

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash Letter No. 99

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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)

CLOSURE ON FORGIVENESS

The Lord has taught me intermittently on the subject of forgiveness over an eleven year period of time. His last revelation came on August 6, 2007. Two days later (on the 8th) He said to me, “This word on forgiveness (given on 8/6/07) puts closure on the subject and makes My teaching on that subject complete.” During my quiet time with Him the next day He said, “Yes, My son, write on forgiveness again, as I have instructed you, to put *closure* on My teaching. That will be beneficial to many.” This letter is written, therefore, as I have been instructed by the Lord, and will put *closure* on my writing on **forgiveness**.

More than seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Hosea prophesied, “My people [Israel] are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”¹ The Lord has said to me, “Revelation is the source of true *knowledge*,” meaning that a spoken (rhema) word from the mouth of God is the source of true knowledge. Hosea therefore prophesied that Israel was being destroyed because they strayed from God's spoken rhema word of instruction.

That's still a rhema word of instruction to the church today. Tradition is no substitute for the rhema word of instruction from the Lord. My rhema words of instruction from the Lord on *forgiveness* began this way.

In my quiet time with the Lord on September 27, 1996, I opened my bible and read from John's Gospel, “So Jesus said to them (the disciples) again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained.’”² After reading these two verses, I laid my hands on an imaginary globe of the earth and said, “I forgive the sins of everyone who has ever lived on the earth from Adam to the cross, from the cross to this present day and everyone alive on planet earth today in every city, county, state and nation on every continent and every island, in all modes of transportation all over the

world and everyone who shall ever live on the earth.” As soon as I said these words the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “That's what Jesus did.” Hearing that was a surprise to me. As soon as I heard His words, I was lifted up into a spiritual plateau where I had never been before. This was neither literal nor ethereal like a vision or a trance but just an inward feeling I never had before and I knew it was spiritual in nature. It was so real, the first thought I had was look around to see “what was there” because I knew I had never been there before. And I knew I was given spiritual authority I did not have previously.

This was my first revelation on forgiveness and it seemed to *set me free*, for want of a better term. In order to understand the Lord's teaching on forgiveness, I refer you to the words of Jesus on this subject recorded in the following bible references: Matthew 6:12, 14, 15; 18:21-35 (a parable); Mark 11:25,26; Luke 23:34; John 20:21-23. What He said on this subject is truth. However, He has given me some words of explanation that help to understand His teaching. He has said that the explanation He has given me is similar to the way He taught the twelve disciples when He would call them aside and explain His teaching to them privately. Getting this kind of rhema word explanation on the teaching of the Master comes as a result of learning to hear His voice continually, as I have previously written. I remind you again, **if your are reading these words, you have the ability to learn to Hear His voice continually** – a blessing of unimagined proportions. I have referred you to the bible references instead of quoting them in this letter in order to conserve space. You should read the above listed bible references as a foundation for the rhema word revelation that follows.

Eight years after this initial revelation on forgiveness, I began to get rhema words of explanation on the subject. Here they are in the order as they were received on the dates they were given:

December 8, 2004.

“My son, *write decisively when you conclude decisively*. On forgiveness, for example, when someone refuses to forgive, they refuse to accept My forgiveness. That is something My Church needs to know. Their sins cost Me My life. Their forgiveness cost Me My life. For Me to forgive them, they must forgive. Search My word for this principle. For example, ‘Give and it shall be

¹Hosea 4:6.

²John 20:21, 22. This incident occurred after His resurrection but before He ascended back to the Father. These two verses are the Great Commission as recorded by John, similar to the other three accounts. Thomas, one of the eleven, was not with them when Jesus came.

given unto you, full measure, pressed down, heaped up, running over shall be put into your lap.”³

“Forgiveness of others is My litmus test. You cannot take from Me My forgiveness without My taking from you your forgiveness. Or said another way, you cannot receive My forgiveness unless you offer that same forgiveness to others. If you will be sensitive to Me, I will teach you about these things. I will be to you as I was to the disciples in My personal ministry. I called them aside and explained to them the hidden things concerning My teaching – My words. They were carefully spoken and carefully chosen for they are spirit and life, that is, they are spirit and life when they are spoken. That’s what a rhema word is – My spoken word. When I direct the speaking is when they are rhemas. When I speak and when I direct you to speak, those are rhema words. That’s why you must be careful about what you say.”

