



In the Fullness of Time

By F. T. Paterson

Encapsulated in eternity is a period we know as time. Eternity has always been, and will always be, while time is the part of eternity that God has set aside to bring His plan and purpose to pass. Before the foundation of the world God set the bounds of time in place and chose us according to that plan and purpose that we might be holy and without blame before Him in love (Eph 1:3-4, KJV). Before the foundation of the world, or creation, God, according to His foreknowledge, brought forth the plan and purpose for His creation. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Rom 8:29-30, KJV). His predestination was according to foreknowledge, that is, God gave us the ability to make choices. There is no doubt that God could have created us like the angels without the ability to choose but He chose to give us the gift of free will. You may wonder why I said "free will" is a gift of God. Wouldn't it be better to be created like the angels with the path of life laid out unerringly before us? There would

be no wars and "man's inhumanity to man" would not be evident in this world. Yet we would always be the same; perfect in word and deed, always obedient to the will of the Father. This is the plan that God has for His sinful disobedient creation in the fullness of time, to be raised to a place of glory in which we are at one with the will of God. A place where we will be known as we are known. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor 13:12, KJV). This was manifest in the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples when He prayed "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." His plan of redemption is to raise sinful man to a place of perfection that will far exceed that which the angels know and experience. As in the words of the song: Holy, Holy is What the Angels Sing. "But when I sing redemption's story, they will fold their wings, For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings." Angels can never know the joy of redemption because they were created without sin. Mankind, on the other hand, needs to be redeemed because he is born in sin and shapen in iniquity. He ate from the tree of

the knowledge instead of the tree of life, which he was free to eat from. "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen 2:16-17, NIV). Although he did not die at that moment, he fell from the place of fellowship with God and entered the realm of sin and death instead of the realm of life in which he had been living. His nature was changed and we became inheritors of his fallen sinful nature because of his disobedience. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Rom 5:12, NIV). God had provided redemption for the sinful nature of

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man even before the foundation of the world was established. It was Jesus Christ, “The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev 13:8, KJV). God’s remedy for sin came in the form of one man, Jesus Christ, who was crucified on the cross for the sins of mankind. “For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many” (Rom 5:15-16, NIV).

Even though we are inheritors of the new nature of Christ there is still within us the old nature of sin and death. The apostle Paul puts it this way; “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members” (Rom 7:22-23, KJV). Paul saw within himself the workings of the law of sin and death and in desperation cries out; “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Then he answers the question; “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin” (Rom 7:24-25, KJV). Praise God it is through Jesus that we overcome the law of sin and death in our lives. “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4, NIV). There are some wonderful promises to the overcomers:

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7, NIV).

“He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death” (Revelation 2:11, NIV).

“To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it” (Revelation 2:17, NIV).

“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations” (Revelation 2:26, NIV).

“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels (Revelation 3:5, NIV).

“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name” (Revelation 3:12, NIV).

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne” (Revelation 3:21, NIV).

“He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son” (Rev 21:7, NIV).

It is evident that God desires us to be overcomers, to be filled with His Spirit and walk in a manner that is pleasing to him; but how do we become overcomers? When Jesus died on the cross His shed blood empowered us to overcome the world the flesh and the devil; “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Rev 12:11, NKJV).

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5, KJV).

There is a responsibility here for us also; that is the word of our testimony. Our testimony is not only in words but must be part of a life that testifies to the saving grace of our Lord. We must be conscious of our relationship with the Lord and live in a manner that glorifies God and points others to the Lord.

God has placed His Spirit within us to lead and guide us. “But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you all things, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So continue in what he has taught you, and continue to live in Christ” (1 John 2:27, NLT). In the period of time from creation to what lies before the coming of Christ, is the focal point of all the ages. It is the pinnacle of the period we know as time. Everything that went before and everything that comes after will dim in comparison to the coming of God in the flesh. He is Immanuel, God dwelling in the robes of mortal flesh. No wonder it was called the fullness of time.

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal 4:4-7, KJV).

These verses set out before us the plan and purpose of God for fallen man. It is the foundation of our salvation and glorification. It lays out before us the path of children of God to maturity as sons of God. I believe it would be good to do a word study on the forgoing passage of scripture (Gal 4:4-7).

