



# The Sharon Star

## Jesus, Name Above All Names

*By Markus Hansen*

In this present secular age, where everything possible is being done to diminish the supernatural, it is refreshing to read about the life of Jesus. "And they were astonished at his doctrine (*teaching*), for his word was with power", (Luke 4:31). Today many believe there was a man called Jesus, many believe that He was a prophet, a teacher and a good man. However, few are willing to accept that Jesus is the Son of God, the One who died on the cross for our sins and on the third day rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father. In order to understand who Jesus really is, it is helpful to look at what differentiated Him from all other great men whether before or after the time of Christ.

After being tempted of the Devil in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, it is recorded that Jesus "returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee and there went out a fame (*or a report*) of him through all the region round about." (Luke 4:14). Why did this report go out about Jesus? Surely there were many others that taught in the synagogues, many learned men, many great orators. What was different about Jesus? As quoted above, when He taught in the synagogues those that went to listen were amazed at His teaching. Why were they amazed? What did He say?

Matthew records that after Jesus gave what is commonly referred to as "the sermon on the mount, or the Beatitudes," that people were astonished at His doctrine, "for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29).

We read in the book of John, chapter seven, that officers who had been sent by the chief priests to apprehend Jesus came back empty handed and said, verse 46: "Never man spake like this man." It is evident that in a short period of time Jesus caused quite a stir in the towns and villages where He went preaching the Kingdom of God.

Let us turn to the scriptures and itemize some of characteristics of Jesus that distinguished Him from other great or notable men.

**1. FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST:** "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan." (Luke 4:1). Notice the word, "full". Not partially full, not nearly full, but full. When a glass is full of water there is no room for anything else in the glass. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and that is why He was without sin. It is the carnal nature, that adamic nature that yields to sin and Jesus did not have any trace of that old nature within Him! Oh Glory to God. Hallelujah, full of the Holy Ghost, full of the Spirit of God, not the spirit of man. Try to

grasp the significance of this. This concept is enlarged on in the terms of discipleship where Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). Jesus denied himself and chose to allow the Holy Spirit to indwell Him completely; not just on the Sabbath, or during daily devotions, but all day long, every day, every week, every year, totally surrendered to His Father's will. In John 6:38 Jesus said; "For I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me." Jesus could say this because, His will, was given over entirely to the Father. Even facing death Jesus was able to say; "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." (Luke 22:42). What more can be said other than, because of Christ's complete surrender to His Father, and being full of the Holy Spirit, He was given power and authority over all the powers of darkness.

**2. SPOKE THE TRUTH WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER:**

Jesus did not have to vindicate Himself to others. He was able to speak the truth clearly and precisely because He was the truth. "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). Speaking the truth is what separated Jesus from other religious

leaders of the day. He taught the people how to live “Christ like” *i.e.* as Christians. It is impossible to summarize everything Jesus taught in this article but every time He opened His mouth He spoke of things that mattered, things of real substance such that people understood and could apply the teachings to their lives. He outlined a “WAY” to live in peace and harmony with family members and neighbours. Oh, how people need to hear the way and the truth so that there would be no more fighting in the homes of our land and wars amongst the nations.

**3. DEMONSTRATED HIS AUTHORITY AND POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS:** It is one thing to stand up before people and say you can do such and such but it is another thing to do it. Jesus did it. He spoke to evil spirits that possessed men and women and told them to leave. “And in the synagogue there was a certain man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, ‘saying, let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art: the Holy One of God.’ And Jesus rebuked him saying, ‘Hold thy peace, and come out of him.’ And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves saying, ‘*What a word is this: for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*’” (Luke 4:33-36). My oh my, wonderful, wonderful Jesus.

