

## ***NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS***

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 119

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

### **AN INTERIM EXPLANATION**

My last published writing was Jim Ash letter No. 118, dated June 15, 2009, Part Nine in the series, RESTORATION OF MAN AND THE EARTH. I did not publish a letter in July or August. This letter is written as an explanation of the interruption in my published writing.

I have three additional letters written, proofed and ready for mailing, two of which are Parts Ten and Eleven in the series, RESTORATION OF MAN AND THE EARTH. In each of the three letters *are new things the Lord has given me that you have not heard before*. For that reason, it has been suggested that if I will await the release into my ministry, it will be helpful to transition my readers into the new content of my writing. That is the reason for the temporary interruption in the publication of my monthly letters, particularly Parts Ten and Eleven in the current series I am writing.

How long this interruption will last I do not know. However, the Lord has told me more than once that the time for releasing me into my ministry is "at hand" or "very soon." He has used terms similar to this more than a few times over the past several months. In the meantime, here is the present scenario by which I am governed until He releases me:

While it may sound unusual to you, for more than twelve years I have been in training for a ministry that will be independent from a local church or body of believers. In preparation for that ministry, at 7:00 P. M., on May 7, 2009, God released us from Hillcrest Church where we had been in attendance since 1995. I had known this was coming for a number of years, since the Lord had told me He was training me for departure from Hillcrest Church. Nevertheless, such a departure from friends of fourteen years is not easy. Obedience is not always easy. ***But to obey is better than sacrifice.***<sup>1</sup> Let me explain what that means:

It is better to do *what God tells you to do* than to do something *that you can do*, regardless of how high and noble may be your aspirations. It means if you sell all you have and give the proceeds to the poor, it means nothing to God if you yourself initiate the activity. It means if you embark to the darkest nation of Africa to win souls for God, it is as filthy rags in the kingdom if it is motivated by self. It means that God's ways are higher than our ways and that we are on this planet **to please Him** and do as He instructs.

Next, how do we determine God's will for our life

as of any particular time and place? The Lord has taught me how. **Once this is revealed by the Holy Spirit, it is easy to do, but the Lord has said to me that the Church does not know this and that I am to teach it and proclaim it loudly.** Therefore church, hear what this teacher proclaims to you this day:

The "good works" I have just described are not necessarily bad or evil, nor will you be penalized for doing them. Those activities may bless others, may give you a great sense of satisfaction, may cost you time and money, may give you a plaque to hang on the wall, may gain you the accolades of others and, yes, even the church, but are worthless in the kingdom. Therefore, let us delve further into *obedience* (what God tells us to do) as opposed to *sacrifice* (what we ourselves can do).

Hear these words from the pen of prophet Isaiah, written more than seven hundred years before the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth and taken from chapter fifty-five of that prophet's writing:

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Notice that the prophet begins with God's thoughts, not his ways. The simple reason for the priority of God's thoughts over His ways is because His ways originate with His thoughts. *His ways are the result of His thoughts.*

That should give us a clue, but the prophet goes on to say *as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are both My ways and thoughts higher than yours.* Therefore, so long as our thoughts are captive to or remain in the natural or physical realm, we remain unchanged. That's why I have written more than once, "Learn to think in the supernatural realm instead of the natural or physical realm." The reason to shift your thinking to the supernatural is because **EVERYTHING** God does is supernatural. Learn to think as He thinks in order to begin to acquire His attributes, for as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.<sup>2</sup> God imposes no limit on us. We impose limits on ourselves with our "stinking thinking."

I prophesy to you that you can learn to "hear" *or perceive* the thoughts of God so as to know His ways. If you are a born again believer, here is the prescription, developed and proven from years of experience:

"A soul at rest and a spirit at peace may hear My

<sup>1</sup>See 1 Samuel 15:22.

<sup>2</sup>See Proverbs 23:7.

voice,” says the Lord. A way to acquire such an atmosphere is to get alone with Him and in prayer, rid yourself of all envy, enmity, greed, jealousy or unforgiveness. Then ask Him to talk to you and record in your journal every thought that comes to your mind. Don’t wait an inordinate length of time for Him to speak to you. Try again the next day. In time you will learn to listen and begin the greatest experience of your life.

As you give Him time to “speak” to you, His “words” may come as a quiet, inaudible, light, delicate *thought* that may be easily ignored. Nevertheless, write them in your journal every time and you may become astonished at what He has wanted to say to you but didn’t have your “listening ear.”

