

## NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 101

Copyright **December 25, 2007**

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Behold the former things have come to pass, **and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.** (Isaiah 42:9)

### KINGDOM GROWTH

I have recently been impressed with the simplicity of kingdom growth – kingdom growth that comes through revelation, *the source of true knowledge*.<sup>1</sup> Revelation of scripture (*logos*) increased markedly as I learned to listen for and to hear the voice of God daily. You have that same ability if you are reading this letter, since God is no respecter of persons.<sup>2</sup>

One exciting reason to learn to hear His voice continually is that **revelation** presents solutions while theologians present alternatives. The prophet Amos testified to this truth when he wrote, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”<sup>3</sup> In order to hear His secret, one must learn to listen.

The Holy Spirit enlightens or quickens to your spiritual heart a thought, a principle, a word of scripture, words that may reflect scripture meaning, or a prophetic word of guidance, comfort or correction. When that happens, I have found that **the revelation is always simple**, never complex nor complicated, so as to prompt the thought, “Why haven't I *‘seen’* that before?” That is why Jesus said, “I thank You, Father, LORD of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have **revealed** them to babes.”<sup>4</sup> More than once the Lord has said to me, “Do you realize I am revealing to you the secrets of the universe?” Therefore you may now classify me as a ‘babe in Christ’ – and I invite you to join me. You'll have more fun than you can imagine by learning to listen! Faith comes by **hearing** the Word of God.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>“The LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel **by the word of the LORD**. (1 Samuel 3:21). Notice from this scripture verse that hearing the voice of the LORD **is revelation**. It is also interesting to note from this scripture verse that *the Person of the LORD is said to be present when His voice is heard*. His Presence is evidenced, therefore, when His voice is heard and since He is Spirit, there may be no evidence of His Presence to the natural eye.

<sup>2</sup>Acts 10:34.

<sup>3</sup>Amos 3:7.

<sup>4</sup>Matthew 11:25, bold fonts added for emphasis.

<sup>5</sup>See Romans 10:17.

Here are **five examples** of spiritual or *kingdom growth* revealed to me as a result of learning to listen for and to hear the voice of God continually:

(1) A ruler of the Jews came to Jesus by night.<sup>6</sup>

One reason he came by night is because it was dangerous for a Jew to become a disciple of Jesus as evidenced by His crucifixion instigated by the Jewish leaders.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born again, he cannot *see* the kingdom.”<sup>7</sup> Later in the same conversation, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>8</sup>

In the second statement Jesus was talking about Himself first and about His disciples second. In my pilgrimage I have discovered that everything Jesus taught or admonished his disciples to do, He led the way. And remember, He said that a disciple when fully trained *would be like his teacher*.<sup>9</sup>

Here is the explanation: Scripture reveals that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah who will one day return to earth as King and rule all nations with absolute authority.<sup>10</sup> That King was born of water and the Spirit in this manner: He came forth from His mother's womb encased in a sac of water. He simultaneously was born of the Spirit since the Father sent the Holy Spirit to fertilize the egg (seed) in Mary's womb, a function otherwise performed by the sperm of man. Jesus as the future Messiah and King was therefore the first to be born of water and the Spirit to accomplish two things:

a) establish the kingdom on the earth by His birth (a kingdom must have a King in order to exist).

b) become the first to be born of water and the Spirit into the kingdom as its first resident and as its King.

Therefore when Jesus said to Nicodemus, “unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot

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<sup>6</sup>Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of the Jews, who governed religious matters among the Jews, whose opinions were without appeal.

<sup>7</sup>John 3:3.

<sup>8</sup>John 3:5.

<sup>9</sup>See Luke 6:10.

<sup>10</sup>See Revelation 19:15.

enter the kingdom of God,” He was talking about Himself first and about His disciples second. The difference being that His disciples must be **born again** – born a second time – a spiritual birth, whereas Jesus experienced both births simultaneously.

