

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No 117

Copyright April 15, 2009

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Boldly declaring the *new things* of Isaiah 42:9 and the *greater things* of John 14:12 in this generation

RESTORATION OF MAN AND THE EARTH Part Eight

The practical side or the practical application of the intimate walk with God about which I write is the subject of this letter. As you may suspect, I learned about the practical side of a daily walk with God, not by study of the scripture, not by research, not by spending more time in prayer (all of which I have done) but by learning to listen. Here are three practical examples given to me by revelation:

(1) Concerning the war against the enemy in which we are all engaged: "It is the listening ear that commands the Commander." That is a lot different from being in the U. S. Military service where orders come from the top down and the listening ear of the Private does not command the General. Only in the kingdom of God does the listening ear of the *Private* command the Commander.

(2) Concerning the five wise virgins in the parable of the ten virgins:¹ "The listening ear of the bride summons the Bridegroom from His bridal chamber."²

(3) "You must hear what I say (rhema) to understand what I said (logos – the written word), for in that manner only are the 'hidden things' revealed and the 'secret things' brought to light."³

By way of further explanation, hear these words He gave me on November 28, 2008:

"Intimacy is known only through listening to My voice, My love words, for a sufficiency of time to remove the dross of 6000 years that you might know Me and the fullness thereof. Therein is the pathway of Life to Me. I am all you need.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**. Take My yoke upon you, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find **rest unto your soul**.

"Your rest is when My work begins.

"A soul at rest and a spirit at peace may hear My voice." This may seem strange to those of us who have been motivated to "do something" (which is of self) instead of "be something" (which is of self denied), but that is God's truth. Christianity is not a *state of action*, it is a **state of being**. "Action" does not create the "being." To be effective, the "being" must create the "action."

Now let's start with the "how to" or the practical side of the Three Measure Standard.

Measure No. 1: "The Lord must be first in everything 24/7, otherwise self, the god of Satan will be first and Satan becomes your father." Then the question arises, ***How*** do you put the Lord first in everything 24/7? Hear what Jesus said:

"If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple."⁴

The same Jesus also said:

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."⁵

If you take these two statements at their "face value," they are the most contradictory, diabolical statements one might make, irrespective of the fact that they were made by Jesus.

In my pilgrimage years ago, in an effort to understand these seemingly contradictory statements, I went to Strong's Concordance and found this definition

¹For the parable of the ten virgins, see Matthew 25:1-13.

²To the five foolish virgins who were not chosen, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." (Matthew 25:12). While it is also true, He said, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming," that is of secondary importance. The key is "I do not know you." This implies the lack of intimacy. In His prayer to the Father, Jesus said, "And this is eternal life, that they (His disciples) may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent" (John 17:3). This is the key to being chosen as His bride. Knowing Him personally has been the subject of my letters for years.

³See Mark 4:22; Matthew 10:26; Luke 8:17; John 12:36.

⁴Luke 14:26, 27.

⁵Matthew 5:44.

of the Greek word from which the English word “hate” was translated:

“NT:3404, miso [mis-eh’-o], from a primary misos [hatred]; to detest [especially to persecute]; by extension, to love less.”

Notice in the above Strong’s definition you have four choices: (1) hatred, (2) to detest, (3) to persecute and (4) by extension to love less. Naturally I chose the extended definition “to love less” because of what I understood to be a contradiction. Notice, also, that my choice of Strong’s definitions was the fourth and last one listed which seems to contradict the other three. That should have been enough to alert me, but it didn’t. When a decision is made intellectually instead of by revelation, we may walk in darkness instead of in the light, just as I did.

My choice of the meaning of the word *hate*, that is, “to love less,” satisfied me until the Lord taught me to be quiet and listen to Him. Then once again I was reminded of the blessing of these words He gave me: “You must hear what I say (rhema) in order to understand what I said (logos – the written word).

Once I learned the worthlessness of self, through listening to the Lord, the meaning of what Jesus said, (that seemed to be contradictory) became clear. The correct translation of the Greek word “miso” [mis-eh’-o] is within the first three definitions listed by Strong’s Concordance: hatred, to detest, to persecute. The translators of the New King James Version⁶ chose the correct word, “hate” which Webster defines as “to detest, to abhor, to loathe.”

What we are to hate in our family, in ourselves and in all others is the **self** in each of us.

In Luke 14:26, the key to understanding the word *hate* is revealed in the second sentence, verse 27, “And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” Jesus also said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”⁷ Until self is dead, one may not be used in the kingdom. God cannot use self. That is Satan’s territory.