April 29, 2005.

“Yes, My son, you have discerned correctly. **Your soul is in jeopardy if mercy is extended to you and you refuse mercy to others.** Forgiveness of others is not for the other party, it is for the one extending mercy. Come boldly to the throne of grace and find mercy in time of need.⁴ You come boldly to the throne of grace to find mercy from the One Who first extended mercy. **It is a law of the spirit, that having received salvation through mercy, you must extend that same mercy to others for your sake.**

“TELL THIS TO MY CHURCH, My son, as I have said to you, My Church does not know this. All of My blessings are extensions of My grace and mercy. Or said another way, all of your spiritual blessings extended to you as a believer are BASED on: “**Freely you have received, freely give.**” **That’s the law of the Kingdom.**⁵

“You are the extension of My grace and mercy to others, to both the good and the evil. You are the personification of My grace and mercy in the world. That way you become Me, My son, you become extensions of Me, representatives of Me. Now do you see? What I did, you must do. I told the woman taken in adultery, ‘Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.’⁶ I already had extended to her **BEFORE THE CROSS** all the benefits of the cross. That’s My lesson to the world. ‘Come unto Me all you that are weary and heaven laden

with the cares of the world and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. My yoke is easy, My burden is light and you shall find rest unto your souls.’⁷

“It is the enemy, My son, who has caused all of man’s problems. When one sees that and that I am the antithesis of him, that is, the burden bearer, yoke destroying force of all that Satan has put on man, **it is then clear that grace and mercy extended as an extension of Me is the only survival of man.** Satan is man’s enemy. I am his Friend. All of the prohibitions in the scriptures are rules of reclamation and restoration of man. All of the temptations of Satan are his methods to keep the territory he once had with no opposition.

“When I came upon the scene, I was the only real opposition that he had experienced for almost 4000 years. You now are My representative on the earth to extend and expand My restoration, reclamation efforts on the earth.

“You see, once the earth was the private domain of Satan. My coming disrupted his dominance. He thought he had it all to himself and will do anything he can to deceive, even the elect in these last days. So be on guard.”

May 7, 2005.

“Yes, My son, mercy does triumph over judgment. Here is the explanation. As I have taught you, I extended mercy to the woman taken in adultery **BEFORE THE CROSS**. Then came the cross wherein I extended mercy (neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more) to mankind (mercy is forgiveness with compassion). In that one act everyone who accepts Me and My blood atonement on the cross, is extended grace and mercy without measure, without limitation. But that compassionate forgiveness is **CONDITIONAL** upon your offering the same thing to others. ‘Go and do likewise,’⁸ was My admonition.

“The cost of My redeeming you from the clutches of Satan, justifying you and atoning for sin was My example to the world of the way to live a fulfilled life. **I therefore expect no less from you.** My grace and mercy extended to you is the true measure of life. **It is the spiritual knife that separates the co-mingled good and evil in your life and sets you free.**

“My son, I am teaching you that which you must teach and write about. These truths are too precious to keep to yourself.

“‘Mercy triumphs over judgment’ means that as you extend mercy (forgiveness with compassion) to others, it *sets you free from judgement.* You thereby in one sense become

³Luke 6:38.

⁴Hebrews 4:16.

⁵Matthew 10:8.

⁶John 8:11.

⁷See Matthew 11:28-30.

⁸Luke 10:37.

your own judge of ‘no condemnation.’ You free yourself from condemnation by offering to everyone that which I offered you by the cross. You see I was the first fruits of them that slept, meaning the fruit of My life is an example of that which you may offer to others.

“By offering mercy to others you literally save yourself from judgment. If you refuse to offer mercy to others, you condemn yourself thereby and My cross becomes of no effect in your life.