(2) The apostle John in His first letter wrote “God is love”<sup>11</sup> twice. The statement that “*God is love*” initially made no sense to me. For example, my thought was, “How could God as a spiritual Person literally be the attribute of love?” Yes, I could quote the passage, talk about it, cite other similar related scripture verses in support of my hidden vanity, but I had no understanding whatsoever of the meaning, much less how to put it into practice. It wasn’t until after I accepted baptism of the Holy Spirit that I then found myself caring for those for whom I formerly had complete disdain. My attitude changed from complete disdain to a desire to share with them the reality of an intimate and ever-so-real relationship with Someone I had become acquainted with personally. Relationship made the difference. It was then that this scripture became real in my life: “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.”<sup>12</sup> Holy Spirit baptism had changed my spiritual heart.

There is still another level of *God’s love* that I have discovered. The Source is the same but the level is intensified. Several years after I learned to hear the voice of God continually, I realized only retrospectively (after the fact) that my love of God had grown to still another dimension – a greater love of God first, then love of others. When *revealed* by the Holy Spirit, the reason is simple. Here is the explanation:

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.<sup>13</sup> This scripture simply says that every word of God comes from the mouth of God. Secondly, every word that comes from the mouth of God is spiritual Jesus (See John 1:1-14). Thirdly every word (spiritual Jesus) that comes from the mouth of God is transmitted to disciples through the Holy Spirit.<sup>14</sup> This simply means that the Godhead inhabits or literally resides in each rhema word of God. That’s why when God

said, “Let there be light” there was light. That is also why when you learn to hear the voice of God continually, one of His attributes, which is love, is spiritually imparted *unknowingly* into the hearer **with each rhema word revealed**. To read in the bible that God is love is one thing. To experience that as a result of hearing His voice continually is a whole new ball game. As your love for Him grows to this dimension, an opportunity to share Him with others becomes your greatest desire.

(3): “The iniquity of the fathers (not the mothers) will be visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation” is a curse pronounced by God upon those who disobey the second Commandment and who bow down and worship a carved image.<sup>15</sup> Here is the origin of that statement:

By Eve’s own admission, she was deceived in her transgression.<sup>16</sup> Since she sinned unknowingly, and since she was a prototype for woman, her sin (as a woman/mother) was not an iniquity (which is willful sin) and therefore her sin was not and is not passed on to her children. On the other hand, Adam sinned knowingly by obeying the voice of his wife instead of the voice of the Lord.<sup>17</sup> Both Adam and Eve were – are – prototypes of man or of the human race. As they went – as they acted – so went the whole human race.<sup>18</sup> Since Adam sinned knowingly and wilfully, as the prototype for man (the father), it is the iniquity of the father that is visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation.<sup>19</sup>

Another iniquity (sin committed knowingly and wilfully) that was passed on through Adam to the whole human race is **death**. Adam was not created to die but to live forever. His sin, therefore, changed that, for the wages of sin is (causes) death. Since Adam was the prototype for man, through his one sin he committed suicide and homicide against the whole human race. For that reason, in the first Adam, all men die but through the second Adam, Christ, all men may once again inherit eternal life (see footnote #16).

(4) The apostle John recorded these words of Jesus, “You shall know the truth and the truth will

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<sup>11</sup>See 1 John 4:8, 16.

<sup>12</sup>See Romans 5:5.

<sup>13</sup>See Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4.

<sup>14</sup>Only the spirit of man knows the thoughts and intent of the heart of man. In like manner, only the Spirit of God knows the thoughts and intent of the heart of God. See 1 Corinthians 2:11.

<sup>15</sup>See Exodus 20:4, 5.

<sup>16</sup>See Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3.

<sup>17</sup>See Genesis 3:17; 1 Samuel 15:23.

<sup>18</sup>See Romans 5:12-15.

<sup>19</sup>Since we have been involved with the deliverance ministry for a number of years, we know, as a matter of biblical information, and as a matter of fact in the real world, that these iniquities, usually in the form of an evil spirit or spirits are passed down in the “blood line.” We successfully deal with them on a regular basis.

set you free.”<sup>20</sup> If you consider the Word of God in the light of John 1:14, “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” and the fact that He said, “I am the truth” (John 14:6), then Jesus (the Truth) came to set us free from the enemy who is in control of the kingdom of this world.