Ever since He formed you in the womb of your mother, He has wanted to have an intimate relationship with you. That’s why you were created. Spiritual intimacy is like physical intimacy. Two people must spend time together for intimacy to develop.

I have heard God’s audible voice only once but since I have learned to listen, I have more prophetic rhema words from the mouth of God transcribed from my journal, printed and filed in three ring notebooks, than there are total words in the bible. Since faith comes by hearing, imagine how my faith has grown since I learned to listen.

It’s one thing to read rhema words given to someone else, like Isaiah or Paul, for example. It’s another thing entirely to hear prophetic rhema words from the mouth of God yourself, transcribe them from your journal, print and file them for future reading, study, meditation and teaching. **Prophetic rhema words given to you never lose their anointing.**<sup>3</sup> You can teach them with the same assurance the day after they are received or years later. The assured anointing is there every time you go back and reread them, meditate on them or teach from them. More than once the Lord has sent me back to words He has given to me

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<sup>3</sup>Although prophetic rhema words God gives you **never lose their anointing**, that is not true of the logos. Those words were given to someone else who kept a journal (the bible) which you read. You know from reading the bible and listening to a bible teacher or a preacher that each one may be more excited about sharing some revelation God has given to him than revelation given to someone else (the logos). The anointing may not fall on one who shares from the logos. The anointing always follows teaching, sharing or preaching from a prophetic rhema word God has given to you personally. That is true on the day the revelation is given or at a later date. Prophetic words given directly to you never lose their anointing. Prophetic rhema words given to you daily may represent a hunger or a price that not everyone is willing to pay.

The Holy Spirit must quicken the logos to your heart for it to become rhema. This is not to discount to any degree the written word (logos) which is the standard by which prophetic rhema words are measured. It is to emphasize that once one learns to hear the voice of God continually, it will change your life. Every rhema word God gives to you contains light that will shine on a word, words or a thought in the logos (bible). That’s the way the hidden things in the bible are revealed to babes, not to the worldly wise.

weeks or years before. That’s the way He has taught me for years. As I have previously written, this is outside the realm of the gift of prophecy and the office of prophet. **If you are a born again child of God you have the built-in capability to learn to hear His voice.**

Four times in the tenth chapter of John, Jesus is recorded as saying that His sheep hear His voice. In that same chapter, as built-in security, He is also recorded as saying His sheep will by no means follow a stranger (the enemy) because they do not know his voice.

Here is one practical example of what I mean: A few years ago, on occasion, Dale would say to me, “Why doesn’t God talk to me like He talks to you?” A few times over the past several months, she has brought to me words the Lord has said to her, either for me or for her or for both of us. She learned to listen.

There is nothing special about me. I am a plain, common, ordinary, garden variety-type believer who learned to take time to listen. **If I can do it, you can do it.** If you know Jesus as Lord, you have the same internal capability to hear His voice that I have. As a matter of fact, here is something that might shock you. The Lord told me that every child of God today has the same ability to hear His voice as did the apostle Paul! Try that one on for size! After thinking about it, that is obviously true, for in God there is no respect of persons.<sup>4</sup> Paul is the only apostle who was an enemy to Jesus both during His earthly ministry and for some time thereafter.<sup>5</sup> He (Paul) therefore learned from the invisible Lord through the Holy Spirit. You and I have the same opportunity. As Paul took time to listen, the words He heard are the reason he wrote more of the New Testament than any other apostle. **You have the same ability to hear the voice of the Lord that he had. Use it and be blessed.**

Righteousness is not the result of perfect conduct, but of perfect *obedience*, for as prophet Samuel admonished king Saul, “Behold, *to obey* is better than sacrifice.”

The other thing about obedience that is connected to hearing God’s thoughts (words) is His desire to bless you. If you will take time to learn to listen to Him, “hearing” His words will literally change your life. Not only will they bless your life, you will be unable to avoid that change once you begin to hear His voice regularly. He desires to give you infinitely more than you can think or ask because of His love for you. I know from experience this is true.

He has blessings for you beyond your fondest dreams but His blessings must be given according to His will. Here are two ways to discover that:

(1) by believing and proclaiming words of scripture over yourself and others, for as you speak scripture out of your mouth, that may activate the logos unto rhema.

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<sup>4</sup>See Romans 2:11 KJV.

