

## NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 149

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email: [jimash3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimash3@sbcglobal.net)

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

**New Website:** [www.JimAsh3.com](http://www.JimAsh3.com)

All of my letters are now available at my new website designed by Alan Freeman. The four other website features, *Home*, *About me*, *Subscribe* and *Contact*, will be activated as I have time to support Alan Freeman's excellent design work. This website is largely a new work-in-progress

### BY FAITH

The Lord has prompted me – has actually persuaded me – to write this letter. There are some things He has said about me that I would have edited out of His prophetic word, beginning on page four, column one of this letter (*as I have done in the past*), but He specifically told me to leave them in. So I have.

In one sense, the prophetic word in this letter may be construed as boasting, but it is not. The personal things He has said about me in this prophetic word that would have been edited out, have been left in because He instructed me to do so – not once but twice.

You need to know that it makes me uncomfortable to include some of these things in this letter, but I must be obedient regardless of how it may appear to you or to me.

If there is anything in this letter about which to boast, our boasting, yours and mine, must be of Him, for He gave Himself to redeem us so that we might become like Him in our journey on this planet. Therefore, to Him be all the glory – for glorying in Him is the secret of life.

The eleventh chapter is my favorite in the book of Hebrews. It has not always been that way. The reason is that I once thought when the writer of that chapter wrote, "By faith," among those giants of the faith, there seemed to be a certain implied illusionary mystique that was so far beyond me, it was absolutely unattainable. That is what lodged in my mind for years.

Yes, I could have taught from Hebrews chapter eleven, but after sufficient research on each of those fifteen named (many are unnamed) "giants of the faith," my teaching would have mostly been a history lesson on "spiritual giants" of unattainable spiritual stature.

This tells you where I have been.

Then came my "second look" at faith.

It centered around these words penned by Paul in Romans chapter ten:

**11** For the Scripture says, "whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

**12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

**13** For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

**16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

**17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

In the church we once attended, it was taught by implication, but never specifically said, that the *only place the word of God may be found* is in the bible, which is implied by Paul's writing in the above quotation. That started my quest of faith by reading and studying the bible. That also started the *second phase* of my spiritual growth – and I took it seriously.

I began to teach the bible, first in a class of young couples, then later, in a class of older adults. I was a good teacher *by the measure of the denomination we were in*. Knowledge of the bible was both thought and taught to be synonymous with Christian maturity. I would spend hours in preparation to teach and usually knew my lesson well. Little did I know at that time, how shallow my faith was.

Here is something to give you an accurate measure of how shallow that kind of teaching is: A

friend of mine, who was in the Harvard graduate school in 1950, told me that the man who at that time taught theology in the Harvard Divinity School was an atheist. That is hard for spiritually mature believers to accept, but that is fact. There is no doubt that the professor knew his subject, but he obviously did not know the Lord, which I know now is vastly more important. One of those two is a measure of intellect and income and to me, at least, what seems to be, a measure of shrouded hypocrisy. The other is a measure of eternal inheritance that is far beyond intellectual accomplishment.

I am told by my friend, however, that the situation at Harvard has improved considerably since 1950.

Now back to *phase two* of my spiritual pilgrimage.

The church we were in, at the time, believed and taught that the Holy Spirit ceased to be active after the death of the first apostles and after the death of those on whom they had prayed with the laying on of hands to impart the spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:7-10. The Holy Spirit was considered to be a retired Author, at best. This legalistic doctrine puts you in a spiritual prison, where I stayed unknowingly, for about thirteen years. The bars on the windows of that spiritual prison were the legalistic doctrines.

During that period of time in my life, I was holding on to prison bars, believing that I was looking in. Instead, I was looking out, imprisoned by my own doctrine. Then I caught a glimpse of the Lord Jesus, let go of the bars and was set free.

Then someone with whom I was acquainted introduced me to the reality of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That started *phase three* of my spiritual pilgrimage.

The bible then literally became *alive*.

My life changed – again.

My personal relationship with the Lord was established forever – a personal relationship that has grown for years.

*Phase four* of my spiritual pilgrimage began.

