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September 2015 "When God Rises" (Part Two)

Dear Friends,

This month I am concluding the teaching I began in last month's letter concerning what Christians will face as the Holy Spirit leads them deeper into God's will. I'll begin by briefly reviewing from last month.

The Battle Within - In Exodus 13:21-22 and 40:34-38 we read how the Israelites were led of God by a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. They were constantly aware of the cloud and the fire, but if the cloud didn't move, they did not move. When the cloud did begin to move, it required much effort on the part of the Jews to pack up their belongings, their tents and the Tabernacle for the journey before them. They had to fight the emotions of complacency at their present location, hard work to prepare for moving and concern about what was waiting for them.

As the Holy Spirit begins prompting us - as our "inner cloud" begins moving - we are in for some changes. These changes will be different for each person relative to God's specific will for that individual. Some of these changes may be small, such as lessening the amount of time we watch television. However, some of the changes may have a major impact on our life, such as changing the church we attend, changing jobs, relocating to a new city, state or country or some other significant altering of our present circumstances. The greatest battle we will face during this time is with our emotions and the imaginations that will try to distract us from the knowledge of what God is doing in us and where He is wanting to take us (2 Corinthians 10:5).

You Are Not Alone - In Exodus 17:9-10, 13 and 33:9, 11 we see how God brought Joshua into Moses' life to help him as he led the Israelites. As we are being led into the next phase of God's will we are not going to be alone. God will send a "Joshua" into our lives whenever we need one. These Joshuas may be male or female, young or old, but they will be spiritually ready to assist us in the battles and challenges we face. A Joshua will work with us and have a lifestyle of pressing into God. A Joshua is one of the greatest gifts and blessings we will ever receive from God.

Discovering Korah (Numbers 12:1-2, 13:26-33 and 16:1-3) - Moses had already faced many challenges, then his own flesh-and-blood brother (Aaron) and sister (Miriam) rose up against him. After that, men who were eye-witnesses to the truth and blessings of what God had promised ignored His word and exalted their emotional interpretation of the circumstances over God's faithfulness. If that wasn't enough, men who had gained respect in the eyes of the Israelites rose up to overthrow Moses.

In order for God to move us to the next level in Him, we must have matured spiritually to the point we are ready for His promotion. Praying in the Spirit is just one of the vital keys necessary for this maturing to take place. As this growth takes place and the Holy Spirit begins stirring within, we are going to become more and more aware of strongholds living "within the camp of our flesh" that we did not know existed. Sometimes, these problem areas will be things we had never considered to be a fault; other times, they will

be habits or behaviors we have grown very accustomed to in our lifestyle. Regardless, we must be prepared for this harsh awakening within as we progress in the Lord.

The Death of the Rebellion (Numbers 14:26-31) - Repeatedly, the Jews refused to believe and trust God in spite of all He had done for them. Finally, God said that all those age 20 and older were going to die in the wilderness and not make it into the Promised Land. However, all those under age 20 would enter the Promised Land. Over the next 40 years, the closer they got to their destination, the more the generation of rebellion, doubt and unbelief died.

As we continue to press into God and as the Holy Spirit is leading us to the "Promised Land" of the next phase of the Father's will, more and more of the flesh is going to be purged. Strongholds that had been dwelling within will die. It can be difficult as we lay aside things we used to enjoy and tolerate. But the things of the flesh must be put to death if we are going to cross over into the next stage of God's will. A "new generation" of spiritual development must rise up within us so we will be ready to step into the next chapter of our God-appointed destiny.

That's the conclusion of our review. Here is the rest of this teaching.

The Voice of Counsel

¹³And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. ¹⁴And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? ¹⁵And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: ¹⁶When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. ¹⁷And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. ¹⁸Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. ¹⁹Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: ²⁰And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. ²¹Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: ²²And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. ²³If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. ²⁴So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. (Exodus 18:13-24)

Moses was doing his best to lead the Israelites. He knew God had chosen him to be the person in charge and he so wanted everything to go well. However, in trying to help the

people, he was taking upon himself too much responsibility. Subsequently, he was headed toward physical and mental exhaustion. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, counseled him to delegate responsibility and relieve himself of a heavy burden.

God knows that our emotions often cloud our ability to hear what He is saying. Plus, our tendency is to try and do everything ourselves. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will inevitably direct someone into our lives who will speak out of the heart and mind of Christ to pass along divine wisdom so needful for our spiritual journey. Many times these people will not even realize God is using them to speak into our lives.