“My cross is the most beautiful expression of God’s love for man. I thereby extended God’s mercy to all who accept Me as Lord of their life. At the same time, however, I atoned for ALL sin with My blood and forever set the boundaries of human conduct. Everything Satan robbed man and My earth of, with Adam’s sin, was reclaimed at the cross through My resurrection. I came forth from the tomb a new creature – a new Man, freed of all contamination and therefore, as Isaiah wrote, offered man the complete redemption package in Isaiah 53:4, 5. EVERYTHING lost in the first Adam was regained for mankind in, with and by the second Adam. **But the thing the Church needs to know is that salvation is CONDITIONAL upon each one offering mercy, which cost them nothing, to everyone, which cost Me everything – My life. *Salvation is free but conditional.*** It can be no other way. I, as the first fruits of them that slept,⁹ must produce other fruit the same way – by offering mercy to everyone as the victory which overcomes the world, but also as leaven that may leaven the whole lump (the Church).

“Oh, My son, this is a teaching solely needed in My body, the Church. She does not know how the enemy has shielded – blinded her to the truth of the Gospel. That which cost Me My life MUST be offered to others to complete the salvation chain. In order to become a link in the chain – one must close the break with the offering of mercy to all. I offered it to the woman at the well and the woman taken in adultery *before the cross*. This principle, My son, has been there all the time, but My cross made it accessible to man in contradiction to the enemy’s lure. You see, My cross was the means of conquering Satan forever. That had to be done first. Then the other things could follow.

“You remember My teaching you the power of forgiveness.¹⁰ That was the beginning. That set you apart from others by accepting the total package of the cross. In that one act you extended My compassionate forgiveness to mankind. **My son, you actually became ME in that one act.** That’s what I want of you, My son – I want you to become ME that I may showcase you to the world and the Church. My son, the world has seen too much of My Church, which has made very little impact. What the world needs to see is Me and you are going to bring that to pass. Have patience with Me. I must

⁹I Corinthians 15:20.

¹⁰This is a reference to the “forgiveness experience” that occurred in my life the morning of September 27, 1996, as related in this letter beginning on page one, column one, paragraph three.

bring you forth as My example for the world first, then the Church will take notice. The Church, My son, has become lured into complacency by the enemy. But you will be My example to overcome the world’s allure and bless Me in the process – and also bless others in the process.

“By offering mercy to all, you acknowledge your own need for mercy from Me. And also acknowledge My extension of mercy to you. Freely you have received, freely give everything I offered to man.”

May 11, 2005.

“Those who refuse to give mercy will not receive mercy. If you receive My mercy in the cross and resurrection, you must extend that mercy to others, My son. ‘Freely you have received, freely give,’ is My rule. You must give to others that which I give to you, or at least, be willing to extend the same mercy I gave to you, to all whom you meet. That’s the Gospel. That’s what I am all about.

“I’m not about rules and regulations, I’m about freedom. I came to set men free. ‘Freely you have received, freely give,’ says God to you this morning.”

May 15, 2005.

“My son, in the act of the cross, I extended mercy (forgiveness with compassion) to every man, past, present and future. As a follower of Mine, you therefore MUST extend that same mercy to others. It cost Me My life by being brutally beaten and crucified on My cross to extend mercy to every man. When you refuse to extend that same mercy to others, you negate My mercy to you. **When you refuse to extend mercy to others, mercy that cost you nothing, you thereby refuse My mercy to you, that cost Me everything.** By your refusing to extend mercy to others, you are saying that *I made a mistake* in **extending** mercy to them. You are being critical of Me and set yourself up in the position of a judge and you cannot be saved as a judge. I am the judge. If I extended mercy under grace to you, you must extend mercy. Otherwise you become a judge under the law instead of a recipient under grace and you can’t have it both ways. You, therefore will be judged by the Law: **guilty as charged!** That is why many will hear from Me, ‘Depart from Me, I never knew you,’ even though they performed great works and cast out demons *in My Name!* ‘Depart from Me into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels,’ will be heard by many.

