

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**HOW TO KNOW
THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR YOUR LIFE
PART SIX**

This letter is a continuation of my sharing with you examples of how the Lord has led me to do His will in my life. Here are four more personal examples.

A "Last Days" Dream

If memory serves me correctly, it was in the latter part of 1994 that the Lord gave me a "Joel 2"¹ dream. Here is the content of that dream:

Two framed, numbered, hand colored reproductions hang on the wall in front of my desk. They are titled "Upstream" and "Downstream" and each depicts a fly-fisherman standing in a clear running stream holding a bowed fly-rod with a taunt line and a satisfied expectant look on his face. I saw these two pictures in the dream and as I viewed them the one on the right evolved into a landscape which became a vineyard. I then found myself walking in that vineyard. The vines were staked and laid out in rows about four or five feet apart with the same spacing between each vine. The vineyard looked as though it was "laid out" by a surveyor with each row as straight as an arrow and with the vines spaced equidistantly. The ground had a rich, fertile-looking, light brown color and had been recently plowed. Each vine had been properly pruned for the new growing season. There was not a single weed nor a blade of grass in sight. The vines were about four to five feet high, three to three and one-half inches in diameter, had no fruit but were laden with new green growth that might occur in late Spring, during the early part of the growing season. From the care given to the vineyard, it was apparent that there would be an abundant harvest. It is interesting that I remember the details of the dream as I write this letter six years later. But that is usually the way when the Lord gives you a dream or vision during these "last days." Although I knew the dream was from

¹See Joel 2:28-32 (a) for the "last days" significance. The Apostle Peter quoted from these verses as the key-note speaker in the first sermon ever preached offering Christ as the Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer of mankind. See Acts 2:24-40 for the "text" of his message.

the Lord, I had no idea what it meant. It was four years later before He revealed its meaning.

After my morning prayer time and a light breakfast, on September 4, 1998, I was standing at the breakfast bar in our kitchen where I had left a pen and a legal pad on which I made some prayer notes. It was about 8:30 that morning as I picked up the pen and was given these words:

The Dream Interpreted

You are in My territory doing the things I have told you to do. As you proceed by faith, doors will open, barriers will come down and work will be done. Then the vineyard will bring forth an abundant harvest. The vineyard I showed you in a dream was a reality. The immaculately cared for vineyard – the pruned, staked vines, spaced evenly apart in straight rows – the tilled fertile ground, without weeds and grass, was My vineyard in your keeping. The immaculate care of the vineyard reflected the care given to the details of your life to keep it clean, neat and in order by doing the things I have told you to do. As you continue therein, the harvest will be abundant. But it will be My harvest because you have been obedient. It will be My harvest because you have walked by faith. It will be My harvest because it has been My plan.

My son, be prepared for a change in your life. But do not be reluctant to change as I speak. It will be as it was with the crosses.² I put the thought in your mind to quit making them, which you resented at first because you were uncertain of the origin of the thought. Then I

²For about four years I made wooden crosses which I gave away. The crosses were made from cherry and maple, two hard-woods which worked well within the small tolerances required to produce a nice-looking finished product. Then suddenly one day the thought popped into my mind to quit making the crosses. At first I resented the thought, for, after all, I used the crosses as a "conversation piece" to talk about the Lord, was my way of rationally thinking. The very idea, I thought, of *not making the crosses*, was ridiculous. Only as I later learned that it was the Lord who put the thought in my mind was I able to quit making them without the resentment that came at first. This was a good lesson. The Lord does not need us to "do something for Him." He wants His servants to be obedient to His instruction, for "to obey is better than sacrifice." (See 1 Samuel 15:22). Giving up what *we want* for something He wants is what it's all about.

took away the desire to make them and you accepted the change as My will. That's the way it works at times. That is why I desire to give you the desire of your heart. When I put the desire there, the result is as though it was your desire first. But that is not so. It was first My desire given to you quietly, without fanfare. Then in the transfer, My desire becomes your desire and the work has begun.