**4. DEMONSTRATED HIS POWER OVER SICKNESS AND DISEASE:** There are numerous instances in the scriptures where Jesus healed the sick. As an example, let us continue reading in Luke chapter 4:38. “And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. And Simon’s wife’s mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever, and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him: and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” We have also read where Jesus gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf and speech to the dumb. Recall the story of the

centurion’s servant who was sick and ready to die. The centurion asked the elders of the Jews to come and heal his servant but they in turn asked Jesus to go. However, when the centurion heard that Jesus was coming to pray for his servant, he sent friends to meet Jesus to say: “ ‘Lord trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: *but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.*’ When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, ‘I say unto you. I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.’ ” (Luke 7:1-10). Amazing, absolutely amazing. Jesus didn’t even have to be present to heal the sick servant. What a wonderful Saviour, Amen? Oh hallelujah.

**5. KNEW WHEN VIRTUE FLOWED OUT FROM HIM:** One day as Jesus was on His way to pray for the daughter of a ruler of the synagogue, amongst the people that thronged around him, a woman reached through the crowd and touched the hem of the garment of Jesus. Immediately Jesus stopped and asked, “Who touched me?” Peter and the other disciples that were with, said “Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?” Obviously they thought Jesus couldn’t have possibly known that someone in particular had touched Him as they were many people pushing and shoving trying to get near him. But Jesus said, “Somebody hath touched me: for I perceived that virtue (or power) is gone out of me.” When the woman who touched the hem of Christ’s garment came forth, Jesus said unto her; “Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace.” (Luke 8:41-48). Oh the marvel of it all, to think that Christ knew when healing virtue flowed out from him.

**6. READ PEOPLES MINDS:** “And it came to pass also on another Sabbath, that He entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the Sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him, *But he knew their thoughts*, and said to the man which had the withered hand, ‘Rise up, and stand forth in the midst.’ And he

arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, ‘I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good, or to do evil: to save life or to destroy it?’ And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, ‘Stretch forth thy hand’, and he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.” (Luke 6:6-11). Jesus knew the scribes and Pharisees were there to try and trap Him. He knew what they were thinking.

**7. ABLE TO FORTELL THE PAST AND THE FUTURE:** In the first chapter of John, we read about a series of events that led to a number of disciples being called to follow Jesus. First it was Andrew and Peter, then the next day Philip who also came from the city of Bethsaida. Philip then went and found Nathanael and brought him to Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming He said of him, “behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.” Nathanael then said to Jesus, how come you know me? Jesus answered Nathanael, “ ‘before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.’ Nathanael answered and saith unto him, ‘Rabbi, thou art the son of God; thou art the King of Israel.’ Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these.’ And he said unto him, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you. Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angles of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’ ” (John 1:40-51). There is no doubt that being able to tell someone of their past and their future is a supernatural feat. Another example is recorded in John 4:6-18 when Jesus met the Samaritan woman by Jacob’s well. He told her that she had five husbands, and the man that she was presently living with was not her husband. Once again we see that Jesus was no ordinary man.

**8. POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER THE ELEMENTS:** We have all read about the time that Jesus and His disciples went in a boat to cross the sea of Galilee. Jesus went down into the hole of the boat to rest. As time went on a great storm arose on the sea and threatened to sink the boat. The disciples then went and woke Jesus and said; “ ‘Maser, Master we perish.’ Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they

ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, ‘Where is your faith?’ And they being afraid wondered saying to another, ‘What manner of man is this? For he commandeth even the winds and the water, and they obey him.’” (Luke 8: 22-25). Even gravity had no hold on Jesus for He walked on water. (Matthew 14:28-32). Not only did Jesus have power over the elements, but He tuned water into wine and multiplied the five loaves and two fishes to feed five thousand men plus women and children.

**9. WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WISE:** There are several instances where Jesus showed wisdom beyond human ability. The one case that continues to marvel even the wisest men of today is recorded in John 8:1-11. The scribes and Pharisees had brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus. They recited the law of Moses which states that such a woman should be stoned, and then tempting Jesus asked, “what sayest thou?” Jesus responded with the immortal words; “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone on her.”

**10. POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD:** In more than one instance, it is recorded that Jesus spoke to a dead person and said, “Arise”. This is a marvel in itself; how can a dead person hear if he is dead? But Jesus spoke to the spirit of the dead person and told it to return to the body. Glory to God! Other examples are: raising the only son of a widow: Luke 7: 11-15; raising the twelve year only daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue: Luke 8:41-42 and 49-55; and calling Lazarus to come forth from the grave after being dead three days: John 11:1-46.

