

The Emerging Glorious Church



Lesson Objective:

The objective of this lesson will be to look at the final product of what the Holy Spirit is transforming the church into becoming - a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 5:25-27 ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,* ²⁶ *so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷ *that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*

Christ and His Glorious Bride

Key Point: *The love that Christ has for the church is comparable to the love a husband has for his wife.*

Paul makes an astounding comparison. The love intended between a husband and his wife is comparable to the love Christ has for his church. The marriage of the groom with his bride is allegorical to Christ and His church, so much so that the Scriptures call the church, "The Bride of Christ." The significance of this comparison is in a loving relationship being built from intimate encounters, abiding together, and a partnership in building a family together. Two individuals becoming one together with the other.

Key Point: *Jesus is coming for a bride who is made has made herself ready.*

We are in the last days where God is preparing His people to be the glorious church He has predestined her for. He is coming for a bride who has made herself ready, without spot or wrinkle. What the church is now, compared to what we are becoming seems like worlds apart. It can be discouraging when you look at it in the natural but when you see the wind of God that is moving through the church right now it is encouraging to realize that we are not alone in this transformation. It is not by our might nor by our strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit working among us.

Key Point: ***Jesus seeks to demonstrate the fullness of His love and power through a community of believers.***

The Lord's plan was not to have millions of independent believers confessing Him as their Savior and then going about their own lives independent from Him. His plan is not to have a plurality of churches which each agree upon certain doctrines, who would all try to live good moral lives and pray for people occasionally. No! His plan is to demonstrate the fullness of His love and power through a surrendered and yielded community of believers who are family connected with the same Father. These are a people who have been molded by His hands, by His merciful crushing and shaping hands, like the potter with his clay. He continues to mold us until we have been shaped into His likeness and are walking in His glory and power.

The hour is coming where the increase of the glory of God upon His people will come, as the manifested presence of Christ transforms us. Like the transfiguration of Jesus when suddenly His face, body and clothes began to shine, we will step out of the natural into the glory of heaven. It will be dramatic and frightening to some, however, we will arise and shine. There will be times and seasons, meetings and gatherings, where the awareness of the presence of God will come with such manifestation that all we can do is fall upon our faces and cry out for mercy in the awesome terror of an Almighty God. There will be times that if we would respond to God and follow in what He is doing, without trying to preserve our religious standards we have become comfortable with, that we will be enveloped into the presence of the Lord, awestruck by His might and power for hours, if not all night long. It has happened through church history, not because it was provoked or planned by man, but because it was an hour and season of visitation.

Key Point: ***The Church is to model Jesus in love and power, by working together from His government.***

The way we see the church today is not like it was fifty years ago and it will look nothing like it is now in five to ten years. The Glorious Church is not about buildings, institutions or organizations. We are talking about God working through His people scattered throughout this planet. Each believer, as the temple of God's presence individually, is being fitted together with other believers to form the corporate house of God. Each individual representative of God's Kingdom, who is modeling the likeness of Jesus Christ in power and love, is working together from God's government on earth to see the discipleship of nations and cultures being transformed. The Glorious Church is what we have been emerging into throughout the ages as God has been changing us from glory to glory. He has been transitioning us with revelation upon revelation, precept upon precept, and line upon line. We are an emerging glorious work in process.

Present Truth

1 Corinthians 3:10¹⁰ *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.*

Key Point: ***The apostles lay a foundation from heaven's blueprints of what would become a glorious church.***

The Apostle Paul was a great revelator to the early church, yet he saw himself as the first of many who would follow him and who would build upon what God had started. Like an architect, he communicated the blueprints of God's intended glorious church. He then gives permission for the following generations to

continue building upon his work. Church history shows that one of her constraints in continuing to come into God's design is her reluctance to empower the following generations to continue building.

Throughout the history of mankind we have written testimonies of encounters with God as He would reveal Himself to man. But God has never revealed Himself in His fullness but rather little by little. Even though Jesus was the image of the Father among us, the fullness of God was not revealed to man totally. This is because Jesus emptied Himself of His divine glory. What man saw of Jesus was 100% man walking in full reliance upon the Holy Spirit in order to reveal the Father to the nations. Jesus didn't come into His fullness until after the resurrection from the dead when He took His rightful place at the right-hand of the Father full of all authority and power. The intention of the Father is to bring us from glory to glory, taking us into higher states of knowing Him, little by little, until we become like Him as He is now. Why little by little? Because He is more interested in our relationship with Him than He is in our knowing information about Him. Out of relationship comes revelation; out of revelation comes experiential understanding, the means of intimately knowing Him.

