

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

4305 Bretton Bay Lane
Dallas, Texas 75287-6712

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Jim Ash letter No. 71

V-972.267.7187 F-972.267.7399
email: jimashsr@juno.com

**A BREAKTHROUGH
WORTH WRITING ABOUT**

Part Four

The Power and Benefit of Rhema Words

I began to hear the voice of God in November 1965 when I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. But as I have written, the exponential increase in *hearing rhema words from God* began when I learned to pray boldly for *supernatural* spiritual blessings – blessings promised by Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels – *for myself*. That changed my life forever and brought me into a spiritual walk with God I previously had no concept of. God has spoken to me and instructed me to write of this walk with Him. He has promised that as I do so, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (more of Him) will follow along and He will teach them as He has taught me. That's exciting to me, because these rhema words have lifted me into a realm I never thought possible. God is no respecter of persons.¹ If He has done it for me, He will do it for you. I have finally learned that a fulfilled life is a life filled full of God. It's one thing to say that or repeat it as a cliché. It's another thing completely to understand *how to get there!* And that is exactly what He is showing me.

You may be thinking, "Of what purpose are *rhema words from God*." Just this: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."² Jesus also said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."³ *God's rhema words are the basis for all creation including man's existence.* Nothing is more important than listening to, being attentive to and being obedient to rhema words from the Spirit.

Here is another important thing about rhema words. There is always a time and place for rhema words and the time and place is always of God's choosing. For example, the Lord once said to me, "The element of surprise is an important battle tactic in both spiritual war

[fought in the unseen] and wars fought by men." Hence, the reason for the timing of certain rhema words.

Another reason for the timing of rhema words is *it takes time and one's undivided attention to hear and record rhema words*. For that reason one should keep a journal available, particularly at prayer time. No one has time to pray. Everyone should take time to pray. This certainly does not limit God to speaking rhema words only during your regular prayer time. As I have previously written, He has given me rhema words at most every conceivable time of the day and night.

Practical Suggestions

If you do not keep a journal, here are some suggestions on keeping one: (1) Take time to pray in a quiet place that is private where you will have no interruptions. I find that early morning is the best time for me. If I wait until later, most of the time the sun will spoil my 'manna,' (2) when you finish praying, stop and remain perfectly quiet before the Lord and (3) write in your journal whatever words or thoughts that come to your mind, along with the date and time. Don't expect thunder and lightening. Learn to be still and listen for or discern the slightest, intimate, intuitive 'thoughts' and record them, regardless of what they are. Try this for thirty days and you may be surprised at the results. The 'still small voice' or 'whisper' is still there.

When you begin to get rhema words from God (and you will if you will act by faith on what I have written in this series of letters) here are some suggestions that I have found helpful: (1) Record them in your journal (if it is available) *as you receive them*, (2) interrupt *anything* you may be doing to listen to and record all rhema words, (3) try to find the time to transcribe the important words in readable form and (4) read them to see what the Spirit has said. This last statement may sound redundant, but I assure you if the 'word' you receive is lengthy, you will not remember what you received nor will you benefit most unless you do as I have suggested. You will determine the words that you transcribe. I do this on my word processor and punch the pages for a three-ring loose-leaf notebook for easy reading and reference. On more than one occasion, I have been instructed by the Lord to (1) go back and reread words he has given me and (2) be obedient to His instructions. You determine what else you would like to

¹See Acts 10:34. Here Peter is quoting from Deuteronomy 10:17.

²Matthew 4:4. These are words of Jesus in answer to Satan's temptation after Jesus had fasted for forty days immediately prior to the beginning of his earthly ministry. Jesus preceded these words with the statement, "It is written." This scripture was originally given by God to Moses as recorded in Deuteronomy 8:3 (b).

³John 6:63.

record in your journal. You may want to record some of your prayers and other private things as well. There is no set procedure. In time you will develop a procedure of your own.

I'm glad that Moses and Isaiah, for example, kept a journal. Thousands of years later you and I may read and reread their journal entries with benefit. If you are able to accept by faith my writing in this *series* of *letters* and will keep a personal journal, in time your journal will contain spiritual blessings *given specifically for you* that will enhance your walk with God. He has done that with me and has told me that He will do the same for you.

Here is one additional thought for emphasis. Until I prayed for baptism of the Holy Spirit, I had never experienced anything supernatural and had no idea that God talked to anyone today. In essence, I thought the Bible was a "Do it yourself kit" and my job was to read it and do my best to do what it said to do. How wrong and how foolish I was. A few days after praying for baptism of the Holy Spirit, as I was getting dressed for work one morning, the Lord showed me a vision in bright, white, glowing light and for the first time spoke to me in that still small voice and I was on the way. You do not have to experience these things. That's just the way the Lord brought me – the way He introduced Himself to me. But it is supernatural. Learn to pray for and expect the supernatural because the Holy Spirit within you is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead!⁴

Along this line, here are three things that Jesus said: (1) "He who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself [make Myself known] to him."⁵ This means that the Holy Spirit introduces you to Jesus. (2) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."⁶ His filling you is based on *your* hunger and thirst. (3) "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. . . If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit [baptism] to *those who ask Him*."⁷ *These words were written to you.* All the mighty promises of God are yours, but you must *ask* for them. Quit being concerned or even thinking about whether or not you have the faith to ask for such blessings. You already have the faith. Now use it. Faith, like the heart

muscle, needs to be exercised to remain healthy and strong. You never learn to swim by standing on the bank.