My son because you have been faithful in little things,³ I will put you over greater things, things greater than you expect or imagine. But stay close to Me, prayed up and available. Again I say, do not be reluctant to accept the changes in your life as I lead, as I speak, as I nudge, for there is much work to do.

Keep the vineyard well cared for. Prune and water the vines. Keep the field clear of weeds and grass which can spring up and choke or impede the growth of the fruit for an abundant harvest.

The vineyard, My son, is the world – your part of the world I have given to you to tend. Tend it well for My harvest to be rapid and abundant. Tend it well so both the laborer and the Owner of the vineyard may rejoice together.

My son do not be reluctant to tackle ANYTHING I tell you to do.⁴ As you obediently respond by faith, I can lead you. Indeed nothing can prevent My leading you to accomplish that which I have sent you to do. What you are engaged in has been in the preparation

³Over thirty years ago the Lord spoke to me one day and said, **“The smaller things are greater than the great things.”** This is something God has said to me that is true both in the world and in the kingdom. So many times we may want something from the Lord or desire an answer to a prayer without realizing God may be estopped from responding to our needs because our request or some small detail in our life is “out of sync” with His Word. There may be times when one is unwilling to face up to something in his own life that needs to be straightened out and then rushes out to “do something for God” that only represses that small hidden thing which **must be brought to light** and dealt with in order to release God's blessing. To receive from God we must be at peace with Him, with our neighbor and with ourselves. This is a sure avenue of blessing. Being faithful in the “little things” is preparation for promotion.

⁴This statement says it all. God is looking for common, ordinary, “garden-variety type” believers who will deny self and totally surrender to Him. He can then empower such a one to accomplish things never dreamed of “in the natural.” Only in such “calling” and surrender is God glorified. Our God is a “plain people” God who desires to inspire you to accomplish **His** dreams – dreams He *implants* into your heart so that in time it becomes **your** desire.

stage for many years.⁵ The time to act is now. The time to be diligent is now. Behold today is the day of salvation for indeed your salvation draws nigh.⁶ Be attentive. Enjoy the work. Revel in My blessings. Peace, shalom, amen.

There is much wisdom in these prophetic words. Once one's life is totally given to the Lord, one does not arrive at instant success or victory. The biggest problem one faces in this life is *self* which must be totally denied. That is easily said but hard to completely understand and accomplish. The “how to” takes a lifetime but is the greatest investment one can make. Only that part of self which is denied is accessible for use by our Lord. Each of us has his own cross on which self must be denied or crucified.⁷

A Wheel Chair Deliverance

On Wednesday, March 5, 1997, I played the piano in the Health Care Unit of a Retirement Center/Nursing Home complex in north Dallas. For those of you who don't know, the Health Care Unit in a Nursing Home means “hospital.” Most everyone there was immobile as well as physically and/or emotionally unstable. The attendants would bring residents in wheel chairs to a large room where I would present my piano program. On this particular day about twenty-five residents were waiting for me when I arrived. About midway into my program a man in a wheel chair to the right of my piano began to utter continued loud guttural hissing sounds. And they grew louder until it was disrupting my program. An attendant then walked over to the man and began to wheel him out of the room. As this was being done, I discerned that the reason for this sudden disruptive behavior could be a demon who was troubling or tormenting the man. Then, under the sound

⁵God is not a “quick fix” nor does He have a “drive thru” window. He is a permanent solution. Serve Him faithfully. Preparation for His call on your life is the greatest investment one can make.

⁶I have been told to “warn those who are not saved.” I listen to Evangelists who hear from the Lord, preaching, “He is coming soon.” The conclusion of the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to the Apostle John in Patmos prison is, “Surely I am coming quickly.” (See Revelation 22:20). I believe the reason this admonition was given to the Apostle John about 1915 years ago, as well as to Evangelists and other servants of God today, is because the more people who believe it and respond, the sooner His coming (the Rapture of the Church) will occur.

