Laying Aside Every Weight Series presented by the Ministry of YOU

I personally received the prophecy from Brother Copeland for the year 2024. And some prophecies from some of my other brothers and sisters in Christ who are also prophets of the Lord. However, right now, I am specifically referring to the prophecy from Brother Copeland. The Holy Spirt has been helping me to believe and receive this prophecy for myself and my family. For the most part, everyone has been focusing on the more and more parts of this prophecy. Moreover, the Holy Spirit has highlighted the beginning of the prophecy for me to focus on.

“2024 is going to be a powerful year! There are going to be some marvelous things happening. It is like the old saying, “It will be the best of times and the worst of times.” The Holy Spirit asked me, “Which side of this prophecy did I want to be on? The best of times, or the worst of times?” Of course, obviously I said, “The best of times.” This was the best answer to His question, but I knew there was a lesson coming because of my response. I have been a student in the School of the Holy Ghost long enough to know, He was about to teach me a very important lesson.

My Teacher, the Holy Spirit instructed me to get out my textbook, the Bible and turn to KJV Galatians 5:6. So, I did as I was instructed. I began to read. “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision (Jew) availeth anything, nor uncircumcision (Gentile); but faith which worketh through Love. The Holy Spirit explained to me, that in order to experience the best of times as stated in Brother Copeland’s prophecy, I needed to operate in this spiritual principle; faith works only through Love.

I wanted to get an even deeper understanding. So, I looked at the phrase “which worketh” in the concordance. It is the Greek word energeo (en-erg-eh’-o). This is where we derive the word energy from. In the Greek it means to be operative, be at work, put forth power. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines this word “energy” as applies to power expended or capable of being transformed into work. Then in turn I looked at the word “faith.” Faith is the Greek word pistis (pis-tis). It means the conviction or belief that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal (Great) Salvation through Christ.

In addition, I looked at the word Love. This does not refer to ordinary human love which is referred to as phileo in the Greek. This is the Greek word Agape (ag-ah’-pay) and it means God. God is Love! The Word of God expounds on this Truth. 1 John 4:16; So, we have come to know and to believe the Love that God has for us. God is Love, and whoever abides in Love abides in God, and God abides in him. When I put all this information together, the Holy Spirit helped me to understand what He was explaining to me.

If I don’t abide with God (Agape) by walking and operating in Agape (God) then I really don’t believe that God (Love) exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of a Great Salvation through Christ Jesus. Because if I do believe in Love (God) then I will obey Love by yielding and being constrained by God Who is Love. If I choose not to walk in Love based off my conviction belief in God (Love) then I will not be able to participate in this Great Salvation He has provided through Christ Jesus. I reminded myself of what I would be forfeiting. The word “salvation” in the Greek is soteria (sot-tay-ree’-ah) and it means deliverance, preservation, safety, deliverance from the molestation of enemies, redeemed from all earthly ills, the sum of benefits and BLESSINGS!

I became cemented in my decision to receive my Great Salvation through Christ by continually choosing to operate in faith working through Love (God, Agape). The Holy Spirit went on to say that He wanted to help me understand what I would have to continually lay aside in order not to forfeit my Great Salvation! During my time of study on this subject matter, as I was reading a book the Holy Spirited highlighted this quote to me. “Whatever we plant in our minds and nourish with repetition and emotion will one day become a reality.” This quote is by Earl Nightingale. However, what it reminded me of is Proverbs 23:7; As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

This is why it’s crucial that we manage our own thoughts with their attached emotions. Let’s expound on this word” manage” for an even better understanding. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word “manage” as to work upon or try to alter for a purpose. The Word of God tells us the purpose of altering or managing our minds. AMP Romans 12:1-2; Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies (dedicating all yourselves, set apart) as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. And do not be conformed to this world (any longer with its superficial values and customs), but be transformed and progressively changed (as you mature spiritually) by the renewing of your mind (focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes), so that you may prove (for yourselves) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (in His plan and purpose for you).

The Apostle Paul explained the purpose of mind-management. It is essentially retraining your own thinking to agree with God’s (Love) Thinking. This process will bring YOU to spiritual maturity, which is to think and act like God (Love) at all the times! When YOU begin to think and act like God it will be easy to know and understand His plans and purposes for your life. The Holy Spirit then led me to Hebrews chapter twelve to teach me about laying aside unnecessary weights which is a part of managing my thoughts with their attached emotions.