<sup>5</sup>For confirmation of this statement, see Acts 7:58-60; 8:2, 3; 9:1-31.

(2) by learning to listen to His voice.

In the latter case every word you hear is a rhema word that contains spirit, life, love, truth and light. That is why hearing those words will change you. As you hear them, they have the same power as when God said, "Let there be light." Then as, or if He directs you to do something beyond the natural into the supernatural, **as you obey, your obedience will create the miracle.** That's why it's interesting to learn to listen to Him (continually). Thereafter you will have more fun than you ever even dreamed possible. He will do more for you than you would ever even dare to dream for yourself. That's how much He loves you.

The Lord has told me that my training is essentially finished but he is giving attention to others whom He is also training as He has trained Me. Since He wants us to be released at the same time, my release is tied to the others He is also training to be commissioned and released with John 14:12.

As I await my release, the Lord has also given me an assignment. After He released me from Hillcrest Church, He said, "I had to get you out of Hillcrest Church in order to show you Hillcrest Church." Interestingly enough, to show me Hillcrest Church, He pointed me to a conversation He had with Peter after His resurrection and before His ascension.

Here is the brief setting for this conversation between Peter and Jesus: Peter and six other disciples of Jesus went fishing, fished all night and caught nothing. When morning came, they saw Jesus on the shore cooking on coals of fire an early morning breakfast of bread and fish. Since the disciples had caught nothing while fishing all night, Jesus said cast your net on the right side of the boat. As they obeyed, they caught 153 large fish, some of which were added to the early morning cook-out as they had breakfast by the sea. John recorded this conversation between Jesus and Peter with these words from the twenty-first chapter of his Gospel:

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love you. He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love you." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep.**"

Notice in this exchange between Jesus and Peter,

Jesus asked Peter essentially the same question three times, "Peter do you love me?" Peter's answer was in the affirmative each time, and it appears from this account, that Peter's last answer may have been given with some consternation. Notice also that the response of Jesus to Peter's affirmative answers were three separate and distinct affirmations or charges to Peter:

- (1) feed My lambs,
- (2) tend My sheep, and
- (3) feed My sheep.

You do not feed lambs (the young and the spiritually immature) the same diet you feed sheep (the older and the spiritually mature). When you tend the sheep, that includes both the lambs and the sheep. A pastor who tends the sheep will not scatter the flock. His responsibility to tend them implies an understanding of both lambs and sheep and *tender understanding care of both (the flock)*. The prophet Jeremiah issued a stern warning against a pastor who scatters the flock.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, a spiritually immature pastor who is inexperienced in tending the sheep, may scatter the flock unintentionally without knowing to do otherwise. While the result may be the same in both cases, accountability for each is different.

Hillcrest Church is organized and administered along the line of the apostolic model.<sup>7</sup> "**The apostolic model is flawed when it rules, blessed when it serves,**" says the Lord.

After teaching me this, He said, "I do not want you to focus on one congregation. That is not Our objective. I want you to see what I see. I see the world." He then instructed me to begin visiting a representative "sample" of the churches (Denominations, etc.) in the D/FW area. Thus far we have visited these churches: Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal (the branch that ordains homosexuals), Anglican (formerly Episcopal but changed to Anglican when local Episcopalians chose to ordain homosexuals), Catholic, Presbyterian (PCA), Nazarene, Seven Day Adventist, Mormon, Greek Orthodox, Assembly of God, Charismatic/non-denominational, Messianic Jewish Synagogue, Bible Church (of Dallas Theological Seminary doctrine) and Jehovah's Witnesses. We have only a few churches to visit before our list is complete.

When those being trained by the Lord who will be commissioned with John 14:12 are released into their ministry, they will minister to **EVERYONE**. That will include many the church does not presently reach with a powerful supernatural ministry to include healing various kinds of illness, insanity, blindness, lameness, deafness, including other defects and diseases caused by the enemy.

Ministry to everyone will include those whom we

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<sup>6</sup>See Jeremiah 23:1, 2.

<sup>7</sup>In the apostolic model, the senior pastor is assumed to be the apostle who appoints the elders (the spiritual ruling body) who administer the spiritual affairs of the congregation.

call the “lost,” the “unchurched,” and those in a church who are not saved, who have been deceived by the enemy. The Lord has said to me that those are all His prodigals.