⁷See Luke 9:23.

of my piano music, I rebuked the demon and commanded him get out of that man in the Name of Jesus and not come back and he stopped hissing instantly. Whereupon the attendant immediately stopped in his tracks and left the man in the room for the remainder of my piano playing. It took me about twenty or twenty-five minutes to complete my program during which time the man did not utter a single sound. Of course, no one knew what I had done or why the man quit hissing. After my program was finished, as I was leaving the Health Care Unit that day, I remember thinking, "It will be interesting to observe this man when I come back next Wednesday to see how the 'deliverance' affects his conduct a week later." But the next week when I arrived to start my program, I was disappointed to discover that the man was gone. That, of course, occurs in Nursing Homes. People are moved when their condition changes. I have no idea how the man "fared" after I called out of his body a demon that was troubling or tormenting him. It is my considered judgment that too often Nursing Home residents are victims of the enemy's onslaught. On one other occasion, I was able to minister to a Nursing Home resident in a similar fashion. There is much to learn about Nursing Home ministry in this area.

The usual procedure for those of us in the Deliverance and Inner Healing Ministry is not to make it a practice to expel a demon or demons from someone who is not a believer because he may end up with seven times as many demons.⁸ The point of Jesus' teaching on this subject is that when you expel demons from someone, that person needs to be a born-again believer, in whom resides the Holy Spirit, to whom He has given the authority to "cast out demons in His Name."⁹ Only then may one be filled, taught and equipped to deal with and repel any further intruders.

What About My Family?

As I have previously written, it was about 7:45 A.M. on Monday, November 29, 1965, that God answered my prayer for baptism of the Holy Spirit in

⁸Jesus taught on this principle as recorded in Matthew 12:43-45 and Luke 11:24-26: "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

⁹See Mark 16:17.

such a spectacular way that it changed my life forever. In a brief moment of time the Lord showed me a vision in bright white light and spoke to me in that "still small voice" that Elijah heard in the cave that day.¹⁰ Interestingly enough, prior to that moment, the doctrine of cessation¹¹ was taught in the absolute in the Church I was in at that time. Furthermore, to disagree with that doctrine to the point of receiving that which the doctrine precluded was absolute heresy. It simply wasn't allowed. But in a brief moment, God absolutely destroyed in me that false doctrine of cessation, which I now believe to be one of the weapons Satan uses to divide the family of God on the earth. Once you believe and teach that "God doesn't do that any more" (such things as spiritual dreams, visions, hearing His voice and other miraculous manifestations including gifts of the Spirit) and then have those Spiritual manifestations to occur in *your life*, the ball game changes. One test is worth a thousand expert opinions.

Soon after I was freed from my doctrinal prison, I began to pray daily and ask the Lord to bless others with the same blessing: an intimate, warm and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus that I discovered through baptism of the Holy Spirit. My prayer list started with my family, my wife's family, our family and then spread out to my friends and other acquaintances. Very shortly my method changed from praying for individuals to praying for families simply as a time saver. That practice continues to this very day, thirty-five years later, and that circle of families has grown considerably and still continues to grow. Although that circle of families is large, I have found if one is added occasionally, it is easily remembered when practiced daily.

After I had been praying daily for my circle of families for a year or two, the Lord spoke to me very clearly during my prayer time one morning and said, "*What about My family?*" Guess whose family went to the top of my prayer list thereafter? I previously *never* considered praying for the Lord's family – it simply never entered my mind. But one *remembers the Lord's admonition!* Even though I had neglected praying for *His* family, I felt no guilt, shame or remorse at His corrective admonition. What a wonderful God we serve!

¹⁰See 1 Kings 19:11, 12.

¹¹The belief that certain of the miraculous manifestations and spiritual gifts of the first century A.D. *ceased* with the death of the original Apostles.