However there is another level of understanding of these words of Jesus. If you abide in truth – allow truth to govern your life – you will be set free from the enemy. But if you compromise truth **to any degree**, you give Satan the legal right of entry to harass you and you become enslaved to the laws of the kingdom of darkness.

Since Satan is the father of (the originator of) lies,<sup>21</sup> you are in bondage to him. He then has the legal right to dispatch to you spirits of accusation, infirmity, unbelief, discontentment, fear, doubt, resentment, etc., **to harass you** and that’s what he will do. His harassment will occur with those ‘*thoughts*’ in the mind (the spiritual battleground) and you will be unable to get rid of them because they have the legal right to be there. You can rebuke them, do spiritual warfare over them to no avail until you repent and learn to speak truth. There is no such thing as a “white lie.” Any deviation from truth, including exaggerations, are a compromise of truth which gives the enemy a legal right to dispatch his evil forces to you.

Jesus said that you become a slave of the one you obey.<sup>22</sup> If you lie or exaggerate, you obey the enemy and become his slave.

**(5)** Faith is the only way to please God<sup>23</sup> and faith comes by hearing, not by reading.<sup>24</sup> Since I have learned to hear the voice of God continually, one of the by-products is **an increase in faith**. *It is impossible for your faith to remain the same while hearing rhema words of God continually.* That would be like standing outside in the rain, in a torrential downpour, without getting wet. In this case one’s faith will grow like one’s love of God – it will occur slowly but surely and imperceptibly. Only in retrospect do you realize growth in faith.

A sure way to know you have grown in faith is to consider your prayer life. Has your prayer life changed? How bold are your prayers? For what or for whom do you pray? I am praying for things now I would never have prayed for years ago. On occasion I ask the Lord something, **hear** his answer,

record it in my journal, transcribe and print it with my computer. On more than one occasion, the Lord has instructed me to go back and re-read something He said to me previously. This was totally beyond my understanding when I started this walk with God. The reason for this blessing is simply because I have learned to hear His voice continually. **You have that same capacity – the same ability to learn to hear His voice continually – and He has told me to tell you that!**

One reason to keep a journal is that it will become a priceless possession. I am blessed to be able to share with you many of His words from my journal

As another reminder, what I write about is not the basic salvation message, but about spiritual growth in the kingdom that may be attained in the NOW of time in this last generation before the completion of the “church age.”

#### OVERHEARD WHILE LISTENING EARLY ONE MORNING<sup>25</sup>

My son, I always give you the desire of your heart when that desire is for Me – when that desire is for the kingdom of God and its enhancement ON THE EARTH. That is the power point, My son. When you desire ANYTHING that would enhance, enlarge or extend My kingdom on the earth, you will have – I WILL GIVE YOU – that desire, for indeed, that IS MY DESIRE – THAT’S THE WAY IT WORKS.

When I called to your attention the three word phrase, “learn of Me,”<sup>26</sup> I had YOU in mind. That was the desire of My heart FOR YOU. Then as you began to pray, “Lord Jesus I want to know more of you than any man who has ever lived on planet earth,” We were on the way. When I say, “WE were on the way,” that means, of course, that **you take Me with you on that journey.**<sup>27</sup>

When I said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,”<sup>28</sup> **that is an eternal truth.**

When you are born again, that is step two in

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<sup>25</sup>These words were given to me in my quiet time with the LORD beginning at 4:59 A. M. On December 11, 2007. Certain parts of this “word” are particularly applicable to this generation. The capital and bold fonts, italics and underlining, scripture references, words of explanation and footnotes have been added for clarity.

<sup>26</sup>See Matthew 111:29, ASV.

<sup>27</sup>The apostle Paul wrote, “Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). That means we take the Lord with us EVERY WHERE WE GO **whether He likes it or not!**

<sup>28</sup>See Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5.

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<sup>20</sup>John 8:32.