In this ministry, soon to become manifest on the earth, **homosexuals who have the desire will be set free.** Homosexuality is an abomination to God<sup>8</sup> and is a result of the craftiness of the enemy. Many homosexuals and lesbians are trapped in a body and don't know why. Since their abnormal behavior *may have begun at a very early age or at birth, they believe the homosexual life style may have been intended from the beginning.* **It therefore may be a choice they did not make. The enemy made it for them unknowingly by evil entrapment.** Church hear these words. They are true.

The Lord has shown me that a minor incident may exacerbate *a generational curse*, bring it to the fore as a lifestyle God did not originate, to dominate a life in one who has no knowledge whatsoever of generational curses and how they entrap one. Generational curses are demonic, supernatural and real. For ten years as Deliverance Ministers we dealt with them on a regular basis. They are the work of the enemy in the evil spirit world about which the church knows little.

Generational curses first come to light in scripture in Exodus 20:5: “You shall not bow down to them (a carved image) nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the *iniquity* of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations to those who hate Me.” The reason generational *iniquity* is passed down through the father instead of the mother is because in the original transgression, Eve was deceived and Adam sinned knowingly.

An *iniquity* is a transgression committed wilfully and knowingly without repentance. That opens the door to the curse which is demonic and is passed on to the third or fourth generation. If you consider a generation to be forty years, that means a generational curse is passed down from one generation to another for 160 years. We have evidence that unless the curse is broken, *the demonic visitation may be passed on for more than four generations.* Many homosexuals and lesbians are dealing unknowingly with their own personal demons for which they are not responsible! Time and time again, over the past ten years, we freed Spirit filled Christians of generational curses (demons) that may have originated many years before they were born!

To those of you who have no knowledge of the evil spirit world, be advised that it is real and it is supernatural! More than forty percent of the time Jesus healed someone where the one healed was identified or identifiable, He did so by casting out a demon or

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<sup>8</sup>See Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-29; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Hebrews 13:4.

demons and the person was healed.<sup>9</sup> The Gadarene demoniac had a minimum of two thousand demons living in his body.<sup>10</sup> From our experience in deliverance, I believe the number may have exceeded five thousand.

When those who are presently being trained to be commissioned with John 14:12 are released by the Lord, they will be sent to a cross section of the world, clothed with authority to deal with the enemy who has come to steal, kill and destroy many lives. “Their ministry,” says the Lord, “will recover, resurrect and restore that which the enemy has stolen, killed and destroyed. Some who have been entrapped by the enemy who are lost, deceived and hopeless, except for their deception, would have exceeded some of My noble ones,” says the Lord.

Those in the process of being trained to be released and commissioned with John 14:12 will also be sent to address problems in the church. That will not initially be a popular activity among church leaders.

There you have but a minuscule look at what lies before those who will be released “very soon” (to use the Lord's term) into a supernatural ministry unique to the “church age.”

The ministry of those, about which I write, will initially be opposed by church leaders. That means it will be no different from the ministry of Jesus. Those who opposed Him most violently were the *church* (or Synagogue) *leaders while the common people accepted Him gladly.*<sup>11</sup> In time, however, God will intervene with a few faithful pastors to endorse this ministry. Then the floodgates will open.

As the departure of Jesus from this life through the cross meant a new beginning for Him, so our departure from Hillcrest Church is a new beginning for us. This now leaves me free to say, write and teach some things the Lord has given me without hindrance, for which I am grateful.

For the past ten years I have periodically taught adult bible classes at Hillcrest Church. It has been my practice when I was not teaching to occasionally visit other adult classes as a learning experience. About five years ago I visited an adult class taught by a man of about fifty years of age. He spent several minutes telling his class that he sinned repeatedly every day. Regardless of his intent, that was the thing that I took away from that class.

In the church, too much time has been spent on the inevitability of sin with too little time spent on the inevitability of righteousness **and how that may be acquired.** That is one purpose of teachers and one purpose of my writing. Sin is not inevitable to one who (1) knows the definition of sin, (2) the definition of righteousness, (3) is totally committed to the Lord and (4) learns to listen.

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<sup>9</sup>See my letter No. 22 dated July 20, 1999, for evidence of this statement tabulated from the four Gospels.

<sup>10</sup>For the story of the Gadarene demoniac see Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39.

<sup>11</sup>See Mark 12:37. Those instrumental in crucifying Jesus were the Jewish religious and political leaders of that day to include the elders, chief priests, members of the Sanhedrin, scribes and Pharisees.