Years ago I asked God (the Father) this question, “How come Jesus was absolutely effective from the first day of His ministry when every other servant of God had

to grow or mature into his ministry?” His immediate answer were these words of Jesus, “Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests but the Son of man had nowhere to lay his head.”⁸ In the same conversation on the same subject, concerning one who wanted to follow Him but first bury his father, Jesus said, “Let the dead bury the dead.” In the same conversation He also said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”⁹

Are these sayings too harsh for you? If you are still into the flesh or still into self, they will seem too harsh, impossible and unreal. From these statements, learn this about Jesus: Every time He admonished His disciples to do something to follow Him, He was first talking about Himself – about what He had done or was going to do.

When He was commissioned and released by the Father into His visible ministry, **He forever cut the apron strings from His home and His family.** From a careful review of the Gospels, He may have gone by His former home, but only when it was incidental to His ministry. He lived the theme of the Thomas Wolfe novel, “You Can’t go Home Again.” The allegiance of Jesus to the Father was in the absolute. The Father was first in the life of Jesus 24/7.

Servants of God, this is not a requirement for salvation. **It’s about consecration for service in the kingdom in this last generation.** What I write about is new according to Isaiah 42:9 in preparation for the fulfillment of John 14:12. If this is too strenuous for you, I can tell you how to get there only because the Lord told me. One must learn to listen for and to hear prophetic rhema words from the mouth of God for a sufficiency of time according to His standard. You can go there. It will take longer than you would like but there is still plenty of time, contrary to what others may say.

From your heart, You may make an oral commitment to put the Lord first in everything 24/7, but as you mature spiritually, He may reveal an area or areas of your life that need attention. Then as you are obedient, your progress will continue. **Obedience removes obstacles on the path to Jesus.**

A key to putting the Lord first in your life may be found in:

Measure No. 2: “You must be guided by a rhema word (from the Holy Spirit) 24/7 or you will be guided by self, the god of Satan.”

⁶I have surveyed fourteen versions of the Bible and twelve of the fourteen translate the word as *hate*.

⁷Luke 9:23.

⁸Luke 9:58.

⁹See Luke 9:57-62 for this complete conversation of Jesus.

Jesus gave us a partial job description of the Holy Spirit in these words: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own authority**, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you of things to come.”¹⁰ From these words we learn that **the Holy Spirit has no authority of His own but speaks whatever He hears**. What He hears and speaks, therefore, comes from God the Father or the Lord Jesus. When I write of hearing the “voice” of the Lord, I am talking about a “still small voice”¹¹ or a light, delicate, soft, inaudible thought or “whisper” that may be easily ignored.

Everything necessary for life and Godliness is in the Bible. When the Holy Spirit quickens (makes alive) to your heart a verse of scripture (logos), that verse becomes rhema to you. The way you hear God speak is through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible and is the only One who can properly interpret it.

Please note the following simple words of information and instruction the Lord gave me on how to be guided practically by the Holy Spirit 24/7, to fully comply with Measure No. 2:

“When the Holy Spirit quickens to your heart a verse of scripture, (1) you believe it, (2) then you accept it as truth and as you (3) live that truth out in your life, it (4) becomes your possession to (5) give away. If either the Father or the Lord Jesus speak to you, their words come to you through the Holy Spirit. The “still small voice” or the soft, light, delicate, inaudible thought or “whisper” is transmitted to you through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit quickens (makes alive) to your heart the words or the communication of the Lord. That is the way you may hear *His voice*. Through the Spirit, the Lord may also speak to you words that are not in the Bible, but will not disagree with nor compromise Bible principle.¹²

“When a (logos) “word” is quickened to your heart by the Holy Spirit, it becomes rhema. When the Lord speaks to you directly (through the Holy Spirit) it does not become rhema, it is rhema. Either way it is rhema. Either way, you *hear* the word of the Lord.

“In the beginning of your day, release to Me all of your known activities completely. Include the specifics you know of and ask Me for permission to do them. My

affirmation will usually follow. This frees you to act and also frees Me to act, that is, to give you My blessing AND protection along the way so there is no opening for the enemy. Then as something unforeseen occurs, enter into that covered by your previous commitment. But if the thought comes to your mind, cover it then. Otherwise you are covered.”

Here are some of the benefits in starting your day with the Lord’s covering (as outlined in the above three paragraphs):

(1) You avoid the intrusion of self (the god of Satan) as the sole decision maker and are assured of God’s protective care through the day,¹³

(2) When the Lord is the clearing house for all of your daily activities, you comply with Measure No.2, which is essential to walking in His will 24/7,

(3) You leave no opening for the intrusion of the enemy in your life (in the area of illness, for example.)

(4) Being led of the Spirit of God, you walk as a son of God.¹⁴

Measure No. 3: “You must give God the glory 24/7 or self (the god of Satan) will get the glory.”

The “glory principle” is essential. If you fail in the glory principle, you fail in all three Measures.¹⁵ If God does not get the glory for a blessing you receive, self will, which will open the door to pride and God will not allow you to rob him without accountability to Him alone.

