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WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

Dear Friends,

Throughout my years as a Christian I have heard other Believers talk about various individuals in the Bible and the exploits they accomplished for God. Such people as Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah and Daniel are spoken of in great admiration, often with comments something like, "Oh, how I wish I could be like them!"

I used to be the same way. In my mind, those Bible heroes were the epitome of what it means to live for God. They could hear God speak. They were used by Him in great power. Yes, they faced challenges; but always seemed to come out in victory. I also wanted to be like them.

Then one day many years ago, the Holy Spirit finally helped me to see the flaw in my logic. None of those people in the Old Testament had the spiritual life of God. Yes, God used them as much as He could, but they were still spiritually dead. He further explained to me that every single Christian has the potential to do more for God than any of the Old Testament heroes.

For one thing, all of those people had the sin nature of a lost person. On the other hand, I have been born again. My spiritual life has been birthed in me by virtue of my faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. I am not now, nor will I ever be deity, but the spiritual life in me is the same as the life of Jesus. God has given to me His own life and I am now His literal, spiritual offspring.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
(1 Corinthians 2:12)

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God
(Romans 8:15-16)

No matter how close to God those Old Testament people of renown seemed to get, they were never His literal children. I have the potential to draw nearer to Him than any of them. I am a member of the family of God. The Jews took pride in being Abraham's descendants; I, on the other hand, am a descendant of God.

Additionally, I am able to live by a level of faith that was unapproachable by those in the Old Testament. Hebrews chapter eleven details the tremendous acts of faith by numerous Old Testament saints. They are highly commended for trusting God and the

results their faith produced. But in the very next chapter, we are told that the faith we can live by is far greater than their faith.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Yes, the Old Testament champions did receive words from God, they acted upon those words and they changed the course of history as a result. But none of them - not one, single person - had Jesus as the author of their faith, neither did they have access to Him as the finisher of their faith. If they accomplished so many great things for God with their faith, how much more can we accomplish when we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20)?

Furthermore, I can be filled with the Holy Spirit in a manner that was impossible for the Old Testament saints. Yes, it is undeniably true that the Holy Spirit moved upon people in the Old Testament to empower them for great and notable accomplishments. But none of them could ever be filled with the Holy Spirit the same as a Christian today. In speaking about what was to come after His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus gave insight to this potential:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:16-17)

My born again spirit has been created in me by God out of His very own righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24). I have a new nature, one that is compatible with the nature and character of God. As such, my spirit is now qualified as a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit - absolutely **NONE** of the Old Testament elders could make such a statement.

Not only that, but the Holy Spirit gives me the ability to pray in tongues. Though I can pray quite effectively with my understanding, there is still so much I do not know or understand about the Bible, God's will for my life or the fulfillment of my ministry. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, has all of this information. As I pray in the supernatural, miracle gift of tongues...

- He is teaching me all things (John 14:26)
- He is guiding me into all truth (John 16:13)
- He is praying out God's will (Romans 8:26-27)
- He is helping me understand what I don't understand (1 Corinthians 14:2)
- I am edifying myself (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- I am building myself up on my most holy faith (Jude 1:20)

These are just a sampling of the benefits of such prayer.

What this means is that I do not have to rely on just my human comprehension and understanding. The Holy Spirit helps me live daily by the mind of Christ and the supernatural wisdom of God. The saints of old were unable to pray in the Spirit and did not have access to the mind of Christ. This advantage gives us the potential to accomplish more in our lives than any of them.

Another advantage we have over those in the Old Testament is that we can worship God in a way that He truly desires. Consider the words spoken by Jesus:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

To paraphrase His words, Jesus said, "The generation has finally arrived when people will at last be able to worship God in the way He has been seeking. God is a Spirit and He has desired that there be people who can worship Him out of their spirit in truth." This is a stunning revelation. The difference between the generations of people who worshiped God prior to the arrival of Jesus and the people who have worshiped God after Jesus is this: those before Jesus did not have a born again spirit out of which they could worship God; we, on the other hand, are the generation of worshipers God had been waiting for.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

People in the Old Testament worshiped God with their heart and soul. In fact, we can read in 2 Chronicles chapter five how that when the people worshiped, the glory of God filled the temple so powerfully that the priests could not stand to minister. Even though God received and blessed the worship of the people in the Old Testament, it was still not the level of worship He was seeking.

