

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

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 140

Copyright July 15, 2011

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The Author of a book is more important than a book He wrote. Knowing Him personally is a greater blessing than reading His book.

### **A SUPPLEMENT TO PENTECOST Learning To Listen**

Forty-three days after He was crucified, Jesus ascended into the third heaven for the second time. Seven days later in the city of Jerusalem, when the day of Pentecost had fully come, an explosion occurred in that city that "was *heard* around the world." That spiritual explosion occurred among the Jews and proselytes in Jerusalem who had assembled there from every nation under heaven for the Jewish feast day.

Seven days earlier, Jesus had instructed His disciples to remain in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. The endowment of that spiritual power was the *explosion* to which I refer. The disciples of Jesus (about one hundred and twenty<sup>1</sup>) experienced that *explosion*.

Cloven (divided) *tongues*, as of fire, appeared and sat upon each of the disciples. They then began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Each Jew and proselyte from every nation under heaven heard the disciples speak in his own native tongue.

Thus, the church of Jesus Christ was established through this miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Since that Pentecost morning when the apostle Peter preached the first sermon, the church has followed essentially the same procedure for growth.

Translated into the context of today and stated simplistically, this means the church has grown worldwide by preaching/teaching the Gospel as related in the bible, particularly in the New Testament. That "Pentecost method" of spreading the good news of Jesus has been the bedrock of Christian growth and remains so today.

However, in the year 2011, something new will appear on the scene. That *something new* will initially be embraced by church leaders in the same manner that the Jewish leaders in Judea embraced the teaching of a maverick whose name was Jesus of Nazareth. Yes, Jesus was considered as a maverick among the Jews.

The Maverick had the audacity to say, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."<sup>2</sup> The fact that this one simple statement was inclusive of all of the Law and the Prophets simply did not resonate with the Jewish law writers, law givers, law teachers and law keepers. In their minds that simply couldn't be, for they prided themselves on keeping outward laws to the neglect of the inward heart.

<sup>1</sup>See Acts 1:15.

<sup>2</sup>Matthew 7:12.

It took only about three and one-half years for the Jewish leaders to kill the Maverick. But it did not stop there. His followers were treated the same way. Three or four years after they killed the Maverick, the Jewish leaders killed Stephen who was a disciple of the Maverick and a deacon of the church. They executed Stephen with stones, the Jewish method of capital punishment, wherein two witnesses threw the first stones. Others joined in the public execution, as needed, to finish the bloody job until the one judged to be guilty was dead. After the stoning produced death, the body might be hung on a tree until the end of the day, for public observation and humiliation. Then the body was buried.<sup>3</sup>

A year or so after the death of Stephen, Saul of Tarsus began a trip from Jerusalem to Damascus (about 150 miles) armed with an official Jewish document signed and sealed by the High Priest. That document gave Saul the legal right to round up all the Jewish disciples of Jesus and return them to Jerusalem for trial. Consider for a moment, setting out on a trip of 150 miles on a horse, donkey or camel, for example, in the first century A. D., to find and arrest every disciple of Jesus in Damascus. Then bind the prisoners securely in shackles, or otherwise, and return the 150 miles back to Jerusalem for trial and possible execution if found guilty by the Sanhedrin. That tells you only briefly of the cost of our heritage.<sup>4</sup>

Saints of God, new truth or "new wine" in the religious community is a precious but a dangerous commodity.

I must add here another explanation of the reaction of Jews to Jesus of Nazareth. It was Satan, himself, who dictated the conduct of the Jews toward Jesus. The Lord has said to me that when He created Lucifer, He put all of the attributes of the Godhead in him that it was possible to put in a created angelic being and that he was therefore like Him (Jehovah God). That supernatural intelligence, cunning and deceitfulness is demonstrated in the fact that through his influence with the Jews, Jesus went to the cross and through his continued influence today, he (Satan) is the ruler of the world,<sup>5</sup> about which I have previously written. Unless you know this as revealed fact and specifically how to

<sup>3</sup>See Deuteronomy 21:21-23.

<sup>4</sup>Needless to say, Saul was "arrested" on the road to Damascus and failed to complete the project assigned to him by the High Priest in Jerusalem. You know the rest of the story.

<sup>5</sup>On three separate occasions Jesus said that Satan is the ruler of this world. (See John 12:31; 14:30;16:11). Satan remains the ruler of this world and will continue in that capacity until the Second Coming of Our Lord at the end of the Great Tribulation.

escape his rulership, you will become his victim in the world unknowingly. God, Himself, through Satan, orchestrated the violent rejection of Jesus, to include the cross. Beginning with the visible ministry of Jesus, the persecution of the Jews by an individual, by an organization or by a nation, has always been instigated by Satan. That gives you an idea of his supernatural power, cunning and deceitfulness. Satan is the true culprit.

