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**Spiritual Awakening
July 2024**

(All Scriptures are taken from The Amplified Bible, unless noted.)

ASSESSMENT – ALIGNMENT – AUTHENTICITY

TRIPLE A – SPIRITUAL INSURANCE

April 5, 2020

Hebrews 4:12 – For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

The root of the Word Hebrew means to pass over or cross over. God is speaking about leaving the old and coming into the new. In other words, like the Jews, believers in Christ must cross over from worldly living into kingdom living. God wanted the Jews to cross over from the Old Covenant (do's and don'ts) to the New Covenant (grace and love) that is in Christ Jesus.

Understanding crossing over is critical to **Hebrews 4:12. God's Word is enough! The Jews could not enter into His rest because of unbelief – the majority could not handle the separation of soul and spirit.**

God is spirit, and we can only cross over to kingdom living by living in the spirit. His words are spirit and life, so understanding His Word is essential. I can't emphasize enough the importance of understanding what God says and its implications and application in our lives. This understanding will enlighten us and guide our steps as we navigate through the challenges of COVID-19 and our moving forward in Christ.

- There is a continued war in the heavenly to stop God’s will and kingdom from manifesting.
- At the appointed time, there will be another storm.
- Only true disciples will be able to stand in the power of God.
 - The heart must purpose to be a disciplined disciple of God and not a deceived disciple.
 - Deceived disciples live counterfeit lives.
- God always warns His people.
- The church should never be caught “off guard.”
- The Babylonian mindset of confusion must go.
 - We must heed what He says in our prayer, study time, and local assembly gatherings. **(Hebrews 2:1)**
 - We must stop allowing the issues of our heart to cause us not to hear whomever He uses to bring His Word.
- Submission to the Lordship of Christ is vital.
 - We must become as serious about knowing Christ as we have been about standing in lines to buy and store food and other essentials.
 - These things will perish, but His Word is eternal.
 - We must submit to His chastening (the separation of soul and spirit), regardless of how painful it may feel.

TRIPLE A – OUR SPIRITUAL INSURANCE

ASSESSMENT

- We must open our hearts to the truth and determine what we need to start, stop, and do differently in every area of our lives.
- We must identify our weaknesses. Our weaknesses are Satan’s tools.
- What have we been doing since the lockdown that we should have been doing all along?
- An authentic assessment will bring us closer to God and His will for our lives.
- God is not involved in any action we take due to the problematic issues of our hearts.

ALIGNMENT

- We must return to our first love, Christ Jesus, with a determined purpose to never leave. **John 15** and **Galatians 5:1**.
- Jesus must be our example. **(John 5:30 and 6:38)**.
- We must “not” allow ourselves to forget this time and what we have learned.
- We can’t have “any” other God but the God of Creation – Jehovah!

AUTHENTICITY

- We manifest as a true disciple as Christ defines – hearing, understanding, and obeying the Word.
- We are a house built upon the rock and will stand when the next storm comes.
- We respond and not react.
- We are an expression of Him in every area of our lives.

Wednesday – 4/8/20 (beginning of Passover)

It grieves God's heart when we have an "oh, everyone knows that" response when He warns us. We suffer during the storm because of our lackadaisical attitude when He is speaking. More often than not, this attitude results from believing we are somewhere that we are not. God's simplicity messes with our dramatic mindset. **2 Corinthians 11:3** reads – But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. God doesn't need the dramatics; He only needs the spoken Word. I refer to **Hebrews chapter 1:2** and again **Hebrews 4:12**—He has and continues to speak through His Son in these last days.

The spoken Word was the problem with the Jews in Hebrews – their lives consisted of do's and don'ts (old covenant), and now God is saying, my Son's spoken Word is all you need (new covenant). The simplicity was too much, and the enemy used it to cause them to remain or return to the old way of serving God.

For example, the old covenant covered sin; the new covenant removed it. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, IT IS DONE! So, knowing, understanding, and applying what God says is vital.

I want to speak for a moment about step 1 in our spiritual insurance – assessment:

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** – Examine, test, and evaluate yourselves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you – unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?
- We will never become a disciplined disciple until we are truthful about where we are.
- An honest assessment will reveal the degree to which the Holy Spirit is leading us!
- **John 8:31**- Jesus said a true disciple abides/dwells/lives in His Words/teachings.
- We will not enter His rest or His fullness by being **selective** in our hearing and obedience!
- We must ask ourselves if we have been living by the proceeded Word of God.

NOTE: 2 Chronicles 7 – If my people who are called by My Name.....

An accurate assessment will, I believe, bring us to a place of quietness—we will not be so quick to judge and criticize others.

Resurrection Sunday, 4/12/2020 – Holiness and Righteousness

As we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, I pray we will celebrate it in spirit and truth. He must be our example of living victoriously on earth. Again, we return to the book of **Hebrews, chapter 12:2** – 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. **2:10** – For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many **sons unto glory** to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

God is spirit, and we must worship Him in spirit and truth. In His humanity, a crucial characteristic of Jesus was His love for God to live holy and righteous. **1:9** – Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore, God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

We can't make light of His finished work – we have been brought unto glory through His resurrection. In Mary and Elizabeth's experience, we see that God ordained that our savior would show us how to live holy and righteous – a lifestyle of going from glory to glory. Holiness is towards God, while righteousness is towards humanity. Note **Psalms 24:1-10**, specifically verses ⁽³⁾ Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place? ⁽⁴⁾ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to falsehood or to what is false, nor sworn deceitfully.

Luke 1:73-75 (please read the entire chapter) – ⁽⁷³⁾ That covenant He sealed by oath to our forefather Abraham: ⁽⁷⁴⁾ To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our foes, might serve Him fearlessly ⁽⁷⁵⁾ In holiness (divine consecration) and righteousness [in accordance with the everlasting principles of right] within His presence all the days of our lives.

It should be clear that being a disciplined disciple is no small task. We must unlearn the ways of the soul (mind, will, and emotions) and learn the ways of the spirit – following Jesus – loving righteousness – walking in holiness (purity).

We have made “looking unto Jesus” and “following Him” complicated. Our soul wants to “do” more than look, receive, and be. As followers of Christ, our “doing” is by the spirit and in the spirit.

Ephesians 4:22-24 reads – ⁽²²⁾ Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; ⁽²³⁾ And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], ⁽²⁴⁾ And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in **true righteousness and holiness**.

Jesus did His part to bring us to glory as sons/daughters of the Highest God. We must love righteousness as He did and live pure (no spots or blemishes). Our character can only be changed as we align our lives with Jesus.

I will continue to say that we must have a “determined” purpose to know Him because to “know” Him is to become like Him. Other sons/daughters are waiting on us to manifest this glory so they can come to Him – let's live resurrected lives.

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