Remember what I have written previously: **You** must take the initiative and **ask** for the blessings of God. They are your inheritance and He awaits your request. The reason He wants you to ask is, if He should give you these marvelous blessings without your asking Him, it would open the door to pride, whereas if you ask Him and He then gives them to you, it will slam the door in the face of the enemy and give Him the glory and honor. He will have it no other way. Our God is a jealous God and He must be given the glory and honor in the "praise report" or He will withdraw His hand of blessing. The reason He must have the glory, honor and praise is because this is a battle tactic which slams the door in the face of the enemy.

Learn to be Interrupted

As I was learning to hear the rhema words of God more frequently and realized the blessings contained therein, the Lord began to say to me, "Learn to be interrupted." It took Him a while to teach me what those words mean. Here is one example: Saturday morning on October 2, 2004, I went into my office to finish work on my October *letter*. Interestingly enough, I was thoroughly engrossed in my writing and when I looked up at the clock it was 2:00 P.M. Since Dale was not at home, my first thought was to prepare a sandwich for lunch. I walked into the kitchen and for some reason just hesitated and stood there for a few moments and then said to the Lord, "What should I do?" He instantly replied, "Talk to Me." So I picked up a Bible, my journal and a pen and went in to pray. This was a first for me. As I recall, it was the first time under these circumstances that I simply asked the Lord, "What should I do?" Here are the results: I prayed very shortly in English, then in the spirit. This is what He said to me:

Rhema Words

"My son, you see how productive is time spent devoted to Me. Your progress is assured when you are at peace with Me. Then when you put Me first it is easier to discern – to hear Me. Your listening ear is My mandate to speak – to direct – to bless. For it is the listener who hears. Take time to listen, My son. Take time for Me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you will then find rest – that essential rest – for your soul. When your soul is at rest your spirit is at peace with Me. Allow Me increasingly to become your *constant Companion*, for therein We become One as you have desired – as you have expressed to Me. Do you not now see? Only as you *ask* – only as you *seek* with your heart, am I able to enter

⁴See Romans 8:11.

⁵John 14:21 (b).

⁶Matthew 5:6.

⁷Luke 11:9, 13, italics and bracket insertion added.

into the personal relationship We *both* long for. Be patient, but ever alert, My son, to My pleadings – My desires – for they are only heard by a soul at rest and a spirit at peace. Seek these with all your heart.

“You have learned a vital lesson. You have not because you ask not.⁸ But when you ask and hunger and thirst for the answer – for Me actually – it is My opportunity to prepare you to receive that for which you pray – for the prayer to become One with Me was put there by Me so We could become One. *Only as We become One may We bring about My will on the earth.*⁹ When and where one of My servants is One with Me, there indeed is My will done on earth as it is in heaven and that is My desire for My poor world. When the proper number of My servants on the earth become One with Me, that, My son, is a force that cannot be denied.

“So take heart, have courage, My son. I am pleased with you – with your desire to receive more from Me than any other mortal since Adam, for that My son is what thrills and fulfills Me. Do you not now see how this works? There is power in these words. Heed them as best you can. Remember to do in each case as you did today. Ask Me what to do. As you did so this afternoon, I was able to give you these words of blessing, *for you see, you bless me by asking.* I bless you by responding and *that is the way of becoming One with Me.*

“That is why My earthly ministry was so successful. I and My Father were One in perfect agreement each day.

“You are learning to put Me first. Remember as you long to be One with Me and ask Me to reveal to you the answer – the method by which We become One – I will tell you. Do you not now see the blessings of Our becoming One?

“And, My son, we have only started. Remember today. Be not reluctant to ask Me what to do in every situation. As you learn to do so, the guidance will be more evident. Remember this afternoon the choice was between feeding the flesh – not something inherently bad or evil – *and feeding the spirit, but feeding the flesh would have stolen from both you and Me.*

“Learn to listen. Learn to obey and We shall together bless many, says God to you this afternoon.

“My son, I am not against your relaxation, your recreation. What I am against – what retards your spiritual growth is failure to put Me first. I will not play

second fiddle. I must be first. Then Our accomplishments will be exceedingly abundantly above what you can ask or think¹⁰ because they will be supernatural. When you think or ask, it is you – when I respond, it is in the Spirit and therefore supernatural and therefore may be exceedingly abundantly above what you can think or ask because the supernatural is above the natural. As the heavens are above the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, My thoughts higher than your thoughts.¹¹

“The greatest natural thought one may have will never equal the smallest supernatural blessing, My son, says God to you this afternoon.

“Do you now see the blessings of putting Me first in EVERYTHING? Manifold blessings await everyone who will put Me first in ALL THINGS, be guided by My word and give Me the glory and honor, says God.

