

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 142

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

THE PENTECOST METHOD VERSUS THE LISTENING METHOD REVISITED

The initial subject of My July letter No. 140 was "A SUPPLEMENT TO PENTECOST, Learning to Listen." In that letter we examined the value of what I have called the Pentecost Method of spiritual growth and compared it with the Listening Method of spiritual growth. The conclusion we came to is quoted in these rhema words from the Lord: "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."

To review briefly, the Pentecost Method of spiritual growth began when the day of Pentecost was fully come about two thousand years ago one morning in Jerusalem. Spiritual growth in the church began then, when about one hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues that Jews and Proselytes from every nation under heaven heard in their native language.

Translated into today's terminology but stated simplistically, in the *Pentecost Method*, we grow spiritually by studying the bible, by prayer and by responding to God's call on our life as we perceive it. That method is about two thousand years old.

The Listening Method of spiritual growth is founded on the *Pentecost Method*. In *the Listening Method*, we discover that Jehovah God wants to talk to us on a daily basis, provided each disciple will take the time out of his busy schedule to listen. For example, it is recorded four times in chapter 10 of John's Gospel that Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice."

The listening method does not refer to the gift of prophecy as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:10 or to the office of prophet as recorded in Ephesians 4:11, but is beyond both the gift and the office. One may proceed in *the Listening Method* to the point of spending quiet time with God listening and recording His rhema words. *The Listening Method* will project one into spiritual growth unattainable any other way in this generation.

Both the gift of prophecy and the office of prophet fall within the *Pentecost Method* of spiritual growth. Also within *the Pentecost Method* are His rhema words that all or most obedient disciples hear on occasion. This may include visions and dreams, all spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, and a quickening of the logos into rhema when reading the bible or at any other time. *The Listening Method* of spiritual growth goes beyond each of these manifestations of the Spirit, all of which fall within the *Pentecost Method* of spiritual growth.

The Listening Method is new for this generation

prior to the rapture and is one of the *new things* prophesied in Isaiah 42:9: "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and *new things* I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

In the *Listening Method*, by contrast to the *Pentecost Method*, as one learns to listen and hear His rhema words daily, they may become so profuse that they must be recorded in a journal in order for them to be remembered and for them to become useful. On many occasions, in one day I have recorded in my journal several hundred words and on rare occasions more than two thousand rhema words covering a number of different topics. As you may know, sometimes the Lord will abruptly change the subject with no notice or previous words of introduction whatsoever.

It is the rhema words received under such circumstances that reveal the hidden things in the logos. That is one reason why it is important to record in your journal what He says to you.

After you begin to listen, do not be discouraged if there are lapses of time (days, weeks or months) between your journal entries. This will depend somewhat on your other responsibilities that must be taken care of. Discretionary time is most helpful. Consecrate yourself to the Lord, stay focused on Him and journal what He gives you. In time you will be surprised.

Every rhema word you hear from the Lord is spirit, life, love, truth, light (spiritual), food (spiritual) and faith. Each of those seven attributes are characteristics of God with scripture support. Seven is both the number of God and the number of completion. With that in mind, I call your attention to these seven attributes of God that are in each rhema word that comes forth from his mouth.

1. spirit – One illustration of the meaning of this word is found in Genesis 2:7: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and *breathed* into his nostrils the *breath of life* and man became a living soul." Notice that man did not become a living body but a living soul. The body dies but the soul continues to live after the body dies. In this Genesis reference, the word for "breathed" is *neshamah*, meaning air, a puff of wind or breath. The Greek word is *pneuma*, meaning breath or air. Notice that God's breath breathed into the nostrils of man *created the soul*. This means that even God's breath is supernatural and it created the soul that lives forever. God's words are actuated by His breath and are formed by His mouth and tongue just as man's words are formed. God's breath becomes man's spirit or the source of his life.

2. life – The literal life of God is within every rhema word **you** hear. That fact is imperceptible on a

daily basis, but the affect is residual or cumulative as you stay focused on Him and are obedient. The change will be gradual but noticeable in a period of time. As God's life infuses you, your health will begin to improve.

