

Copyright April 10, 1998

## TEST NUMBER TWO

On April 25, 1997, here are the words I got from the Holy Spirit, which to me were both unexpected and unusual: "Dispose of your bar supplies!" This was my second test in preparation for a new ministry the Lord had prophesied to me.<sup>1</sup> But interestingly enough, like the first test, this word did not disturb me. I was completely at peace in considering what I had been instructed to do. In my bar was a small wine rack that contained some carefully selected white and red wines, along with some brandy, vermouth, several different brands of bourbon, two types of gin, several liqueurs including a delicious and expensive one made from blackberries, several types of expensive scotch including both blended and two single malt brands, and other miscellaneous supplies. A friend of mine took all of my bar supplies, and some small miscellaneous bar equipment, which I unloaded at bargain prices. I still am not sure why I was instructed to dispose of my bar supplies. However, I did as I was instructed to do in this second test given to me by the Lord since I started this journey in January of 1996.

Doing this because the Lord instructed me to do so, reminds me of the first time His communication came to me in the form of a scripture verse. About thirty-two years ago He said to me, "*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*"<sup>2</sup> At the time I had no idea where this scripture was located in the bible. These were words spoken to Saul by the Judge and Prophet, Samuel, after Saul as King had disobeyed God's instructions. He was influenced by the men in his victorious army to *do something for God*, in direct contradiction to God's instruction through His Prophet, and it cost him his

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<sup>1</sup>My first test came on July 15, 1996 when the Holy Spirit said to me, "Give away your watch," which I wrote about in my **Christmastime 1997** letter, page 2.

<sup>2</sup>1 Samuel 15:22 (b).

Kingdom.<sup>3</sup> Although Saul was clothed with humility,<sup>4</sup> after his victory over the Amalekites, as King of Israel he feared the men in his army,<sup>5</sup> obeyed their voice rather than that of God's Prophet, and built a monument to himself.<sup>6</sup> The lesson, in part, is this: obeying God is better than doing something for God which He did not request. And in like manner, to hearken to His voice<sup>7</sup> is better than the fat of rams.<sup>8</sup>

In conclusion, when the Lord instructs you to do something, whether you understand it or not, there is always a blessing in obedience.

## DON'T OVERLOAD THE BOAT

About the middle of April, 1997, Dale (my wife) and I were invited to join the Executive Board of a Christian school headquartered in Harlingen, Texas. The purpose of the School is to provide church pastors in Mexico, Central and South America with a two-month intensive training course to become more efficient at bringing souls into the kingdom. After becoming acquainted with some of the people involved, we became sold on the young school and its mission. We also realized that we would enjoy the association with other Board members and could possibly offer some help with their objective.

My second thought was to pray about this -- to seek the Lord's guidance, which I did. Then after a

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<sup>3</sup>For the complete story of Saul's being anointed as king over Israel, his victory over the Amalekites, his disobedience and rejection as king, read the 15th chapter of 1 Samuel.

<sup>4</sup>1 Samuel 15:19.

<sup>5</sup>1 Samuel 15:24.

<sup>6</sup>1 Samuel 15:12.

<sup>7</sup>To hearken means (1) to listen, (2) to hear and (3) to obey the voice of the Lord, in this case the voice of God's Prophet.

<sup>8</sup>The Mosaic law declared that to the Lord belongs all the fat of sacrificial animals. (Leviticus 3:16, 17). Neither the fat nor the blood was eaten. The fat was burned as an offering to God, see Exodus 29:13, 22 and Leviticus 4:8, 9. The basis of this law was that the fat was the richest part of the animal, and therefore belonged to God. The word is used figuratively to mean the best part of a thing or the richest productions. See Psalm 63:5; Isaiah 25:6; Romans 11:17.

short wait, on May 5, 1997, the Lord gave me His answer with these words, “*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.<sup>9</sup> To make your calling and election sure,<sup>10</sup> stay true to your calling and election.*” With these words, the meaning was clear to me. Beginning over thirty-two years ago, God had called me to a ministry which He is now expanding. Although I did not know it at the time, He was also preparing to finalize two other ministries for me. These words were His way of saying to me, “*You have asked Me to use you -- now listen to Me. Hearken unto My voice.*” Thus, we declined the opportunity to become involved with the school. From this I learned a lesson: *God will not overload your boat (schedule). You or I may do so, but He will not.* To hearken unto *His voice* is the sure way -- and it doesn’t get any better than that! I know because I have tried it both ways.

Then I remembered my commitment to the Lord in January of 1996, when I began to free up some time in my personal schedule. My prayer was for Him to use me, in the additional time available, to glorify the Name of the Lord Jesus. And so another lesson was emphasized. When you ‘sell out’ to Jesus, make Him Lord of your life and ask Him to use you, your life is no longer your own to do with as you please.<sup>11</sup> This, of course, applies to pastors and others who are called to a full-time ministry. But it also applies to those like you and me, who have some time available, or who will make some time available to the Lord in their personal schedule.<sup>12</sup> I had made a request (and a vow) to the Lord, Who always keeps His Word and He was now seeing that I was true to mine by listening to Him and awaiting His guidance.