Key Point: *It is intended for the church to be in a constant evolution of the knowledge of God and His Kingdom.*

All the testimonies we have of God are revelations of who He is. The apostle John revealed Jesus Christ in the words, "from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come." He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes. What changes is our knowledge and understanding of Him. We are meant to be in a constant journey of our knowledge of Him. How we see God right now is the result of receiving who He was by faith in the testimonies of past generations and who He is through our personal experiences. However, there must also be an expectation of Him revealing Himself as the one who is still coming. Every generation is to have an experience with God that is built upon the testimonies of the previous generations.

Key Point: *Present truth means that God is emphasizing something now to bring us into maturity.*

In second Peter you will see this one phrase used, "present truth."¹ Present truth does not mean that what we are hearing today is present truth but tomorrow it is no longer relevant. What it means is that in this season God is emphasizing a truth to make up for our lack of understanding, restoring us to a place where truth is demonstrated through an increased mature lifestyle. When the season changes, He reveals another truth. We maintain the one we just received and then take hold of the new. The key to going from glory to glory is that we don't ever lose past truth at the expense of learning a present truth. All the truths in the Word of God are compatible. What we have learned over the last 400 years is not to be forsaken for truths God is revealing now. Rather, they are to be honored as we continue to build precept upon precept. The Spirit of Truth causes a rising to the surface certain truths that prepare us for a reality of glory still ahead of us. What He is revealing today is to become a structured lifestyle that future truths can build upon.

Matthew 13:52 *And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."*

A wise householder is able to take the antiques of the past, which are useful for the equipping of a modern house and utilize them. He is at the same time able to take modern conveniences of his time and add them in with the antiques of the past and have a serviceable household.

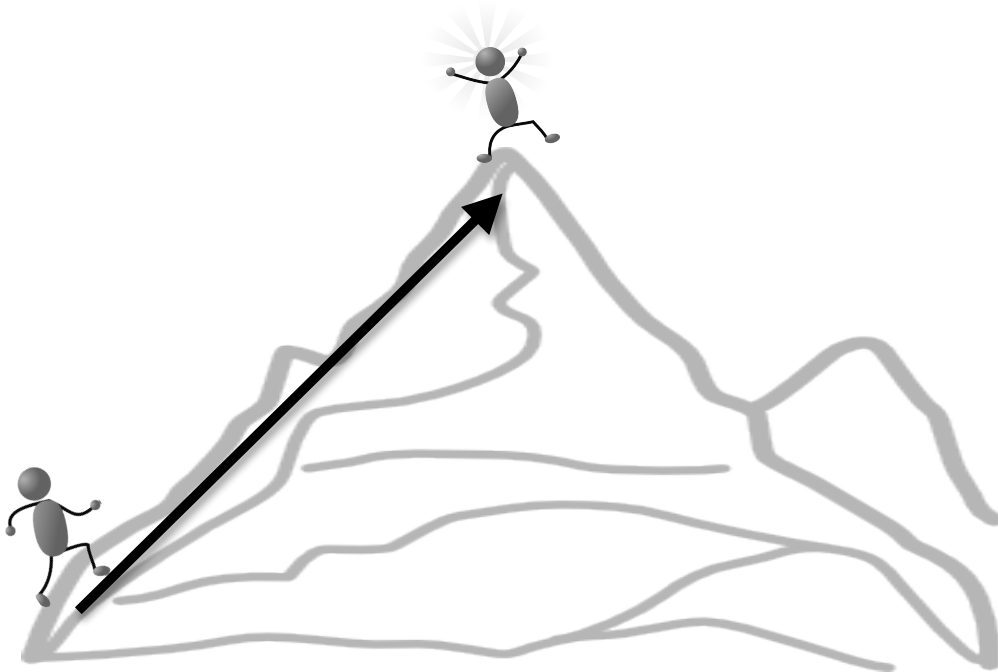
¹ 2 Peter 1:12

Ascending the Mountain of the Lord

Isaiah 2:2-3 ²Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Key Point: *Our ascent into relationship and knowledge of God is likened to a journey into greater heights of experiences with His presence.*

The house of the Lord is likened unto a mountain. It illustrates that our ascent into relationship and knowledge of God is an upward process. The house of the Lord is not located at the top of the mountain, but rather it IS the mountain. The abiding presence of God is a journey of climbing into higher heights of knowing His ways. It is a quest that requires walking in His paths.



