

Being Found Ready

MIKE BICKLE

The Lord has a strong word for us as a spiritual family. I appreciate you responding in such a brief way. This is just a quick introduction to tell you what's happened.

Several of us were meeting with John and he was telling a little of his story of how the Lord called him, and the visitation of the Lord to him. As he was talking, twenty or thirty minutes into it, the spirit of the fear of the Lord fell on me as I was listening. I said, "This is for us." I looked at Lou and his spirit was trembling. I looked over at Daniel Lim and his eyes were closed and starting to tear up. I stopped John and I said, "Would you be willing to share with our community the visitation that you had?"

He said, "I have to leave at five o'clock to catch the airplane."

I said, "This is such an important word for us, we'll just rearrange things and in the next two hours we'll have the meeting." He was willing to do that.

Let me give you a little overview of the word. I want to give you a two- or three-minute synopsis so you know where we're going. Some years ago, as he was a devout man of prayer and committed to the deep things of God, the Lord visited him in a surprising and supernatural way. He spoke to him audibly and literally stood before him. When this happened, he was immobilized under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and he'll tell you the details.

"WE'RE NOT IN AGREEMENT AT THE LEVEL YOU THINK WE ARE"

Now, he was known as a devout man, godly and fervent. The Lord spoke to him in love and tenderness and said, in essence, "John, I love you: you're Mine, you're sincere, but I really can't use you in the way I want to use you. I can use you a little, but there's so much more I want to do through you. But we're not in agreement with each other in a number of ways."

John was devastated by this, and he said, "Lord, what do You mean?" These aren't his words; he'll give his words in a moment.

He said, "We're not in agreement at the level you think we are. There's so much I want to do to you and through you, but you must come to Me on my terms."

The Lord spoke to him and visited him in a way that was really gloriously devastating. At first he was confused, because he had no grid for what the Lord was saying to him, but the Lord was literally standing before him and speaking audibly. The blinding light was blinding his eyes. This wasn't a dream; it wasn't a vision in the mind; it was an encounter with the Lord, an actual face-to-face encounter with the Lord. The blinding light was such that he couldn't actually see the Lord, but He was right there.

“ALLOW THE DEVASTATION OF THIS WORD OF DELIVERANCE TO TOUCH US FULLY”

When I think of the IHOP–KC community, I think of us as sincere. I value and esteem our sincerity. Our sincerity is enough for God to love us. He loves sincerity. But that’s not the same as using us to the fullness of what’s in His heart.

When I’ve been praying about this spiritual family, I get this resounding word: “IHOP–KC, I love you, and I’ll deal tenderly with you, but I would that we could be in agreement at a whole different level in your inner man, because there’s so much more I would give you and say through you, but you can’t hear it.”

That was the word the Lord gave John, and then sent him around the world. He has shared this experience around the world. I said, “You’re only here a few more hours. Would you share this experience? Would you share this with us? Because it has such a presence and anointing of the Lord.”

We’re going to take the message. He has about an hour and a half, and I want him to share it in detail and not to spare us at all. I said, “I want you to be as straightforward with us as the Lord was with you. If you love us, allow the devastation of this word of deliverance to touch us fully. Don’t hinder it at all.”

A MESSAGE FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST WORLDWIDE IN THIS HOUR

We want to be used. We don’t want to be just loved; we don’t just want to be sincere; we don’t want to be used a little, like we are. We’re used a little now, but we want to be used to fullness. That’s the difference.

I’m going to encourage you to take the message. We’re going to transcribe it and edit it and have this available in the next few days on the website, so you might want to study it and look at it. I encourage you right now to listen and let it impact your spirit. We’ll have it written out. I also want to encourage you to get this out to your friends and family members all around the world. This is a word for the Body of Christ worldwide. The Lord commissioned him to go speak this around the world, and he has been doing it. I believe we can send it out in our own little way through the miracle of technology. I want to encourage you to hear it first for yourself, knowing we’re going to get it written for you really soon. It will be on the website. Then get this word out to others.

THE LORD IS ABOUT TO SHAKE THE NATIONS BEYOND WHAT WE CAN IMAGINE

John, come on up. This is John Mulinde. He’s from Kampala, Uganda, in Africa. Some of you won’t know what was going on in Uganda in the time of this visitation, when the Lord came to him. I had the chance actually to be in Uganda at that time. It was like a war zone. The killing fields, for example, were devastating beyond what you can imagine. He was known as one of the men most dedicated and abandoned to God.

But the Lord said, “We don’t exactly have the same opinion, John. That’s what people think of you, and I love you and I see your sincerity, but you’re not in as much agreement as you think. Even though you’re in the midst of devastation and desperate situations, there’s more I want to say to you and through you.”

Then the Lord spoke to him in this visitation and said, “The Day of the Lord is at hand, and I’m about to shake the nations in such a way that even those who believe God is about to shake the nations don’t really grasp.”

I want him to go into detail on that. The fear of the Lord came on us. We believe that. There's a great revival and a great shaking, but the way the Lord spoke it to him is more powerful and more urgent than I think we really understand. I want him to press that point as well.

JOHN MULINDE

Thank you, Pastor Mike. Greetings in Jesus' name. I come from Africa. I love to hear your voices. Hallelujah! Amen. I thank God for this opportunity. As Pastor Mike Bickle explained, it wasn't planned, but I just say that His desire is that we have this, so His will be done.

I'm going to ask that we all take a moment to talk to Him for our personal sake. I want you to raise your hand and put it right in the hand of Jesus Christ. Close your eyes and talk to him and say, "Please, Lord, speak to me in the way my spirit can receive, in the way I can take in and bring forth fruit." Talk to Him like He's your shepherd, your friend. Say, "Lord, I'm here and I want You to meet me and meet my heart."

Loving Father, we want to thank You. You started a good work in each of us, and we know You shall bring it to accomplishment. Therefore, we pray, opening up our hearts right now, that You would meet us where we are. Meet each one of us right where we are. We pray, Father, for the gift of revelation, the gift of wisdom and understanding, to come upon each one of us. Father, let Your Word bring forth life and let it flow throughout our whole beings. We humble ourselves in Your presence and we say, "Lord, let Your will be done." We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE TWIN TERRORS OF IDI AMIN AND MILTON OBOTE

Let me start by giving you a little background. I come from Uganda. Uganda is found in Africa—East Africa—between Kenya and Congo. Kenya is on the east and Congo on the west, Sudan on the north, and Tanzania on the south.

Our nation has known a lot of turmoil in the last few years. We received independence in 1962, and by 1966 the government had been overthrown, and with one thing leading to another, Idi Amin rose to power. He was one of the biggest dictators and tyrannical leaders in Africa. Then he left in 1979, and we were ruled by another leader named Milton Obote, who ruled during a period of civil war the country.

Idi Amin had torture chambers; he took everyone who was educated, everyone who was rich, everyone who was renowned, and tried to kill them. Those who survived had to flee the country. When Milton Obote came, there was insurrection, a popular uprising against him. He attempted to enact a scorched-earth policy, which is when you wipe away the people in a particular area, empty the area, and bring in other people to occupy it. There was a lot of bloodletting in the country. People were internally displaced into camps where they became refugees within their own country. There was a lot of suffering.

I grew up under these two clouds. I still remember the day when Idi Amin came into power in 1971. I was just nine years old, and throughout the eight years of his reign, I was growing into my teenage years. He was overthrown in 1979. In 1980, Milton Obote came into power, and civil war raged for the next five years. Those were the surrounding in which I grew up. Later on, Milton Obote was overthrown, and we had a government that began to bring healing to the land.

At that time, I had just entered into ministry. I was serving as an evangelist in one ministry, and I was assigned to go to the area that was called Luwero Triangle. It was a combination of three big districts where the war had been taking place. During that time, as we were ministering, there were skeletons and skulls and human bones all over. Some were piled by the roadside for display. When you entered the jungle bushes, you stumbled upon bones and bones. The place that we used as a church was a community center building that wasn't yet finished. To use it, we had to carry out eighty human skulls, remove them, and put them in one room. Then we placed the bones in another room to be able to clear the hole, and we used it as a church. This was the kind of background in which we were serving.

