

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash Letter No. 96

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“Behold the former things have come to pass, and **new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.**” (Isaiah 42:9)

FLESH AND BLOOD

The Lord has taught me how to (a) listen for and how to (b) hear His rhema words (His voice) **continually**.¹ This should not come as a surprise to servants of God, for Jesus Himself said, “My sheep **hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me.”² Four times as recorded in John's Gospel, chapter ten, Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice.” Here Jesus is saying to you and to me, (1) the way to know Me is by listening for and by hearing rhema words from Me (My voice) and (2) the only way to follow Me is by hearing My voice. He did not say, “I know the sheep because **I hear their voice.**” He did not say My sheep follow Me because **they talk to Me.** He said, “My sheep hear My voice, **and I know them, and they follow Me.**”

His knowing us and our knowing Him are two separate transactions. The Holy Spirit makes us acquainted with the Lord Jesus.³ Through the same Holy Spirit, Jesus **knows us** – becomes acquainted with us – **as we hear His voice.**

After being baptized with the Holy Spirit more than forty-one years ago, hearing His voice daily has become the greatest blessing I have encountered as a believer. When I started this walk with God, never in my wildest dreams, did I ever think that the relationship I now have with Him was possible to anyone on planet earth. Nothing compares to the blessing of hearing His rhema words regularly, for it is through hearing His words that He, Himself, is imparted to the believer. More about that later in this letter.

The Lord has confirmed to me that every born-again servant of His has the Spiritual capacity to attain the spiritual walk with Him about which I write, and that is Good News!

Listen and see if you can hear the voice of Jesus as recorded in John chapter six. His words are in italics.

48 *“I am the bread of life.*

49 *“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*

50 *“This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.*

51 *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”

53 Then Jesus said to them, “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*”

54 *“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

55 *“For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.*

56 *“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*

57 *“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.*

58 *“This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”*

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, *“Does this offend you?”*

62 *“What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?”*

63 *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life”*

66 *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”*

¹Continually, not continuously which means without interruption. The concept of continually was expressed by the apostle Paul when he said, “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

²John 10:27

³John 14:21.

First, notice that Jesus speaks of eating His flesh and drinking His blood (verse 54). Here is the explanation. In a limited way, the life of Jesus may be arbitrarily divided into three phases:

Phase One: when He was a Spirit being before the world was (John 17:5).

Phase Two: His earthly ministry wherein **He was flesh and blood**, being born of woman. (see also John 6:48-58).

Phase Three: after His earthly ministry wherein **He is flesh and bone** (Luke 24:39).

It is obvious, therefore, that when He spoke of eating His *flesh and drinking His blood*, **He was referring to Himself as Jesus of Nazareth when His life was in His blood** (phase two). How then do we eat His flesh and drink His blood?

We begin with these words from John's record in Chapter one of His Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**"⁴ These words describe *phase one* and *phase two* in the life of Jesus. From these words it is obvious that as we hear His voice, those spoken rhema words are spiritual Jesus Who *became flesh and blood*. Since His words themselves are spiritual Jesus, let's look at His description of Himself during His personal ministry.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me."⁵ He spoke to me one day and said, "This is what those words mean: 'I am the way of God, the truth of God and the life of God. As you learn to listen for and to hear My rhema words, **I am imparting to you the way of God, the truth of God and the life of God** to fill your specific needs *at that particular time*. **That is the way you are fed spiritually.** *As you hear My words, I am therefore imparting to you the attributes of Jesus of Nazareth, as I was in phase two of My life on the earth, when I was flesh and blood.*"⁶

Here is further proof of that fact: Jesus said, "It is written, 'man shall not live by bread alone (physical food) but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (spiritual food).'"⁶ **Note that the way God feeds us spiritually is by hearing words from the mouth of God, and remember that those words are spiritual Jesus.** He (the Father) is therefore imparting **the attributes of His flesh and blood Son** to every servant who learns to hear words from the mouth of God. The conduit through which His voice is heard is the Holy Spirit. That is the way

we are fed spiritually. While **faith** comes by *hearing His voice*, **we are also fed spiritually by hearing his voice**. The reason faith comes by hearing His voice is that the words we hear are spiritual Jesus as He would have spoken in phase two of His visible ministry.

Let's go one step farther. As a servant hears the voice of the Lord today, since those rhema words are spiritual Jesus, **the attributes of the flesh and blood Jesus of Nazareth are imparted to that servant**. Therefore, when Jesus said we are to eat His flesh and drink His blood, He was saying that the attributes imparted to us by hearing His words are the attributes of the phase two flesh and blood Jesus of Nazareth. Therefore, since we are fed spiritually by hearing words from the mouth of God, those words are chosen by God to impart to us the attributes of His Son, the attributes of the flesh and blood Jesus of Nazareth *as He lived on the earth*. This is the way we spiritually **eat His flesh** and spiritually **drink His blood** to become like Him during His three and one-half year ministry!