This diagram illustrates the journey of our ascent into knowing God and His ways. At the top of the mountain is our quest – the fullness of His glory upon us individually and also the church corporately. Along the way are encounters with the presence of the Lord bringing us revelation upon revelation, precept upon precept and leading us from glory to glory. The arrow is what we will call the “Glory Road.” This represents each of us coming into our true identity, our call, and our destiny out of our relationship through intimate encounters with the presence of the Lord. It represents the discovery to these two important questions - “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?”

Four Seasons of Heaven

Acts 3:18-21 ¹⁸ "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Key Point: *The journey of knowing God and His ways consists of experiencing the seasons of heaven.*

Peter stood before a mass of onlookers, their eyes searching for answers to what they had just witnessed. A lame man they had all seen, was now leaping, twirling about and praising God. They stood there as witnesses to something that was unexplainable outside of God coming down and performing a miracle. Peter recognized this as an opportunity to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the growing mass. "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see" (verse 16).

Peter presented their need to repent, change the way they thought about Jesus and acknowledge Him as the Messiah. In doing so, four great experiences with God's invading kingdom would be released upon them. And they would begin a journey of knowing God as the seasons of heaven would bring them into the glories God had predestined for man from the very beginning.

Key Point: *Earth's four seasons is a mirror of the superior realm of God's kingdom.*

The four seasons we experience in the natural is an expression of the superior realm of His kingdom. In the natural realm we can recognize these seasons as the season of purging, the season of growth, and the season of fruitfulness and the season of harvest. Each season reveals the goodness of God for an abundant prosperous life.

1. Reformation – "Repent and return so that your sins may be wiped away..."

Each of us could probably recognize these seasons of our spiritual walk with the Holy Spirit. We have experienced the conviction of the Holy Spirit as He reveals to us areas of our lives where we are missing the mark of living in what Christ paid for in our redemption. But with the simple act of repentance, yielding our ways to His ways, we return to living in the fullness of His grace.

What we don't like about this season is that we usually don't know that we are thinking according to deception until the discipline of the Father reveals a lack of victory or freedom. When we find ourselves hopeless, unhappy, fearful in worry, and discouraged in crisis, and living short of the peace, joy, and hope that is our portion, we should recognize that, "Hey, there's something wrong here." The purpose of the Father's discipline is to get us on track with our true identity and significance.