**11. ABLE TO PASS ON TO OTHERS THE POWERS THAT HE POSSESSED.** “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.” (Luke 9:1-2). And in Luke 10:1, “After these things the Lord appointed another seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.” Later in the same chapter verse 17 reads: “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.” Jesus also gave similar powers to the

seventy which is borne out by following scripture: “Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19). This is all really amazing. As humans we have the potential to pass on talents, genetically speaking, but we do not have the power to command that these talents to be passed on. This again is a supernatural ability that Christ alone possessed.

**12. HAD THE ABILITY TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE AND THEN RISE AGAIN, CONQUERING DEATH, HELL AND THE GRAVE.** There are many scriptures that could be quoted as proof of Christ’s death and resurrection. Of His death: “And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into thy hands I command my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23: 45-46). And of His resurrection: Peter speaking on the day of Pentecost said concerning Jesus; “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.” (Acts 2:30-32).

Amazing as these events may appear, they are just a few of the many miracles that Jesus performed. John wrote in the last verse of his epistle: “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.” (John 21:25). Suffice to say the Gospels provide convincing evidence of the supernatural power of Jesus which has never been matched before or since He walked on the earth.

Let us now turn to John 14 and begin reading at verse 8: “Philip saith unto him, Lord show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.” (*or satisfy us, or we will believe everything you have said if you show us the Father*). Isn’t that just like human nature to always want proof or evidence of the supernatural? Philip wanted to see God with his own eyes

not realizing that he was sitting right next to the Son of God. Reading on, “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou, Show us the father: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and Father in me: **or else believe me for the very works sake.**” Over a period of approximately three years, Philip and the other disciples had traveled with Jesus and witnessed the many supernatural works, or miracles that Jesus did. Yet, they still were not able to accept or really believe that Jesus was the Christ, the son of God. Bearing this in mind, do we have the faith to believe what Jesus said in the 12<sup>th</sup> verse?

**“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my father.”**

Saints of God, there is a great inheritance promised us in this scripture. In 1948, God called us out from the sectarian religious systems of the world and set us aside. He brought us out of the old order to begin a new work, a work of restoration. God has since restored the five fold ministry, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, the order of the church and the home. As well, He has given us a vision of the coming together of the Body of Christ. In God’s time, we will rule and reign with Christ over the whole world. Oh hallelujah, that is something to shout about. There is hope for the nations, there is hope that wars, hatred, sickness and death will come to an end. Glory to God. This is our calling, Saints of God, our inheritance. No wonder Paul could write the following when looking into the future; “the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations but now is made manifest (*known*) to his saints: (*of whom we are*) to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” (Colossians 1:26-27). Yes, Christ in **YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY**. A hope for a world that is crying out for help everywhere you turn. Christ in you, in you and in you. You say, how is it going to happen?

When we consider the mighty works

that Christ wrought while here on earth, it is evident that they are the result of the gifts of the Holy Spirit being fully operational in His life. Dear Saints of God, that is how deliverance will be brought to the world. It will come about as we begin to function fully in our gifts and ministries. From time to time, the traveling and local elders have admonished us to review our gifts and ask ourselves if we are functioning in them. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy encouraging him with the following words; "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them: that thy profiting may appear to all." (I Timothy 4:14-15). Are we giving ourselves wholly to the Spiritual gifts that have been bestowed upon us? Are we talking to God about our gifts, asking for His help to function in accordance with the prophecies that went over us? We should and we must if we expect to enter into the fullness of what God has called us unto. As a review, here are the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit as listed in I Corinthians 12: 7-10:

1. Word of wisdom,
2. Word of knowledge,
3. Gift of Faith,
4. Gifts of healing,
5. Working of miracles,
6. Prophecy,
7. Discerning of spirits,
8. Diverse kinds of tongues (*or, ability to speak different languages*), and
9. Interpretations of tongues (*or, ability to interpret or understand other languages*).