To repeat what I have written before,

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<sup>9</sup>Romans 11:29.

<sup>10</sup>2 Peter 1:10.

<sup>11</sup>Every follower of Jesus was bought with His precious blood at the cross, which cleanses believers from all sin as we walk in the light. See 1 John 1:7.

<sup>12</sup>Within a few years after accepting the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Lord spoke to me one day and said, “You are not to preach the gospel.” Not long after that He spoke to me again and said, “Your work is your ministry.” This was a blessing because for many years, as I got dressed and went to work each morning, I realized I was going to do the Lord’s work. You can always learn something about both the Lord and an individual, by what He says to that person.

Christianity was never intended to be a religion. It was, and is, intended to be a *personal relationship with Jesus*. The scriptures are replete with references to such a life. And this relationship is there for the asking. Once you make a total commitment to Him, the best rule is to ask for guidance from the One Who owns you. Then await His response. He has the right to do that which pleases Him with that which is His own. And serving Him in an activity He has led you to do, is such a great blessing. It will pay dividends, the value of which is far beyond our finite mind to comprehend, for “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”<sup>13</sup>

On the other hand, there is a cost to be paid, for becoming a servant of God. Ministry is like the iceberg that sunk the Titanic. Only one-eighth is visible, representing ministry seen by others. The unseen seven-eighths represents the cost of making the one-eighth visible. But if you look only at the cost, you may likely waver. If so, that’s because your eyes are on self which is Satan’s beguiling way of deceiving you. But once you catch a glimpse of the Lord Jesus, the cost becomes the greatest investment you can make, leveraged to acquire *real wealth* beyond your imagination. There is a lot of talk today about Social Security, Retirement Trusts, Pension Benefits and 401 (k)’s which I completely support and understand. But beyond that, God has a retirement plan more valuable than all the gold in Ft. Knox and He is still looking for volunteers. To enlist in His Secret Service as a volunteer will bring the thrill of adventure, take the ‘humdrum - ho-hum’ out of life and make it worth living.

## STRONGHOLD WARFARE

It was on or about May 10, 1997, that I extended my intercessory prayer ministry to include spiritual warfare in every nation, world-wide, where there is civil disturbance of any kind, including war, wanton carnage, strife, unrest, disobedience. I first “bind the strong man”<sup>14</sup> over these areas and then deal

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<sup>13</sup>1 Corinthians 2:9.

<sup>14</sup>For initial understanding of this principle of spiritual warfare, read Mark 16:17, Matthew 12:27 - 30 and Daniel 10:12, 13, 20 & 21. There are many other scriptures that support the reality of this activity.

with the demonic forces controlling or influencing the individuals engaged in such activities. About a week after I began this spiritual warfare in my daily prayers, on May 17, 1997, Mobutu's thirty-two year reign of terror in Zaire ended with his abdication. The next day, on May 18, Laurent Kabila, head of rebel forces marched into Kinshasa (Capitol of Zaire), welcomed by thousands in the streets with chants, applause and waving of flags.

One month later Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot surrendered in the jungles of northern Cambodia on June 18, 1997. Pot is blamed for deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during four brutal years of Khmer Rouge rule.

Shortly after Mobutu's abdication, the name of the Nation of Zaire was changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I have no idea how many other Christians were praying for the situation in Zaire and Cambodia. Perhaps there were hundreds of thousands, or maybe more. But this one thing I do know: *strongholds* of Satan are not destroyed by carnal weapons. They are destroyed by spiritual weapons. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthian Church, "For though we live in the world, we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly [not guns, tanks, planes, bombs or missiles] but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."<sup>15</sup> The Apostle also wrote to the Church in Ephesus, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against

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<sup>15</sup>2 Corinthians 10:3-5, RSV, (brackets and bold print added). **Strongholds** of Satan are created by lies that people believe. The more who believe a lie, the more powerful that stronghold will be. Hitler's extermination of six million Jews and five million others, the wanton carnage in Bosnia, a school yard massacre in Jonesboro, Arkansas, eleven young people in Plano, Texas killed by overdoses of heroin since 1996 and senseless drive-by shootings are examples of Satan's strongholds. The Church is not only not immune from such attacks, the Church is **the target** of those attacks. Witness the downfall of televangelists, as well as pastors, both Protestant and Catholic, in recent years. One of Satan's names is *The Accuser of the Brethren*. His attack against Christians is stepped up in these "last days" because he knows his time is short. Christians need to be armed for this battle and also need to know how to use spiritual weapons (the whole armor of God) in the fight.