2. Renewal – Times of refreshing and rejuvenation

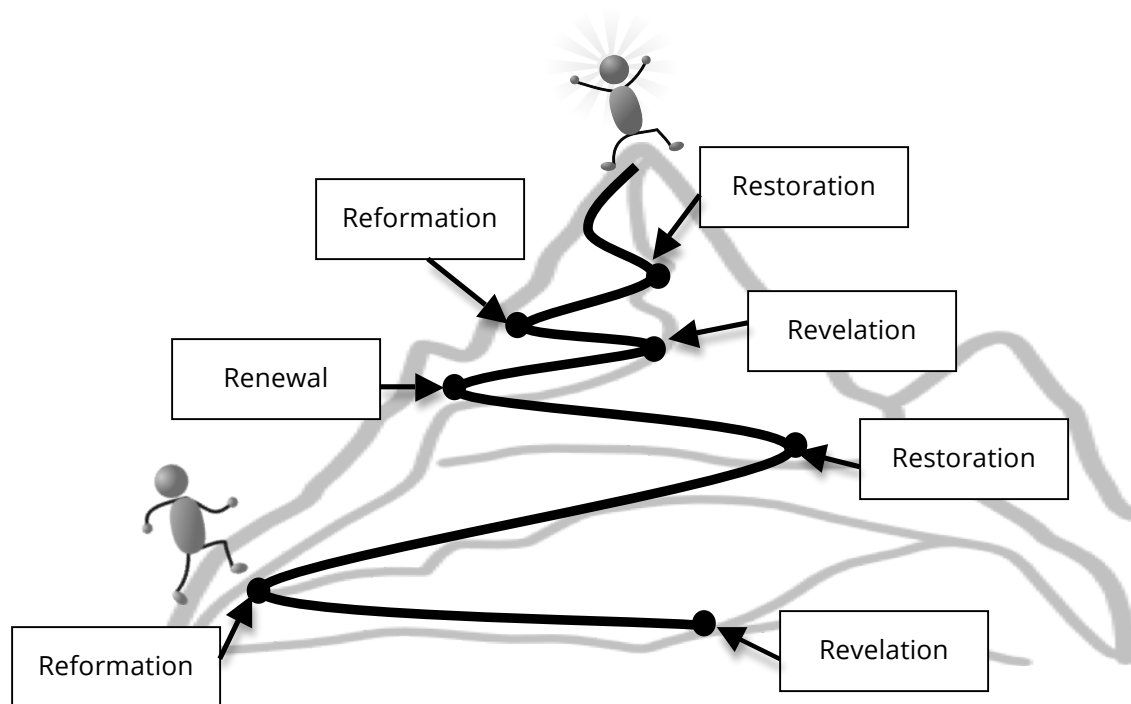
The season of renewal are those times we sense the closeness of God's presence drawing near to us in special ways. We experience refreshing, rejuvenation, encouragement, and increased hunger for more.

3. Revelation – Pulling back the veil to reveal Jesus Christ and His government.

Peter related the revelation of Jesus with the climax of the second coming of Christ. Scriptures reveal that before Christ comes for us, Christ will be revealed through us. The season of the revelation of Jesus Christ is more than Jesus being revealed in His glory to the church, but it is also the season when the church becomes the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. In this season we experienced increased opportunities to share the good news of the kingdom with the demonstration of God's graces to those in need.

4. Restoration – All things being restored to their intended purpose.

Then there is the season of restoration when what has been revealed by the Holy Spirit becomes understanding. Revelation becomes a value system we live from and the culture of the kingdom becomes an environment natural to us. Restoration becomes greater than the knowledge we receive and matures into the realm of being.



The best way to climb a mountain is by what are called switch-backs. It reduces the incline we seek to climb so as to create a path of least resistance. The seasons of the Lord create a path that is obtainable, in that God does not want to overwhelm us with the magnitude of change still ahead of us. This diagram helps to visualize the seasons of changes that God uses to promote us as we journey into higher heights of our knowledge and understanding.

Key Point: *Understanding season changes with the wisdom of knowing what to do in the next season is a needed gift in the Church.*

I Chronicles 12:32 states that the sons of Issachar had an anointing to understand the seasons with the wisdom of knowing what to do in that season. The church is in need of this gifting as she continues to go from season to season. This gifting recognizes not only when God begins doing a new thing and declaring the next present truth, but how we, as the church, are to respond and reform our lifestyles to walk in new understanding.

A key to the growth of continued revival is recognizing when God comes down, and understanding what He doing. It also includes not letting go of what we just received from Him. One of the main reasons revivals have failed in the past is due to the inability to follow God from one season to the next. The key to continued growth of revival is recognizing when the season changes.

Epoch Seasons

***Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** ¹ To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: ² A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; ³ A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; ⁴ A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; ⁵ A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; ⁷ A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; ⁸ A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace. (NKJV)*

Key Point: *Epoch seasons mean the way God is dealing with a certain people in a certain period of time.*

The seasons of heaven are called “epoch seasons.” According to Scripture, the word epoch means: The way God deals with a certain people in a certain period of time. Acts 3:19 stated that “times of refreshing” or seasons of revival would follow repentance, and that these seasons of revival would come from the presence of the Lord drawing near – the season of revelation. When the presence of the Lord draws near to His people, He will usually reveal Himself in such a way as to bring His people into His ways. He will manifest as to what the people need to know through experience with Him. As we have previously stated, God has never revealed Himself in His fullness to any one person or to any one generation, but rather little by little.

