

Transformed by Receiving the Spirit of Revelation (Part 3)

¹⁶ ***I do not cease...making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened; that you may know (experience) what is the hope of (confidence in) His calling, what are the riches (wealth) of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... (Eph. 1:16-19)***

I. UNDERSTANDING THIS PRAYER

- A. This is a very important prayer in Scripture. It focuses on God imparting the spirit of glory to us. This is Paul's "road map for discipleship" speaking to what our heart needs to be strengthened.
- B. Paul prayed one general prayer that we receive revelation of God and experience 3 different expressions of His glory that cause us to persevere in godliness. We should pray three things:
 - 1. To understand ***God's calling for our life***, both in this age and the age-to-come.
 - 2. To know ***who we are to God*** as His inheritance and ***how He feels as we walk out our calling***.
 - 3. To ***experience God's power*** in our life and to ***rightly perceive how it operates***.

II. WALKING IN CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S 3-FOLD CALLING FOR OUR LIFE

¹⁸ ***That you may know what is the hope of (confidence in) His calling... (Eph. 1:18)***

- A. Paul prayed that each receive revelation of how God views their calling which has 3 dimensions (internal, external and eternal) and 2 aspects (individual and corporate) to it. In each of these we need revelation because by nature we have the wrong perspective. We need a paradigm shift in all three areas. Each demands faith that God sees or greatly values what we do.
- B. Our internal calling in this life is to be a faithful disciple of Jesus that deeply loves God and embraces what the world calls foolish and weak (humility, serving, giving, fasting, praying and forgiving). We need revelation that this lifestyle of so-called weakness is valuable to God.

²⁷ ***God has chosen the (so-called) foolish things of the world (Mt. 5-7 lifestyle) to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the (so-called) weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:27-29)***
- C. Our temporal external calling includes our position (function) in the marketplace, a ministry organization or our home. History verifies that the Lord has given the vast majority (99.9%) an assignment that involves few things and makes very little impact (that can be measured by man).

²¹ ***You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. (Mt. 25:21)***
- D. Our eternal calling (in the age-to-come) has a much larger impact than anything that we will accomplish now. The apostles made many references to their calling in the age-to-come.

III. OUR CORPORATE CALLING (IN TIME AND ETERNITY)

A. We will stand before God as a corporate people on several levels (ministries, cities, nations, generation). The Spirit joins people together in a ministry mandate (same vision and values). This touches our longing to belong to something bigger than ourselves. Our biggest calling is the one that we have together in a region, nation or generation. The Western culture values the individual far more than the corporate group they are in (some of Eastern culture is opposite).

B. Some of unseen parts of the human body are vital to life (i.e., heart valves and lungs, etc.). Paul referred to this principle when speaking of the significant value that all in the Body of Christ have even if their function is not seen by others. When a person is joined the Holy Spirit to a divine purpose then their role is essential.

¹⁸ God has set the members, each one of them, in the body as He pleased...²³ Those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor... ²⁴ God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it... (1 Cor. 12:18-24)

C. Jesus gave corporate promises (7 churches of Asia) that apply to this age and the next (Rev. 2-3). Paul prayed for the regional church of Thessalonica to walk out their corporate destiny together.

¹¹ We pray always for you that God would count you (a regional church) worthy of this calling, and fulfill all...His goodness and the work of faith with power... (2 Thes. 1:11)

D. Paul spoke of people who were joined together by the Spirit being resurrected together.

¹⁴ Knowing that He...will raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. (2 Cor. 4:14)

¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy. (1 Thes. 2:19-20)

E. We have a responsibility to be true to the generation that we minister to.

¹² Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease...¹³ Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain...¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. ¹⁶ When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me-- ¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. (Ps. 73:12-17)

F. Generations will be judged together (Mt. 11:16; 12:39-45; 16:4; 17:17; 23:36; Lk. 11:29-51).

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it...⁴² The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation... (Mt. 12:41-42)

IV. THE SPIRITUAL IDENTITY OF THE GENERATION IN WHICH THE LORD RETURNS

A. There are promises and requirements for the Body of Christ in the generation in which the Lord returns. It will be a generation in which God's people walk blamelessly as a glorious Church.

²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)

- B. It will be a generation in which the Church worldwide has a spirit of prayer and a bridal identity.
¹⁷ And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)
- C. It will be a generation that sees a breakthrough of power for the harvest of souls from all nations.
¹⁷ It shall come to pass in the last days...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy... ²⁰ before the coming of the...day of the LORD... (Acts 2:17-20)
*⁹ A great multitude...of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the Throne...
¹⁴ These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation... (Rev. 7:9-14)*
- D. It will be a generation that is prepared to courageously and victoriously resist the Antichrist. It will be the only generation that will not die physically (1 Cor 15:51-52).
² I saw...those who have the victory over the Beast (Antichrist)...standing on the sea of glass...³ They sing...the song of the Lamb... (Rev. 15:2-3)
- E. It will be the generation that provokes Israel to jealousy so as to be saved.
¹¹ To provoke them (Israel) to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles...²⁶ So all Israel will be saved...The Deliverer...will turn away ungodliness from Jacob... (Rom. 11:11, 26)
¹³ You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come...¹⁵ So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. ¹⁶ For the LORD shall build up Zion...¹⁸ This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD... (Ps. 102:13-18)
- F. At IHOP-KC, the Lord has entrusted us with a mandate to “keep a sanctuary” going 24/7 as a perpetual solemn assembly. In this we are contributing in a small way to the Church worldwide being a Bride who is engaged in intercession. We are one of many ministries that is called to raise up messengers to prepare the Church as a Bride for the End-Time revival and troubles. We are to be messengers who proclaim what is on God’s heart concerning intimacy with God, the End-Times, Sermon on the Mount lifestyles and operating in the authority of the Holy Spirit.
- G. We have an eternal corporate identity together as sons of God and the Bride of Christ.