It behooves us all to ask the question; are we exercising our gifts? If given the gift of prophecy, are we prophesying in the local assemble?

The Apostle Paul said that the Holy Spirit has distributed or assigned spiritual gifts amongst the many membered Body of Christ, "severally as he will." (I Corinthians 12:11). Two or three gifts to this person, maybe four to another and two to another. That is right. If you haven't had your gifts prophesied to you, you should seek the Lord about it. Also inform your elders. If you are sincere before God and really desire to know your gifts, the Holy Spirit will indicate to the brethren that you are ready. It is a wonderful experience to hear the Lord speak to you as the traveling and local

elders prophesy (*or tell you about*) your gifts.

Saints of God, it is time to get serious about our walk with God. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:11-12). It is time to separate ourselves from worldly desires and lusts. Peter wrote; "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, (*desires*) which war against the soul." (1 Peter 2:11). The word lust is often associated with wrongful sexual activity, but it much more than that. It is those desires and wants that rob us of our devotion to Christ. It could include, our work, sports, hobbies, reading, TV, music, etc. Jesus said in Matthew 11:12: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven has been taken by storm and **eager** men are forcing their way into it." J.B. Philips Translation. Are we eager about entering into our full inheritance? It is not possible to fill our lives with all the pleasures of life and push into the kingdom of God at the same time. If at the end of our day there is no time left to read the word of God, pray and seek the Lord, then it is time to re-assess our priorities.

We have been called unto a life of holiness. "It is time to be "holy in all manner of conversation." (I Peter 1:15). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, HOLY, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2). To live a holy life one needs to abstain or keep away from every appearance of evil. This means that a very high percentage of the programs on TV, videos and in theatres today are off limits if we want to walk a holy life, because of scenes containing profanity, sexual activity outside of marriage, etc., etc. How about the books and magazines that flood the bookstands? Even the book covers are so explicit that one has to close ones eyes when walking by. One can not participate in these shadowy things and expect to receive God's anointing, to function in our

ministry, to prophesy, or sing in the Spirit in the local meeting.

Christ has restored everything we need to go forth and begin to conquer the forces of the evil one. The only thing left is for us to yield our whole being, body soul and mind, **ONE HUNDRED PERCENT** to the Holy Spirit. We do this by being "**full of the Holy Ghost**" and then by being led by the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus was and did when He began His ministry. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14).

In closing:

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to Glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (I Peter 1:3-11).

"Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have 'arrived', spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ Jesus grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal – my reward the honour of my high calling by God in Christ Jesus. All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition." (Philippians 3 12-15, J.B Philips translation).

# The Life Of The Vine

*By Allan Livingstone*

Taken from a tape:

Our Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You Lord for Your blessings. Thank you Lord for Your presence with us oh, Lord. We just ask, oh Lord, for Thy blessing on just everything, Oh God. Give us the strength that we need, oh Lord. It's Your strength, Oh Lord, and it's Your leading, Oh Lord, that we count on. Dear Lord, we ask for Thy help, Oh Lord, and Thy blessing, Oh God. Just help us to rejoice together in the good things that You do for us, and the good things that You bring unto the Churches. In Jesus Name. Amen.

I bring greetings from Cold Lake and from Lloydminster. I thank the Lord for all the way that He has led us. We rejoice in these miracles the Lord has such an abundance of; that He's able to give unto His people. One thing that we need so much, is that blessing of conviction upon our lives. It is that conviction that reminds us when we are alone that we are in tremendous need of His leading, of a transforming, from the flesh into the Spirit. We don't need improved lives; we need a change of lives. We need to receive His life and be rid of our own. We don't need some kind of rehabilitation program; we don't need a self-help lesson, or anything like that. The Lord is not into those things. The Lord wants to take up His residence in our hearts and lives. Our responsibility is to die away and let Him take the possession that He's already paid for. To abide in the vine is what I'm talking about. In chapter 15 of John and verse one, Jesus says, "I am the true vine and My Father is the husbandman." It's Jesus that we live in and He provides that strength that flows from the Father. And the Father maintains the life of the vine and all the branches. The Father is always in His vineyard. He's always looking after the crop and seeing how things are going. And it's the Holy Spirit, that conviction of the Holy Spirit, that lets us know that there is a need. The way that God takes care of that need is to