3. love – God is love. Therefore, every rhema word you hear is a love container or a love transmitter. Each word you hear becomes a spiritual impartation of God's love. This may be imperceptible in the beginning. But as you learn to listen to His words daily until He finishes speaking, in His time, you will become so filled with His love, from the bottom of your heart, you will say to Him, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." That consummates the marriage and is the beginning of intimacy with God.

4. truth – Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). In His prayer to the Father just prior to His crucifixion, Jesus said, "Your word is truth." (John 17:17). Jesus also said, "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). Therefore, Jesus was the personification of God's truth who spoke only as He was directed by the Father to set one free from the clutches of Satan.

5. light – Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but (will) have the light of life." (John 8:16). Jesus also said, "So long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5). The reason He was the light of the world is because within Him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily, so that the Father, Himself, guided everything Jesus did and said. Jesus therefore, reflected, or demonstrated visually, God's perfect will for man to be enlightened as to God's perfect will for man.

6. food – As recorded in Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every (rhema) word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This means that we sustain ourselves physically by eating with our mouths, but we sustain ourselves spiritually by hearing rhema words from the mouth of God. The way we eat spiritually is by listening to rhema words from the mouth of God. Under the Pentecost method, the Holy Spirit may quicken into rhema a logos word or a thought to your heart. But every word you hear in the listening method **is rhema** and remember, rhema words reveal things hidden in the logos. That's only one reason why the *Listening Method* is superior.

7. faith – faith comes by hearing – not by reading, not by memorizing scripture verses, not by spending another thirty minutes each day in prayer, all of which I have done, and all of which may be beneficial, but may not increase your faith. On the contrary, you cannot learn to listen to the voice of God daily without growing in faith exponentially. After listening to His voice for many years, my faith has grown so that I ask for and receive things I would not even have thought of when I was in the Pentecost Method of spiritual growth.

Here are rhema words on these two methods of spiritual growth transcribed from my journal on January

17, 2011:

Yes, My son, it is a good thing to teach that you are fed spiritually by listening and as you learn to listen you will become what (or Whom) you hear – gradually yes, but nevertheless, you will become what (or Whom) you eat spiritually.

You are right, My son, most people don't take time to hear My voice and live, so they fail to listen and hear and die.

When you take time to hear His voice daily, you are being fed, and in the spiritual realm you become what or Whom you eat and that is God!

Those who don't take time to hear His voice will take time to die. Those who take time to hear His voice will take time to live.

Instead of dying daily, as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:31, you may begin to live daily. As you learn to hear His voice daily, you will become hungry for more. Then as you respond to that spiritual hunger daily, each day you will be fed more of God and therefore will become more like God, Himself.

My son, I have just described how Jesus and the super apostles become God Incarnate (see Jim Ash letter No. 117). They listen for a sufficient period of time according to His standard, and **THEN** they are prepared for the infusion of the Godhead bodily in order to become God Incarnate!

That's the way it works.

As you take time to hear His voice daily, He, Jehovah God, is imparting Himself to you. And he does not die daily, as Paul wrote; He lives daily and will never die.

As you listen to His voice daily you are walking toward His life daily. If you do not, you are walking toward death daily.

My son, this must be put in one of your letters.

Life and death are in the power of the tongue – in the tongue of God, that is, as well as in the tongue of man. Life comes from hearing His voice daily. Death comes from refusing to hear His voice daily. (Proverbs 18:21)

In the Pentecost Method, you speak forth the logos Word to activate it into rhema. That way, the believer does the work.

In the Listening Method, as you hear the Word of God, it (the Word) **IS** rhema. You therefore arrive at your Sabbath rest of listening while God Himself does the work.

In the Pentecost Method, you do the work.

In the Listening Method, God does the work.

In preparing Jesus to become infused with the Godhead bodily, Jesus had listened to the voice of God for a sufficient time according to His (God's) standard. Then God was free and freed to infuse Jesus with the Godhead bodily in order to become God Incarnate.

The super twelve are being trained the same way. The only thing remaining to be done in the lives of the

super twelve is for God to infuse each of them with Himself, that is, with the Godhead bodily, at which time they (the twelve) will each become God Incarnate under the complete authority and direction of the Father.