“I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT ALL TO ME AND LIVE BY FAITH”

I want to give you a little background before I come to the visitation of the Lord. In 1987 I gave up my job to enter full-time ministry, and I felt deeply in my heart that God was calling me to go preach the gospel. I somehow had a sense that I would go and take the Word of God to the nations. I was working in an import/export company. The Lord began to speak to me and said, “I want you to live and walk by faith. I want you to trust nothing. I want you to depend on nothing, not even your own strength, your own wisdom, or your own understanding. I want you to give it all to Me and live by faith.”

My understanding of what living by faith was, was very narrow. I thought He wanted me to give up my job and that He would take care of me financially, which I did. I went and resigned from my job. I was working as an executive director of the company. I gave it up and went into pastoring. He kept speaking to me and saying, “I want you to live by faith, which means you have to give Me everything and take everything I give you.” I didn't know that concept of faith. I'll come back to that later.

“YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO KAMPALA, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS WORK FOR YOU”

I was pastoring a new church; we had just started, and I stayed there as the pastor for about eight months. I loved the people. It was a small congregation of about forty people. We had to get a new patch of land, find poles, and try and put up a shelter. I did everything with them and I loved it. I was getting so fond of each of them.

Then one night as I slept, I had a dream. This dream came again a second time and a third time. In the dream someone was telling me, “You need to go back.” This was outside of our city, Kampala, and he said, “You need to go back to Kampala, because the Lord has work for you.”

The first time I had the dream, I woke up and thought, “That can't be God. He brought me here. I'm just starting this work, and I aim to develop this work, and the church is going to grow and I've committed myself. I will be here.”

The dream came again a second time and a third time. It was a Saturday night. Sunday morning I went to church, and a brother from the church, the one who sent me to this place, came to visit. We had lunch with him and he prayed with us. He said, “John, I had a dream, and I shared it with a pastor, and he told me to come and share it with you. Please, don't mistake me; it's not from my own desire. I just want to tell you what I got.”

I said, “Tell me.”

He said, “I had a dream, and someone was telling me, ‘Go to Gayaza, where John is, and take over the work he’s doing, because I want him back here.’” He said, “Please don’t misunderstand me.”

I said, “I know. I understand what you’re saying. I had a similar dream.”

I told him my dream, and then we went together to Kampala and shared with our pastor. I said, “Pastor, give me about three months to prepare the people and hand it over.” He did.

THE LORD COMMANDS JOHN TO READ THE SCRIPTURES, PRAY, AND WORSHIP

When I was going back to Kampala, the Lord spoke to me again in a dream. He said, “When you go to Kampala, don’t get busy. I want you to spend time in the Word, reading the Scriptures, praying, and worshipping. That’s all I want you to do. Don’t teach, don’t preach, don’t get busy in other things.”

I said, “OK, Lord.”

I told my pastor. Many times he accepted, but many times he would forget and he would say to me, “John, we’re going together to do evangelism.”

I said, “Pastor, remember what the Lord said?”

He said, “OK, if you’re not going, can you stay and take over the service while we’re gone?”

I said, “But the Lord told me not even to preach.” Sometimes we had some misunderstandings like that, but he was a good man. He *is* a good man. He tolerated me.

The Lord told me, “I will bring people around you. Take them, love them, and give them everything I’m going to teach you, because I’m preparing you for a great work that I have for you.”

I didn’t know at the time what kind of work it was going to be. I thought it was an assignment I would go and do and finish and then come back. I didn’t know that He was preparing me to step into the ministry to which He was calling me. He brought about eight people around me and we began to pray. We did nothing except wake up in the morning, stay in prayer for about two hours, then read the Word of God, then go and take a break of about two hours, come back and be in the Word of God again, spend about three hours in prayer, and that was our day. We kept going from morning to evening, till deep in the night, and around midnight we would go to bed. We did this for two months.

THE MYSTERY OF THE BACKSLIDDEN CHURCH

One day a lady came to my pastor. She came from a village in a war-torn zone. She said to my pastor, “We had a church planted a year ago in my area. Three hundred people were saved and became part of the church, but right now all of them are backslidden. There’s only the pastor, his wife, and one member—three people altogether. Can you come and help us to restart the church?”

My pastor called me and said, “John, will you go with her and find out exactly what’s on the ground there?”

I said, “But pastor, the Lord told me...”

He said, “OK, OK, OK. I’ll get someone else to go.”

When I went to my team, as we were praying the Spirit of God said to me, “This is what I’ve been preparing you for. I want you to go back to the pastor and tell him you’ll go.”

I went back; I didn’t know what it was. He sent me. I went to that place, I arrived, and I found it a village like any other. There was nothing abnormal about it, nothing extraordinary, but what intrigued me was this: how can a church begin with 300 people, and then in the course of a year have only three remaining? These people hadn’t migrated anywhere else. They still lived in the area; they just backslid all over. You find them in the village. We walked around, and in the night I prayed on my knees and said, “God, what’s responsible for this church’s fall? It’s no use starting another church if the problem hasn’t been removed. What caused this church to fall?” I prayed and then I slept.

THE CHURCH HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY WERE FIGHTING AGAINST

We slept in the same room as the pastor. At night I had a vision, and I won’t go into the details of that vision, but the Lord showed me the church, and there were people praising and worshiping and having a really good time. Then I saw the forces of darkness rising up out of the big forest and beginning to move around like a whirlwind, and eventually they came and struck the church. I saw people’s bodies being cut and flown in all directions. The Lord said to me, “There’s a principality that reigns in this area. It’s responsible for what you saw happen to the church. The church had no understanding at all of the spiritual powers they were fighting against, and neither did they have root in the Word.” They had wonderful worship and praise, but they had no root in the Word and they couldn’t stand up against the power of darkness.

The Lord said to me, “There are so many of My people labouring without fruit in the field because they’re not rising up to use the authority they have to overcome the powers of darkness in their territory. I have brought you here. I will teach you how to break open territories, to break the grip of darkness that the kingdom may thrive in the area, but you have to humble yourself and learn step by step.”

I woke up and told my friends, and we started praying even more deeply, even longer, even more focused prayers. God began to open our eyes, and we began to see things in the spiritual realm. We saw powers of darkness, and as we went and dealt with them, people were healed and delivered. We saw the high priest of darkness who was controlling the powers of darkness in that particular area. The Lord showed him to us, and we began to put it on the altar before the Lord in prayer. In about a week’s time, he gave his life to Jesus. He opened up like a Pandora’s box because he was controlling so much spiritual power in the area. When he came to the Lord he broke so many sorcerers and witches, some of them had to migrate and leave, and others came and gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole place opened up, and a new church was planted, and they had more than 200 people in the beginning.

A TUMULTUOUS SERIES OF SHOOTINGS, ARRESTS, AND ESCAPES

Then the Lord sent us to the next city, where again we had a lot of experiences that I won’t go into. We were shot at, at close range, and the Lord protected us. A person shot at us from less than ten meters away and the bullet was stopped by a papyrus reed between eight to ten meters from it.

The next day we were arrested and taken to police and they said, “You have guns.” The Lord had warned us that we were going to be arrested, so we were ready for it. When we were put away we preached to the prisoners, and they gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. We came out and the army came to investigate and they discovered the bullets, so they said, “No, this wasn’t a bullet shot from inside the house; it was shot into the house.” They set us free and we preached the gospel; we planted a church, and then we moved onto the next city.