V. THE GLORY OF BEING GOD’S INHERITANCE: KNOWING WHO WE ARE IN GOD

- ¹⁷ The Father...may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation...that you may know (experience)...
¹⁸ what are the riches (wealth) of the glory of His inheritance in the saints... (Eph. 1:17-18)*
- A. We must know the “why” behind the “what that we do.” The Church is Jesus’ inheritance.
- B. The Father promised Jesus an inheritance. It is amazing that God who possesses all things has an inheritance that He must wait for. Jesus’ inheritance is a people who are voluntary lovers of God. God will not force this on us but woos and wins us by His grace to freely respond to Him in love.

- C. The great prize of all that ages that the Father has chosen to give Jesus is a Church filled with voluntary lovers. We are what God wants most and are what God is most committed to. We are that which is nearest and dearest to Jesus' heart. We are the reward that God gave to Jesus because we are what Jesus most desires. This reveals His passion for us and gives us great dignity. This core truth about our spiritual identity is the foundation of our value and dignity. This changes why we do what we do in our calling.
- D. The revelation of being God's inheritance has many implications for us. It speaks to how dear we are to God (we are what He wants), how He feels about us (as we walk out our calling in weakness), what it costs Him to walk out this love, what He requires from those He loves and why we do the things we do in walking out our calling.
- E. Without revelation of being Jesus' inheritance, we burn out as we seek to fulfill our calling.
- F. Jesus calls us to love Him with all of our heart and strength because that is how He loves us. We are called to be equally yoked to Jesus in love. This is the only way in which our glorious relationship with God can be enjoyed, expressed and protected.
³⁰ ***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. (Mk. 12:30)***
- G. The Holy Spirit will restore the First Commandment to first place in the Church before Jesus returns (Mt. 22:37; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27; Jn. 17:26; Phil. 1:9; 2 Thes. 3:5; Rev. 2:4)
- H. Jesus has holy jealous love for His people. He is jealous for our love. You are the only one that can give God your love.
⁵ ***The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously... (Jas 4:5)***
¹⁴ ***For the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God... (Ex. 34:14)***
- I. The relationship between Jesus and His Church is costly to both. The necessity to sell is the message of both of the following parables. It can be applied to Jesus and/or to the Church.
⁴⁴ ***The Kingdom...is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 Again, the Kingdom...is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Mt. 13:44-46)***
- J. When we see how dear we are to Jesus and the price He paid to bring us into relationship with Him then we change the way we view the sacrifices we make be wholehearted lovers of God.
⁸ ***I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Phil. 3:8)***
¹⁴ ***For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge (conclude) thus: 15 that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them... (2 Cor. 5:14-15)***

- K. Jesus has much invested in our lives. We must not see our calling as separate from His interests and investment in us. When we walk out our calling with Him and for Him instead of for our own satisfaction and importance, then we can be faithful in smallness without being offended. We can be zealous about any call that He gives without regard to its size or importance to men.
- L. Our most sincere efforts to love God are flawed and fragile. Those who sincerely seek to obey Jesus need not fear that they will be disqualified from their calling because of weakness. We are lovely to God even in our weakness. He is tender towards us in our spiritual immaturity.
⁵ ***I am dark (in my heart), but lovely (to God because of Jesus)... (Song 1:5)***
- M. God chose weak human beings as His treasured inheritance, therefore, He is not surprised by our failure. At a time that Israel was failing, God declared that she was His inheritance.
⁹ ***The LORD's portion is His people; Jacob (Israel) is the place of His inheritance. (Deut. 32:9)***
- N. Jesus is our exceeding great reward as well as being our validation and purpose for existence.
¹ ***The LORD came to Abram saying, "I am...your exceedingly great reward." (Gen. 15:1)***
- O. Jesus must totally possess the people that He wants as His inheritance in that He shares His heart, home and Throne with. They will represent Him as His Bride for all eternity.
⁴ ***If you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people... 6 These are the words which you shall speak to Israel. (Ex. 19:4-6)***
¹⁴ ***Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people... (Titus 2:14)***
⁸ ***Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron... (Ps. 2:8-9)***
- P. In seasons of relational difficulty, we must know that God is ravished for all Christians, even the ones who mistreat us. As we view the Church through the lens that she is dark in her heart but lovely to a God who is ravished for her then we relate to her with much love and patience.
⁹ ***You have ravished My heart, My sister, My spouse... (Song 4:9)***