“That is the relationship I wish for all of My servants. That is the relationship AVAILABLE to all of My servants for I am that I am. My relationship with you needs to be measured each day, moment by moment. Otherwise, I am crowded out by the allure – the noise of the world. Be content with what I give. I will bring you to the place you desire for there is much to do. Many blessings lie in store for all who truly seek Me as do you.

Tell My people of this relationship – of My desire to bless – of My desire to use them to usher into existence My Kingdom on the earth, Says God to you this Saturday afternoon.

“Now you are beginning to see what I am all about. I am about changing lives, about conforming them to My will – to My word – for you see, My word is Me. I am about conforming lives to Me. That is exactly what happens as We become One.

“Remember to pray boldly, for that blesses Me and allows Me to bless you – to conform your life to Mine.”

Some Observations From the Rhema Words

- (1) Learn to ask the Lord about everything.
- (2) Learn to be interrupted. In this case receiving rhema words was more important than eating a late lunch.
- (3) If you will note carefully, my boldness in prayer is revealed in this ‘word’ and the benefits are obvious.
- (4) Note the explanation of how to become One with the Lord and the benefits therefrom.
- (5) Rhema words are heard by a soul at rest and a

⁸See James 4:3.

⁹See John 17:20, 21. This ‘word’ reveals how to become one with the Father and the Son – a powerful part of this prophetic word.

¹⁰See Ephesians 3:20.

¹¹See Isaiah 55:9.

spirit at peace.

(6) Observe that boldness in prayer thrills and fulfills the Lord.

(7) Note how the Lord may become your constant Companion.

(8) The greatest natural thing one may do is not equal to the smallest supernatural thing God can do.

(9) God blesses those who put Him first.

(10) I am admonished by the Lord to tell you of this relationship and that it is His desire to bless you with the same relationship.

(11) Bold prayer blesses the Lord.

(12) The blessing of the Lord being our constant Companion is without limit.

(13) Bold prayer allows the Lord to bless you and to conform your life to His.

(14) Hearing rhema words from God is the other 50 percent of “prayer without ceasing.”¹²

(15) Manifold blessings are promised to everyone who will (a) put the Lord first in all things, (b) be guided by His word and (c) give Him the glory and honor. God had previously said to me that these are also three measures of a ministry. They are also measures of a Church, a Pastor, a believer or a Christian organization or association of any type. Let’s take a look at them in the order as listed.

Put the Lord first in all things

The Lord had to teach me to do this and I’m still learning. Note that by putting the Lord first, He interrupted my late lunch with rhema words. Had I not asked Him, I would have missed this blessing. This does not mean He will interrupt us prior to every meal, but that we must be willing for Him to do so. When He wishes to speak is the time to listen. It’s called obedience. Since I have learned to pray boldly for spiritual blessings for myself, the Lord has interrupted me with rhema words at most any hour of the day and night and sometimes without notice, while sitting at my desk, for example. I recall three consecutive mornings that I was up at 4:00 A.M. writing His words in my journal. One Sunday morning He interrupted me during the praise and worship period at our Church with words I wrote on a Church bulletin. Another morning I awakened about 4:00 A.M. and realized He wanted to talk to me. I then asked Him if I could stay in bed and sleep longer and He said, “Yes.” Shortly after 6:00 A.M. I went in to pray and confessed my sin of selfishness and of putting myself ahead of Him and repented. He then said, “Now I can tell you what you

missed,” which was a real blessing. I then wrote several pages of His rhema words in my journal. Here’s the bottom line: Learn to put Him first – be obedient – bring Him in on EVERYTHING that He may become your constant Companion. As one matures in the Lord, nothing supercedes that in importance.

Be Guided by the Word

Everything must be measured by the Word. This must be the standard. Hence the importance of knowing what’s in the Bible – the Operations Manual for life. As you learn to listen, on occasion the Lord will say something to you that is not in the Bible, but those words must not contradict The Written Word. Censure what you do and anything you receive from the Spirit with The Written Word.

Give Him the Glory and Honor

This is also essential in order to receive God’s awesome promises – His blessings. There can be no exception. On one occasion God told me this was a spiritual warfare tactic against the enemy. Here are two Biblical examples of why we must give the glory and honor to God: (1) Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift to the Lord and were struck dead in Church! While it is true they lied, pride also entered into their heart and *they wanted the glory and honor for themselves*.¹³ (2) King Herod, arrayed in His royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to the people, who, in attempting to curry his favor, kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because *he did not give glory to God*. He was then eaten of worms and died.¹⁴ Saints of God, note that these two examples happened *after* the Church was established. For one to accept for himself glory and honor instead of God is serious. Pride goes before a fall.¹⁵

Join me and quit limiting God in your life by thinking in and of the natural. Think supernatural, not natural. That’s the way it starts. It’s in the Book! Read it and see! It’s time we as believers awakened to His awesome promises and started claiming them by faith and that can begin with you right now. His supernatural ways are higher than our obstructionist thinking in the natural.

. . . . more later.

¹²See 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

¹³See Acts 5:1-12.

¹⁴See Acts chapter 12.

¹⁵See Proverbs 16:18.