

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

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**A BREAKTHROUGH
WORTH WRITING ABOUT
Part One**

The first one of these spiritual “letters” that I wrote and published was dated September 1, 1997. The following year, My February 2 *letter* first carried the sub heading “an historical account of one man’s walk with God,” which is exactly what my writing portrays. In my walk with God I have recently discovered an intimacy with Him I had long sought – a breakthrough promised in scripture and desired in my heart that had previously eluded me. The Lord has spoken to me and told me to write of this *breakthrough* – this intimacy with Him so those who read my *letters*, who hunger and thirst for righteousness [Him], may follow along the pathway I found and receive the same blessings. Before we go any further, I can say to you unequivocally that if you are able to accept by faith what I am going to write, I believe it may change your life – as it has changed mine – forever! That is to say, you won’t do the changing but God will change you – as He has changed me – by the power of “His word which will not return void but will accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sent it.”¹ If you are similar to me, you will be astonished and at times amazed and blessed by the power of simple obedience to the word of God. That is what He has taught me and what He is continuing to teach me.

Let’s begin with *two basics* God established concerning His word. (1) “*For You have magnified your word above all Your name.*”² and (2) “*Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.*”³ This means that His Name is important because of his word (the bible). You may have thought that His word is important because of Who He is – because of His Name – Jehovah God – but that is contrary to the scripture and a false assumption. His Name is important *because of His word* which establishes His word – not his Name – to be of paramount importance.

Secondly, since His word is forever settled in heaven, it is never going to change. When God speaks, it

is truth – it is law, and you can depend on it being that way forever. Remember that the universe was created by spoken words – words spoken from the mouth of God that are recorded in the Bible. That’s how powerful His word is. Nothing is any more important than learning to use His word *as scripture instructs* and that is one of the things I have begun to learn. I will tell you up front, this has been the most exciting time of my life. I have learned that age is not a deterrent to – has absolutely nothing to do with – spiritual growth, since I am acquainted with one who is an octogenarian (plus four years) who has embarked on this journey with us. I have been astonished, taught, admonished, disciplined and blessed beyond my former understanding and yet have much to learn.

If you are able to believe with your heart these *two basic premises* concerning God’s word and believe them without question, without hesitation and without qualification, you are in for a treat. On the other hand, if you are unable to do so, come along anyway. The Holy Spirit is full of surprises and may have one in store for you. At times, this walk with God (He has begun to show me), has been exciting and rewarding beyond any expectation I ever had. Every bit of it is exactly *according to His word found in the Bible*. I now understand the truth of a prophetic statement I read many years ago, “He must withhold from us too glaring a light lest we miss our daily path and walk with Him.” That is an absolute truth so long as we are in our physical body, and because of what I have experienced, I now understand why. Excessive spiritual revelation⁴ from God would so occupy and intrigue us (our thoughts and activities) that we would be unable to carry out our daily functions in the world. Therefore, when we get to the point where God can trust us completely, He must ration or limit the *spiritual revelation* given to us that we may “digest” it without it interfering with our daily activities. A word He recently gave me along this line was, “Slower progress equals greater retention.” That means as he gives us spiritual revelation, time to think about it (in order to *digest it* or assimilate it into our daily life) is essential to

¹See Isaiah 55:11.

²Psalms 138:2 (b).

³Psalms 119:89.

⁴God’s light or enlightenment or Spiritual revelation, a product of the Holy Spirit, is an integral part of His way for babes to see while the worldly wise remain blind, to hear when others are deaf and to receive life while others are dying.

proper long term spiritual growth and development. How we get to that relational position with Him is what I have begun to discover and what I will be writing about. Come along with me for a blessing. It might be helpful to keep your seatbelt loosely fastened because of what lies ahead.⁵

About eight years ago the Lord began to say to me these three things: (1) The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, (2) redeem the time and (3) be bold in prayer. Let's take them in order.

The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God.

The meaning of this statement, as it was originally given to me, seemed to be clear. Like many of you, I have learned something of Bible prophecy and believe that we may be living in the latter part of the "last days" prior to the rapture of the Church. But "the Church" today isn't acting like *the Church* of the bible. You can't tell Christians from others in the world, except for perhaps on Sunday mornings. Christianity in some quarters has been sanitized by political correctness, "churchanity," disregard for absolutes, rebellion against authority, biased platitudes fed to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, sin being boldly displayed and disguised as a "lifestyle," desire for self-gratification, loving the praise of men more than the praise of God, calling evil good and good evil, mistaking professional training for spirituality, lack of the "sign ministry" promised by Jesus, encroachment into the Church of false doctrine in the form of "religion," believing that one who is born-again and Spirit-filled may not be oppressed by evil spirits, mistaking the limelight (which conceals) for the light (which reveals), the sin of unbelief in the Church, disregard for the sanctity of human life and the institution of marriage as defined by God, the sin of presumption in the Church and in the lives of believers, excluding Holy Spirit baptism as a doctrine of the Church, mistaking personality, programs, enthusiasm, emotion and/or compassion of the heart for leading of the Holy Spirit, believing Biblical principles may be intellectually mastered in lieu of being spiritually discerned or revealed, Replacement Theology taught as a viable biblical doctrine, mistaking knowing about God for knowing God. There are other signs of Church apostasy that could be added to this "laundry list."