Admittedly, more than once I had wondered for whom I was praying as “His family.” I assumed it could be the born-again believers. Or on the other hand, I had wondered if it might be mankind, since God the Father created us all. This was never a concern of mine although it crossed my mind occasionally.

Now fast forward from the date he gave me this *correction* (about 1966-67) to Tuesday, April 15, 1997, thirty or thirty-one years later. On that Tuesday I happened to see the word “Israel” in a publication we had received in the mail. And in that moment the Holy Spirit quickened to my heart/mind/spirit that “My family” meant the nation of Israel – the flesh and blood relatives of Jesus Himself. It instantly occurred to me that I had been praying daily for every descendant of Abram, Isaac and Jacob for thirty or thirty-one years! You can imagine what this did to me – for me. The impact was overwhelming. It showed me something about the humanity of Jesus that I had never seen before. His life on this earth and His three and one-half year ministry took on a whole new *human dimension*. I previously “saw” Him as seated at the right hand of God the Father, with all power and authority, with whom I had been given a wonderful personal relationship as Savior, Redeemer, Lord and Friend, whose love for me at times brings tears of gratitude and joy. But now, I “saw” Him in a totally different light and realized in spite of His power as *the* authority figure of the world, He had not lost His love for His flesh and blood family, who for the most part, had disowned Him. As I write this now, to realize that He wanted me to pray for His Jewish brothers and sisters brings tears to my eyes. What an honor He has given me. What a privilege to serve Him. The love He has for Israel is special because Israel is *His family*. And to realize on that Tuesday, April 15, 1997, that I had been praying for the nation of Israel for more than thirty years is very special to me. I understand more clearly how much He still loves the descendants of Jacob and I now understand better how much it pains Him to see His Jewish *family* turn against Him.

I also now understand more clearly the words He gave to me almost thirty-five years ago, “Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” Along the path of simple obedience, He is found. Since that *Tuesday* my daily prayers for “His family” have changed – have become more detailed. My prayers now cover every specific Jew the world over. I do intensive spiritual warfare and prayers of one type over the uncompleted Jews to *bind* the enemy and *loose* into

their lives ministering angels, ministers of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. My prayers for the completed Jews are for God to bless them financially, spiritually and physically and to grant them under certain restrictions the fourfold anointing of the Holy Spirit.

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And here is something I hope you can accept: A year or so ago the Holy Spirit quickened to my heart that as I have prayed for the Jews worldwide and for the nation of Israel specifically, I am participating in the calling out, equipping and the preparation of the one hundred and forty-four thousand Jews who will be sealed as servants of God during the Tribulation.¹² Since I have been praying for Israel for more than thirty years, I believe by faith that I am going to have a special relationship with my Jewish brothers and sisters beginning with the Rapture of the Church and extending through the literal millennial reign of the Lord Jesus over the earth. I am looking forward with anticipation to the Rapture¹³ which could come at any moment, to the Millennium when Jesus will rule the earth,¹⁴ to seeing King David sit on the throne in Jerusalem as ruler of Israel,¹⁵ to the expansion of the borders of Israel to its legal boundaries given to Abram¹⁶ and to Jerusalem becoming the center of the world.¹⁷

When we pray as Jesus taught us, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,”¹⁸ we are literally praying for the millennial reign of Christ.

Hallelujah!
Maranatha!¹⁹

. . . . more later, the Lord willing.

¹²See Revelation, Chapter 7.

¹³See 1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

¹⁴See Daniel 2:35; 7:14, 27; Revelation 19:16; 20:1-7.

¹⁵Jeremiah 30:21; Isaiah 32:1; Ezekiel 45:8, 9.

¹⁶See Genesis 15:18-21.

¹⁷Isaiah 2:2-4; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:1; Zachariah 2:10,11.

¹⁸See Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2.

¹⁹See 1 Corinthians 16:22.