I have written this short introduction to Christianity to emphasize the fact that new truth or “new wine,” when offered to the religious community, will be met with violent opposition. In spite of that fact, in this letter I offer to you “new wine” or new truth from the mouth of God for your consideration.

First, please note the two proclamations in the masthead of this letter: “The Author of a book is more important than a book He wrote.” and “Knowing Him (the Author) personally is a greater blessing than reading His book.” The only way to get to know God personally and intimately, is to learn to listen to His voice for a sufficiency of time according to His standard *as a beginning*, about which I have been writing for years.

The *SUPPLEMENT TO PENTECOST*, to which I refer as the subject of this letter is, “learning to listen” to the voice of God continually during these last few years of this rapture generation. In this manner alone may one’s spiritual growth become exponential instead of incremental. The “Pentecost method” of spiritual growth allows for incremental spiritual growth. The “learning to listen method” allows for exponential spiritual growth.

The *Pentecost method* has been the basis of spiritual growth in the church for almost two thousand years and is the foundation on which the *listening method* of spiritual growth is built. One who chooses not to participate in the *learn to listen method* will not be able to participate to the full in the coming super-abundant harvest of souls prior to the rapture.

*The Pentecost method is inadequate to bring in the necessary final super-abundant harvest of souls prior to the rapture.* That is why the Lord has introduced the *learn to listen method*.

Here are scriptures that support the *learn to listen method*:

**Amos chapter 3:**

7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

**Isaiah chapter 42:**

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

**John chapter 14:**

12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do

also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father.

**Matthew chapter 4:**

4 But He (*Jesus*) answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

**Comments on the above four scripture references:**

**Amos 3:7:**

A prophet is one who hears the voice of God and proclaims what he hears. In this rapture generation, at this time, that does not necessarily refer to one who has the gift of prophecy<sup>6</sup> or to one who walks in the office of prophet,<sup>7</sup> both of which have been vital to church growth. It refers to one who learns to hear the voice of God daily *as a learned procedure*. Joel prophesied that “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.”<sup>8</sup> The fulfillment of that prophecy began when the Spirit was poured out that Pentecost morning in Jerusalem almost two thousand years ago. The fulfillment of that prophecy will become more profuse in the few remaining years before the rapture<sup>9</sup> through those who *learn to listen* to the voice of God daily and who will devote time alone with Him to listen and hear. Every servant of God has the internal capacity to learn to hear His voice daily.

Many devoted servants of God crowd Him out with words and do not take time out of their busy schedule to be alone with Him to listen.

**Isaiah 42:9:**

Here is a detailed analysis of Isaiah 42:9:

Behold – give **ME** your attention.

the former things have come to pass – put the past behind you.

and new things – things that have been neither written nor revealed previously.

I declare – I, the Lord God, will declare to you.

That means you **MUST** devote sufficient time to Him and learn to listen continually, or you may miss what He says. His light, delicate, inaudible *thoughts* may be easily ignored. When He speaks is the time to listen.

before they spring forth – before the “new things” declared or prophesied from the mouth of God occur as the result of listening.

I tell you of them – God will tell you or prophesy to you the “new things” before they occur (to include *an unbelievable intimacy with Jehovah God*) so that one who learns to listen (*and record the new things declared*), may prophesy his own future and that of others, to include:

<sup>6</sup>See 1 Corinthians 12:10.

<sup>7</sup>See Ephesians 4:11.

<sup>8</sup>See Joel 2:28.

<sup>9</sup>See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

(1) when certain end-time events will occur, such as the rapture, the Tribulation, the Second Coming and the Millennium and

(2) an understanding of how to apply His principles of daily living that Jesus taught in the four Gospels.

A journal to record His daily words to you is essential to exponential spiritual growth in the few remaining years before the rapture. As you learn to listen, His words will become so profuse, you will be unable to remember them unless they are written in your journal. Those rhema words never lose their anointing to the one to whom they are originally given. They are your possession. That's the way the bible was written. Opportunities too numerous to mention lie at the feet of those who *learn to listen*.

#### **John 14:12:**

This prophecy of prophet Jesus of Nazareth has not yet been fulfilled. Since Jesus prophesied the reality of that prophetic occurrence, **it must be fulfilled before the rapture of the church.** In order to do greater works (miracles) than Jesus did during His visible ministry, those who fulfill this prophecy will be released into ministries with greater spiritual capability than Jesus had. This is because of the nature of the visible ministry of Jesus.