On August 3, 1999, the Lord said to me (a layman) "Warn those who are not saved." He recently reminded me of these words again. I believe it is time for the

⁵When a commercial airline flight gets to the assigned altitude, it is not uncommon for the Captain to announce over the PA system something like, "You are free to move about the cabin as you like, but when in your seat, please keep your seatbelt loosely fastened in case we run into unexpected turbulence."

Church to awaken from her lethargy of lukewarmness and get serious about God. Since He has said this to me as a layman, I have wondered what He is saying to pastors who are charged with the responsibility to feed the flock of God.⁶ I am reminded of what the apostle Paul prophesied to a young Timothy in the latter part of the year 66 A.D., "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."⁷ We are seeing this prophecy fulfilled today in the US and in other parts of the world.

The term *the house of God* does not refer to physical buildings that we call churches. The term refers to physical bodies in whom dwells the precious Holy Spirit. Wherever you find one who is born-again, you will find the indwelling Holy Spirit. That means you take the Spirit of God with you everywhere you go, all day, every day, day and night, 24/7. That's why you should view every one of your activities with the attitude of pleasing God instead of pleasing men. Years ago when God showed me this truth, He said to me, "You take Me with you everywhere, whether I want to go or not!"

Redeem the time.

A good definition of this phrase is found in these words Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus. "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."⁸

The meaning seems to be to walk carefully (diligently, circumspectly, perfectly) before God and man. Utilize (redeem, ransom, rescue from loss) the remaining time because the days are evil. True wisdom (redeeming the time) is to understand what the will of the Lord is and do it. That means get serious about serving God, live holy before Him, determine His will for your life and get at it! Said in Texas vernacular, "It's fish or cut bait or get out of the boat time!" This is neither the time nor the place for slothfulness in the kingdom. These words, of course,

⁶See Acts 20:28; 1 Chronicles 17:6; Jeremiah 23:4; John 21:15-17.

⁷2 Timothy 4:2-4. The great Apostle wrote these words while in a Roman prison cell awaiting his execution. His crime: Preaching the Gospel of Christ!

⁸Ephesians 4:15-17.

emphasize the negative whereas my whole outlook on the Christian endeavor is always positive. You will have more fun being totally sold out to God than doing anything else and when the observers on the shore see what you're putting in the boat, many will want to join you. I realize knowing the will of God for your life is not something every believer knows, but don't give up. One place to begin is to ask *Him* to tell you His will for your life. Then live holy before Him, spend time in the word, pray, wait and await His answer. In time, His time, *you will hear from Him*. He is the only reliable source.⁹ The whole objective of your life, when He formed you in the womb,¹⁰ was to serve Him in the capacity for which He ordained you. Yes, you were ordained to serve Him, generally at first. But then as you grow and mature spiritually, He will reveal to you specifically what He has called you to do. It will be something *you* are better suited to do than anyone else living on planet earth. You then must get your direction, your guidance directly from Him and then is when Life really begins afresh and anew. Then is when you begin to understand and love Him in ways previously unknown and unnoticed, previously unseen and undetected. That is the real purpose for which He formed you in the womb. I have begun to discover that walk with Him and will share with you in this letter, and in others to follow, how I got there. He has instructed me to do just that!

Be bold in prayer

When the Lord originally said these words to me, my first thought was that this is an easy assignment – “a bird's nest on the ground” – easy as “shooting fish in a barrel” – as simple as that – an easy, understandable assignment. In other words, of these *three things* God said to me, this one seemed to be the simplest. Time has proven otherwise – just the opposite. From the Master Himself, I have had to learn – to be taught by Him – to be bold in prayer. This has turned out to be one of the richest experiences of my spiritual walk with God. Here is another case where I thought I knew what His words meant – and I did know intellectually what He meant. However, I was unaware of the spiritual revelation He was yet to give me. I am still learning that God's word may be read and understood to some degree intellectually, but true understanding, true meaning, true feeding, true “manna” is spiritual because His words are spirit and life.¹¹ When

the meaning of His words are revealed by the Holy Spirit, *only then do they become spirit – only then do they become life – only then are they fulfilling and satisfying to the soul*. That is why Jesus said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the [worldly] wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”¹² One does not need worldly wisdom, prestige, fame or fortune to receive spiritual revelation (manna) from God. That is one of the most blessed things of the kingdom because it offers majestic hope to every believer, however humble his surroundings may be.

After the Lord gave me this admonition, my boldness in prayer did increase. I learned if the Lord speaks, obedience portends blessings. Believe me, I began to pray bold prayers for others, especially if one was involved in “full time” ministry. That part was easy to do. Having a basic “charismatic” approach to the scripture, I was able to pray what I began to call a fourfold blessing for one in full time ministry, that is, to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons and give good news (the Gospel) to the poor.¹³ If you look closely at the ministry of Jesus, you find that He promised these anointed blessings to believers.¹⁴ I believed that as I prayed these blessings for others, I was being obedient and *was being bold in prayer as I was instructed*.

