

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 147

Copyright February 15, 2012

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

SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

I have heard it proclaimed from the pulpit and from bible teachers alike, that one may not live the Christian life without having to deal with individual acts of sin in his own life from day to day. Each of these two sources, as well, may add that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from such transgressions, which it does.¹ Confession and repentance provides for such.² But that does not remove the stigma of the teaching that sin, somehow or other, may not be avoided, but instead, seems to be inevitable or unavoidable, as the result of living in a fallen world.

That is what I want us to examine.

And as you read this letter, remember that the Listening Method is available to every believer in this rapture generation. To point out the significance of that statement, hear these words the Lord gave me the morning of Wednesday, March 23, 2011:

“The only way to become useful in the abundant harvest brought forth by the special twelve apostles is to learn to listen to My Words on a daily basis. Remember also, that learning to hear My Words daily in the few remaining years of this rapture generation is not a gifted blessing but a learned one that is available to every believer.”

One morning in my quiet time with the Lord, I asked Him for a definition of sin. Here is the answer He gave me the morning of November 18, 2005:

“Sin is deliberately disobeying God.

“Sin is deliberately doing what you know God does not want you to do.

“Inadvertent mistakes are not sin.

“Mistakes made in the flesh that do not deliberately disavow God and deliberately disavow His instructions are not sin.

“God has a short memory on mistakes. (His words to me previously)

“Whatever is not of faith is sin, but sin is deliberately disobeying that which you know is God's will. My son, see what one sin caused in Adam.

“Sin is deliberately disobeying God, deliberately disobeying what God has told you to do.

“Sin is deliberately disobeying that which God has told you to do or deliberately doing that which God has instructed you not to do.

“Sin is deliberately doing what God has instructed you not to do.

“Sin is deliberately disobeying God.”

As you will note, there is some redundancy in these words, but when there is redundancy in words that God gives you, there is always a reason.

Notice from this definition of sin that one must have knowledge of the sin he commits. One example is that God does not use the same standard to judge a new convert that He uses to judge a mature believer who has walked with Him for many years.

Another important measure of God's grace is that one who sins unknowingly will not be held responsible for his transgression, whereas one who sins knowingly will be held responsible. Here are three examples to demonstrate these principles:

(1) Adam and Eve. From the Genesis record in chapter two, we find that it was to Adam that God gave instructions not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From the Genesis record in chapter three, it appears that Adam obviously told Eve what God had said, for she repeated to Satan God's instructions given to Adam. The resulting conclusion is that Eve, who was deceived by Satan, ate of the forbidden fruit and offered some to Adam who likewise ate.³ While Eve was deceived, Adam ate, knowing that it was against God's instructions. And since Eve was

³Neither Eve nor Adam ate with their mouth the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Jesus pointed out that it is not what goes into your mouth that defiles you spiritually, but what comes out of your mouth from the heart. In other words, you “eat spiritually” by hearing and believing with your heart. Then your confession either justifies or defiles you, depending on whether you have heard and believed that which is good or that which is evil. See Matthew 15:10-20 and Matthew 4:4.

¹See 1 John 1:9.

²See 1 John 1:7.

deceived, her transgression was not counted as sin, and she became the first prodigal on Earth Two.⁴ Consequently, it is the Adamic sin (sin of the first Adam) that sent Jesus (the last Adam) to the cross.

Notice that it was to Adam that God spoke. Please realize that the one who hears the rhema word from the mouth of God is more impressed with its significance than one who is given the same information second-hand. Under such circumstances today, as a preacher or teacher instructs from the written word, that word may be quickened to the heart of the listener by the Holy Spirit in order to be heard as rhema. In that manner, the Holy Spirit quickens the logos into rhema or the Holy Spirit quickens the dead logos to life. *It is the rhema*⁵ that comes as life, or as enlightenment, in the heart of the believer.

Additionally, God knew that Adam would fail because he would be no match for the supernaturally endowed Satan. The only one who may defeat Satan is One who is properly trained and endowed with all the fullness of the Godhead⁶ who created Lucifer. Adam's failure is proof of that. But God also knew that Adam was necessary to ultimately bring the second or the last Adam on the scene, who would be endowed with the

⁴The Lord said to me that a prodigal is one who has been deceived by the enemy and that Eve was the first prodigal on Earth Two. He also confirmed to me that the first objective of the special twelve apostles now in training will be "His precious prodigals" and that a number of *His prodigals* would have exceeded His most noble ones had they not been deceived. This explains the parable of the "Laborers in the vineyard" found in Matthew 20:1-16. In this parable, men were employed by the owner to work in his vineyard during the first hour, the third, the sixth, the ninth and the eleventh hour of the day. The men were all then paid the same wage, beginning with those employed from the eleventh to the first hour. Although the owner of the vineyard paid those employed the first hour what was promised, they complained to the owner (God) that they should have received more. The eleventh hour employees may represent the prodigals who would have exceeded some of the Lord's most noble ones.