***Genesis 17:1** ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. ² I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.” (NLT)*

Abraham

The Lord appeared to Abraham as “El-Shaddai” – God Almighty. Abraham, who became known as the friend of God, developed a relationship with Elohim – the plurality of the Godhead in one. In his covenant with Elohim, he was required to be a faithful servant and walk a perfect life. God then gives him a sign of what perfection would look like. It would look like separating oneself from the flesh of sinful passions. The physical sign of this committed devotion was with circumcision.

To Abraham, the Lord visited once in a while to remind him of His mission – he was called to be a father to nations. But Elohim remained distant, as a Holy God who dwelt in heaven.

Moses

Exodus 6:2-8² *And God said to Moses, “I am Yahweh—‘the Lord.’”³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty’—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. ⁴ And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. ⁵ You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them.*

⁶ *“Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the Lord (Jehovah). I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. ⁸ I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the Lord (Jehovah)!”*

The Lord presented Himself totally different than He did with Abraham. Why? Because the mission changed. Abraham was called to father nations. Moses was called to bring freedom to God’s people, to lead them into their inheritance and to become a priesthood to other nations. To Moses, God revealed Himself as Jehovah – or Yahweh. Whereas to Abraham, God was distant and only visited occasionally - To Moses, the Lord demonstrated His desire to live among His people.

Jesus

Matthew 6:9 *“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

Jesus presented God in a totally new way. He presented Him as “Father.” Jesus is the Joshua of a new epoch season. He has led us across the river into the Land of Promise, our inheritance with Him. Under a New Covenant came a new epoch season that changed the way we relate to God. Jesus demonstrated God’s desire not to only abide with His people but to live within His people. With each epoch season, God revealed Himself in a different way. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. However, our relationship with Him changes with each revelation of His name. Elohim – Yahweh – and Abba Father.

Romans 8:15-17¹⁵ *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children*

of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

The covenant with Abraham was based upon man's ability to live in perfection according to his inner conscience with the power to overcome the flesh and walk blamelessly before a Holy God. The covenant with Moses was also based upon man's ability to live in perfection by obeying specific laws. These covenants revealed God's standard for having a relationship with a Holy God, but did nothing to empower man to live in victory over his sinful nature. The law revealed sin's power in operation in the flesh of man, but had no power of its own to free humanity from the sinful nature.

The covenant of Jesus Christ brought us into a new epoch season. It requires a new mindset. We are no longer in an epoch season of the Law. We are now in an epoch season of grace. Jesus is our righteousness – he walked blamelessly and lived the perfect life. The covenant of grace that we are in is a covenant between the Father and His Son. We are heirs of their covenant together. The covenant has enabling power to live righteously – which is called grace.

The Epoch Seasons of Israel

1. A Season of Deliverance

While Israel lived as slaves in captivity to Egypt, they had to learn how to survive in their hostile environment. This environment created a culture based on a slave mentality that needed to change when their season of deliverance came. The plagues that came upon Egypt were not only a revelation to the Egyptians that the Israel was the people of God, but also to Israel of God's divine protection over His chosen people. The slave mindset that says, "I am able to survive by my own skills" needed to change to, "Jehovah is able to save me."

2. A Season of Transition

The wilderness was Israel's season of transition. It was a season where the slave mentality was being changed to that of being the "children of God," and His representatives to the nations of the earth. In this season God revealed Himself as their Provider, Protector, and Guide.

3. A Season of Dominion and Rule

Things changed when they crossed the Jordan River into their Promised Land. The cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night disappeared. There was no more manna on the ground in the morning; their clothes and shoes began to wear out. They had to gather their own food and water from the resources the land provided.

The way God provided and protected changed. They now received a greater responsibility in their partnership with God in this new epoch season. God changed from doing miracles for them into doing miracles through them. They now were responsible to take dominion of their Promised Land through conquering an enemy who opposed them.

In the natural, they crossed a real river into a new land. But, in the spirit, they were also crossing into a new epoch season. Because an epoch season is a certain way in which God deals with a certain people in a certain time, the Promised Land side of the Jordan required a different mindset from the

wilderness side of the Jordan. What God once miraculously provided for they now were required to fight and contend for it. They had to overcome an enemy with the power of God and occupy their land.