KJV Hebrews 12:1; Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Right now, what we are focusing on is weight and sin. There are many things that can have us weighed down. For example, unpaid bills, changing jobs, or moving just to name a few. However, there’s a sin that’s been highlighted as well. The sin in verse one is revealed in verse fifteen. KJV Hebrews 12:15; Looking diligently lest any man fail of the Grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

Remember, when the Holy Spirit warned me not to be the one who was on the side of the worst of times. The root of bitterness will cause us to be living the worst of times. We just read it, it will cause us to fail to experience the Grace of God or the Great Salvation of God. In addition, many are defiled by it. The root of bitterness is going to bring many kinds of trouble into your life. How are others defiled or contaminated by a root of bitterness operating in someone? Because the person who is bitter is going to be talking about the offense with other people and if others aren’t cautious, they are going to receive the other person’s offense and the offense will become their own offense. Now they are defiled too! So, when an offense is not dealt with appropriately, it will become rooted in a person’s heart or mind, becoming a root of bitterness. Before the offense becomes a root of bitterness, there are signs or symptoms of offense. It’s referred to as passive aggressive behavior.

We previously discussed passive aggressive behavior in another lesson. However, it bears repeating for an even deeper understanding of this lesson. This term was originally used in the American military to describe soldiers who did not comply with their superiors’ commands. Colonel William Menninger was a psychiatrist and during World War II he was studying the behavior of soldiers in their noncompliance with the military. He discovered that some of the soldiers weren’t necessarily openly defiant but expressed their civil disobedience by what he called “aggressiveness by passive measures,” such as pouting, stubbornness, procrastinating, inefficiency, and passive obstructionism (deliberate interference with the progress or business especially a legislative body) or the body of Christ.

This behavior seems innocuous (harmless), accidental, or neutral but indirectly displays unconscious aggressive motive. This verse of Scripture tells us how to recognize bad seed when it begins to produce destructive fruit in our lives, according to Brother Rick Renner in his book Sparkling Gems from the Greek 1. The words “springing up” are from the Greek word phyo (foo’-o). In addition, Brother Rick says, this word depicts a little plant that is just starting to sprout and grow. It isn’t a large plant yet; rather it’s a small seedling that is just breaking through the soil and starting to peek out at the world. However, the very fact that it’s peeking through the soil means there is a seed hidden in the soil producing this new life.

Brother Rick makes a very interesting point. “This a very significant picture. It tells us that bitterness doesn’t overwhelm us all at once. Instead, it grows a little here and a little there until it finally becomes a huge, ugly growth that defiles our entire lives. Bitterness usually starts peeking up out of the depths of our souls in the form of negative thoughts about another person or a sour, sharp, distrusting, cynical attitude toward someone who has offended us. If the root is not quickly uprooted and removed, that bitterness will eventually become a full-blown tree that produces bitter, wounding, hurtful, and scornful fruit for everyone who eats it.”

The Holy Spirit was warning me through these verses of Scriptures that if I allow this attitude of offense to invade my mind or heart it is going to bring trouble to me and my life. The words “trouble you” are from the Greek word enochleo (en-okh-leh’-o). It means to excite to disturbance, to trouble, or annoy. What YOU allow to take root and to fester inside your soul will become a major nuisance to your peace, keeping YOU upset and emotionally torn up all the time. For example, every time YOU see the person you feel something sharp and ugly inside, and negative thoughts pester and bother YOU all the time. Such as, YOU hear about them being BLESSED and YOU wonder how God could possibly be BLESSING them when they did such an ugly thing to YOU.

Remember the quote in the beginning of our lesson: “Whatever we plant in our minds and nourish with repetition and emotion will one day become our reality. Let’s take a closer look at the word “nourish.” The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word “nourish” as to promote the growth of. So, in other words, whatever we promote the growth of repeatedly with our thoughts with their attached emotions is what we are going to bring forth into our lives. This same chapter also gives us the solution to this potential danger of the root of bitterness. KJV Hebrews 12:2-3; Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds (once we faint in our minds surrender comes next).

These verses of Scriptures explain to us that we should be focusing our attention on our Savior and Example Jesus. We should be studying Him and learning how He lived on this earth because He is and always will be the most successful Person Who ever lived! He never sinned or missed the mark! Verse four goes on to say, and ye have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. We haven’t resisted being offended until we sweated great drops of blood. Unfortunately, most get offended quite easily with no resistance at all.

The Holy Spirit then revealed to me that as God is Love. The devil is offense. The devil is the author and source of offense. We have been instructed to submit to God (Love) and resist the devil (offense). NKJV James 4:7; Therefore, submit (to yield to authority) to God. Resist (to exert oneself so as to counteract or defeat) the devil and he will flee from you. In other words, we are to yield to Love and exert effort to counteract or defeat offense in our lives. And when we make the decision to resist the offense rather than yield to it, the offense has to flee. So, don’t yield to offense and nourish it with your thoughts and emotions. Instead yield to the Love of God (Agape) that is already been shed abroad in your hearts. AMP Romans 5:5; God’s Love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us. In order to enjoy the best of times!