Walking in God's will.

The Principle

Aaron and Miriam, the brother and sister of Moses, were both gifted by God. Their gifts, the priesthood of Aaron and the prophetic gifts of both Aaron and Miriam² were the roots from which sprang their criticism of God's servant. It began as criticism of Moses because he had married an Ethiopian woman,³ then spread to his ministry prompted by their pride.⁴ It is interesting to observe that the criticism of Moses by both started with his wife and then spread to his ministry. Such is the way of critical spirits. They know no boundaries. God Himself then called Aaron and Miriam forward in the tabernacle of meeting, rebuked them severely and *inflicted leprosy upon Miriam* for their criticism⁵ of Moses. Criticism of God's servants is dangerous. Don't do it!

The Application Today

Pastors, priests, bishops, elders, etc., who are called of God in their ministries are first, servants of God who need our support, not our criticism. Remember also that God's ministers today are like you and me. They face the

same problems of life that you and I face. The reason you and I don't know about them is because they spend their time *ministering to you – trying to help you*. These men and women who are most visible in the congregation need our prayers -- *we are family*. Take the Hillcrest Church, for example. We have in our congregation a cross section of the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, spiritually, socially, educationally and economically. Since the Church is God's hospital where people are made well, pastors in such a diverse congregation *need adequate time* to pray for guidance in their ministry. *Adequate prayer takes time and is hard work* but ministry depends on it, for "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."⁶

Pastors, in one sense, are often "isolated" or "alone" because of the nature of God's call on their life. They need our love and encouragement, our *daily* prayers including tithes and offerings liberally given to the Church. Pastors should receive generous remuneration for their services, including benefits/retirement packages commensurate with the corporate world. They should be encouraged to take time off for their own personal welfare to rest and relax. New miracle working in one's life often follows a time of rest, spent away from the everyday cares of one's ministry or work.

Those Who Have Stumbled or Fallen

Johnny Moffitt, founder of World Wide Voice in The Wilderness⁷ says "The Church is the only institution that shoots its wounded." And that must change. If we walk as anointed servants of God, we must walk as salt and

⁶Psalm 127:1 (a). The house I refer to here is not the church building where one goes to worship God. Instead I refer to the human body which houses the Holy Spirit Who indwells every born again Christian. Adequate prayer time for those engaged in full time ministry is an absolute necessity for spiritual growth and the furtherance of God's kingdom on earth. Such servants of God must not only know the scriptures which are fixed but they must also seek God daily for maintenance, sustenance, provision and guidance. This is a necessity for God's ministers.

⁷A world-wide prison ministry headquartered in Dallas. Johnny and Betty Moffitt, who have ministered to prisoners on an international scale for over twenty years, have begun a very fruitful ministry to prison guards with marriage seminars. We are acquainted with Johnny and Betty personally and know them to be very capable servants of God who are worthy of your support. Their address is P. O. Box 670682, Dallas, Texas 75367.

¹Ephesians 4:11, 12 (Explanation in brackets added).

²See Numbers 12:2.

³Read Numbers 12:1.

⁴For a complete account of this incident, read Numbers 12:1-16.

⁵Read Numbers 12:2-10.

light to see and heal those who need help. That means when you see a servant of God who has stumbled and fallen, here is God's prescription: (1) You must forgive him⁸ (or her) or you will not be forgiven. Unforgiveness will block God's ability to use you as His servant. Your unforgiveness becomes your own stumbling block. Hence you rob yourself. (2) Pray for that servant of God lest you be tempted to sin.⁹ (3) Ask God's blessing on him and then, (4) you bless him. To illustrate this principle, David, who was anointed to become king of Israel, dared not lift his hand against King Saul who sought to kill him. Even though Saul had fallen from God's favor, David revered him because Saul had once been an anointed servant of God.¹⁰

What I have written in Parts One, Two, Three and thus far in Part Four in this series of letters has been what I believe to be basic or foundational to becoming a servant of God.