After being bold in prayer for several years *according to my understanding*, the Lord then began to reveal to me an additional meaning – *an additional blessing* – He had in mind when He spoke those words to me. What a pleasant surprise He had in store for me, *and for you*, if you can accept it by faith. One thing I am beginning to learn on this pilgrimage, is that it is always safe to ask Him to give you spiritual revelation or understanding when in doubt. The interesting thing, however, about my being bold in prayer, is that in the beginning, I was never in doubt. However, I was completely unaware of the next thing the Lord was about to do.

Something unusual then began to happen. In a subtle way, it was called to my attention that the Lord wanted me to be bold in prayer *for myself – to pray bold prayers for myself!* That took me a while to get used to. The very idea of asking these bold things *for myself!* I had never done that. It had never occurred to me. Wasn't

⁹See Numbers 23:19.

¹⁰See Genesis 25:23; Exodus 13:12; 1 Samuel 1:5; Job 31:18; Isaiah 44:2, 24; Jeremiah 1:5

¹¹See John 6:33.

¹²Matthew 10:25, bracketed insertion added.

¹³See Matthew 11:5; Mark 16:15-18.

¹⁴See John 14:12.

that pride or ego knocking at my door? Wasn't that selfishness? What would people think about my doing such a drastic thing? I never thought, "What would God think?" That in itself is pride – not the asking but the thinking of "What would people think?" What is really behind that question was "my reputation." That is a subtle way of worshiping an idol – the idol of what other people think. *It did not take me long to work through this maze the enemy put before me and to realize God was trying to teach me something – maybe something big – bigger than I had imagined!*

Then, of course the scripture from James came to mind, "Yet you do not have because you do not ask."¹⁵ So, I began to venture forth. I asked God, rather timidly at first, for blessings *for myself – things promised believers in the scripture – for the first time in my life* – in the same manner as I had previously prayed boldly for others. Then is when the Lord began to teach me some marvelous truths hidden in His word. What He revealed to me was that every promise made to believers in the scripture *belongs to me and other believers as well*. The reason I had not received some of them I desired was because I had not asked for them *for myself!* Pride, the enemy's tool, had kept me from God's bountiful table. But no more!

I then *again became aware* of the fact that God had to use people (common, ordinary, garden-variety type people like you and me) to bring forth his will on this earth. That's the way it works. All He asked was that one obey Him from his heart, become a willing vessel in His hand, obedient to His call and faithful to His cause. He then promised to do the rest – to supernaturally conform us to His likeness as instruments of righteousness and use us to glorify both the Father and the Son. If your faith has brought you this far, you realize that the first thing one must do is to take your eyes off of self and feast them on Jesus and what He said.

The next thing He showed me was that I was the one primarily responsible for receiving His promises. One day He spoke to me and said, "My son, if I give you these things (God's marvelous promises) before you ask, it will open the door to pride, but if you will ask Me for them *and I then give them to you*, it will slam the door in the face of the enemy and give Me the praise, glory and honor." Here is something each of us needs to understand: God does not need the praise, glory and honor, *He already has it!* But we need to give Him the praise, glory and honor *for our benefit* as an offensive

weapon against the enemy, since God is enthroned on the praises of His people.¹⁶ There is a real World War going on in the unseen and the best insurance against our common foe is to walk holy before God in covenant relationship with Him. (more about that later).

Here is another incentive to pray bold prayers for yourself. When we zero in on things Jesus promised to us as believers and boldly ask for them, the Father is glorified! It's in the Book.¹⁷ Failure to do so denies you of your inheritance – which is rightfully yours. Don't listen to the enemy's doubts. Hear and boldly ask for the promises of Jesus, that the Father might be glorified. Then prepare to be blessed.

And lastly, starting the walk with God about which I write, which I have been on for some time, is an adventure. As you pray boldly for one of God's promises which is totally unattainable in the natural, here is His procedure. He will then take you where you are and instantly see – view – the necessary things He must teach you to grant you your request. He will be patient, kind and considerate with you so long as your heart longs for that boldly claimed promise. Then gently, one by one, He will teach you the missing or needed ingredients in your life required for His bestowal. He may ask you to give up something. If so it will be only to give you something better. He may ask you to do something you have never done before to stretch your faith. If so, it will be preparation for the next blessing. He has shown me that this is like going to the university where you register for courses needed for your degree program. Each time you register for a new course, it is because you need that information to graduate. If the university is on a two-semester plan, it will take you four and one-half months to finish the course. But in the learning process you will have taken one more step toward your goal. Asking for one of God's awesome promises is like that. When you come boldly before God and ask in His Son's Name for one of His promises, you are asking for your inheritance. He then has the right and authority *from you* to begin to teach you the necessary requirements to receive one of His awesome promises and you are on the way.

¹⁵See James 4:2 (b).

¹⁶See Psalm 22:3.

¹⁷See John 15:7, 8.