You may recall that in my letter No. 114 (January 15, 2009), I briefly mentioned the story of the ten lepers that Jesus encountered. As they went to show themselves to the priest, as Jesus instructed them, they were cleansed. However, only one, a Samaritan, returned to give God the glory. Only to that one did Jesus say, “Your faith has made you well.” The nine lost their cleansing and were not made well because **they did not return to give God the glory**. No one may steal the credit or the glory for something God has done without paying for his pride. God is a jealous God and will not tolerate that. His jealousy is based on love to keep us from the enemy. If He does not get the glory, self (the god of Satan) will and he becomes your father.

In this generation, when one matures to the point of

¹³The Lord has said to me that under these circumstances His protection is assured without pleading the covering of the blood as protection.

¹⁴Romans 8:14.

¹⁵The Lord has said to me, “If you fail in either of the three Measures, you fail in all.”

¹⁰John 16:13.

¹¹See 1 Kings 19:12

¹²My letters are filled with such transmissions, including this one.

learning to listen as a disciple or servant, to that one the Lord may *then begin to give assignments*. Whether these assignments are many or few, large or small, they will be seen as impossible for one to accomplish himself. This is when that one, from his heart, may be prompted to say, “Lord, I love You and wish to serve you, but I simply can’t do what You have called me to do.” Then is when you will hear Him say, “Now I can use you.” That’s what happened to Moses. That was his “meekness” test. *Meekness* does not mean weakness, it means a yielded will. It happened to Moses and may happen to you as you learn to listen. As you desire to serve the Lord, the *meekness test* may become His “*litmus test*” for service.

In a similar fashion, the second *litmus test* may be applied to the life of a disciple or servant. The “I will never leave you nor forsake you” test may come about this way: After listening to the Lord’s voice according to His sufficiency of time, your love for Him will grow to the point when there is nothing, absolutely nothing, you would not do for Him. *This kind of love is imparted only by words of the Bridegroom to His bride*. When the bride has heard a sufficiency of His love words, there comes a time when that disciple, that servant, will say without reservation, without hesitation, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” That seals the faithfulness of the relationship.

Neither of the two *litmus tests* may be applied to one’s life by self effort of any type. Only the Lord Himself may apply these two tests to one’s walk with Him. This application comes only after hearing a sufficiency of His rhema words according to His standard.

The sixth test or measure for service is one that Jesus was born with and was the final reason His ministry was successful when others failed. *He was totally unencumbered in His ministry*. Here is an explanation:

A close look at Genesis Chapters One and Two reveal two different accounts of the creation of man. The Chapter Two account is given for chronological reasons. The Chapter One account is given for responsibility and biological reasons. The Chapter Two account reveals that Adam was created before Eve. How long before Eve was created, the bible record does not reveal, but long enough for God to (1) give Adam instructions for living in the garden of Eden (wherein he failed) and (2) for Adam to give names to all cattle, birds of the air and every beast of the field. Nothing about

procreation is found in Chapter Two until after these two events took place.

Chapter One, by way of contrast, begins with man and woman seemingly created at the same time as one and then given (1) authority to rule the earth and (2) the mandate to fill or replenish the earth by procreation.

Therefore God did not give Adam the mandate to replenish the earth by procreation **until after Eve was formed from his side**. This is significant in the creation of or in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth who was created in the exact likeness of Adam before Eve was taken from his side and therefore before Adam sinned. He (Jesus) therefore, as the last Adam, came forth from the womb of His mother free of the Adamic sin (the cause of death) and therefore, free of the Adamic sin nature.

For that reason, Jesus was free to minister without the Adamic mandate to replenish the earth through procreation. Consequently, His sexuality was controlled by the Holy Spirit as was that of the first Adam before he sinned. This left Jesus unencumbered, that is, without a mandate to procreate and therefore with no desire or need for a wife and children, which is the sixth reason why He succeeded and others failed.

To emphasize the sixth reason that Jesus succeeded while others failed, **Adam sinned because he heeded the voice of his wife instead of the voice of God.**¹⁶ Adam found that he could not please his wife and God at the same time. Jesus did not have that problem. He had no need for a wife. When the Father released Him into His ministry, He immediately cut the apron strings to family ties and became totally submissive and subservient to the Father’s will.

This is why Jesus had to come in the similitude of the first Adam before Eve was formed from his (Adam’s) side and therefore before he (Adam) sinned. Adam was formed sinless by God. Jesus also came forth from His mother’s womb sinless and remained that way in order to offer Himself on the cross, as the Lamb of God without spot or blemish, to take away the sin of the world.

In His visible ministry on the earth, Jesus was *unencumbered* and was governed by the *three measure standard* and the *two litmus tests*. That is why He succeeded and others failed.

¹⁶See Genesis 3:17.