⁵Every rhema word *you hear* from the mouth of God contains seven attributes of God. They are, spirit, life, love, truth, light, food (spiritual) and faith (which comes from hearing). As you learn to listen to His words daily, small parts of these attributes of God are imparted to you. Here is the way it works: As you hear His words each day, they will remove a small amount of dross from your life (as God sees the need) and simultaneously impart to you parts of the seven attributes of God in each rhema word. That's why the word is a two-edged sword. It cuts in both directions or it removes the dross and replaces it with attributes of God you need most at that time.

⁶Jesus was endowed with all the fullness of the Godhead bodily immediately after John's baptism. See Colossians 2:9.

Godhead bodily, to defeat the fallen Lucifer.

(2) Cain and Abel. From Genesis chapter four we find that God accepted Abel's offering but rejected the one offered by Cain. To get the answer of why God rejected Cain's offering, we must go to the record in Hebrews 11:4. There we find out that "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Since faith comes by hearing, we know that *God gave to both men* instructions to offer a blood sacrifice, for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Cain substituted an offering of the fruit of the ground, something he had produced himself, for the blood sacrifice offering prescribed by God. Cain deliberately disobeyed God and his offering was not accepted.

(3) The sin of iniquity. Iniquity is sin committed knowingly and deliberately with no intent ever of repentance: "The *iniquity* of the father is visited upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate God."⁷ This is one reason that the law of Moses was so strict. Sin has consequences, whether committed in a weak moment followed by repentance or committed deliberately and knowingly with no idea of repentance. This is why it is important to know the written word as a foundation, as you learn to listen to the voice of God continually in this rapture generation.

In these three examples, we have transgressions committed under different circumstances where God views each one in consideration of (1) deception, (2) knowledge of the sin or (3) the lack thereof.

Now, let's look at the definition of righteousness.

Samuel told Saul, "Behold, *to obey* is better than sacrifice," or, it is better to do what God says than to do something for God, including offering the blood sacrifice of an animal. Here is something God said to me which helped me with understanding the meaning of righteousness:

"In a fallen world, righteousness is not dependant upon perfect conduct but upon obedience." which is another way to say what Samuel emphasized to Saul.

Therefore, if one is walking in obedience to what the Lord has said to him, he is righteous before God. This means he may say things that he may regret or do things he wished he had not done, but so long as he does not deliberately disobey what the Lord has told him to do, he is righteous before God, for righteousness

⁷See Exodus 20:5. It is obvious that one who has deliberate disdain for God is one who hates God, according to this scripture.

depends on obedience. Remember, sin is something one does knowingly or deliberately.

As you learn to listen to the Lord's voice continually, His words will reveal His will for you specifically. This will give you confidence in your daily living *as reinforced by the definition of sin and righteousness.* When you *live* in the Listening Method, you will have confidence in your daily walk with God that will free you from doubt and unbelief.

When I refer to God telling you to do something or not to do something in order to know His will for your life, I am referring to hearing words from the mouth of God as Jesus described in Matthew 4:4: "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Those words from the mouth of Jesus describes the Listening Method that is available to *every believer in this rapture generation.*

As you spend time listening to Him daily, He will tell you what He wants you to do. And as He does so, His words will be gentle and tender so as to draw you to Him in love. This is how you may determine His will for you today in this rapture generation. As you listen to His words to you daily, His rhema words will give you the desire to serve Him. Those words will draw you to Him in love known no other way. As that changed life is lived from day to day, His love will so engulf you, you will abhor offending Him or displeasing or hurting Him in any way.

To one who has learned to walk in the Listening Method, knowing God's will and walking without sin will become *do-*able and will become a joy instead of a chore. Total freedom will be the result. Those words will create within you the desire to serve Him. They will draw you to Him in love known no other way. Each rhema word you hear contains spirit, life, love, truth, light, food (spiritual) and faith (which comes from hearing). As you listen to Him daily, your love for Him will grow to the extent that to disobey Him grows more remote with each passing day.