We were supposed to plant three churches. When we arrived in the next city, that’s when things began to happen. The way we normally functioned was to go in for two months, pray a lot, map out the area spiritually, deal with powers of darkness, prepare a crusade, and then our pastor would come and lead the crusade with us in the church. As I said, because of this new outreach, the Lord was teaching us to deal with the forces that are holding territories captive. As we were dealing with them, we saw territories open up, we saw captives being set free, we saw people delivered and healed without our even praying for them. The Lord would visit people in their homes in the night. They would be healed, and in the morning they would come and say, “I want to give my life to the Lord.” We were seeing so many of these things. We were very excited. Some people would come and say, “I went to this crusade, to this pastor, and I wasn’t healed, but just as you came in I was healed.” We felt so good about it.

A MAN IN A GLITTERING ROBE AND A LETTER FOR JOHN

Then we went to this new place and were preparing for the crusade. We were getting a lot of visions showing us the powers of darkness that we were dealing with. This was one of the worst areas, because that’s where we had to clear the skulls and the skeletons. We would hear strange voices speaking in the night or in the hall where we were doing the meetings, and we had to go into spiritual warfare, bind the spiritual forces, and go ahead with the meetings. Things were working out wonderfully.

Every time we would come to pray, someone would say, “I have this scripture, I got this vision, I got this word, I had this, I had that . . .” They were all consistently warning us to repent and walk straight with the Lord and take away hypocrisy—to take away our lack of sincerity.

I was disturbed. I said, “There must be someone here who isn’t walking right, because God is working with us wonderfully, moving us forward, and yet He’s bringing this word.” I would sit everyone down—we had about twelve people by that time—and I said, “Please, everyone, examine yourselves.” That went on for about a week.

Then one day, on a Monday, I had gone away visiting with some new believers. When I came back, one of the sisters called me and said, “John, I was praying and I had a vision. I saw myself walking on a long straight path. I was so tired, I wanted to turn back. Then I saw someone dressed in a white, glittering robe and he came and said, ‘Be of good courage; you’re on the right track. Keep going and you’ll get to where you’re supposed to get, but permit me to ask you to go back to John, where you left him, and take him this letter.’”

He gave her an envelope. In her vision, she turned and looked at the envelope like you would look at the name on the envelope. Instead of a name, there was a scripture. She came out of the vision and came and brought me this message.

“HAS THIS HOUSE, WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, BECOME A DEN OF THIEVES?”

The scripture was Jeremiah 7. I would like us to read it together: Jeremiah 7:2–11. I’m going to read it slowly, and I hope you’ll follow.

“Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in your place. Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these.’

“For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, and in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

“Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations’? Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, says the Lord.” (Jer. 7:2–11)

JOHN EXHORTS HIS TEAM TO EXAMINE THEIR HEARTS

I was under heavy, heavy conviction, but I thought, “What did I do that’s different?” I couldn’t find anything that I had done in my life or allowed in my life that was different or inconsistent with my normal life. I was convinced that in my normal life I was walking with the Lord. I called the team and said, “We really, really need to deal with this today. We need to examine our hearts. We need to come open. If possible, let us confess to one another, because the Lord is definitely speaking to us.”

I couldn’t put the works of miracles and signs and wonders that God was doing through our hands and the visions and the revelations He was giving us in sync with this kind of word and message that was constantly calling us to repentance and to come back to Him. I really used some stronger language than usual and tried to make it clear: “We really can’t go on like this. You have to pull your act together.”

HE AWAKENS IN THE NIGHT AND HIS HEART IS AS A STONE

Everyone left trembling. We went to bed that night. I used to wake up around four in the morning to pray. I got up, tried to pray, and I couldn’t pray. My heart was closed. It was cold, and hard, and closed. I couldn’t bring prayer out of my heart, however much I tried. Even when I persisted, it felt like the door was closed before me and I couldn’t get into the presence of the Lord. I tried to worship, and it didn’t work.

At 5:00am, everyone woke up and we joined together. They went into worship—deep, rich worship. I felt cold. I couldn’t worship. There was no joy for me, even in singing to the Lord. I was like that for the next two hours. They didn’t seem to have a problem, but I had a problem. When it all ended, I thought, “Is God closing me out? What is the meaning of this?”

I called the other sister who brought me the scripture and said, “Look, since you brought me the scripture, I haven’t had peace. Now I can’t pray. Can you explain to me more how you got the scripture?” But she had no more to explain.

“I COULD FEEL THE CLOTHES BRUSHING AGAINST ME, BUT THERE WAS NO ONE”

I left them preparing breakfast. I went away, trying to walk and pray. I prayed everything and came back and still had no success. We had breakfast and then, following that, we were supposed to go and preach the gospel house to house.

I said to them, “You go; I’ll remain.” Normally I would be the one to lead the team, but I stayed behind and said, “You go. Today, I’m the one to stay behind and pray.” We always left someone to pray for the team. I stayed, supposedly to pray, although I couldn’t pray.

When they left, I took about four different Bibles and my concordance, and went out and sat on a veranda of the next house that was very close to ours. I sat there and said, “God, I hunger for You. Please let me connect with You. Give me access. Why do You deny me? What is wrong? Is there anything I’ve done that has gone wrong? I can’t think of anything. I can’t think what could have gone wrong. Please.”

I was pleading like that, and suddenly something happened. Something came over me and my whole body shuddered. I felt like someone came and sat on my left hand. I could feel the clothes brushing against me, but there was no one.

Then a strong compulsion came upon my heart to open my Bible. It was as though someone had said, “Quickly! You need to open your Bible now to the book of Romans, chapter 1.” I just want to share with you as clearly as I can. I can’t describe, because it was like someone was there saying, “You’re asking for understanding. Open the Bible. Do it now.”

“THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS”

I opened the Bible to Romans 1:18. It says:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the image of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things” (Rom. 1:18–23)

JOHN STRUGGLES WITH THE AIM AND PURPOSE OF THE MESSAGE

I was completely confused. I thought, “God, are You saying this to me, or are You giving me a message to preach? What is this?” I felt a grave seriousness about this; for I knew that God was seriously trying to communicate, but to whom was He speaking? “Are You trying to talk to me, or are You giving me something I’m supposed to deliver or preach?”

First of all, let me tell you this: at that time, although we had started this church, the people in the village were very blasphemous. We were constantly preaching the gospel. Every day we would go out, but they would speak insults; they would take the name of God and speak vanities around it. We would go out in open-air meetings with a drum and sing. People would gather around us as if to listen, but they would be hurling insults against the name of the Lord and making ridicule of us. It was really very hard to go out, but even so, we stepped out by faith and said, “God, we’ll go.” Humanly, we would have chosen to stay. When this word was coming, I thought, “Lord, are You giving me a word to say to them? What are You trying to do?”

But deep, deep inside, my conscience was saying, “This word is for you personally.”

“BEING FILLED WITH ALL SEXUAL IMMORALITY, WICKEDNESS, COVETOUSNESS”

I said, “God, if You’re talking to me, make it clear.” Again, it was like a wave came upon me. I felt, “Go to your Bible and read Romans 1:28–32.”

It says:

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” (Rom. 1:28–32)

JOHN TRIES TO REASON AND ARGUE WITH GOD

This is what happened to me. I could look across that list and I couldn’t say, “None of those things are in my life.” I could spot a number of things that made me say, “OK, I know that, that, that, and that are in my life.” And then I said, “But every day before I go to bed, I get on my knees and confess those sins. I confess them and tell You to forgive me. I can’t believe that You’re a God who would rebuke for that.” It says that when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us (1 Jn. 1:9).

I’m mentioning these. I want you to connect it to something else that I mentioned earlier when He said, “I want you to live by faith.” I’ll connect it later again. I said, “God, if You really are saying this to me, please be specific. What did I do out of the ordinary? What is it that I’ve done? Maybe I didn’t notice it.”

“YOU ARE TREASURING UP FOR YOURSELF WRATH IN THE DAY OF WRATH”

I could feel the anger of the Lord; I could feel the displeasure of the Lord. My whole being was trembling, but I didn’t know what to repent of. As I was still trying to reason it out, again, that wave came over me and the scripture fell on my heart: Romans 2:1–5.