I had a personal relationship with the Lord. Many times my prayer life was exciting and real. Not only did I talk to God, *He talked to Me!*

My prayer life grew to two hours a day, guided and directed by the Lord. Here is the way it grew: The Lord taught me to do spiritual warfare – serious spiritual warfare. Here is one example of what He directed me to do and the results:

As directed by the Lord on May 10, 1997, I began to do serious spiritual warfare over every nation under heaven where there was civil war, civil strife, civil unrest or civil disobedience of any type. My intensive spiritual warfare prayers over these nations were concluded with my prayer for the Lord of harvest to send forth reapers – both preachers and angels to reap the harvest. After My general prayers for every nation under heaven, I zeroed in on the civil war in Zaire where Mobutu's reign of terror had ravished that nation for thirty-two years.

On May 17, 1997, seven days after my spiritual warfare over Zaire began, Mobutu's reign of terror ended with his abdication.

The next day, May 18, 1997, Laurent Kabila, head of rebel forces marched into Kinshasa (Capitol), was welcomed by thousands in the streets with chants, applause and waving of flags. **“Our weapons have divine power to destroy strongholds,”** even to depose the thirty-two year reign of terror by a dictator. Zaire's name was then changed to The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Other victories were observed, as well.

You have some idea how that spurred my spiritual warfare effort. Then little by little, my prayers were expanded to include specific spiritual warfare that was extended into specialized prayers that zeroed in on thirteen different specific areas of the everyday life of believers. This has resulted in a Spiritual Warfare Manual that is about ninety percent finished and will be published. It is more than good biblical theory. It is biblical theory that has been proven to be effective on the field of battle.

Remember, my prayer time had expanded to about two hours each morning, much of which was spiritual warfare.

Then one day, the Lord said that I could omit a certain part of my daily prayers. My first thought was, “God, what's the matter with you? You told me to pray these things and now you are telling me what you have told me to pray previously is not important.” He did not *tell me to omit* a certain part of my daily prayers, *He gave me permission* to omit a certain part of my daily prayers. From my journal I found that it took me thirty one days to omit that part of my daily prayers without recurrence. *Phase five* of my spiritual pilgrimage had begun.

God was teaching me obedience. It had never occurred to me that Jehovah God would direct me to pray something daily for several years and then give me

permission to omit that which was formerly essential. His same instruction was given to me several times over a period of several months. Then one day He said to me, “If I tell you that you may omit a certain part of your daily prayers, it will be because that part is no longer necessary, or I will have assigned it to someone else.” That did it. Thereafter, when he told me that I could omit a certain part of my daily prayers, I obeyed immediately.

This prompting by the Lord in my daily prayer life continued over eighteen months. As He gradually diminished my time in prayer, I spent that time recording in my journal the words He said to me. Then one day the Lord said to me, “Hereafter, when you come to spend quiet time with me, **come with no prayer agenda**. If I want you to pray, I will tell you.”

As the Lord diminished my prayer time, He usually filled that gap *with His words to me*. My journaling increased. I journaled the words He said to me, transcribed, printed and filed them in three-ring notebooks. Time spent with Him the first thing every morning remained about the same, but He had gradually diminished my time spent talking to Him and replaced it with His time spent talking to me. My early morning time with Him was about the same, but He had taken over.<sup>1</sup>

This literally changed my life – again. Never had I thought such a thing would occur. Never had I thought such a thing was possible. **He told me that what He wanted to say to me was more important than what I wanted to say to Him.**

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<sup>1</sup>For the Lord Himself to tell me that there is no need to pray when I come before Him in my quiet time on my knees each morning is foreign to everything I had done in my life since I was baptized with the Holy Spirit on November 27, 1965. Nevertheless, when God’s instructions are followed, blessings always ensue. I have found that His rhema words reveal understanding of the “mysteries” and the “hidden things” in the bible, as well as when certain end-time events will occur and “how to” translate certain spiritual truths into our daily life. I now come before Him each morning to hear Him speak instead of Him listening to me speak. There is a vast difference between the two. Additionally, when you learn to listen to Him, He will tell you His will for your life in plain simple words that removes all doubt!

For years my prayer time was monologue, not dialogue, spent on my knees talking to Him for about two hours daily. Over a little more than eighteen months, God changed my prayer time to a different type of monologue where He now does all the talking as I journal His words. The few words I speak now are usually questions or recommittal statements to One whom I know intimately and for whom my love has become boundless.