Hereafter in this series I will relate actual incidents that occurred in my life as the Lord led me day by day and step by step into four ministries with a fifth "waiting in the wings" to be birthed. The Lord has said to me more than once, "Share with others what I give you" and that is what I intend to do. At His request, hereafter I also intend to publish in each letter at least one of the prophetic messages He has given to me.

In January of 1996 I began to close down a small business I owned and realizing that I would have *discretionary time* that I never had before, I prayed and asked the Lord to allow me to use that time to glorify the Name of the Lord Jesus. Some time later the Lord indicated to me that He had heard my prayer and would be

⁸Read Matthew 6:14, 15. To further support these two verses on forgiveness, Jesus forgave his executioners while on the cross (Luke 23:33,34). He also forgave the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11) and the woman at the well who had been "sleeping around." (See John 4:5-30).

⁹See Galatians 6: 1, 2. This prayer will vary depending on ones discernment and knowledge of spiritual warfare.

¹⁰See 1 Samuel 18:10-12; 19:10. Here is further example of the admonition "do not touch God's anointed": Saul, who was mortally wounded on the battlefield, asked a young man (an Amalekite) to slay him, to hasten his death, eliminate his suffering and avoid being brutalized by the enemy on the battlefield. The young man complied with Saul's request in what one would call a "mercy killing." The Amalekite then took to David, Saul's crown and bracelet as evidence of his death. When David discovered the young Amalekite's action in ending Saul's suffering, David had him executed on the spot for killing God's anointed even though Saul had turned from God in disobedience. The admonition still stands: Do no harm to God's anointed even though he has fallen from God's favor! (See 2 Samuel 1:1-16).

doing something new in my life. It wasn't long before my curiosity prompted me to ask Him about the "something new" and His response was "Expect the unexpected," which I mentioned in my May letter. I hope you can appreciate God's humor in the response.

At the time I did not realize that I was praying part of the Lord's prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John.¹¹ In that prayer just before He was to be crucified, Jesus said to the Father, "Glorify your Son that your Son also may glorify You" and "glorify Me together with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was."¹² At the time I had no idea that I was *praying the same prayer Jesus had prayed*. That is powerful and significant. *Not long after that prayer* the Lord began to speak to me, lead, guide and teach me concerning the four ministries I am now involved in. I believe dialogue with our Lord is essential to the end-time ministries about which I write. And He wants that relationship with you. Often His words to me are in the "still small voice" Elijah heard in the cave¹³ about which I wrote in my letter dated May 10, 2000.

On March 1, 1996, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said very distinctly, "Redeem the time" and "Be bold in prayer." The following words, written by the apostle Paul to the Church at Ephesus, explain what the Lord meant by, "Redeem the time": "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, *redeeming the time*, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."¹⁴

The message was clear. The Lord was saying for me to walk circumspectly (carefully), wisely, *in His will* as revealed to me one day at a time, one step at a time.¹⁵ Nothing is more important for you and me to do. Nothing is more fulfilling and gratifying in this life than knowing and walking in God's revealed will for your life. And as we draw ever closer to the Rapture and His soon

¹¹The prayer that begins "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name . . ." is the disciples prayer, not the Lord's prayer. When a disciple said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (as recorded in Luke 11:1). His response was what is now commonly called the Lord's prayer.

¹²See John 17:1 (b) & 5.

¹³Read 1 Kings 19:11, 12.

¹⁴Ephesians 5:15-17 (Italics added).

¹⁵One day, years ago, while I was in the office at my desk, the Holy Spirit spoke these words to me. That's the story of faith. Faith is never in the past, never in the future. It's always been in the *now* of time, one day at a time, one step at a time. (See Hebrews 11:1).

appearing¹⁶ God is revealing things to His servants in preparation for that glorious event.¹⁷

Concerning the other part of the Lord's message, "Be bold in prayer," I had no idea what He meant, even though I have a very vivid imagination. Little did I realize at the time, that *as I was obedient to the things I knew to do*, He then was freed to direct me as He chose. And *that* is important! In retrospect, I now know that He was preparing me for the four ministries (soon to be five) I am presently involved in, which were birthed by His words of direction to me – and this direction from God is ongoing – never ending, as one is faithful and obedient. And it's a fun trip. Believe me!