But we have also discovered, in view of the definition of both sin and of righteousness, that sin not only may be avoided, but it is a choice one may make. That is so much easier when you spend time every day listening to Him. Therein your love for Him will grow so that you likewise will literally shrink from offending Him or disappointing or embarrassing the One who gave His life for you. The reason is simple. The love of God is literally encased in every rhema word you hear from the mouth of God so that you become His "love

repository" or His "love container." That relationship has been developed in my life after living in the Listening Method for years. And since you have the same capability that I have to learn to hear his voice, the Lord extends His invitation to you to learn to listen to Him every day. We need spiritual food every day in order to grow to the full measure of the stature of the fullness of our Lord.⁸

It is recorded twice in the Gospels that God spoke from heaven and endorsed His only begotten Son with these words:

(1) "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."⁹

(2) "This is my beloved Son. *Hear Him.*"¹⁰

Once you learn to hear His voice daily, life takes on a whole new dimension.

That's my challenge to you.

THE FRUIT OF HEARING HIS VOICE

For years, I have been sharing with you the blessings of hearing God's voice. *Nothing compares with that.* Learning to hear His voice 24/7 is a blessing He has reserved for these last few years prior to the rapture of the church. As a believer, you have the same capability to learn to hear His voice that I have.

A few days ago, I had finished my letter No. 147 and had proofed it for publication as a four-page document. Then I ran across prophetic rhema words God gave to me in my quiet time with Him the morning of April 20, 2005. As I reread those words God gave me, I realized, once more, that His words are timeless and are too precious to keep. I, therefore, have added them to my letter No. 147 and expanded it to six pages. As a prophet of God, my responsibility is to hear the voice of God and proclaim His message. My prayer is that you will be blessed as I was, by reading His following words given to me almost seven years ago. They are for you and they are "new every morning"¹¹:

The Prophetic Words

"Yes, My son, I have gifted and blessed you, but We have only begun. There is so much ahead for you that I have had to withhold for your sake, because you

⁸See Ephesians 4:13.

⁹Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22

¹⁰Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35.

¹¹Lamentations 3:23.

could not have handled **THAT**, and the other things I have given you. I must give to you so that you retain (through your journal recording) that which will truly glorify Me, so that retention is a major factor.

“But what lies ahead you will enjoy and yes, end your prayers always with a light heart, for a light heart doeth good like a medicine¹² and is open to Me, while a heavy heart is a closed door. Open your heart to Me, unburden your heart to Me that I may bless you with My comfort.

“My son, My rhema words are the antidote for all of man’s ills – all of them. So you see now where I am taking you. There is no other way to contentment than by hearing My rhema words. They soothe, bless and impart faith, hope, love, joy and peace. They not only impart these things, they **CREATE** them – that’s the way of their impartation.

“The reason why you **MUST** teach people to hear – to listen to My voice – is because hearing My rhema words is the antidote for life – for the problems, the vicissitudes of life, such as worry, stress, disillusionment, sorrow, discontentment, and hopelessness. My words are **CREATIVE**. That’s why one needs to hear from Me. When they are heard, they create the necessary antidote for whatever is wrong, for whatever is amiss in that life. That’s the purpose of becoming One with Me. When you become One with Me is when you begin to live a fulfilled life. A fulfilled life is a life filled full of Me, My son. This is important. Do you see where I am taking you?

“Man in his present condition under the curse of the Adamic sin needs restoration – reclamation – *continually*. The reason is that the world is contaminated by sin through the enemy’s work and activities. As you learn to hear My voice, that commands Me to minister to you with rhema words that are creative of what you need precisely **AT THAT TIME**. This is continuous – or should be – for the condition of the world is not going to change until it is purged with fire. Therefore, a continuous shower of My rhema words is essential for your well-being. That’s the purpose of the Malachi 3:10 open window – to shower you with My rhema words of healing, health, comfort, security, hope, faith and love. That shower of blessings opens the door to Canaan’s supernatural abundance in all areas including physical and financial.

“Refusing to hear rhema words from Me is like

¹²See Proverbs 17:22.

millions of dollars in unclaimed bank deposits waiting to be withdrawn to pay all your debts in full with an abundance left over while you live the life of a pauper.