You have the ability to learn to hear His voice daily.

Then I learned about faith. I learned about God the Father and the Lord Jesus.

Intimacies were revealed to me by the Father and by the Lord Jesus that destroyed a few “sacred cows” of mainstream evangelical teaching, both in their seminaries and from their pulpits, about which I have previously written. All of this came about after the Lord taught me to listen.

At long last, I had discovered that *faith comes by hearing **words from the mouth of God***. I had experienced exactly what Jesus told Satan in His first temptation, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”<sup>2</sup> These words Jesus said to Satan simply mean two things:

(1) We sustain ourselves physically by eating with our mouth, but

(2) we sustain ourselves spiritually by hearing rhema words from the mouth of God.

Faith was no longer a mystery, it became simple. Faith was hearing, and hearing requires listening.

Hebrews chapter eleven was no longer shrouded in impossibility.

The words, “by Faith,” written in the book of Hebrews, chapter eleven, means nothing more complicated than the fact that God spoke to that individual, who obeyed. Please realize, however, that I am not discounting to any degree, the sacrifice made by some of those “giants in the faith.” What I am emphasizing is that the sacrifices and the obedience of everyone listed in Hebrews chapter eleven, *occurred after God had spoken to each one, because faith comes by hearing*.

That puts every believer within the grasp of the “greats” of Hebrews chapter eleven. *Faith is no longer a mystery, but an attainable reality in every believer who learns to listen, because faith comes by hearing*.

Here is an example of how this works. From Genesis chapter four we find that both Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. Cain’s sacrifice was rejected, but Abel’s was accepted. We must go to Hebrews 11:4 to find the answer, which begins with “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.”

Two things are important here. First, we know by comparing both the Genesis account and the Hebrews account, that God obviously talked to both Cain and Abel and gave them the same instructions

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<sup>2</sup>Matthew 4:4.

because that's what "by faith" means. The next key word is "sacrifice." The word *sacrifice* implies the shedding of blood, for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Cain's *sacrifice* was the fruit of the ground – something he had produced with his own effort, which means Cain was disobedient. Abel's sacrifice was the firstborn of his flock. Abel was obedient. Isn't that simple?

With this as an introduction, here now are words on this same subject given to me by the Lord the morning of Monday, April 25, 2011:

"My son, realize that you are blessed and highly favored by Me – actually more so than many of My servants in this rapture generation.

"While the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews seems to be your favorite chapter, you, My son, are living your own "Hebrews chapter eleven."

"By faith you walk in excellent health at ninety-one years of age.

"By faith you have no acute or chronic illnesses.

"By faith you are on no medication.

"By faith you will not get sick.

"By faith you will not die.<sup>3</sup>

"By faith you will be raptured.

"By faith you know the "when" of end-time events prophesied in scripture.

"By faith you know the "how to" of My instructive words that are otherwise hidden from view.

"By faith you know the year in which the rapture will occur.

"By faith you know when you will return with Me to put down the Armageddon insurrection and clean up the battlefield.

"By faith you know you will live "at My side" on My staff in Jerusalem during the Millennium.

"By faith you know you will remain alive with Me forevermore throughout all eternity.

"My son, because I taught you to listen to Me daily and because of your obedience, trustworthiness and faithful response, all of these things have been made known to you.

"Have I not said that you are not nearly as impressed with your walk with Me as I am and as others

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<sup>3</sup>More than seven years ago God spoke to me and said that I would not die but would be raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Since then two Spirit filled believers have prophesied the same thing to me without knowing that their prophecies were confirmation of what God had said to me.

will be? Have I not said that you are not as impressed with your writing as I am and as others will be? This is neither criticism nor rebuke, but truth.

"My son, you can write your own "by faith" chapter of Hebrews that will be beyond that of many others. You are special to me as you know.

"In your writing, before you finish, you might write your own "by faith" chapter. It will be an eye-opener to your readers. Although you began to walk in health by learning to speak the logos into rhema, My teaching you to listen to Me daily is a much better way to walk with Me because **EVERY WORD** you hear from My mouth is rhema. That means *every rhema word* you hear from My mouth contains these seven characteristics of Myself, Jehovah God: spirit, life, love, truth, light, food(*spiritual*) and faith (*which comes from hearing*).