Thereafter the Father within each one will put His desire in the heart of each new apostle and then as each one speaks, His Word will be done because he will be responding to and speaking the Father's words. It's that simple!

My son, you become what you eat physically **AND** spiritually. As you have been obedient and have listened to Me for these many years, I have been depositing Myself within you. Those words, each of those words, impart the seven characteristics of Myself into the one who hears.

This means that I am imparting Myself into each one who learns to listen and takes time to hear My voice daily. Over time, that one will mature spiritually as he hears My words.

I do the work in the Listening Method. The believer does the work in the Pentecost Method.

In the Pentecost Method, the believer does the work while I, Jehovah God, rest.

In the Listening Method, I, Jehovah God, do the work while the believer rests.

The Listening Method is by far the more efficient because every word is orchestrated by God, Himself, according to one's needs. And that is the most efficient way to be built up in the most Holy faith (Jude 20).

The choice is yours.

In the Pentecost Method, you do the work while I, the Lord God, rest (or listen).

In the Listening Method I, the Lord God, do the work while you rest (or listen).

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:9, 10).

"He sent forth His word and healed them" now has a different meaning, doesn't it?

The method God used to teach Jesus is now available to every servant of God. Jesus was the first fruit or the former rain. In the remaining time before the rapture, every servant of His has the same capacity or capability to hear His voice daily to become the latter rain before the harvest (rapture).

You become what you eat physically **AND** spiritually. (end of prophetic word)

Our next subject may surprise you but one should never be surprised at subjects God brings up. And when He speaks is the time to listen.

In a fallen world, particularly in this twenty-first century, A.D., the enemy takes every opportunity to ply his trade, namely, to steal, kill and destroy everything he comes in contact with. He has been very successful. Strange as it may seem, both God and Satan have equal access to you today. Each is supernatural, but One is

empowered with greater authority than the other. One entices through self, the other beckons through self denied. One draws through love, the other through selfishness and lust. If you have any doubt about the enemy's authority, three times Jesus said that he is the ruler of this world, about which I have previously written.¹

Even if you do not know the Lord personally, obeying the "do's" and the "don't's" of scripture may keep you from the enemy's grip. Satan is the only reason we have the bible, the written word. There was no bible on Earth One because in the beginning it was governed by love. There was no need for an instruction book (bible) on Earth One because everyone was God Incarnated and was guided and directed by His instructions that were spoken internally.

The enemy's methods may appear to be more attractive – with more glitz, glitter and hype, but he ruins everyone who comes to him. Unfortunately, many, far too many of God's precious prodigals, have been "taken in" by the enemy's tactics, shrouded in darkness.

One of the areas in which the enemy has been successful is marriage. The divorce rate in the U.S. is higher than any other nation, according to data I just viewed on a web page. Here is a word God gave me on this subject the morning of December 2, 2010 which I have titled,

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The word I gave you yesterday is important. I cannot reveal Myself to anyone to whom I am not married.²

That is important and something you may announce. It is so simple once understood by revelation.

The marriage ceremony on the earth is also so very simple once both Parties, implored by love (not lust), say to each other from the heart, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." It is only thereafter that I may reveal to My bride (not My betrothed), intimacies of My past of which I am ashamed. Yes, I, Jehovah God, Myself, am ashamed of My past conduct. I became a failure because of My love for man whom I cherish.

And yes, My first marriage ended in divorce. That is why many divorced people overcome their mistake just as I did, and go on to serve Me in the Pentecost method with great success.

Yes, I was married to mankind upon whom I lavished Myself for millennia on Earth One. Then along came someone who seemed to be more attractive than I was and you know the rest of the story.

And yes, I hate divorce because I have been through an unsuccessful marriage.

¹See John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.

²See page two, column one of this letter, item #3. love. In the conclusion of this paragraph you will find the marriage vow, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" as God's proposal to Israel and as the Bridegroom's proposal to His bride and the "acceptance" of the proposal as one is filled with God's love.

The reason I issued strict guidelines for marriage **AND** divorce was because I had been through a divorce and I wanted man to be shielded from My disappointment.