“We cannot refuse mercy to one for whom Jesus died and expect to receive mercy from Him Who died for us. That is why mercy triumphs over judgment. Mercy extended under grace exempts one from judgment under the law. You cannot receive mercy under grace **without extending mercy under grace.** If you refuse to extend mercy, you will be judged under the law, by which no man can stand.”¹¹

May 19, 2005

“Withhold not from anyone My blessings given to you. Freely you have received, freely give is My way and MUST be your way as well. That is **the intent of mercy.** Give it away, My son, give it away!

¹¹See Galatians 3:11.

“My son, have I not said to you that My salvation, the salvation of man, is **CONDITIONAL**? Have no reluctance on this. **Have I not said that My Church does not know this truth?** Therefore have no reluctance to proclaim My truth as revealed to you, for **THAT**, My son, is the basis, the foundation for **MORE** truth – for **MORE** of **ME**. And we have only started. Proclaim it My son, proclaim it for My sake. I have led you through the necessary stuff, now proclaim, write, teach it boldly that I may boldly give you **MORE**. Remember, I am the **MORE**.

“As you write – as you prepare to write – I will assist you. Have no concern, I am excited about this. My Church does not know this. You are My servant to proclaim it, says God.

“My son you need have no concern about this matter. It is in My hands and I will direct it. Just leave it to Me and My decision will be made known today, says God.”

September 29, 2005.

“Bitterness, disappointment and disillusionment was the cause of *Albert Johnson’s*¹² death. He was unable to rise above the hurt. I am not talking about salvation, My son, for your must leave that to Me. I am only talking about the cause of his death. Remember this My son. You will want to teach, write and speak on (of) this way of the enemy to again snuff out the life of another servant of Mine. It is good to remember what I have taught you and what you have taught to others. In these last days the enemy’s power will be (has been) stepped up so that even the elect will be drawn into his snare. That is real, My son, it is real. Teach it, proclaim it and write it, for these words, My words to you, are truth.

“The sad part about the death of Albert and others who are ensnared in the web of the enemy, is that I was robbed of a servant in an untimely manner.”

August 6, 2007

“Yes it is important that you teach on forgiveness and **share EVERYTHING I have given** you. An important point in forgiveness is, “To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”¹³ **That means sin is something done knowingly. To be overwhelmed and overcome with hurt, embarrassment and bitterness may become a fatal entry point of the enemy without robbing one of his salvation.** My job is to deal tenderly with that one who may be mature so that his kingdom status is not lost.

“However the mature believer who resists My warnings while deliberately embracing the enemies tactics of resentment and unforgiveness may reach the point of

unwillingness to forgive at any cost **so that judgment is set. He is the one to whom I must say, “Depart from Me into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”**

“It is important that you teach on forgiveness and make these things clear:

“Forgiveness sets you free.

“Unforgiveness puts you in prison and delivers you to the enemies torturers, an open door to fear, deceit and death.

“Unforgiveness harbored in the heart of either or both parents opens the door of the enemy to the children in the home.

“The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. He has caused every misery that has befallen man since Adam’s sin. (John 10:10)

“It is possible that one may be overcome by the enemy to the point of death but come to repentance before it is everlastingly too late.

“The positive approach to freedom is the thing to emphasize.

“My son concerning your being My pilot project as I have shared with you, remember I must accomplish My objectives with people like you who will say to Me, ‘Here am I. Use Me.’ You have gone beyond that with your bold assertions that allow Me to go farther than I had originally intended when I called you. Your willingness to be used is such a blessing to Me that the rewards ahead of you will confirm My gratitude.

“Yes, I have feelings just like you My son. Don’t forget, you are made in My image, in My likeness and as such are much more like Me than you can comprehend now. Just be patient with Me and We will set course for victory over the enemy.

“I am telling you these things that you may be acclimated to the tasks ahead without apprehension. It is important to Me for you to be comfortable in the role I have planned for you. It will be that way because I have ordained it so. It will be similar to a departure from the “church system” into My **relational** guidance system. Mine is intended to bless man, not thwart his efforts to worship Me, whereby I may lavish Myself on and upon him.”

¹²Albert Johnson is a fictitious name. The real name has been withheld to protect confidentiality. Bitterness, disappointment and disillusionment harbored in the heart is an open door to the enemy.

¹³James 4:17.