take away those branches that aren't productive and to purge those ones that are productive and bring out the fruit that He's waiting for. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2). So if you feel that you're on pretty good footing with the Lord and you're doing all the things that you're supposed to do and you wonder why it is that you are having stresses put on you, that's because the Lord is purging you; He's purging that branch to bring forth more fruit. We can't go on; we can't function in the body unless He does that. We'll be so full of ourselves and so full of dead growth that the fruit that the Lord is really after is not going to come out. We might be able to say something that might entertain somebody or that kind of thing, but the thing that the Lord wants to bring out is not always going to be an entertaining thing. The thing that He wants to come out is usually very much rooted in the foundational things we have received in the past. It's not always going to be a bubbly, effervescent message that is going to set somebody's heart to tingling. It's not going to happen like that all the time. We enjoy those times when we get a little bit of a perk in the natural. When the Lord causes us to come together and rejoice in these things because of the wonderful fellowship we receive, then there is a real joy in that. We do rejoice in that we are in the same vine together. Hallelujah! Every now and again, it needs must be that God stresses you in order to bring out the fruit that He is after. There are lessons that we have to learn and they always involve putting aside the flesh, that we can receive the moving of His Spirit; that we can move along with His Spirit as He moves.

I had a situation where a lady called me on the phone and very offhandedly said she would like to come on Saturday and she's going to bring a grandchild and her daughter and she wants me to do portraits of them all, in that day.

Just like that she laid this on me. You know, a lot of time when people hear of artists, they think what they do is easy, but I can tell you that it's all hard. It's very hard. You know, it would kind of be like a farmer hearing a storm is coming and having to get in a crop, a lot of crop, before that storm hits. It's a lot like that kind of stress you go through. But that's so necessary in order that we really abide in Him. That abiding in the vine is so necessary and the Lord will give you a good fright in order that you will lay aside those things that are nonessential. That you get down to that real foundational footing that you have with the Lord and strip things down to the essentials and abide in Him in order to accomplish the thing that He's called you to do. I knew that it was going to turn out to be something that I had not imagined and certainly it really did. I spent three days preparing for these paintings because I thought the lady meant me to paint her in oil paints. So I set aside the day before to get three small panels and to do three self-portraits on those, because that's the closest I could get to that situation and I felt I needed the practise. It had been years since I'd really buckled down and done such a thing. And so that was encouraging because the whole day there was this insistence in this whole situation that I abide in the vine. I don't know what it's like for other artists but I can't do that stuff unless the Lord does it. And so excuse the personal reference. I've heard a lot of ministers say that, but when it comes to ministering, that's all I've got, is personal reference. And what's so wrong about being personal with the gospel? So anyway, this is what happened to me and I want you to know it's not me that does it. This is something that the Lord does. He's given me this to do just the same as He's given Dwight farming to do. It's just what we do. And so the day arrived and the people came and the Lord had mercy on me. What this lady meant for us to do was to just do pencil drawings of these three faces. So that

was a big load off. I was a little more comfortable doing that but at the same time there was three people to be done by the end of the day. One of the people was a baby. The thing about a baby is their face is so mouldable, that everything you do with that little face changes everything – they’re all flesh. So the whole time that this kid was sitting in his mothers lap, he did everything but turn inside out. He had keys in his mouth, and he had teething rings in his mouth and he had fists in his mouth and he was working his way around to mouth mom. And so I began drawing and I certainly had no confidence in my abilities to do this portrait because the kid was never the same twice. But somehow I was enjoying myself and somehow there was an image of this child coming out on the paper and it was the Lord that was doing it. It wasn’t me; it was just the Lord. I can tell you from experience that generally when artists have a portrait sitting, what you do with an adult, what I do is I tell them to find a spot in front of their face some place and just stare at it and stay still the whole time. Then you can have a hope of getting something decent on the paper. But with this situation it was absolutely outlandish. There was no lack of movement whatsoever. That kid had itches and he would scratch them. In this realm of artistry that I am in, such a thing is impossible. It is impossible to get any kind of satisfaction and an image like that, except the Spirit of the Lord does it. And it all has to do with a lack of you and an abundance of the Lord. And so we rejoice in Him for His mercies. At the end of the day, low and behold, the Lord had produced three images on the paper and everybody was happy with it. And I have to thank the Lord because that just can’t happen to humans. It happens through the Spirit.