It says:

“Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those

practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” (Rom. 2:1–5)

“HE WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”

I have to confess to you: at that moment, my whole being was gripped with fear. I thought, “God, whatever is wrong is big, but I don’t even know what it is. I know You’re very, very displeased with me, but I don’t understand.”

I continued reading in verse 6, and it says, “[He] will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” (Rom. 2:6–11).

“THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU”

I was thinking, “God, I don’t know what to do now. I don’t know how to pray. I don’t know what I’ve done. I know something is wrong, but I don’t know what it is.” I sat there thinking, “I wish He would tell me something. I wish You could make it clearer.”

As I was doing that, the wave came over me again: Romans 2:17–24. It says:

“Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonour God through breaking the law? For ‘the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written.” (Rom. 2:17–14)

I’m sure you can connect with my heart when I read that last statement. I told you, the people were blasphemous. They would say things against the name of the Lord, and your body would cringe.

When I read this: “You who preach to others, can you not preach to yourself? You who teach others, can you not teach yourself? You tell others not to steal and you steal; not to do this and you do it,” and then finally, “As it is written, the name of the Lord is being blasphemed because of you,” it came so personally. It was as though He was saying, “Everything you see there, everything they’re doing and saying against the name of the Lord, is because of you.” It’s because of the way you live; it’s because of the way you walk; and not only that, it’s written about you.

AN EXHORTATION IN THE BANANA PLANTATION

My whole being wanted to scream. I couldn't go on. I closed the Bible and said, "God, I don't know what to do."

At that time, the team came back from evangelism. I called the sister who started it all; I said, "Come with me."

She came and we went down into the banana plantation. I said, "Help me. Since I awoke this morning, I can't pray. When I try to ask the Lord, He shows me He's very displeased with me. I don't even know how to repent. I don't know how to bring repentance. Can you help me? Come and pray with me."

She said, "OK, but what have you done? What has gone wrong?"

I said, "I don't know."

She said, "But how can we repent for something you don't know?"

I said, "God is very displeased with me."

Then she said, "How do you know He's displeased? How did you find out? What exactly happened?"

I had to tell her everything as I've been going through it. As I was speaking to her, I could see fear come upon her face. Her eyes grew big and she was sort of trembling. As I walked through it and came to this last statement, she screamed.

She began to cry to God and say, "God, have mercy upon me; have mercy upon me. I'm a sinner. Please have mercy." She wasn't praying for me; she was praying for herself.

Later on she said to me, "I thought you were trying to communicate to me in a roundabout way. Everything you were saying was piercing my heart. I thought you couldn't speak to me directly, so you tried to do it in a roundabout way"—which wasn't true anyway.

"IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US"

When she screamed like that, something gave way in my heart and suddenly I felt I could pray. We got into prayer and I cried. I repented of everything I could think about. I said, "God, I repent of this; I repent of that..." I think it took about an hour.

Then I started feeling what the Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us" (1 Jn. 1:9).

I started thanking God. I said, "Thank You, Lord, thank You." But I didn't feel peace. I didn't feel anything lifting. I didn't feel like I had dealt with the issue.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID

Let me just drop this. I was trying to deal with an act, and He was trying to deal with my ways. He wasn't dealing with something I've done; He was dealing with how I walked. I thought my walk was OK. He wasn't trying to say, "You did this, so repent of it."

Let me give you an example. Saul and David both had the same kind of background. They were both tenders of animals. They were both called to be kings and prophets. They were both anointed by the same prophet, Samuel. They both sinned against God. They both confessed their sin. David was forgiven; Saul was rejected. What was the difference between these two men? If you look at the life of Saul, the first time the Lord said to him through the prophet, "Prepare an offering; I'll come tomorrow and give the offering," the prophet delayed a little, but because the people were scattering, for the sake of the people, Saul emboldened his heart and gave the sacrifice. Perhaps he wasn't supposed to do that.

As soon as he finished, Samuel the prophet came. He said, "What have you done? The Lord would have founded the kingdom in your household, but now He has taken it away and given it to another man."

What was Saul's problem? He said, "The people were scattering and leaving me, so I emboldened myself and gave the sacrifice" (1 Sam. 13:12, paraphrased).

The next time the Lord sent him on a mission, He commanded him to kill the Amalekites. Saul went on the mission; he didn't disobey. But when he returned, the Lord said to Samuel, "I repent that I sent him. I repent that I even made him king. Look what he has done."

When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said, "I have done the mission of the Lord."

But Samuel said, "What is this bleating of sheep that I'm hearing?"

Saul said, "Oh, the people wanted to bring them back, so I allowed them."

Samuel said, "Is sacrifice better than obedience?" For they were going to give sacrifice to God.

Later on Saul said, "I wronged the Lord and I wronged you. I feared the people."

Do you realize that Saul lived his life before the people? He did things because of the people. He confessed and said, "I have wronged God. I have done evil. Please go with me to worship the Lord."

Samuel said, "I won't go with you." He turned to leave him, and Saul took hold of his garment and it tore in pieces. When it tore, Samuel turned around and said, "Even as the garment has been torn, the kingdom has been torn from your hands" (1 Sam. 15:28, paraphrased).

What did Saul say? He said, "Hey, I've sinned against God and I've sinned against you, but give me some respect before the people. Honor me before the people." Even in that moment of brokenness, his heart was more concerned about his appearance before the people.

Samuel went to him, but from that day he never went back. He prayed for him daily until God said, “How long will you prefer a man I have rejected?” (1 Sam. 16:1, paraphrased).

David sinned also. He committed adultery, then murdered the man against whom he committed the sin, then hid it all, and Nathan the prophet came and confronted him. David passed judgment and said, “That man needs to die.”

And Nathan said, “You are the man.”

David said, “Oh! I have sinned against God.”

Nathan said, “The Lord has forgiven you.”

“I WANT YOU TO COME OUT OF YOUR WAYS INTO MY WAYS”

What’s the difference? It’s not so much about the act; it’s the way. The Bible says David had a heart after the Lord’s heart. His way was after the Lord. He fell like any other man could fall, but his way desired all his life to live for the Lord. That’s a big difference. That’s what the Lord was confronting in my life. He wasn’t confronting an act; He was confronting my way. He was calling me out of my ways into His way. I was serving Him; I was seeing people getting saved, I was seeing churches being planted, I was seeing people healed and delivered, but God was saying, “I want you to come out of your ways into My ways.”

“I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, AND I NO LONGER LIVE”

That’s what living by faith is. Do you remember when the people asked Jesus, “Then what shall we do, that we may work the works God requires?”

And Jesus said, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (Jn. 6:29). When we believe in Jesus, what happens? We believe that our lives are futile, hopeless, vain, and that we’re condemned to death. We give up our lives to Him to receive His life. From that moment, we speak like Paul: “I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live. The life that I live is no longer mine, but the life I live is of Christ and I live it by the faith of Christ” (Gal. 2:20, paraphrased).

“LET YOUR MIND BE CONVINCED YOUR OLD LIFE IS GIVEN UP”

This is what the Lord was calling me to. He said, “Stop living in your human ways. Stop living in your human wisdom, in your human effort, in your human will. Drop that. Die to yourself that so you might live to Me. Take on My life. Let your mind be convinced your old life is given up. You can no longer live for yourself.”

“THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION”

The Bible says: “The love of Christ compels us . . . that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again . . . Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2. Cor. 5:14–15, 17).

That new identity is from God, who has “reconciled us to Himself through Christ Jesus, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself . . . and has

committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to Him" (2. Cor. 5:18–20).