On July 15, 1996, the Holy Spirit spoke to me very clearly and said, "Give away your watch." This was a test, but not my first one. God gives you a test for the same reason you take a test in school or at the university: to see if you are ready for promotion. At the time I was wearing a man's eighteen carat gold Rolex watch with a president's band, diamond face and diamond bezel. By way of complete explanation, I had previously made a list of my personal possessions and designated certain of them to go to my three children. Each of them got a copy of the list and I attached one to my will, as I recall. My watch was designated to go to Gil, my youngest son. After these words from the Lord, I took off the watch and put it in the original box along with the certification papers and extra band links. The next time I saw Gil I handed him the box, told him what the Lord had instructed me to do and said, "Take it. It's yours. Throw it away, sell it, give it away or keep it. It's nothing but a trinket." He understood what I said and meant and he took it. To my knowledge, I had made neither gold nor "things" my god, but I was being tested nevertheless. Because of some things that have happened in my life since then, I believe I can begin to see the reason for the test. I'm reminded of words the Lord gave me years ago: "The smaller things are greater than the great things." A small test may portend things to come.

On September 5, 1996, these words of the Lord came to me very clearly, "Rain on me Holy Spirit." The moment the words came, I knew I was to pray them as a prayer. Then intermittently, as it occurred to me, I would pray, "Holy Spirit rain on me." I had no idea why I was told to do this. I simply did what I was instructed to do. I am well aware of the blessings of receiving the fullness of

God's Spirit¹⁸ and I want *all* of His Spirit in my life that it is possible for any mortal to have. But I still had no clue as to why I was given these instructions. Now fast forward to Monday, April 28, 1997, seven months and twenty-three days later. Dale and I were driving back from a long weekend in the Texas hill country, went through Wimberley and stopped by the Visitors Bureau at the Chamber of Commerce. While there we picked up a copy of their "Visitor's Guide" before having lunch and heading back to IH-35 for the drive to Dallas. Somewhere north of Austin we stopped for gas. As we drove back onto the highway, Dale said to me, "Listen, I want to read something to you." In the Visitor's Guide she had found a printed copy of "Wimberley's Legacy," a prayer prayed by Pleasant Wimberley over Wimberley Valley and its inhabitants then, now and forever, during the years of 1850-1875. The prayer was never recorded by Mr. Wimberley but given so often, it was remembered and recorded by those who heard it. The prayer which was lengthy and almost pure scripture, was God's word committed to memory and then prayed (given back to God) repetitiously by His servant. As we were driving north on the Interstate, Dale began to read to me the prayer. As she did so *suddenly* the Holy Spirit fell on us – literally *rained on us*. Our response was instantaneous spontaneous praise to God. Tears of gratitude, thanksgiving and joy streamed down our cheeks as we praised God with uplifted hands¹⁹ and hearts. God is the only one who can cause it to rain in a car with the windows up while driving down the Interstate at seventy MPH. There in His presence we experienced the fullness of joy. And we discovered that *His presence literally brings forth from us praise, thanksgiving, glory and honor to His Name*. Scriptural support for this statement is without limit. Before I knew the Lord personally, when I used to hear preachers talk about being in heaven and having time just to praise the

¹⁸Early in my Spiritual walk with our Lord, He spoke to me one day and said, "You are filled with My Spirit from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet." The very next day at the same hour of the morning (about 6:15 AM) at the same place in our home (in the hall-way as I was walking to the kitchen to make coffee) He gave me the rest of the sentence: "And that is why you are saved." This words are reminiscent of those written by the apostle Paul, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13).