When people come to me with questions or comments, one of the things I have learned to do is ask God to help me hear what I need to hear. I will ask this even as the other person is talking and try to listen internally to God while listening externally to the individual. No matter how confident I may feel, I must be willing to accept that I don't know it all and that others can be invaluable assets in what they say.

Drawing Closer to Your Promised Land

¹And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ²And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; ³And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.

(Joshua 3:1-3)

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the announcement came that the Jews were finally at the place of crossing over into the Promised Land. They could look across the Jordan River and see their destination. There is no doubt they were filled with excitement that the struggles of the journey were now giving way to the blessings God had declared were theirs.

The closer you get to the next phase of God's will, you are going to sense in your spirit that something very good is getting ready to take place. This "knowing" will impact your emotions, but will not be based on emotions. An inner joy will increase because you realize that a great breakthrough is "just across Jordan." You will be encouraged and so thankful that you continued pressing into God and winning the battles with the flesh. You're going to know that the struggles to keep praying, worshiping, fasting and staying in the Word were worth the victory about to manifest. The joy of the Lord will indeed be your strength!

Preparing for the Battle

¹Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. ²And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor. ³And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. ⁴And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

⁵And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. (Joshua 6:1-5)

Although the Israelites had crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land, the first thing they encountered was a massive, fortified city of an enemy army. After all the years in the wilderness they were now facing what could prove to be a devastating war. But God encouraged them by declaring that He had given the city, its king and all the highly trained warriors - the mighty men of valor - into their hands.

Just as surely as you enter the Promised Land of the next level of God's will, the enemy has a Jericho waiting for you. This Jericho will be relative to each individual and what God is doing in his life and ministry. At first you may think, "Oh, no! Not again! After all I've been through to get to this point...and now this!"

But God wants you to know that Jesus has already defeated Jericho (the power of darkness - 1 Peter 2:9), the king of Jericho along with all of his mighty men of valor (Satan, principalities, powers, etc - Colossians 2:15), and that He has provided what you need for the victory (the armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-18). During your season of spiritual preparation for this next stage of God's will you have prayed your way into a greater level of anointing. That anointing brings with it power to tear down the Jericho facing you. In Christ, we cannot be defeated!

The Manna Will Cease

¹⁰And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. ¹²And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna anymore; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. (Joshua 5:10-12)

Once the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they no longer had the supernatural provision of manna. Not only that, the cloud by day and the fire by night they had followed for 40 years was no longer leading them. Things had changed dramatically and they had to learn how to live according to the way God would now move. Their "wilderness way" of living had to yield to "Promised Land" living.

When we enter the next arena of God's will, we must adjust to His expectations for us at that level. We cannot keep living in the memories of great church services and revivals of years past. We can't keep running from one camp meeting to another in anticipation of watching the Gifts of the Spirit in manifestation. Prayer lines and personal prophecies from ministers are nice; but we must grow spiritually to the point where we do not feel that the only way we can receive something from God is in those prayer lines or through those prophecies.

With every spiritual promotion comes a higher level of expectation from God. However, God will not promote us unless He knows we are ready to meet His expectations. God

wants to take you deeper and deeper into His presence. He wants you to know and experience an increasing level of the power of His grace. No matter what you're going through, know that it is worth it to keep pressing into Him. The day is coming when you will enter into a new Promised Land and all the blessings waiting for you there!

In His Grace,

Jim

Our Spring 2016 Prayer and Power Conference will be Sunday, April 24 through Friday, April 29. Our host hotel will again be:

Country Inn and Suites (Fairborn South)
3971 Colonel Glenn Highway
Fairborn, Ohio 45324
(937) 429-2222 Fax number is (937) 427-2204
www.countryinns.com/fairbornoh email: **cx_fabo@countryinns.com**

Discounted room rates are \$94 per night, plus tax. When you contact the hotel you **must ask for the Grace Christian Center conference rate in order to receive the discount.** Our Group Block Code is **0321GRACEC**. Many events take place in the Dayton area from March through June and hotels fill very quickly. It would be wise to make your reservations as soon as possible. For those traveling from other countries, our ministry will not be providing finances for your airplane ticket, hotel room and meals.

If you have any questions about the conference send them to PastorJimGCC@gmail.com.

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