GOD IS CALLING FOR A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION IN IDENTITY

He was calling for an identity change: to come away from my human ways, my identity, my ability, my effort, my wisdom, and to lay all that down, to come and take on that life that came from heaven. It came into the world; it had a mission. It didn't come to make money; it didn't come to make a name; it didn't come to make an impact of human fame or prestige. It came for a mission. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (Jn. 3:16–17).

God was calling me to live His life, His identity, His cause, His mission; to give up my ambitions, my dreams, my desires, my rights, that I might take on His, and that I might therefore lay claim upon the inheritance, the identity, that's in His name. That's what He meant: believe on Him who was sent. That's the work of the Lord. I had never connected the two.

"WERE THEY ASHAMED WHEN THEY HAD COMMITTED ABOMINATION? NO!"

That day as He spoke to me, as we were praying, I prayed and then I felt, "I've prayed enough. I'm sure He has heard my prayer. By now He has forgiven me."

But I didn't feel peace. I didn't feel release. I felt that same guilt still upon me. I said, "Lord, give me a word to comfort my heart. Give me a word to bring back joy into my heart, please." My sister was still there crying and travailing before God, but I was feeling, "I've prayed enough."

But because no word was coming, I said, "Let me do this. I'm just going to position my Bible like this and open it up, and wherever my eyes fall, that's what I will take as His word for me."

I was very close. This is where my eye fell as soon as I opened it. It was Jeremiah 6:14–15. It says, "They addressed the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all. They don't even know how to blush; so they will fall among the fallen, and they will be brought down when I punish them, says the Lord" (Jer. 6:14–15, paraphrased).

That's the word I received. That's the word I sought out; that's the word that came. My eye fell on it. I was so frustrated, I took my Bible and threw it away. I said, "God, I'm a sinner beyond what I understand. I don't even know how to repent." I began to cry out, "Have mercy upon me. Give me the grace of repentance."

"IF I HAD COME TODAY TO TAKE MY BRIDE, YOU WOULDN'T BE A PART OF THAT"

As I was crying like that, I felt the presence of the Lord come upon me. Being a preacher, there are times when you start preaching and in the middle of the preaching the presence comes upon you. That's exactly what I felt. I felt, "Ah, He's coming to me."

Then it increased to levels I had never, ever experienced before. Soon my heart was scared. I could feel it like a heavy, heavy blanket coming upon me. Then my whole body was trembling. I was sweating. Then I felt like my

tongue was swollen in my mouth. I could no longer use my tongue to speak. It was stuck. I tried to move my body. I couldn't move any part of my body. It was like I was inside the body, but the body was no longer mine.

Then suddenly a bright light hit my eyes. My eyes were closed. I was on my knees with my head on the ground, but a bright light hit me. I lifted up my eyes and said, "What is this?" I opened my eyes and I couldn't look in the light. Even when I closed them, it pierced into my eyes.

I bowed my head again, and I was trembling and thinking, "What on earth is going on?"

Then I heard a voice, deep and calm. He called my name three times. I couldn't answer. There was no strength in me to answer, but inwardly I was saying, "I'm here."

He called me—"John"—three times.

Then He said to me, "I knew you before the creation of the world, and I chose you and set you apart to serve Me as a witness in these last days. I want to say to you, if I had come today to take My Bride, you wouldn't be part of that. I wouldn't take you."

I can't describe the shock that came upon me. I think I was in shock. I didn't even respond. It hit me. He repeated it.

He said, "I wouldn't take you. For it is written, 'He will appear to those who wait upon Him' (Isa. 49:23, paraphrased). You're not living your life as a person waiting upon Me. You're allowing all kinds of filth to come into your life. You're living like one who cares not."

As I said, I couldn't speak with my lips. At that moment I was thinking, "This can't be happening to me. I gave up my job to serve the Lord; I gave up my house that my father had given me because I wanted to go to the mission field. I gave up this, I gave up that; this can't be God saying to me that He wouldn't take me." None of my theology and teachings could accept that.

He spoke to me these words written in the book of 1 Corinthians 6. He quoted them; I found them later. I couldn't even remember that they were in the Scriptures, but later on I found them in the Scriptures.

It says: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:10).

"THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED"

He went on to say to me, "Your life is so full of filth. You walk with an outward appearance, and you cover many things in your heart. You forget that I am the Lord who examines the heart. You are not ready to meet Me."

He began to say to me, "If your life is full of this and this and this and this, then are you ready for My appearance?"

As He measured the various things, I could say, “OK, Lord, have mercy.” But then He mentioned one thing that my heart rejected. In my own understanding, I had never turned into that. He said, “If your life is full of fornication . . .”

And everything in me said, “Oh, no. That cannot be.” I said it in my heart, and the voice stopped. For a moment there was silence.

Then He said to me, “There is no crooked word that comes out of My mouth. Do you call Me a liar? But because you don’t even know your own heart, I will show it to you. Remember this day when you were in this place at this hour?”

Brothers and sisters, I didn’t even remember. I practically saw myself back in that very moment—not as a memory, but as a reality. I was back in that moment. I saw myself sitting in the taxi waiting for the taxi car to be filled. Then I was looking out at some lady with all kinds of filthy imaginations. The moment it came back, I thought, “Oh, God, I have sinned against You.”

He said, “No, you haven’t sinned. You *live* in sin. You live in that. You live from morning to evening in such imaginations. Even in your bed at night you indulge in the same. I know every moment of your private life. I know your thoughts. You don’t even fear, even sitting in church. Someone steps up on the platform to serve Me and you strip them naked in your imagination. You imagine all kinds of things. I am the Lord who examines the heart. Have you not read that he who even looks upon a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her (Mt. 5:28)?”

Pictures began to pass before me of how my imagination works. This isn’t something of which I could say, “Lord, I fell in sin. Lord, I was weak.” It was my way of life. It was my constant way of life. I was comfortable in it. I was comfortable that no one else could see it, but God was saying, “I see it. I am the Lord who examines the heart.”

I was so ashamed, but then He said, “That’s not the worst of all. You still live in this.” He began to mention things that appear humanly small: the envy, the manipulation and undercutting of one another so that you remain appearing the best, so that you appear to do the best, to preach the best, to work more miracles, to be more anointed; all the manipulation and self-promotions, all the grudges we hold in our hearts when we see someone else being promoted or recognized before us. The way the Lord brought it up, it was so filthy. I cried and cried, and at some point I was so intent on my grief.

Then He raised His voice and said, “Keep quiet and listen.”

“I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!”

I kept quiet, and He went on and on and on, unveiling more and more things. Even the things which appear so small, at that moment appeared so rotten. I felt like I was standing before the judgment seat with everything being thrown out. I wanted to say, “Stop, stop, I accept it all,” but He wasn’t stopping. At some point I was just saying, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry.”

He said, “Keep quiet.” I wasn’t speaking loudly; I was speaking in my heart. He said, “Keep quiet and listen.”

As He continued I thought, “I must have been deceived. All along I thought I was serving God and yet I’m so filthy inside. I must have been deceived. The Devil must have taken my life captive a long time ago.”

At that moment I thought of the miracles we were witnessing. I thought of the healings. I thought of all those wonderful things, and suddenly my heart sunk. I thought, “The Devil has so deceived me that he could even use me to produce counterfeit miracles; to produce things I thought God was working—and yet it was the Devil all along . . .”

The voice kept quiet for a moment, and then He said to me, “Why are you imagining such thoughts? I don’t do miracles because you’re worthy. I do miracles because I love My people before whom you stand to preach. Have you never read of how they will come to Me on that day and say, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name we worked miracles, cast out demons, and prophesied’? Then I will say to them, ‘Get out of My sight, you workers of iniquity. I never knew you’” (Mt. 7:21–23, paraphrased).

He said, “Don’t depend on the miracles to assess your worthiness. Your worthiness isn’t in the signs and wonders you witness in ministry. I do miracles because I love the people, and My name shall never be left without witness on earth.”

He said, “Have you not ever read that without holiness, no one will see God (Heb. 12:14)? It’s not the miracles; it’s the holiness that comes from God.” He spoke to me the scripture in the book of Hebrews.