“Rhema words *are creative* of your greatest need the moment they are spoken and heard. They are creative because they are spirit (first) and life (second).¹³ They must be heard in order to be creative – and that is one reason why the listening ear commands the Commander. God exists to give. Untold treasures await the child of God who learns to listen – to hear the voice of the Bridegroom, the Commander, calling one to Himself, wooing one to Himself with His own words, which are the antidote to all of man’s ills, difficulties and problems in this life.

“So you see, My son, what I am unlocking to you. *The secrets of the universe are simple when seen through spiritual revelation.* Contact with Me is the solution to all of man’s ills and I am going to use you to demonstrate that to the world and to the Church. Just hang in there with Me and We will do mighty exploits which will attract attention and provide a forum to whom you may present Me. But this time, the presentation will be made to the world **AND** the Church. *Exploits outside of the Church will attract those in the Church, My body, who will accept with a flourish, your rhema words of instruction.*

“Become accustomed to greatness in the eyes of man, but blessings in My eyes – in My kingdom. I will showcase you My son. You will be My example. And I surely need examples on whom I may depend. In the past, so many of my servants have proven untrustworthy in the spotlight.¹⁴ No one knows My disappointment in these occurrences – in these failures – but I am raising up men and women from the pew who have proven to Me their trustworthiness in life – all parts of life – on whom I may depend for this last world order push to prepare for the Rapture. They will put the world on notice that I am that I am and I will not be denied this time, Says God.

¹³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and life. (John 6:63).

¹⁴If you have lived in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for a number of years, you have seen several high profile, highly visible servants of God who could not remain faithful in the spotlight. However, do not judge nor criticize those individuals. God was talking to me about one of these highly visible pastors who left town several years ago after a highly publicized trial. God’s words to me about him were, “He will realize the opportunities he missed by his failure.” These were not words of condemnation, but of pity.

Hope for the faithful
(the prophetic word continues)

“Now you are beginning to see why I chose you. You have been faithful in conditions under which most believers would falter.

“There are others in the Church like you who also have remained faithful without a specific call on their life. Little do they know that all the while I have been observing them – even the fragments of their life – as a proving ground – as a testing ground for greatness in the kingdom. Those who are older who have proven to be faithful and trustworthy have no idea what lies in store for them. **You, My son, are to tell them.** Tell them boldly as the blessings begin to fall without measure. You then will have an audience – a forum – to whom to speak My rhema words of life. They – some of them – will be receptive – will drink in your words and I will transform them even as I have and as I am transforming you.

“Do you now see the logic of My way with your life? There is yet much more for I am the *More* in your life, says God to you this morning.

“Now for some of My words *to you*. I am grateful to you for your willingness to be used. If you love Me for what I am doing in your life, imagine My love for you as you willingly respond to Me, for I AM LOVE. My strongest desire for My children is to love them into submission and then to ply them (including you) with blessings they will not have room enough to receive.¹⁵ I live to love and give. When you get to the point that you live to hear and receive, **THAT FULFILLS ME**, My son. So you see, that is, you are beginning to see, the blessings of becoming One with Me. We go together; we fit together like a hand in a glove. The activity of the hand and the glove are identical. They are one in action, in beautiful harmony, never discontented and disagreeable, but always working in unity, oneness and harmony. That, My son, is a picture of you and Me, dancing the dance of life together, as We bring into the kingdom many who hunger for Me. What you will be doing, My son, is introducing people to Me. I am All – I am Who – I am What – they need.

“Now you are only *beginning to see* what I have called you to do. A great responsibility for proven

¹⁵See Malachi 3:8-11.

shoulders, but as I have said to you, bear it lightly and allow others to see your joy. The responsibility is not yours, but Mine to work out. I will do the work, My son. Don't forget that. I do the work.

“Now you see, now you are beginning to see why time spent with Me may excuse you from your daily prayers. Time spent with Me today, and other days as well, will be multiplied and fragmented into the lives of many. Your teaching and writing will be My catalyst for the end-times activity of My people. Enjoy what We have planned. Do it with a light heart for My sake. I love you My son.”

(end of prophetic word)

**THE INCARNATION OF JESUS
WHO BECAME GOD, THE SON**

The word “incarnate,” when referring to God, means that God, who is spirit, is embodied in human form.

