

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

'Last night John saw a UFO'. These were words my mother wrote in her diary when I was 16 years old (1966). Right after she wrote those words, she wrote one word in parenthesis by the word UFO (meteor). After my mother passed on. I began to read many of her diaries, which included the one above. Apparently, I have never seen or had a close encounter with a UFO, but I have had some close encounters with the One who created this universe. Many of them have come when I was seeking God on a personal retreat or at a conference.

During the Healing Conferences at Bethel Church in Redding, Calif., Randy Clark taught us that there are different types of manifestations that reveal the Holy Spirit is touching us. One may feel a sensation of electricity or a tingling, fire or warmth, a shaking, tears or weeping or the heaviness of God's presence.

During worship the first night of the meeting in Jan. 2015, I had my hands raised, when suddenly I felt this weighty presence upon my arms which then descended all the way down to my chest. By that time it was so strong that I could not stand anymore and collapsed with a jarring into my seat. After a short while I arose again and the same thing happened again, although in a less weighty manner.

In a late afternoon session of teaching and impartation in Feb. 2019, Randy asked only those to come forward who had any one of the above list of manifestations. I had already found myself beginning to getting teary eyed, but then I began to weep. I then stepped out into the aisle to go forward, but I did not get very far, as one of the 2nd year students in the Bethel Supernatural School of Ministry was coming my way down the aisle. As she prayed for me I immediately collapsed on the floor and found myself weeping profusely in waves of intensity accompanied by some shaking. As I lay there God brought three words to my mind; Wisdom, Knowledge and Compassion. God emphasized the word **Compassion**.

Then this word repeatedly came to me....DOWNLOAD....DOWNLOAD....
DOWNLOAD....DOWNLOAD....DOWNLOAD. (as I later pondered that word of download, it reminded me of when I download CD's onto my computer). I also got the word 'Forward' and sensed that God was going to accelerate some things in my life.

As I lay on the floor, I heard Randy speak from the platform that God wanted to baptize people in his love. This confirmed to me why God had emphasized the word compassion. After I got up a few minutes later, my friends Doug, Wendy and myself

headed back to our hotel, a five minute walk away. They walked.....but I staggered, had slurred speech and was quite giddy, as the Holy Spirit had touched me in more ways than I had first realized. After this whole experience, God impressed upon me that he was **'tenderizing my heart'**.

*Be kind to one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. = Ephesians 4:32 NKJV*

Did God suddenly infuse me with much more knowledge, wisdom and compassion when I was lying on the floor? Perhaps, but most of all, I think he was giving me a foretaste of what he will be doing in process as I spend more time with Him, in His Word and being with or reading about others who have greater revelation of His compassion. A few months ago I did pray at times that God would give me more of what he gave Jesus as prophesied in Isaiah 11:2. I had also been reading about the great ministry of John G. Lake, which we will look at in coming messages.

Recently we began to examine the wonderful revelation and impartation that the apostle Paul gave to the church at Corinth, Greece.

*The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. - 2 Corinthians 13:14 NKJV*

The favor of Jesus leads us to the love of God the Father and brings us to a place of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It is good to reflect on the Father's love expressed through his Son Jesus Christ and enjoyed through intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Paul prayed that the church would be **rooted** and **grounded in that love** - Ephesians 3:17.

No other person that ever walked this earth was filled with so much love per square inch than Jesus Christ. Several times in the gospels we read how Jesus was **moved with compassion** to demonstrate God's goodness to people who needed healing or had other needs. Sometimes those who go around healing the sick are given the label as 'faith healers'. Even Jesus was scorned by the hard hearted religious leaders of his day. Certainly faith is a factor in the healing ministry, but a key element in it all is the love of God. We read in Galatians 5:6 that **faith works by love**. **More than a faith healer, Jesus was a love healer**. All his motives and actions were rooted in the Father's love in Him and through Him, and so should ours be.

I headed to Redding, California with a desire to have a greater power of healing imparted to me. God had something else in mind. I left the Healing Conference with a greater awareness and hunger to be filled with God's powerful compassion. I was seeking more power, but God saw that I needed more compassion. It was a close encounter of the highest kind.