After I had just been saved, only two days in salvation, He gave me this scripture: “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions” (Heb. 1:9). I was a new Christian. I had this dream and someone was saying to me, “This is a gift from the Lord.” He gave me that piece of paper and there was this scripture in the dream.

Then the Lord, as He spoke to me in this visitation, said, “You started well. Why did you turn? You started with your eyes on Me, but as you became more familiar, you turned your eyes on people. You stopped seeking My approval. You began to seek the approval of men. Because men don’t know the secrets of your heart, they kept approving you and showing you how they marvelled at your work, but you didn’t care about Me. I know your heart. You started well. What turned you away? Why did you take your eyes off of Me? I want you to know that men don’t have heaven. Only My Father has heaven, and He will judge as a just judge, and He will reward every man according to his works.”

“YOU HAVE A NAME THAT YOU ARE ALIVE, BUT YOU ARE DEAD”

He gave me the scripture in the book of Revelation: “These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: ‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you’” (Rev. 3:2).

“I GIVE YOU COUNSEL: REPENT”

The Lord said to me, “I’ve looked at you from beginning to end and I have found nothing acceptable to My Father. I give you counsel: repent. Forsake everything that you call valuable. Give up your dreams, give up your rights, give up anything that you think is valuable and seek My face. Humble yourself. Come without any

claims. Come without anything and just humble yourself. I tell you, it's worth it to inherit salvation, eternal life. It's enough. It's beyond any other thing you could ever compare with it."

He spoke about that man who saw a treasure in the field and went and sold everything and came and bought the field (Mt. 13:45–46). He said, "This is what I counsel you: give up everything you thought was precious and come, that I may have mercy upon you. If you could truly repent, I will bring you back and restore you, and I will make you My mouthpiece."

"But listen to this: I have a case against each of your friends. Tell them to repent." Then He began to say, "Go and tell this one and this one that this is what I see in their lives." He gave details. Then He said, "Go tell this one that this is what I see." I don't want to make these preaching issues, because they belong to very specific individuals, but I had about eight partners, and He gave me a message for each of them, including the sister who was there with me.

"IT WAS LIKE HELL BROKE OUT"

I went back and called everyone. It was about time for dinner then. We were there the entire afternoon. My eyes were swollen from crying. My whole face was swollen. I called everyone and said, "Look, this is what happened to me." I told them everything concerning me. Then I began to speak to each of them. It was like hell broke out. There was wailing and wailing and wailing. Secrets that people thought no one else knew about came out. Suddenly, they were confronted with issues that they never thought anyone would know about. They were well hidden inside of their lives and God just put them out there.

No one ate dinner that day. No one had an appetite to eat. No one slept in their beds that night. All night long it was like the whole world had become too narrow, too small. You would sit in one place to pray and you felt, "I have no peace here." You would go to another place and think, "Oh, my God." There would be loud crying at one moment and groaning at another moment and whispering at another moment. No one wanted to be near anyone else. If someone came near you, you wanted to walk away. You felt like everything was repulsive. For the first time in my life I felt, "There's nothing in this whole world worthy of attention—nothing!" I was thinking, "God, if You just give me one more chance. I promise to live for You and You alone."

THE TEAM FLEES TO THE MOUNTAINS TO PRAY AND REPENT

In the morning I took my Bible and a small container of water. I said, "I'm going to the mountains. If anyone wants to come with me, come, but don't expect me to minister to you. I'm going to seek the Lord for myself. If you want to come, go seek God for yourself."

Quite a number came with me. Two remained with one of our sisters who was sick. We went up into the mountain range as far as we could go and entered into the jungle; we didn't even know who owned the land. We went in, found a place, and stayed there. There was no roof, no shelter. We prayed from evening till morning. We only gathered together in the mornings to say, "Has anyone heard from the Lord? No? OK." We would go back to seek the Lord. I remember after two days of non-stop praying, day and night, I was so tired, so worn out, I put my Bible under my head as a pillow to sleep and lay there for about five minutes. I could hear others groaning and pleading and thought, "God, who am I to sleep when others are groaning and seeking after Your face?"

I had to rise up and keep walking up and down and say, “God, have mercy upon us.” On the third day, somewhere around midday, we gathered without anyone beckoning. We came together and we were praying and it began to rain. Everyone had to protect their Bibles and stay there crying to the Lord, crying like little children. There were no words, just crying and crying and crying.

As the rain stopped, the Spirit of God came upon us. The Lord began to speak through one of us. He was addressing us together, but also addressing us individually: speaking deep, deep things concerning His calling and destiny on each of us, reminding people of things that happened when they were still infants, saying, “Remember when this happened? Remember when this happened? That was Me. Remember when this happened to you? That was Me.”

Suddenly we realized that although we may have gotten saved when we were adults, God was showing us, “I was with you even when you were a child growing up. Remember this? That was Me. Remember here? I protected you from that. Why would you turn away from Me?” That day, in tears, we recommitted ourselves to the Lord and felt the peace of the Lord come upon us. The joy of the Lord returned and we began to praise the Lord and shout to the Lord and feel the joy of the Lord all over us.

The Lord spoke to me and said, “Don’t stop fasting. Stay in this mode. I’m going to talk to you about My Church.”

“THEY HAVE PROVOKED TO ANGER THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL”

I used to go everyday and spend six hours alone in the banana plantation. On one of those days, four or five days later, at 3:00pm, I was alone praying and pleading, mainly about my life, for the shock was still on me. As I continued, suddenly I felt that presence come upon me again, just as it had come the previous week. I began to tremble. I was so scared, because I didn’t know what to expect. It continued growing and building and building. My whole body was trembling. Soon I could no longer move any part of my body.

I could no longer speak with my lips. It was like my whole body was paralysed. This time I didn’t see the light. I was there trembling, and in my spirit I was worshiping and saying, “Lord, have mercy upon me.”

Then I felt like someone close to me gave a very, very big sigh, heaving. Then He spoke. He began with these words from the book of Isaiah: “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; the ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider. Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward’” (Isa. 1:2–4).

“MY SERVANTS . . . HAVE TRADED THEIR SOULS FOR WORLDLY THINGS”

That’s the way He began. When He finished those words, there was a pause. I wasn’t sure at first, but I felt like someone was sobbing—someone was crying. Then He began to speak and said, “I will tell you about My people, My Church.”

He began to talk about the Church. He began to talk about how He paid the full price, how He was our atonement, how He paid everything and how we’re set free, how we’re supposed to live a completely liberated life, redeemed and fulfilled. He said, “But My people turned away from that. My people have chosen to go back

to live in their human lives, their human effort, human desires, human wisdom, and human will.” He went on describing the things we do in His name but in our human ways and human effort. He said, “My servants, the preachers of the Word, have traded their souls for worldly things. They speak from the worldly spirit. They comfort My people in their sins instead of calling back My people to Me. They tell them it’s OK to live the way they live.” He said, “Many of My people don’t know the joy of forgiveness because they’ve never been led into deep repentance and total surrender to Me. They’ve been told it’s OK to live in self-will and to do whatever they want. My heart grieves because I see what the enemy is doing to them.”

“MY PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN UTTER WOUNDEDNESS”

Then He quoted from Isaiah 1:5: “Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment” (Isa. 1:5–6).

He said, “My people are living in utter woundedness. Much of the woundedness comes out of pain and bitterness, and therefore people lash out at one another. People are living in selfishness because of the pain of their lives. I hurt, because My healing is complete. My stripes are able to heal, but My people have settled down to live in their woundedness, in their bitterness, in their hopelessness, and they’ve been told that’s all salvation is about. I paid for everything. It’s a finished work, but they have chosen to live devoid of it.”

He went on and on and on. He said, “My heart is grieving, because the Day of the Lord is near. The Day is coming.” He began to describe that Day as a day of agony. It’s a day of wailing. It’s the day no man can stand.