4. A Season of Occupying and Prosperity

Under the reign of King David, Israel was brought into a new season. The daily sacrifice of animals was replaced with continual thanksgiving, praise and worship to God as Israel embraced the presence of God upon His ark. He left to his son Solomon a kingdom under the rule of God, and a righteous king. King Solomon brought Israel into a season where they became famous throughout the nations. The wisdom Solomon received from God manifested in the prosperity of Israel.² They became an image of God's intent, a model nation of righteousness and heaven on earth. In this season of prosperity, Israel came into peace and rest.

The Song Has Changed

Isaiah 42:9-13 ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them." ¹⁰ Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the Lord, And declare His praise in the coastlands. ¹³ The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (NKJV)

When Israel stood on the opposite shores of the Red Sea, having watched God destroy the armies of Pharaoh, Miriam and many of the women of Israel grabbed up their tambourines and began to sing a new song of salvation. The song they sang was much different from the dirges they sang while in slavery. The song changed to represent the new season they had just stepped into.

Key Point: *Singing a "new song" emphasizes that a new attitude, mood, and a new way of thinking is necessary to be successful in the new season.*

It sounds as if Isaiah is changing the subject from "new things" to singing a new song. But No! He is using a musical metaphor to represent a change of mood. Music carries with it styles and types that create moods. God, in telling them to sing a "new song," was stating that a new way of thinking, a new attitude and a change of mood, is going to be required for them to be successful in the new season. The old mindset is not going to work if they are going to be successful in this new season.

In the "Promised Land" God's provision cannot be worked for, but it must be fought for. His protection cannot be assumed upon, it must be partnered with. We are no longer earning righteousness through works, but being righteous because of His gift. The song has changed from law to grace. The mood is

² see 1Chronicles 29:23

changed from despair to hopefulness. As mindset of survival now needs to reflect an anticipation of the goodness and love of God to break us out of the old and promote us into greater glory.

Characteristics of Transition Leaders

There have been many transitions throughout Biblical history. God brought Abraham out of Ur and into a promised land. He used Moses to bring a nation out of slavery to Egypt into living in freedom and prosperity in their Promised Land. Jesus purchased our redemption for all of mankind. He brought us out of slavery to sin and out from under the external obligations to the Old Covenant of Law. He brought us into a New Covenant of Grace that empowers us to live in freedom and prosperity. We have been in a transition with God as He brings us out of the slave to sin mentality and into the fullness of His glory by grace.

All of the leaders whom God used to bring the church through transition after transition have had observable characteristics that we can look for to identify transitional leaders today. Those that lacked these characteristics ended up falling short of God's intended blessing. The following is a list of these revivalist's characteristics:

1. God Encounter

Every person who has been used by God to lead a transition has had a personal encounter with God that has left a mission upon their heart. This encounter enabled them to become internally motivated rather than externally controlled. A person who is internally motivated will not be manipulated by intimidation, domination, fear, guilt, or peer pressure. Their motivation is based upon an inner passion that inspires them. This passion equips them to face persecution with a resolve to press through with confident expectation of God's faithfulness.

2. Passion

Out of an encounter with the revelation of Jesus Christ there comes a passion. One cannot draw near to the heart of the Father without being transformed by a passion for His mission. An overwhelming love for God and the love that He has for mankind becomes a motivating force that drives the revivalist.

3. Humility

Humility is the key for walking in the Spirit. This is not the kind of humility that looks like passive weakness. It is a humility that resides within the heart of a warrior, who is confident in what they have been commissioned to do. This humility comes out of an encounter with God, which exposes one's humanity and total dependence upon the Holy Spirit's abilities. It fashions a heart that is pliable and totally yielded to the voice and direction of the Spirit.

4. Abiding Rest

Many of the failures of our forefathers are that they failed to abide in His rest. Entering into His rest is a promise of His abiding presence upon us. It is finding that place under the shadow of His wings of grace, a place that is closest to His heart. In that place we are able to cease from striving,

defending, and competing. In that place there is no fear, anxiety or worry because of the confidence of knowing that we are right in the middle of His will, moving at His pace, with Him in total control.