Jesus was not God during His visible ministry but He was God Incarnate. While that may seem to contradict scripture, it actually confirms scripture when seen by revelation. Here, in brief, is how Jesus became God Incarnate:

After John's baptism, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus. God then spoke and said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”¹⁶ That infilling of the Spirit included the Word,¹⁷ and was also inclusive of all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.¹⁸ This means that all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Who is spirit) was embodied within Jesus immediately after John's baptism when He became God Incarnate. As God Incarnate, He then became the container or the “visible, physical carrying Agent” of the Trinity, which, at that time, was God, the Father, God, the Word and God, the Spirit.

When one is baptized with the Holy Spirit, he becomes Holy Spirit Incarnate. He becomes the physical container or the “visible, physical carrying agent” of the Spirit. The way the Spirit within one may be manifested is by what the individual speaks, and by what the individual does, because the Spirit is not visible to the naked eye. You may not visually see the Spirit within an individual, but you may observe the results of

¹⁶See Matthew 3:16, 17.

¹⁷See John 1:14. Prior to the ministry of Jesus, the Word was the second Person of the Godhead.

¹⁸See Colossians 2:9.

the Spirit within that individual by what He says and by what He does.

There is a great difference between being Holy Spirit Incarnate and being infused with all the fullness of the Godhead bodily *to become God Incarnate*. This distinction is made clear by the words of Jesus, recorded in John 16:13:

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

From these words of Jesus, we find that *the Holy Spirit has no authority of His own*, but will speak whatever He hears and will tell you things to come. All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ This means that He, the Spirit, speaks only what He hears the Lord say. Since the Son and the Father are One, they then speak with one accord to the Spirit, either within an individual or outside of an individual. For example, the Spirit hovered over the face of the waters as a result of the first flood of the earth that occurred in the destruction of Earth One.²⁰ At that time, the second Person of the Godhead was the Word and remained so *until the resurrection of Jesus*.

Before Jesus came, the Trinity was God the Father, God the Word and God the Spirit. But something new occurred at the cross. When Jesus died, His soul and spirit reunited with the Godhead as spirit and descended into the lower parts of the earth to preach to the spirits in prison,²¹ in addition to other things assigned to Him by the Father. After three days and three nights in the heart of the earth,²² His spirit and soul, in union with the Godhead, reentered His dead body and came forth from the tomb, not as God Incarnate, but as the new spiritual second Person of the Godhead as God, the Son.

Since He came forth from the tomb as a spirit Man, He then was not God Incarnate because “Incarnate” means God, who is spirit, embodied *in human form*. Thus, He went to the cross in a human

body as God Incarnate and came forth from the tomb in His new resurrected spirit body as God the Son, the **NEW** second Person of the Godhead.

At their release, the Godhead bodily will also reside within the special twelve permanently. What then, you may ask, is the difference between Jesus and the special twelve? The difference is the cross that caused the name of Jesus to be exalted above every name, including that of the Father, since Jesus Himself, set the Father free.²³ The special twelve will be under the direct supervision of the Lord Jesus in whom is vested all authority in heaven and on earth, in the same manner as Jesus was directed by the Father in everything He did in His ministry. Hallelujah! Glory to God!

Mary was not the mother of God. The flesh does not give birth to the Spirit. Mary was the mother of Jesus of Nazareth, who came forth from her womb filled with the Spirit without the Adamic sin curse or sin nature. At His baptism, Jesus was filled with the fullness of the Godhead bodily (as Adam was originally) to become the “last Adam” as Paul called Him. After John’s baptism, Jesus became God Incarnate. At His resurrection, He became God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity.

This is not written to demean nor to be critical of Mary’s role in being chosen to bring forth Jesus of Nazareth. On the contrary, she holds a unique place in the heart of God as His chosen one, to bring forth the One who became the Messiah to annihilate the enemy and restore the earth and man to their rightful Owner.

This is written to give the sequence of events through which Mary gave birth to Jesus of Nazareth who became God Incarnate in His visible ministry and who, at His resurrection, became God the Son, the second Person of the Godhead, as given to me by revelation.

Before Jesus came, the Godhead was the Father, the Word and the Spirit. After the resurrection, the reconfigured Godhead became The Father, the Son (in whom dwells the fullness of the eternal Word) and the Spirit.

¹⁹See Matthew 28:18.

²⁰See Genesis 1:2: The earth was (*or became*) without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

²¹See 1 Peter 3:18, 19.

²²See Matthew 12:40.

²³See Jim Ash letter No. 137, page 3, column 1, bold fonts at bottom of page and Jim Ash letter No. 145 entitled, **THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES**.