Servants of God (not casual believers) will have imparted to them the attributes or the likeness of Jesus of Nazareth (phase two) as we learn to hear His voice continually. Beginning at 4:00 A. M. On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, the Lord explained to me two ways to hear His voice. Please carefully observe these words from the mouth of God excerpted from my journal entry that morning.

"My son, you sensed the imperative of the necessity of sharing My words with your class. Now you are beginning to see or sense My feelings **ALL ALONG** about My words. My words, My son, are My life-line to My Church. The problem is that most of My Church believes that the only way they may be fed is by reading and studying the logos. While that is profitable, that is the *slower way*. **Once the scripture is known**, My Spirit must enlighten the logos to become rhema so as to feed the individual. It's like a parent feeding a small child spoonful, by spoonful.⁷ As I enlighten by My Spirit the logos, it is the Holy Spirit Who gives you spoonful by spoonful to nurture, strengthen and mature you as a believer.

"However, when one such as you are obedient and teachable, **I can feed that one as I fed My disciples on a daily basis.**⁸ That way is the best

⁷When we are fed spoonful by spoonful, that is **incremental feeding**.

⁸See John 15:3 for the way the disciples were "made clean" as they daily listened to the words of Jesus. That same Jesus speaks today and longs for you to learn to listen for and to hear His rhema words to "make you clean" as were His disciples during His

⁴John 1:1, 3, 14 (a).

⁵John 14:6.

⁶Matthew 4:4. The phrase, "It is written," refers to Deuteronomy 8:3.

way of teaching and the best way of preparing for the Rapture **AND** eternity. The more time one spends hearing My voice in this life, the more one may assist Me both **NOW and THEREAFTER**. **Proclaim this boldly in your writing and teaching for it is important that this be made known..”**

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life,”⁹ and “I am the living bread which came down from heaven.”¹⁰ He made these two statements within the context of His words concerning daily manna given to Israel in the wilderness.¹¹ The obvious implication is that when we as His servants, learn to hear rhema words from Him **daily, that’s the way He gets to know us and that’s the way He feeds us spiritually**. That is exactly what Jesus meant when in the model prayer He said, “Give us this day our *daily bread*.” *Here He is talking about Himself*. As we learn to listen for and to hear rhema words from Him daily, **He becomes our daily bread**. *He becomes our spiritual food – our daily sustenance, maintenance and provision*.

In recent years I have prayed, as Jesus did, that I might become one with Him and the Father as He was one with the Father during His personal ministry. Within the past year the Lord spoke to me and said that I was now one with Him and the Father as I had prayed.¹² He further has said to me that our hearts are now knit together as were the hearts of Jonathan and David¹³ and that is the basis of His communication with me. The desire of His heart is transmitted to my heart and I write them in my journal. These words come as light, delicate, intuitive thoughts that may be easily ignored. *We often ignore the supernatural because we expect the spectacular*. That’s why I take the bible, my journal and a pen with me when I spend quiet time with the Lord. I now expect Him to speak to me. Then as

personal ministry on the earth. His feeding today is like it was then. As we learn to hear His voice daily, He teaches us – feeds us – exactly as He taught and fed His twelve disciples. That type of feeding causes one to learn and to grow **exponentially**.

⁹See John 6:35.

¹⁰See John 6:51.

¹¹See John 6:48-58 for the context within which Jesus compared manna eaten daily in the wilderness to His being the living manna which came down from heaven, also to be eaten daily so as to receive His life which comes from listening to His voice. By listening to His voice daily, we are fed living Bread - the Lord Jesus Himself.

¹²See John 17:21. Be bold enough to pray for yourself any prayer that Jesus prayed to the Father for His followers. When expressed from your heart, that prayer **will come to pass**. See John Chapter 17 for the Lord’s prayer. The prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 often called “the Lord’s Prayer,” is the disciple’s prayer.

¹³See 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

He speaks, I write.

When I first learned to listen and hear His voice, I thought I had to write fast so as to keep up with His dictation. Of course, I have since learned that this is not the case. There are times when I may have been alone with Him an hour or two, most of which may have been spent writing His words to me. I have hundreds of pages filled with His words that are priceless. In such times He is literally imparting Himself to me. *He wants to do the same thing with you*.

Several years ago when His words began to come to me so prolifically, at times I was so awed and almost overwhelmed that I had to become accustomed and adjusted to the fact that He was speaking to me instead of someone of prominence and importance in the body of the Lord. That took a while to adjust to. That adjustment is still in progress. Even now I am often amazed and awed at the words He speaks to me.