And so back to John chapter fifteen and verse three, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:3-5). “Without me ye can do nothing.” What will you do? If you

think to leave the pathway the Lord has set out for you, what will you do, where will you go, to receive eternal life? You have no resources. You have no abilities. You have nothing that you can pull out of the hat to save you. It’s all been done before and any extra effort in those directions, any kind of a self-exultation, is going to do nothing but pull you farther away from God; from the source of all life. That doesn’t make any sense; it doesn’t make any sense at all. We need the conviction of the power of the Lord upon our lives to everyday show us that our position in Him is a condition of absolute need from the bottom up. We are in absolute, total, desperate need of Him and there’s no way that you can replace that with anything. There is no program that will handle your need. There’s no support group; there isn’t a support group for backslidden Christians who want to get together and feel a bit better about their lives after deserting the Lord. Did you ever hear anything like that? There are no support groups for you, once you go out, your out! I don’t know what on earth a person would do if they ever were to leave the Lord. I don’t know what I’d do if I was to up and leave the Lord because all my joy is in the Lord. There is no other joy. There is no resource, no feeding, there is nothing that answers that deep cry within the heart. There is nothing but the Lord and for someone who has had the Spirit of the Lord break upon him, like the sunrise, you have a particular need to continually seek that.

I talked to a fellow who phones me up every once in a while. I don’t know exactly what it is that he is trying to say to me. I can’t usually understand what his point is or anything, but he’s kind of coming out of alcoholism and I try to help him and encourage him. I’ll ask him where is he lacking in the Lord and I’ll pray about that. The last time I talked to him he said his parents were always talking to him about the Lord. He had come to the Lord and got a certain amount of help from the Lord but then he kind of wants to keep it at that level. So when he talks to me about his parents he says they are really into God and I just want to tell them to just leave me alone. He’s been without a drink for about three months so it says to me he’s trying to do it on his own. Flesh has come in there and flesh

has told him, “You can do this and you don’t need the Lord.” And so I’m praying that conviction will be in his life, that he’ll come to the end of himself and that he’ll recognize that need in the Lord and recognize that that need doesn’t go away. We must come, just like a child does with its mother all the time; it needs that nourishment. So when you think of this fellow, he needs prayer. He has trouble every once in a while, with his past because he’s been to Kosovo and he’s killed a man. He’s maybe killed more than one man, I don’t know, but that troubles him. Pray for him that the Lord would cause that these things would not come back on him. A real misery; and when they do come back on him, he seeks the drink again.

“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them,” I forget who it was who was ministering that stressed that term and that is something I had not thought of before, but “men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:6-7). And so the Lord wants us to always be reading His word. He wants us to live off of those things that He’s placed within His word. “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8). That’s His will for you, that you bear much fruit. He’s talking about those fruits that grow from the indwelling Spirit of the Christ. I want to encourage you, if you feel like you’ve kind of had enough of God sometimes and you want to take a break, well just lay it down again. Because that’s the flesh that has taken over and is speaking to your mind and we don’t want that. The Lord can cause all these things to pass away. As I was working away on those portraits, I would be seeing so much that needed to be improved in the image. What I was looking at seemed to me so different then what I was putting down. Then the Spirit of the Lord said to me, “Relax.” Over and over again He said to me, “Relax and just keep on doing the thing that I have given you to do.” As I just relaxed and let Him take over and kept on working away at it, it came together, but He asked me to have some patience until the work was done. And that’s what He asks us in our

Christian walk. Have a little patience as you walk with the Lord. Things may look a little bad in some areas now, but wait on Him and let Him lead you on and let Him do the work. Hallelujah!