For the sake of time, I want to use some scriptures and define that day. When the Lord began to talk about that day, I don’t know whether I can describe this. It’s like you were hearing a voice speaking very clearly, but now it’s like you’re hearing someone who is speaking and at the same time is crying. He was saying, “The Day is coming, and My heart grieves for my people. My people aren’t ready. My people aren’t anywhere near readiness, and My heart grieves for them. I have done everything to set them free. I have done everything. They don’t need any other thing but that which was done.”

“THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR; IT IS NEAR AND HASTENS QUICKLY”

Please go with me to the book of Zephaniah 1:10. “‘And there shall be on that day,’ says the Lord, ‘the sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills. Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh!’—the marketing district—“‘For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money are cut off.’”

He goes on:

“‘And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.’ Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall build vineyards, but not drink their wine.

“‘The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; then the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of trumpet and

desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.

“I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.

“Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land . . .” (Zeph. 1:10–18)

This is just one description of the Day of the Lord. When He was describing this, sometimes I would see visions. The voice was speaking, but I would see visions. I saw one when He said, “The time is coming.” When the Lord talks about the Day of the Lord, He talks about that final Day of judgment, that final Day of reckoning and paying everyone according to their deeds. But the Day of the Lord isn’t limited to that. The Day of the Lord is also the very, very last days leading up to the end. I don’t know how long that period is; it could be years, it could be a few decades, but He was saying, “The end times, those final years, will come with many trials.” Most of those trials will follow the issue of money, of materialism, the whole issue of survival. He said, “If My people won’t anchor their faith in Me, if they won’t completely abandon themselves in Me, they won’t be able to stand the trials of the last days. They’ll compromise; they’ll yield to the pressures, especially the financial pressures. There will be a lot of betrayal, both in the Church and in the world and in the families. There will be lots of pressure that no human being will be able to withstand. This is why I’m grieving and hurting deep inside. I love My people, and I can’t stand by and watch when the enemy is laying siege like this.”

WHEN THEY SAY “PEACE AND SAFETY,” DESTRUCTION COMES

He went on, and was crying over the passage in the New Testament, in 1 Thessalonians: “When they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape” (1 Thes. 5:3). A great calamity shall befall them, and none of them will survive. “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that this day should overtake you as a thief . . . For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him” (v. 4, 9–10).

You are not children of destruction. You have been called to live eternal life, and you have been called to an eternal hope. Everything has been done; everything has been paid. Why would you position yourselves where you would be compromised, where you would be taken over? Do you remember the Bible? Jesus Christ came to John the apostle in Revelation 2–3 and spoke a message to the seven churches, and in each of those messages He said, “He who overcomes, I will give them this.”

The Lord said, “There is overcoming to do. There’s standing to stand firm, and when everything has passed, we remain standing (Eph. 6:13). My people need to wake up and rise and stand in the full inheritance of what was done on the cross.”

ALL THE THOUGHTS OF MEN’S HEARTS WILL BE REVEALED IN THAT DAY

There’s power in the cross. There’s power in the blood. There’s power in the name to make us overcome. We don’t need to stand in our own strength and wisdom and effort. As long as we try to live this life in our wisdom, our strength and effort and human ways, we’re going to be swept away. We’re going to be compromised. We’re

going to be gripped with fear. Jesus Himself said one of the spirits of the end times would be this: “Men will faint with fear—fear and perplexity” (Lk. 21:26, paraphrased).

He went on and said, “On that day, every hidden thought of men’s hearts will be revealed.” He said to me, “Did you see the secrets of your life come out? That’s what’s going to happen. Every secret thing is going to come out. This is why I have appeared to you, that I may make you a witness and a voice to the nations. Go into the nations to My people, to those who are called by My name. Say to them, ‘Repent and return; come back to the Lord who died and rose again for you. Forsake your human ways and surrender yourselves completely to Him.’”

THE GREATEST SIN GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED

He spoke then, something that He has been speaking to us again in the last few months, about fruitfulness and unfruitfulness. He said, “There’s so much being done in the Church in the name of the Lord that is without fruit—so much effort, so much investment, but very little fruit.” He said, “It’s because it’s all being done in human effort and human ways. My power is sufficient; My Spirit is sufficient. The greatest sin My people have committed, the most painful sin of all, is that they have rejected My Spirit and created their own experiences that they call the Holy Spirit. They create their own sensations and impressions that they call My Spirit. This is the greatest grief of My life. I know that in your power you can’t walk this way; that’s why I sent you the Helper, the gift of the Father. When you turn away from Him, then you turn away from hope.”

IS THE CHURCH SUPPOSED TO BE A SLAVE TO THE POWERS OF THE WORLD?

“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?” (Jer. 2:13–14)

This is basically what the Lord is saying of the Church. Is the Church supposed to be a slave to the powers of the world, to the powers of the Devil, to the powers of sin and the flesh? Have we not been redeemed? Has He not paid the price? Has He not released the power of the Holy Spirit to make us overcomers? Why then have we become plundered? God is calling upon us, not so much about repenting of the wrong actions; He’s saying, “Come away from your human ways. Come away and take My life; it’s free. Live in My ways. Live like one who has ceased to live for himself and is now living for the One who died and rose again for him. Adopt the life that was sent from heaven to the earth with a mission.”

He said, “As my Father sent Me, so do I send you.” It says clearly we can no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again for us (2 Cor. 5:15). Brothers and sisters, there’s no human effort that will ever fulfill the standard of the Lord—not even the most sincere effort (Zech. 4:6). When we surrender ourselves and walk in that covenant love of God, He does within us exceedingly above what we can ask or even imagine (Eph. 3:20). He makes us overcomers beyond our imaginations. Where we would fail and turn back, when a heart is committed and says, “God, I’m all Yours. My life is no longer mine; it belongs to Christ. I will live for no other reason than to fulfill the purposes of God, and I will live for no other law but the law of love, unconditional love”—when we commit ourselves to that, and say of every other consideration, “I’m dead to that,” God sustains us even in our weaknesses. Where our faith would fail, where our hope in our own selves would fail, where we would think, “I can’t do this,” grace comes all around us. Somehow we see ourselves being reenergized, our faith renewed. We look back and know, “If it was my own strength, my own decision, I know I would have fallen there. Somehow His hand sustained me and brought me through.”

The Lord said to me, “One of the greatest temptations in the last days is going to be the spirit of immorality. The enemy knows every other sin committed by man is outside the body, but the sin of fornication and adultery is inside the body” (cf. 1 Cor. 6:18). It makes you one with the adulterer. It destroys; it corrupts and defiles the temple of the Lord. In the last days, this is going to be one pervasive sin. Like a storm it will go through the nations, and it’s going to become more and more accepted, even in the Church. There will be immorality, perversions, and all kinds of sexual sins. God says, “Warn My people: flee from evil; flee from wickedness.”

“SEEK THE LORD, ALL YOU MEEK OF THE EARTH”

I’ll read this last scripture: “Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, or the day passes like chaff, before the Lord’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord’s fierce anger comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility; it may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord’s anger” (Zeph. 2:1–3).

“FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME”

Beloved, the time is short. He who comes is coming soon. He is calling us to Himself. I remember He said to me, “That Day is not a day of joy”—even to Him. He said, “My heart is torn apart when I think of My people who will be pulled away on that Day. That’s why I’m crying out, ‘Return to me.’”

He said, “I’m sending you. Don’t judge My people. Don’t condemn them. Tell them I’m not condemning them. I call them to return to Me. Flee from the wrath that’s coming on the Day of the Lord. Flee from the powers of darkness that are seeking to take you captive. Flee from your own self, your own carnal nature. Flee. There’s refuge in the name of the Lord. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and they’re safe.”

MINISTRY TIME

I want to pray that God will bring revelation to your heart. Beloved, there’s a responsibility to overcome. He says, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21).