"Therefore, as you learn to listen and to give Me the opportunity to speak to you *at the beginning of each day*, I begin to impart Myself to you in My words. In that manner you will gradually be changed into My likeness – **into Myself**.<sup>4</sup>

"My son, it would be good for you to write for publication your own "Hebrews chapter eleven."<sup>5</sup> You have actually done that in your writing by implication, but it would be good for that not to remain *hidden* in implication, but revealed for all to see.

"I know you are reluctant to do this, but do it for Me, My son. If you will do it for Me, I will be able to do it for others as well. If you will do it for Me, it will be no more than your testimony. And if you have lived it and remain alive forevermore, it is worth publishing.

"No one else has this blessing as you do. So publish these things for Me, My son, so that I may showcase Myself, for I am no respecter of persons.

"This will need to be done delicately and with discretion, but I trust you to do that for Me.

"No one else has your testimony.

"My people need to see someone like you with whom I walk and talk daily. Few know Me, My son, as you know me. So write about this issue, but do it delicately and with discretion and I will bless it

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<sup>4</sup>Saints of God, pay attention to these words from the mouth of God. ***They are for you*** once you learn to listen to His voice. This is descriptive of everyone on Earth One originally and is also descriptive of Adam and Eve before they sinned.

<sup>5</sup>I am preparing my own "Hebrews chapter eleven" to be published after My release.

Myself.” (End of prophetic word)

In addition to prompting by the Lord to publish what He gave me in the above prophetic word, He spoke to me again to reinforce His instructions in the following word given to me the morning of April 29, 2011:

“So you see how far you have come. Actually how far I have brought you through your own obedience, for *obedience* is one of the keys to life. *Faithfulness* is a second and *trustworthiness* is the third. Therein lies happiness, contentment and fulfillment.

“I know you have been reluctant to write in your Hebrews eleven letter what I said to you, but if you will *leave My words intact*, that letter will have a greater impact for **Me**, My son. That letter exalts **My** virtues. That’s what **I** want to do.

“And you may add the other “by faith” items if you like. They are truth, but they need to be made known. Your release into ministry will validate everything in that letter, so use it for Me.

“Give Me the credit for this letter in the beginning. That will take some of the pressure off of you – not all – but most of the pressure.

“And also cite Paul’s defense of his writing. That will help bridge the gap.”<sup>6</sup>

(End of prophetic word)

Saints of God, this letter is proof that the Pentecost Method will take you to the launch pad, but the Listening Method will take you through ignition and lift off.

You will like the ride.

#### A MANDATE FROM GOD

I have been directed by God to write what He gives me and I have been obedient. For a number of years, everything I have written has been a direct quotation from the mouth of God verbatim or sourced from His words to me. On several occasions God has given me a mandate to publish a prophetic rhema word He has given me. When God issues a mandate to publish something He has said to me, this means that He attaches more importance to that word than to others He has given to me. Every word that comes from His mouth is important. But when He issues a mandate to

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<sup>6</sup>See 2 Corinthians chapters 11, 12, and 13 for Paul’s boasting. In those three chapters, he spends more time explaining his boasting and defending himself than I have. But the principle is the same.

publish something He has said, it is time to pay special attention and listen carefully.

A mandate is an official order, command or commission to act on behalf of an authority, and in this case, the authority is Jehovah God. Enough said.

Jehovah God, therefore, has said that the following prophetic word is

- (1) very important for me to publish and
- (2) also important for everyone to pay attention

to.

This prophetic rhema word contains only 723 words, but everyone of them is for every believer in this rapture generation.

To put this in perspective, there are 783,258 words in the King James version of the bible. I have transcribed more prophetic rhema words than that from my journal. The 723 words in the following mandated prophetic word is less than one-tenth of one percent of the prophetic rhema words I have transcribed from my journal, but it contains life transforming words from the mouth of God that tell in condensed form what I have been writing about for years.

The following word was given to me the morning of Sunday, June 5, 2011. Listen carefully. This word is for you:

“Yes, this is a new day. Remember, I said, ‘Do not forget to ask.’ Many of My children go without because they do not ask Me.

“In some cases, they do get around to asking Me, but only after everything else and everyone else fails to provide the needed answer.