Not that you won't have trouble. Lately my Bible has been falling open to Psalm 13 and it starts out with David being very blunt with the Lord. He says, "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever?" (Psalm 13:1). For a long time I saw that scripture and I felt bad about reading that. Maybe I shouldn't talk to the Lord like that but lately I've been going to it a lot. "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me" (Psalm 13). Hallelujah! The psalmist, as he pondered these things and poured out his soul to the Lord, I think it's wonderful at the end of it, he was able to see how the Lord had dealt bountifully with him and he was thankful to the Lord. Such a blessing to be thankful to the Lord this morning for all the way He has led us and all the things that He has done for us. The Lord did not tell you that it was all going to be easy, but He did tell you to occupy until He comes. And so we have this lot that He has given us, we have this part to play in His plan. If you have a hard time doing the thing that He's sent you to do, then call someone up and ask them to pray with you. Make these things known to others. Don't try to deal with these things yourself because the flesh is right away going to try to come to your assistance and it's going to accomplish nothing. What you need is to get back to basics, to relax in the things that the Lord has given you to do and to allow the Spirit of the Lord to lead you in that way that He's set out for you and encouraged you with and told you over and over that this is the way for you. He tells you, "Walk in it."

Yea thou, who hath come to the Lord and has given thy life to him, and has received his life, Yea, these things though at times are hard and heavy, saith the Lord, yet thy are precious, yea, more precious unto you then gold, that perisheth. Yea, though these things would be heavy, the Lord would remind thee that gold is heavy, saith the Lord. For these things that are heavy are your treasure, saith the living God, that I have given unto thee yea, that thou mayest profit by them. Yea, the Spirit of the Lord has led thee into this place and unto this hour. Yea, I have led thee and I have given unto thee the thing that thou in the days to come shall live on, saith the Lord. Yea, come to my word and feed, saith the Lord, my flock. Come to the Lord and feed in the pasturage that I have provided. For I have prepared it for thee, saith God. It is suited to thee, saith the Lord, and to all thy needs. Thy way is an enviable

way, saith the Lord. Yea, and allow the world to look upon it, the nations round about, yea, and allow them to say, "Look how they love one another." Yea, what a thing it is to follow the living God, yea, allow the nations who suffer round about thee to have an entrance into thy circle, saith the Lord. Yea, open thy heart unto them, saith the Lord, begin to offer unto them the things of life, yea, begin to speak unto them the words of comfort that have been spoken unto thee, saith the Living God. Yea, for surely I have led thee and given unto thee of My best, saith the Lord. Surely My plan unto thee is good, yea, for I have spoken life to thee. Yea, let thy heart be moved with compassion upon those round about thee who are in such need of Me, saith the Lord, for surely I have sent thee as ambassadors to speak unto them of the ways of My Kingdom, saith the Living God. Praise the Lord!

<b>DATES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	
Big Spring, Texas .....	Jan. 27-29, 2006
North Carolina Winter Camp .....	Feb. 24-26, 2006
Feast North Battleford .....	April 13-16, 2006
Illinois Gathering (King's House) ....	April 28-30, 2006
Edmonton Young Peoples .....	May 20-22, 2006
Camp North Battleford .....	July 2-9, 2006
North Carolina Camp .....	July 23 - 29, 2006
Pinelaw Summer Family Camp .....	Aug. 7 - 13, 2006
Hidden Acres .....	Sept. 1-4, 2006
Park Valley .....	Sept. 1-4, 2006
Winkler .....	Sept. 1-4, 2006
Minden Meetings .....	Sept. 22-24, 2006
Pinelaw Family Camp .....	Nov. 9-12, 2006

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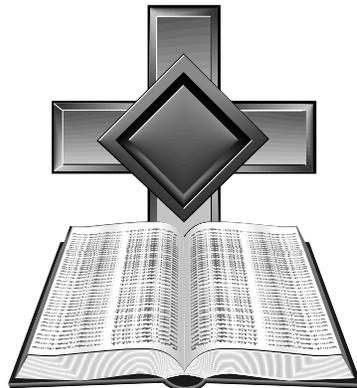
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