The only way that one may be equipped to do greater works than Jesus did is by learning to listen for and to hear the voice of God continually. That may not be accomplished through the *Pentecost method* because there is not enough time left. That is how important the *listening method* is to the church today.

One major key to the "greater works" is that Jesus was restricted in what He could say and do during His visible ministry. His objective in coming had to be shrouded in secrecy until His resurrection in order to deceive the deceiver, about which I have written previously.

Those who will be anointed and released to fulfill John 14:12 will be equipped to do absolute spiritual warfare against the enemy, openly and freely, without the restrictions imposed upon Jesus. They will be protected from physical violence, but in the beginning they will undergo violent, verbal, critical opposition to the same degree experienced by Jesus in His visible ministry. That, however, will not deter the activities of those released into this ministry. They will first minister to those not reached by the church and the harvest will be very abundant.<sup>10</sup> The purpose of the abundant harvest is explained in Jim Ash letter No. 123 entitled, THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH.

#### **Matthew 4:4:**

After Jesus had fasted for forty days and was hungry, the tempter said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." It was then that Jesus responded with His words recorded in Matthew 4:4.

<sup>10</sup>One of the targets of the *new listening method* ministers will be God's prodigals. God has said to me that a prodigal is one who has been deceived by the enemy. Eve was God's first prodigal. She was deceived and therefore was not charged with her transgression while Adam sinned knowingly and was. It was the Adamic sin that sent Jesus to the cross.

Since Jesus had infused within Him the fullness of the Godhead bodily,<sup>11</sup> He could have done what the tempter wanted. Instead He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every (rhema) Word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Look carefully at these words of Jesus. They state emphatically that man sustains himself physically by eating with his mouth, but he sustains himself spiritually by *hearing* rhema words that come from the mouth of God. Saints of God, there is no better way to grow spiritually other than to hear rhema words from the mouth of God. The logos may be quickened into rhema by the Holy Spirit. That's the *Pentecost method*. But if you will learn to listen to the voice of God daily, each word you hear is rhema. That's the blessing of the *listening method*. Faith comes by hearing – not by reading, not by memorizing scripture verses, not by formal seminary training, not by bible study and research, however wonderful and foundational all of that may be.

One must begin this walk with God by surrendering everything he owns or possesses and everything he will ever own or possess, to the Lord. Until one is consecrated wholly and solely to the Lord, he not only has not touched the fringe of His garment, he hasn't even found the garment. He therefore must begin with nothing but himself. That self must then be laid upon God's altar of sacrifice for God's sole use, just to begin with. That is the only true beginning of every walk with God. God must be in the driver's seat or self, the god of Satan, will be in control. When self is in control, Satan becomes your father. It's just that simple.<sup>12</sup>

Here are two ways to hear the voice of God:

(1) when the Holy Spirit quickens (or makes alive) to your heart a verse from the logos (bible) and

(2) by learning to listen to His voice continually, about which I have written for years.

Every servant of God has that capability today. The problem arises, however, when one has been brought up in the *Pentecost method*. He usually has been trained to believe that the only way to hear the voice of God is to hear it proclaimed as preached or taught from the bible (logos) as Paul wrote in Romans 10:14-17. One taught that way tends to remain within that framework of understanding of God's word. While that way is foundational, it is not the only way.

Four times in the book of John chapter ten, Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." One of the *new things* Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 42:9 is that every servant of God in the remaining years of this rapture generation has the capability within himself to learn to hear the voice of God daily. That's one of the "new things." Hence the blessing of the *listening method* over the *Pentecost method*. Hear these conclusive words from the mouth of God on the relative merit of *the two methods*:

"Realize that the listening method is superior to the Pentecost method and is a wonderful source of Myself now available to each of My servants. My words are words of life. As you continually hear them, they impart life – My life. The Pentecost method leads to death. The listening

<sup>11</sup>See Colossians 2:9.

<sup>12</sup>Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23). The reason disciples of Jesus must deny self is because self is Satan's tool of destruction.



method leads to life. One who hears My words daily and is obedient thereunto, does not have to die. My rhema words are life to the hungry.”

“Today as one chooses to listen to Me daily, he need not die. I am life. The absence thereof is death. The enemy gives out lies and death. I give out truth and life.”

To conclude this letter I would like to share with you rhema words from the mouth of God concerning the burdens that Jehovah God Himself carried to the cross in addition to those carried by His Son. These words were given to me on December 31, 2010. Listen and hear the heart of Jehovah God:

Yes, My son, whom the Son sets free is free indeed. That includes the Father.<sup>13</sup> And that is why His Name (*the Son's name*) is above every other name.