¹⁹The Psalmist wrote, "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." (Psalm 134:2). The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (1 Timothy 2:8). When the Holy Spirit fell on us, the lifting up of our hands in praise was the automatic response to His presence, although one of my hands was occasionally needed for driving.

¹⁶See 1 Corinthians 15:50-55 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

¹⁷"Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7).

Lord, my thought about that, although never expressed to anyone was, ‘What a bore.’ No more!

We can only stand so much of God’s presence in our present earthly body. But when we are raptured – translated – our bodies will be changed instantly to one like that of Jesus.²⁰ We’ll be able to walk through a wall and eat fish.²¹ Then only will we be able to tolerate the literal presence of God for true worship, praise and adoration for an eternity.

There are two things I learned from the “rain” of the Holy Spirit.

(1) When the Lord instructs you to pray (or say) something specific and you are obedient, you prophesy into existence that which you speak. For example God told me through the Holy Spirit to pray, “Holy Spirit rain on me.” *These were His words given to me – the desire of His heart.* Then when I prayed, *I gave His words back to him* which prophesied into existence *HIS WILL* for me – for my life. The reality of this blessing existed in the spiritual when He spoke the words to me. When I then spoke the (His) words back to Him in prayer, it then allowed His words (will) to be manifested in the natural in my life, but in His timing. That’s why the ministry of Jesus was so powerful. The Father through the Holy Spirit was in constant communion (communication) with Jesus, giving to Him the desires of the Father’s heart. Then when Jesus spoke, it was done or manifested in the natural because it already existed in the spiritual as words given (spoken) to Him by the Father. Hallelujah! That’s the kind of relationship He wants with His children today – with every one of His children! God has faith in His word. That’s how the universe was spoken into existence. He wants you and me to have that same faith. Then in His communion (communication) with us, as the desire of His heart is expressed, we then can respond with the same assurance that Jesus had and speak into existence that which existed in the spiritual as spoken to us by the Father. We must be faithful to Him before He can be faithful to us. You can do nothing in and of yourself for God. He must even prescribe to you what you may do for Him for the gift to be accepted.

(2) There is a relationship between Israel and the Church. When something happens in Israel as a nation, it portends a spiritual occurrence in the Church. Israel as the wife of God and the Church as the bride of Christ is one

example.²² Here is another example: More than eight hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Joel wrote these words, “Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you – the former rain, and the *latter rain* in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.”²³ In these words God promises to Judah restoration and blessings upon repentance and returning to Him. The *latter rain* is the one that immediately precedes the *abundant physical harvest* promised by the Prophet. Now observe what Luke says about a different kind of harvest. “Then He [Jesus] said to them, ‘The harvest [of souls] truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into *His* harvest.’”²⁴ I believe God’s instruction to me to pray and the Holy Spirit ‘rain’ that fell on us could be prophetic of the *latter rain* of the Holy Spirit that will precede the *great end-time harvest of souls* – the Rapture of the Church – to terminate the Church age. And that’s exciting! As I have previously written, based on what the Lord has said to me, I fully believe there will be those of *this generation* who will be taken in the Rapture and therefore will not die.

On April 2 and April 6, 2000, the Lord gave me two distinct related messages during my morning prayer time. I had planned on presenting both of them in this letter. However, since the second one is rather lengthy, I will present the first one here with the second one to follow in my next letter.

*I desire that you come to Me just to be in My presence. I have said to you, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you,”*²⁵ *but I also would have you come to Me just to be in My presence. It is then that I can give you the desire of My heart for when I give you the desire of My heart, you then will speak and it will be done as in the ministry of Jesus.*

. . . to be continued in Part Five.

²²Israel as the wife of God: Ezekiel 16:8-14; Hosea 1:3. The Church as the bride of Christ: John 3:28-30; Matthew 22:2-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2.

²³Joel 2:23, 24 (Italics added).

²⁴Luke 10:2 (Brackets and italics added).

²⁵See Matthew 7:7-12 and Luke 11:9-13.

²⁰See 1 John 3:2.

²¹Read John 20:19; 21:1-15..