As Christians, we have the ability to worship God with our **BORN AGAIN** spirit and soul. The worship that pours out of our spirit is coming from the place of His life in us. God can fellowship with us in our worship in a way that He could not when those in the Old Testament worshiped Him. Incredible things happened when the Old Testament people worshiped God; but even more can take place when we worship Him as His children, born of His spirit!

In no way am I diminishing the accomplishments of anyone who served God in the Old Testament. I still admire their commitment, service and love for Him. Every thing they accomplished for God laid another stone on the path to the Messiah. They truly are heroes. But we have a High Priest who sits at the right hand of God, Who is the mediator of a better covenant having better promises. The glory we have received far exceeds the glory experienced by the Old Testament saints. While I am deeply thankful for the heritage they have left us, I am more thankful for the heritage I have in Jesus.

There are many people in the Old Testament who demonstrated character, integrity, honesty and a refusal to compromise for the sake of man's approval; they wanted God's approval, to be pleasing in His sight. These are traits even Christians today should strive to develop in their lives. Yet we need to take it further and strive to be like Jesus.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Many Christians struggle to believe they can be like Jesus. It seems as though they think that means being like Him in His position as King of kings and Lord of lords. But that is describing Deity, and no matter how deeply we press into God we will never become like Jesus in His Deity. However, we can develop into the image of who He was when He walked this Earth. We can live the same holy life He lived. We can hear God as He heard God. We can love as He loved. We can be led of the Holy Spirit as He was led of the Holy Spirit, and we can be empowered by the Holy Spirit as He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. God has confirmed all of this in scripture.

Yes, we can learn from those in the Old Testament and emulate the positive character traits they demonstrated. But ultimately, I want to be like Jesus, and I believe that is your heart's desire as well. Be encouraged to know that such a goal is absolutely attainable as we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us to will and to do of our Father's will!

In His Grace,

Jim



In April, we hosted our annual Spring Prayer and Power Conference. Pastor Dave Roberson, Gary Carpenter, Pastor Bronc Flint and I all ministered. Special guest Jamie Legault led worship during the weekday morning services. We have never had a conference like this one! I can tell you without hesitation that it seemed as though God lifted us all up to a higher level with Him. Words simply cannot describe the depth of the teaching we received or the presence of God that filled the worship services.

During the Sunday morning service the following prophecy was given by the Holy Spirit:

THIS WEEK, YOU WIN

There are those of you who have come to this place, come to this week, with many burdens, many concerns. You've carried things with you here from your home that are not yours to carry. But this attack has blinded you to what I want to do in your life and what I have done in your life.

If you will be very attentive in all of these services I am going to be able to reveal unto you just how free you really are. I'm going to be able to give you a revelation of your victory over these things that you're facing back home. I'm going to help you understand how to walk in that victory every day of your life. There is no problem you face that is heavier than the cross on which My Son was nailed. And I want you to know, He died to give you His victory.

This week will be a breakthrough week for you if you will focus your attention on Me. I will reach deeply into your life, into your heart, and I will make adjustments in you to help you get back in line with what I am doing in your life. Satan is attacking; but I say unto you as your Father and your God: This week, you win.

It is only now, after the conference has concluded, that I can see how this prophecy was progressively fulfilled during each service.

We recorded the entire conference. Every prophecy, exhortation and sermon, along with the praise and worship from the weekday morning services, is available on one MP3 CD. The sermon I preached on the Sunday morning after the conference was over is included as a bonus track. You can order one of these MP3 CD's on the form below. (If you would prefer to download all the files that appear on the MP3 CD, they should all be posted at our web site by the time you read this letter.)

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WE ARE RETURNING TO KENYA!

In just a few weeks, Kathy and I will be returning to Migori, Kenya to minister in another Prayer and Power Conference. The dates are Sunday, August 10 through Sunday, August 17. God was able to lay a strong foundation this past August, and He will be building upon it when we return. This year, Pastor Bronc and Candy Flint of The Family Prayer Center in Immokalee, Florida will be going with us. I am excited about them joining us for this trip as it will only strengthen the work that God is doing in that region.

Next month I will be sharing more details about the conference, including the location of the services and service times. I realize few people in the United States would be able to make such a trip; but for all of you living in African nations, I encourage you to try your best to attend and if you are a pastor, bring as many of your church members as possible. My contact person in Migori is Pastor Kennedy Oluoch. He can be reached by email at: childrenshope2007@yahoo.com.

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_____ Please send me an MP3 CD of the 2014 Spring Prayer and Power Conference

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My love gift is: \$ _____ (Make checks payable to "Jim Martin Ministries.")

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