Jesus was the first to know of My weaknesses, My failures. And He was like you. He was overwhelmed with contrition, but also like you, My confessing My weaknesses and failures to the Son endeared Him to Me as in no other way. That's the crux of James 5:16.

So you see, you have been through the same thing Jesus went through so as to know Me (the Father) intimately and set Me free. It is a mark of strength to desire intimacy with someone. Therein lies safety, security, love and peace. Only as We confess our faults to one another are We truly set free. And the foundation of freedom is love and intimacy.

But always remember, Jesus carried the weight of the cross ever before Him **EVERY DAY**. That is why He would withdraw often to be alone with Me (the Father). There are times when He would pray all night before My peace would come. He had to begin **EVERY DAY** at peace with Me, Himself and His neighbor. That's everyone on the face of the earth, including Satan and the Jews who eventually killed Him.

My son, make it clear that Satan, **not the Jews**, killed My only begotten Son. That's why the cross was so difficult for Me and for Jesus. **I had to use My own family to destroy My only begotten Son in order to reclaim My poor lost world.**

That, alone, grieved My heart beyond measure. But that was the only way My poor world could be restored to its magnificent glory. And to realize I had to do all of this because of My original desire to love and bless the earth lavishly, brought My mistakes in Lucifer ever before My eyes – ever before My heart.

Now you may begin to see burdens that I, (Jehovah God – *not Jesus*) carried to the cross. I had to use My own family to destroy My only begotten Son, all because of My desire to create someone like Myself to govern the earth.

When you were in the lawsuit for two and one-half years, you had the same trouble Jesus had, as night after night, you would arise in the middle of the night in order to

<sup>13</sup>The Father was set free from the grip of Satan by confessing His faults to the Son. This was a first in the annals of time. Although the Father's faults were not sin, the impact of His fault in not foreseeing that Lucifer would fail Him was the same as if He intentionally created Lucifer to fail. Lucifer's failure caused the Father to have to destroy His first family and a perfectly created earth. This meant that forgiveness of this fault to the Son set the Father free from the grip of Satan. This is the crux of James 5:16.

pray through to My peace.<sup>14</sup> That was your testing time, My son. Therein you learned forgiveness and obedience.

Your experience in that lawsuit was like that of Jesus, except His burden was the whole world. That's why on occasion, He would have to pray all night in order to be at peace with Me, Himself and His neighbor – or everyone on the face of the earth, including Satan and My family, whom Satan used to kill Him.

So you see, you and Jesus have some things in common. You both have been tested, but His test is beyond human endurance. His burden was only made bearable by the presence of the Godhead bodily within Him. No mere man could have done what He did. A pure man infused with the fullness of the Godhead bodily was the only way Satan could be defeated.<sup>15</sup>

Because of what Jesus did, He bore your burdens on the cross. In your ministry, therefore, you will not have the daily burdens of Jesus from which He set you free. You therefore will be able to freely minister in **EVERY AREA**, unencumbered by any burden. That is what Jesus did for you.

Additionally, you and the eleven will be able to devote all of your efforts and energy to taking from Satan **EVERYTHING** he has done to man, without restrictions. That is the blessing of the ministry of the special twelve.

Because I (*the Lord Jesus*) carried your burdens, you and the eleven will be able to devote your time to robbing the robber big time! And within you will be the same spiritual authority that Jesus had in His visible ministry – the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

So you see, Jesus made your ministry possible. Remember that. I will guide you on when and how to give honor to Whom honor is due.

There, before you, is your objective. Your infusion will occur as I have promised.

Only as your earthly cloak is removed will you be able to grasp the fullness of what Jesus did at the cross. Until then, count yourself blessed to serve Him for the remaining ten years of spiritual abundance.

Everything Jesus did, He did to free you of His burdens so that you would be free to concentrate on disarming the enemy. You will be able to minister unrestrictedly without burdens because He bore them for you. (end of prophetic word)

The above prophetic word was given to me because I have learned to listen. Hence, the blessing of *the listening method* over the *Pentecost method* in the few years that remain in this rapture generation.

<sup>14</sup>A family member who had been estranged for twenty years from the man with whom I had been in business for thirty-five years, accused me of stealing from the company I had been president of for twenty-five years. I had no choice except to defend against the false claim with a lawsuit. The claim against me was proved false by the law suit, but it cost me about one million dollars to defend myself against the false claim. The thing about the lawsuit that was disconcerting is that the litigator I employed to defend me said that in lawsuits when the law is clear and all the facts are known, twenty percent of the time, the jury makes the wrong decision.

<sup>15</sup>Jesus was infused with the Godhead bodily immediately after John's baptism. See Matthew 3:16; John 1:14; Colossians 2:9.