“So, the first step is consecration to discover relationship. One must know that *I am* in order to discover *that* relationship. Most of My people believe that *I was*. They believe that *I was* with Adam – that *I was* with Noah. They believe that *I was* with Abram, Moses and the prophets.

“They believe that *I was* with Jesus and with Paul and the others who wrote the New Testament. But all of that occurred hundreds – some even thousands – of years ago.

“For that reason My people believe today that I am not the Great *I am* but instead that I am the Great *I was*. *I am* is eternal present tense but *I was* is always past tense. Some have even ventured into the *I never was* or into the *I never will* areas.

“My son, teach My people that I, Jehovah God, am a very personal God. That occurred in Adam, for he was God Incarnate before he sinned, just as Jesus

became God Incarnate<sup>7</sup> after John's baptism.

"When one becomes God Incarnate, that means all the fulness of the Godhead *bodily* resides as a spirit within that individual. **That is the ultimate spiritual growth in this rapture generation.**

"In order to mature from *I was* to *God Incarnate*, one must discover the *I am*. That begins with consecration. As one becomes consecrated to Me, he then matures from *I was* to *I am*.

"After one experiences the *I am* of Myself for a sufficient period of time, he is ready for the next step – the Listening Method of spiritual maturity. Then as one learns to listen daily and remains obedient, faithful and trustworthy, each day he takes the time to hear words from My mouth, he will grow spiritually by the power of My spoken rhema words.

"The way I created the earth, the sun, moon, the stars and everything that lives on planet earth, was by speaking words from My mouth.

"Words that come from My mouth are always creative. When one learns to listen to Me daily and remains faithful, obedient and trustworthy, by no effort of his own, he slowly but surely, will be transformed once again into Our image – into Our likeness.<sup>8</sup>

"Every word that one hears from Me removes a small part of the dross from his life while simultaneously certain attributes of Myself are imparted to him to fill the void.

"In that manner alone, and in that way alone, may one become transformed or changed from one degree of glory to another to become God Incarnate.<sup>9</sup>

**"That is My goal for man in the remaining years of this rapture generation. And that method of spiritual growth is available to every believer today.**

"From *I was* to *I am*.

"From *I am* to consecration.

"From consecration to relationship.

"From relationship to the reality of My presence.

"From the reality of My presence to the

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<sup>7</sup>Since the first Adam was God Incarnate, Jesus, whom Paul called the "last Adam" was also God Incarnate. Both were initially filled with all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9).

<sup>8</sup>Adam and Eve were created, "in our image – in our likeness" meaning that both Adam and Eve were created as God Incarnate individuals.

<sup>9</sup>This means that every believer has the potential of becoming God Incarnate in this rapture generation by learning to hear the voice of God 24/7 and becoming obedient, faithful and trustworthy in his relationship with God!

Listening Method.

"From the Listening Method to God Incarnate.

"Admittedly, that is a brief outline, but it is real and it is available to *every believer* today in this rapture generation.

"I have said it to you this day and I will bring it to pass in My people as I have outlined it to you this day.

**"Proclaim it, My son, for all to hear, for it is My special truth for today, says the Lord of hosts to you this morning.**

"My precious twelve new apostles will be able to demonstrate this to My poor church and to My precious prodigals and to My lost world.

"Many will listen and hear to be gloriously (sozo) saved, as never before in large numbers, for multitudes will hear and believe when signs, wonders and miracles, confirm My message through My special twelve, who will go forth as God Incarnate, with more authority to defeat the enemy than has been demonstrated on the earth previously, says God to you this morning.

**"Proclaim this message from the house tops, My son, for this is My mandate to you this day."**

(End of prophetic word)

Please hear and heed the following prophetic word given to me the morning of March 25, 2012:

"Until one is able and completely willing to surrender himself or herself to Me for My use unconditionally, that person has not begun to live.

"My son, warn those who want to live their own life, separate and apart from such commitment, that they are in dangerous territory, They are bait for the enemy and he will know that and will take advantage of that opportunity.

"You can't walk a narrow line of indecision and wait until the last minute to decide on which way to jump – on which side to take! **One who so lives his life is bait for the enemy and is flirting with eternity in the lake of fire!** No one can afford such reckless conduct!"