5. Accompanied by Signs and Wonders

Jesus said, *“These signs shall follow them that believe.”* Although we don’t seek after signs and wonders, they are supposed to be the identifying attribute of those who believe and walk by faith. Signs and wonders are the expression of faith in action, the evidence of God’s goodness and kindness, and the backing of His kingdom on the preaching of His word.

6. Persecution

The greatest cause of persecution against the transitional generation is jealousy. Just as the Pharisees were motivated by jealousy to kill Jesus, those hearts that are full of religion seek to control anything that offends their comfort, their logic, or simply because of the joy and power they see in others that they do not possess. God uses persecution to purify His transitional generation. Persecution has a way of delivering us from all external motivations while focusing our attention upon the mission God has revealed, which inspires our passion. In persecution, those who are following for fame, influential power, and personal greatness are weeded out.

7. The Willingness to Pay the Cost

Key Point: *The issues of the heart are the most noticeable costs of transition.*

Transition is going to cost us. This is not a money issue, although it will inevitably be affected by it. It’s going to affect our time, energy, and lifestyle. However, the cost that will be noticed the most will be the cost of the heart, those things that we have become devoted to. It is the cost of being willing to lay aside what we are comfortable with so that we can embrace something that will make us significant. We have learned valuable things in our past. Unfortunately, instead of embracing the work that God has done, we have instead embraced the formula, program, or strategy that He used. We need to be willing to let loose the tools that once worked in the past to take hold of the tools that the Holy Spirit has for a new work.

Conclusion

Key Point: *Knowing God comes out of relationship rather than stimulated intelligence.*

God has never revealed Himself in His fullness to any one person or generation. He wants us to know Him out of relationship rather than stimulating our intelligence - so He reveals Himself a little at a time. We are in the hour where God is increasing the knowledge of who He is. Everything is dependent on us knowing His voice and experiencing His presence.

In the first thirty years of the existence of the church, it had pretty well evangelized the then known world. In the 1900 plus years since then we have fallen short of the glory He intended. To make the transition into

what God is bringing to the church in this hour is going to require the willingness to change. He is going to be provoking concept changes, lifestyle changes, and comfort levels. Some of the things that God will do will offend our logic. Why? He wants to see if we will humbly draw to Him for understanding, rely upon our trust in Him when we fail to understand. Or, are we going to rely upon our logical reasoning, resulting in pride, and resist the change He desires to bring. Those who look at the changes from the outside looking in will call us crazy, heretics, or worse. Insecure people who do not know who they are or the call and mission they have from God will be those that persecute those who do know who they are and why they are here.

The Scriptures prophesy that in the last days there will be an increase of earthquakes as a sign of the end times. If you look at the history of major earthquakes in the earth you will notice that at the turn of the 19th century into the 20th century a major earthquake of 6.0 or higher would happen about once every 10 years. In every decade since then, it has increased to a frequency to now you can have several in one day. When this type of thing comes upon us slowly, we often don't realize what is happening around us and we tend to become adjusted and simply flow with the rest of the world thinking, "this is normal." We will thus miss the fact that these are increasing signs that are pointing to change.

As we look at the past movements of the Holy Spirit working in the church, we will notice that things are accelerating rapidly. What used to take 50 to 100 years for the church to become ready to embrace a new truth has reduced to 50 to 20 years. In the last century, especially in the last 30 to 40 years or so, new truth is coming every 5 to 10 years. What we need to see is the acceleration of present day truths as God is working with mankind to bring us into the end of these last days. We must condition ourselves to embrace seasons of accelerated change and transition into the supernatural transformation that comes with the truth. Our yielding to transformation is so that we may become ready for what God is going to reveal next. We need spiritual sons of Issachar who can not only recognize the season change, but can also gain the strategies of heaven to implement the changes they will require of us. As Amos prophesied, in the last days one season would overtake the next.³

End of Lesson 105

³ Amos 9:13

Kingdom Invasion

Recommended Resources:

1. Audio message, "The Coming Glorious Church" by Bill Johnson.
2. Audio message, "Epoch Seasons" by Kris Vallotton

Copies of these messages can be obtained through:

Sound Wisdom
933 College View Drive
Redding, CA 96003
USA

email: customerservice@ibethel.org

Customer Service Phone #: 1-530-246-600