the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.<sup>16</sup>

About 5:30 A.M. on February 18, 1998, I had this dream:<sup>17</sup> Someone led me to a cliff overlooking a large valley which was filled with people standing up, some with spears, some with shields, helmets and armor as prepared for battle. It was dark, so I could not see the end of the valley. The One leading me said, "*This is the victory you have been fighting for.*" Even as I am writing this on my word processor, I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

#### FORTIFICATION AGAINST STRONGHOLDS

About 4:30 A.M. on May 13, 1997, I was awakened with these words, "Lord of harvest." I immediately knew what this meant: another addition to my intercessory prayers. And it was a blessing -- the last piece of the puzzle, or the icing on the cake, whichever you prefer. On two different occasions Jesus used this phrase in talking with His disciples as recorded by Matthew and Luke. The Matthew account was when Jesus looked with compassion on the multitudes because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. The Luke account preceded His sending out of the seventy. He said the same thing on both occasions except for one word, according to the NKJV: "The harvest truly is plentiful [great] but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the *Lord of the harvest* to send out laborers into His harvest."<sup>18</sup> In my daily intercessory prayers, I now ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers to every city, county, state and nation on every continent and every island, all over the world, to preach the gospel in order to reap His harvest.

With this word from the Lord, my teaching and instruction on intercessory prayer seemed complete and balanced. In summary, *for me* it covered my cleansing,

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<sup>16</sup>Ephesians 6:11, 12, RSV. For a description of God's armor, read verses 13 through 18.

<sup>17</sup>In these last days, God will cause Christians to prophecy and He will also communicate with them by means of dreams and visions, according to the Prophet Joel (Joel 2:28, 29), and confirmed by the Apostle Peter, as the keynote speaker on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, as recorded in Acts 2:17 - 21.

<sup>18</sup>Matthew 9:37, 38; Luke 10:2.

and receiving God's forgiveness through forgiving others. *For others* it is providing stabilization of civil governments, spiritual warfare against civil wrongs, and salvation for those who will accept it. By way of review, here is the scenario of God's leading me into this ministry after my prayer beginning in January, 1996:

- 3/1/96 "Redeem the time. Be bold in prayer."
- 9/5/96 "Holy Spirit rain on me."
- 9/20/96 "Purge me with hyssop and I will be clean."
- 9/27/96 World-wide forgiveness experience.  
Elevated to a new position of boldness and authority in prayer.
- 10/15/96 "Fast"
- 11/25/96 "Come boldly to the throne of grace."
- 4/15/97 "My family is Israel."
- 4/19/97 Teaching on prayer for Civil governments.
- 5/5/97 "Do what I tell you to do, not what others ask you to do and thus fulfill My call on your life."
- 5/7/97 "I will not let you misuse spiritual gifts I give you to glorify My Name."
- 5/13/97 "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers into His harvest."

From the above record, you can see that It took from January of 1996 to May 13, 1997 (sixteen and one-half months), for the Lord to tell me what He wanted me to do, and then to instruct me how to proceed with the intercessory prayer ministry. There are many other things He said to me -- taught me during this period, some of which I hope to share with you later. By way of explanation, I would *never* have entered into this kind of world-wide intercessory prayer, without His leading and guidance. I asked Him to use me to glorify the name of our Lord Jesus, and soon thereafter He said, "I will honor your request, but expect the unexpected." His words are Truth and Life. I never *expected* such a thing to happen. But as I am obedient to His instruction, I believe by faith, that what He has told me to do, is *changing lives* all over the world. Not because I am involved, but because of Who He is. As the Prophet Isaiah expressed it, "So shall my word be that goes forth from My mouth, it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please,

and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."<sup>19</sup>

### PHYSICIAN, HEAL YOURSELF!<sup>20</sup>

Shortly after September of 1996, when the Lord first began to teach me about international intercessory prayer and led me into the principle of world-wide forgiveness, I grew impatient. I knew what He had given me had blessed my life and was powerful, but I didn't understand it. On one occasion, I shared this experience with five people in the House of Prayer, hoping the Lord might give one of them a prophetic word of explanation on this teaching. That didn't happen, although there were several prophecies given over me that day. A few months later, while still impatient, I started to share the same thing with two other people who were in our Sunday night growth group, only to realize that this was not the Lord's will. So I say to you, it's time *I learned from my own teaching, or **healed my own impatience.*** Many times I have said to others, "The Lord's timing is just as much a part of His will as His way is." Perhaps I have learned that lesson myself this time, at least for now. So many times when I pray, I want to drive through God's golden arches and pick up my "happy meal" **right then.** But He is gracious, loving and patient and never chides me for my immaturity. What a lesson! What a God to serve!

### PRAYER POWER

Sketch and commentary on prayer superimposed here. See file folder for copy for reproduction.

....more later, the Lord willing..

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<sup>19</sup>Isaiah 55:11

<sup>20</sup>For the setting of these words of Jesus, read Luke 4:18 - 27.