I’m going to ask you to do one thing. I don’t know what you have taken from this sharing. I know one thing: there’s a destiny in your life. You’re not an accident on earth. You’re not just here to drift along with the masses. There was a destiny given before you were born. Before you were in your mother’s womb, He knew you; before you were born, He set you apart (Jer. 1:5). There’s destiny; there’s a purpose to fulfil in the years remaining in your life, if you can be like Paul to say, “Whatever was precious to me, I call it loss, and I call loss every other thing that I may pursue Him, that I may win Him, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering and be conformed even in His death” (Phil. 3:8–11, paraphrased).

Let us come to that place of abandonment, where you say, “God, for the rest of my life, I want just one thing: to lay hold of that for which You laid hold of me. I want to lay hold of that for which You laid hold of me. Forgive me for the past. Thank You that You don’t condemn me. Today I turn around. I lay down my human life, my human wisdom, my human endeavors, my efforts. I choose to live in the life of Christ. I choose to live in the faith that I am dead and He’s alive.”

If you feel like that today, I'm going to ask you to rise up to your feet. I ask you to come before the Lord in humility and say, "Lord, I thank You that You even allow my ears to hear the words I've heard today. I thank You that You care enough to reach out for me, whatever the circumstances are."

I ask you to raise those hands to the Father and begin to let your heart pour out before Him. Talk to Him like a child would talk to his father. Open your heart and say, "God, here I am. I'm your child, redeemed by the blood, by the mercy of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I come because You love me. I come because You care about me. I didn't know You, but You knew me. I didn't seek You, but You sought me. When I was an enemy, You gave Your life for me, Jesus. You died for me when I didn't even know You loved me.

Just raise your hands and your heart to the Father and call upon Him who loves you. Call upon Him who cares about you. Call upon Him who says it doesn't matter what happened in the past; you can be changed. You can be redeemed. You can be restored. You can be renewed.

In Jesus' name, Father God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we call upon Your holy name right now. We call upon Your name in the name of Jesus Christ. Let the blood of Jesus come upon us and bring cleansing upon us. The Bible says they overcame with the blood of the Lamb and with the confession of their lips (Rev. 12:11). Father God, let every yoke of the enemy, every scheme the enemy has tried to bring our way to hinder us from being fruitful, from being fruitful to the maximum, be broken today in Jesus' name.

Pour out your heart. Just begin to call upon Him. I believe that grace is here to break free every yoke. Whatever the enemy may have added upon your life, whatever weights are there, whatever veils he has brought, there's grace, and there's a sufficient grace here to set us free, in Jesus' name.

Thank You, Lord. Dear Holy Spirit, we pray right now for the restoring power that comes from You, Lord. You're our Helper. You're our Teacher, our Advocate. Without You, we can do nothing. Forgive us when we have turned away from you—turned away from the spring of living water to turn to pools and cisterns that can hold no water. Forgive us, King of kings, O God. Forgive us for the times when we have created experiences and called them the Spirit of God. Father, You have given us Your Spirit, and He is available. Even now I pray, in Jesus' name, that You would come. Come, Holy Spirit. Come with Your restoring power.

MIKE BICKLE

Lord, I ask you to release the spirit of the fear of the Lord. This afternoon when we were together, the Lord released the spirit of the fear of the Lord. I'm asking Him to release that now. Just ask Him to touch you in that way. As he was sharing the testimony earlier, there was a pulling of the Spirit on the heart. Lord, I'm asking You to do that again right now.

I just want to review. Keep your eyes closed. I want to review for one or two minutes. There's a man known for his devotion and obedience—a man with a reputation all around his nation at that time for unusual obedience and devotion. The Lord draws near to him one day, and bright light strikes his eyes. He can't even open them because of the brightness. The Lord stands next to him and brushes up against him; it's the Lord Jesus Himself. He says, "You have a reputation that you're devoted, but there's darkness in you that you're not confronting. I want you to confront it because I want to use you even more. I want you to go around the world and tell this to My Church."

It wasn't an issue of God not loving him. He felt loved by God. The Lord said, "There's more. There's light that I want you to agree with that you're not in agreement with now." The Lord said, "There's fornication in your life."

He said, "Lord, there's not. I don't walk that way."

Then the Lord took him, as though in a vision. He said it was more than a vision. He actually saw the time some months ago when he was in that car and gave himself to that in his thoughts. The Lord said, "I want you to break your agreement with that. There's more I want to say to you, but I can't until you break your agreement with that." Then He gave him other examples that he didn't go into today in this testimony. He said, "Break your agreement with that."

He said, "Lord, I'm not guilty of that."

The Lord said, "I see things you can't see. I don't tell you lies; I don't speak to you in vain. I'm speaking to you because I have more to do through you."

The Lord said the Day of the Lord is at hand. He heard that audibly. He told more details this afternoon that he didn't have time to go into today. The Lord said, "There will be a troubling. I want to raise you up and others like you to be prepared to prepare My people, but you're not prepared."

He was known for his devotion and his piety. As he spoke that, the Lord was touching several of us in that room earlier today. We have this same word, this same mandate, this same invitation. It's more than an invitation; I believe we're in the same condition. The Lord says, "I will send you to the nations to speak this testimony."

Lord, we hear the weak words of a weak man, but we ask to hear Your word in it right now.

I don't want to stir up an emotion in you. That's not what I want. What I want is a clear sentence in your heart that you can agree with the Lord: "Lord, I'm not walking with You in this way"—and name it specifically before Him—"but I want to. I know I'm forgiven, I know I'm saved, I know You'll use me. You'll even use me in miracles. You'll use me, but I want to go all the way."

Then He spoke and said to him, "Immorality will be one of the great vices even in the Body of Christ in the coming days." He told him that some years ago. There's immorality all through our midst, but it's not just that. The Lord says, "It's not just that you do sinful things: it's a way of sin in which your mind is entrenched"

The Lord isn't speaking that to condemn us, to beat us down, but so that we could come into agreement with Him so that He could free us; and not only that, but so that He could use us.

Lord, I'm asking You for the same spirit of the fear of the Lord that was on us earlier. I'm asking You to release that right now.

I'm not looking for a particular emotion; I'm looking for a place of agreement. Ask the Lord, "What's the sentence? What's the issue, the two issues, the three issues; what are they? I want to come into agreement with You right now. I don't want to wrestle with You, Lord; I want to just say yes."

The Lord visited a man in East Africa and sent him around the world, and he came through here for less than twenty-four hours. It's the same word, the same calling. The Lord has given him a place in the prayer movement worldwide. He's a well-known name in the prayer movement, but the Lord says, "It's not enough. I want you not just to pray: I want you to carry your heart in a certain way, I want you to live in a certain way while you pray."

Lord, thank You that You sent a messenger to us, a man of prayer for twenty-five years, a man to whom You have spoken about the Day of the Lord. Lord, we receive that word. We receive that word. We ask You to walk in our midst even now. Mark our hearts.

Again, don't concern yourself with the feelings or emotions. Emotions are good, but they're only to help us come into agreement. Agreement is what He's after.

We want to be in agreement with You at a whole new level. It's not enough to be more than others; we want to be in agreement with You. This is the day You're calling us. Lord, release the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Release it even now, Lord.

Talk to Him. Give Him a sentence. "Lord, it's immorality. I don't walk it out, but I live there in my imagination." "It's bitterness. I live there in my imagination." Maybe you don't give yourself to it verbally where you vent all the time, but you live there in your imagination. Maybe it's covetousness; maybe it's vanity at another level.

Lord, walk among us. Lord, we receive the word of the Lord from Your messenger.

Just take a few moments and talk to Him with a new urgency, with a new honesty, a new searching. We're going to take about the next fifteen or twenty minutes right on to 6:00pm and continue in this. Feel free to leave if you need to leave. Feel free to let this soak and really grab your heart at a new level.