At one time in this walk with God which I have been given, I would experience the warmth of His presence similar to that experienced by the two disciples who lived in Emmaus.¹⁴ Then a few years ago the Lord spoke to me and said that He would thereafter withhold from me that experience since it would be a distraction from the things He is preparing me to do. He also said I would then be able to concentrate specifically on the things He has for me to do without any distraction. Let me emphasize again, that as you read these words, *you have within you the capacity and the capability to experience the same intimate walk with our Lord that He has given me* – about which I both write and teach. This is a priceless blessing and gift.

The Lord has said to me that my learning to listen for and to hear His rhema words daily **is the reason for my good health**. This is only one of the blessings of hearing His voice daily. In these words, among other blessings, He is imparting to me the **life of God**. This is the reason I have visited a doctor’s office because of illness only once in the past ten years and take no medication. The reason for that one visit was because of disobedience and that will not happen again.

EXCERPTS FROM MY JOURNAL Beginning at 3:25 A. M. on March 3, 2005

“When your soul is at rest and your spirit is at peace is when you are available – is when you are

¹⁴See Luke 24:32. For the complete story of these two from Emmaus, see Luke 24:13-53.

receptive to hearing My rhema words.

“The soul is comprised of the mind (the battleground of the enemy), will, intellect and emotions. Initially, all are enemies to faith. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. As the Holy Spirit is in charge of Man’s spirit, he is at one with God and the body will follow.

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me.’ The self to be denied is the soul. When the soulish part of man – the self of man – is denied, or dead or crucified (the purpose of one’s cross), only then may the Holy Spirit lead man’s spirit and become acceptable to God.

“On the other hand, if the soul is in control, it will be influenced by the body – the flesh – and man’s spirit will follow along, leading the Holy Spirit.

“In every case wherever the body goes, there goes the Spirit of God – we take Him with us everywhere we go whether He likes it or not.

“Satan’s entry point is through the mind to influence the body (the flesh) to deny the Spirit.

“When the body leads the soul, the Spirit is denied. When the Spirit leads the soul, the body is denied. The flesh is the enemy’s port of entry to hell. The Spirit is the Lord’s port of entry to heaven.

“The doorway to hell is the flesh. The doorway to heaven is the Spirit.

“When the soul succumbs to the flesh, the Spirit is denied and follows.

“When the soul succumbs to the Spirit, the body is denied and follows.

“The heart is man’s soul controlled either by the Spirit for good or by the flesh for evil.

“Christ is in us through the Holy Spirit and that is why we are saved. We are saved because He is saved or He literally saves us by being in us through the Holy Spirit.

“Believing in the Lord Jesus saves us.

“We are born again (regenerated) by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“We are equipped for ministry by Holy Spirit baptism.

“All three stages are the result of spiritual hunger and thirst for God resulting from the measure of faith assigned in every man.

“Conscience is the reaction of one’s spirit to the action of the soul and body. When the regenerated spirit leads the way, the conscience is clear and does not condemn us. When the regenerated spirit is led by the soul and body, the conscience condemns us.

“The conscience condemns us of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

“The soul that sins, it shall die. Sin is something done knowingly and intentionally. Sin is not a mistake. A mistake is something done inadvertently, unknowingly or unintentionally. Man is not responsible to God for something he is unaware of. So an action may or may not be sin, depending on one’s knowledge of the consequences of a given act or action.

“Asking for forgiveness does not eradicate the sin from God’s records – confession does. When you ask for forgiveness of a sin, both Satan and the Lord hear, but Satan still has the legal right to accuse you until it is confessed. When it is confessed it is eradicated from God’s records. When Satan then accuses you, and he will (he is the accuser of the brethren), since God has no record of the sin, you may then legally – yes, legally – use the sword of the Spirit and rebuke – speak to – that spirit of accusation, command him to leave you and go straight to the Abyss and never return (see 1 John 1:9).

“The soul is the combined mind, will, emotions, intellect and personality, knowingly acting in concert with either the spirit or the flesh. If in concert with the spirit, the soul lives; if in concert with the flesh, the soul dies. The entry way to hell is through the flesh. The entry way to heaven is through the spirit.”

Comments

Observe that (1) the above prophetic “word” resembles a grouping of proverbs or aphorisms, several paragraphs of which could be expanded into one of my separate letters and (2) the last paragraph seems to summarize the prophetic “word” given.

To emphasize again what I have previously written in this letter, as you hear His words *continually*, they will impart to you *the way of God, the truth of God and the life of God*. In that manner you may be changed into the image, the likeness of Jesus of Nazareth, from one degree of glory to another. To God the Father, and Christ Jesus His wonderful Son, and to the precious Holy Spirit, be praise, glory and honor forever, above all times, places and things, world without end. Amen.

Everything God has created, He created with spoken words. As you learn to hear His rhema (spoken) words daily, you will begin to grow exponentially. This is new, but this is real and it is for you in this rapture generation. As that is learned, your responsibility is to, “Be still, and know that I am God.”¹⁵

¹⁵Psalm 46:10a.