Those strict guidelines were for the Jews to keep them free of Satan's grip. On the other hand, remember that I showed mercy (forgiveness with compassion) to two women.

My son, My guidelines for living have been forged out of My failures.

Now you know.

No one except Jesus and the twelve super apostles are privy to such information. If I suddenly dumped on mankind everything I have shared with you, it would be truth but not conducive to the well-being of mankind whom I love.

Remember, **EVERYONE** who has been deceived by the enemy is My prodigal. And I long to redeem **EVERY ONE** of them. And that is what you (and the eleven) will be doing.

Those who have not crossed the point of no return are all My prodigals. You, My son, (and the eleven) will welcome home many of My prodigals. You (We) will speak with authority never previously granted and will have supernatural credentials to confirm what you say as truth.

Initially, very few will understand the **NEW THINGS** I will be saying through you. But as you (We) speak, you will do so authoritatively and confirm each **NEW THING** with supernatural endowments that will be irrefutable. For that reason, no one will be given an opening to challenge you. Should that occur, the authority within you will speak loudly and clearly the unprofitability of such a challenge, for one may not authoritatively challenge Jehovah God successfully. Remember Elijah's challenge to the 450 prophets of Baal.

Any challenge of your authority by the enemy will be met head-on by My superior supernatural force. That is why We of the heavenly hosts eagerly look forward to your soon release.

Not only has one greater than Solomon come, one greater than any authority granted to man by the enemy has arrived on the scene. That is why We all rejoice, including the Father, Himself, at your soon release.

You, My son (and the other eleven), will vindicate once and for all, My mistaken authority given to Lucifer. That is why, even after your release, you may not understand the way you will bless the heavenly hosts until your earthly cloak is removed at the rapture!

So sit steady in the boat. I am on the way to you walking on the water. But instead of My getting in the boat, I will bid you to come with Me on the most blessed venture mankind has ever experienced. And remember, both I and the Father will relish **EVERYTHING** you and the eleven are called on (given opportunity) to do.

And yes, do with a joyful heart what I have prepared you to do. Enjoy what lies ahead. I (within

you) will be living My dream in you and in the eleven.

Only your supernatural authority demonstrated will confirm as truth the teaching proclamation that proceeds from your mouth.

All of this is why I said to you previously, "Watch carefully what comes out of your mouth."

For your own comfort, remember, your training as outlined in your letter No. 117. You have had the same training that Jesus had. His life proved that which you are about to embark upon. So have no concern about specific performance. All of that has already been seen to for you.

Little did you know in some of your writing **AND** teaching of the past, the impact it would have. You actually taught with an enlarged graphic your seven-year teaching program of the future. That graphic is still valid. You had no idea of its true significance when you taught that lesson. But the important thing is that you were obedient.

My previous instructions on marriage and divorce were put forth as protection from the enemy. But My death, burial and resurrection provided for mercy (forgiveness with compassion) for mistakes made in marriage.

One man for one woman was and still is My design for mankind and for procreation in a fallen world. But seventy times seven provides forgiveness, restitution and a new start after mistakes have been made.

My forgiveness covers **ALL** mistakes man may make in a fallen world. Search the scripture and you will find that is true.

What you (and the eleven) will have going for you that I did not have, is supernatural authority to confirm each new truth you put forth **without any restrictions**. That is what I and the heavenly hosts look forward to with great anticipation.

And yes, final judgment will go forth based on one's knowledge. For that reason, many surprises will come to the fore in My (your) organizational chart for the Millennium. But that organizational chart (staff) will function like a well oiled machine as a blessing to both you and Me, says the Lord.

Satan took My wife of Earth One and ruined her. You have also seen that happen to a friend in your lifetime. Satan ruins everything he gets in to. He is our enemy – he is our target upon your release.

It's not to the swift nor to the worldly wise, but to the faithful, trustworthy and obedient that the prize is given.

The ones who keep their eyes (focus) on the prize of their high calling are given the reward. In that manner I, Myself, fashion, remake and mold one into My Image for service. It can be no other way in a fallen world. No one in a fallen world is fit for My service until that one surrenders totally to Me to be fashioned into My Image. It can be no other way.

How great, indeed, are the rewards of those so chosen.