<sup>21</sup>See John 8:44.

<sup>22</sup>See Matthew 20:29; John 8:34.

<sup>23</sup>See Hebrews 11:6.

<sup>24</sup>See Romans 10:17.

your spiritual growth. Step three as you know, is Holy Spirit baptism. **Step four, My son, is learning to hear My voice continually.**

With Holy Spirit baptism you are thrust or supernaturally transferred or placed into another spiritual dimension. More spiritual revelation is then attainable or available for spiritual growth.

**In this last generation prior to the rapture,** learning to listen for and to hear My voice continually is still another spiritual dimension for those who hunger and thirst for Me.

**My son, your hunger and thirst for Me determines My objective for your life, both now and forever.** Your hunger and thirst for Me is an appetite that never goes unfulfilled – that is always fulfilled. That is one of My spiritual laws applicable to EVERY servant of Mine.

Your hunger and thirst for Me **intensifies My desire for you.** And the desire of My heart for you, when that becomes your desire, **is the reason you are and the reason I am.**

Those two desires (two in agreement) are always granted, but it is so simple that many miss this principle. My son, you are the desire of My heart. When My desire for you is perceived by you and becomes your desire, My opportunity begins.

All of My principles, or laws if you prefer, are that simple when seen in the spirit. And you are in for more real treats or blessings because of your “throw caution to the wind” attitude toward Me.

My son, proclaim these words to My people. My people perish for lack of knowledge – spiritual knowledge available or accessible to everyone. Yes, **everyone** is correct, for I have said, “Come unto me all you who are weary and heaven laden (under the cares of the world caused by the enemy) and I will give you rest.”<sup>29</sup>

One understanding of that statement is learning to listen for and to hear My voice continually **in this last generation.** In that learning process, one learns to enter into his Sabbath rest while I talk to him. *As I speak to you and as you hear My voice, My Word does the work.*

My son, My Word is powerful and overly sufficient to transform man once again into Our image, Our likeness as Adam was before sin and as My only begotten Son was on the earth. He (My Son) was placed ON THE EARTH to show every man *first*, what Adam was intended to be and *secondly*, what each one may yet attain. What I have said to you before, so say I now again. My Son on the earth was a microcosm of the Church

but a replica or a role model for man in this last generation to close out the “Church age.”

Those whose hunger and thirst for Me are such that I may teach them to hear My voice continually are being prepared to bring in My final abundant harvest immediately prior to the rapture.

That which I prophesied will come to pass. I have prophesied to you that the new things of Isaiah 42:9 are the same as the greater things of John 14:12. The way that becomes a reality in your life and the life of others is by learning to listen for and to hear My voice continually.

You cannot hear My voice continually and remain the same. That is the only way to be changed once again into Our image, Our likeness. It will always be that way.

With **My Word** I created Adam. *That Word* was spiritual Jesus. That is why Adam was created in Our likeness, Our image. I spoke into Adam the likeness of My only Son long before He (My Son) came to earth. Adamic sin, however, changed My plans but only temporarily. Temporarily for Me but 6000 years for you.

You, My son, are among those chosen to bring to fruition the “new things” and the “greater things” in the now of time.

Proclaim these words to the housetops. They are My words for this generation, says the Lord.

There are four stages of growth in the church: Salvation, Rebirth, Holy Spirit Baptism and Hearing the voice of God continually.

**Your hunger and thirst for Me always brings you to each stage.** I am continually calling all men to Me. It is in My word (logos) but few – far too few – stop to listen. My voice cannot be heard through the noise, clatter and the clutter of the world. One must TAKE TIME for Me in order to deny self. **Time spent with Me is self denied. When you fail to deny yourself to spend time with Me, I am denied My right to bless you.**

Two who are in love find time to be together. Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me for My yoke is easy and My burden is light. I have borne the burdens placed there by the enemy. Give them to Me that I may give to you My rest.<sup>30</sup>

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
from Jim & Dale**

<sup>29</sup>See Matthew 11:28.

<sup>30</sup>See Matthew 11:28-30.