1. Fullness of Time

Some of the other translations translate ‘fullness of time’ as: the proper time, the right time, the completeness of time, the time appointed of the Father or when the time had fully come. It seemed to be the most unlikely of times for Jesus to be born. It was sometimes called the silent years, alluding to the fact that no prophet had spoken from Malachi to the birth of Christ, a period of some four hundred years. Worship was at best an empty form

and the glory days of David and Solomon were long past. Israel was held captive under the cruel iron heel of Rome and was longing for deliverance. Many times Israel walked contrary to the ways of God and worshiped foreign gods. It was at those times that the nations around them conquered them and they went into captivity. Then they would turn from their wicked ways and return to the ways of God and they would be delivered. It is when we cry out to God in the time of trouble that He will bring forth deliverance. It is the heart-wrenching cry for God to move that brings forth repentance and a turning to God. In the time of Joel it was “a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness”(Joel 2:2,NIV). Joel prophesied; “‘Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love”(Joel 2:12-13,NIV). “Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O LORD’”(Joel 2:17,NIV). It is when these conditions are met that God moves and restores Himself to His people. Down through history, in a time of decline, this has been the way it was with the church, “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof”(2 Tim 3:5,KJV). It was during periods of low spiritual ebbs that God would move and bring forth a triumphant church only, after a number of years, to see them go into decline again.

During the time of the Roman occupation I am sure there were many in Israel who cried out to God for deliverance. Many were looking for the Messiah to come and set up His kingdom, Simeon being one of them to whom the Lord had revealed the coming of the Messiah; “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous

and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel’”(Luke 2:25-32,NIV). Another was Anna; “There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem”(Luke 2:36-38,NIV).

2. God sent His Son

It was at this time of low spirituality that God chose to send forth His son Jesus who was co-existent with the Father. His name was Immanuel, which means God with us. God sent a part of Himself to tabernacle with us. He was the living word of God “And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even

for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”(Isa 9:6-7,KJV). “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”(Col 2:9,NIV). Everything was created for Him and by Him and it is by Him that everything exists. “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men”(John 1:3-4,NIV). “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist”(Col 1:13-17,KJV). We see an indication of this in Genesis when God created the heavens and the earth. We see the work of the Holy Spirit moving on the face of the waters and bringing order out of chaos and God saying, “Let us make man in our image” (Gen 1:26,KJV). Who else was he talking about other than the Son who created all things? When God sent His Son to earth I am sure there was great rejoicing in the heavenly realm. At last the purpose of God to redeem His creation had come into being. Although now we do not see everything the way it will be, but we see Jesus who will bring everything that God has planned into being. “In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone”(Heb 2:8-9,NIV).

3. Made of a Woman, made

under the law.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Jesus. “And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women” (Luke 1:28, KJV). “And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:30-33, KJV). Mary was perplexed about these things but nevertheless said; “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her” (Luke 1:38, KJV). “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19, KJV). This, I believe, gives us some insight into the character of Mary and we can see, at least to some degree, why she was chosen of God to give birth to the Son of God. She accepted the will of God in her life and did not chafe at how it would change her life. She was espoused to Joseph and according to the law she would have been stoned for fornication, being an unwed mother. Would it be, Lord, that we could have the same attitude when it comes to the things of God; that we would ponder and meditate on the things of God with an open mind before rejecting them. Mary rejoiced over the things she saw and experienced during her pregnancy. When she visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist, the babe leaped in Elizabeth’s womb and Mary was so blessed she spoke forth almost prophetically; “And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate

of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever” (Luke 1:46-55, KJV). He was made subject to the law according to His human lineage. He was circumcised and the proper sacrifices were made on His behalf. In the words of Jesus; “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt 5:17-18, KJV). In Jesus’ time the law was written on tablets of stone but the purpose of God was to write His laws “in the fleshly tables of the heart” (2 Cor 3:3, KJV) “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jer 31:33, KJV). Jesus said that the purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ. Before Christ, men were under the condemnation of the law, shut away from the grace of God, which came through Christ Jesus. “Until faith in Christ was shown to us as the way of becoming right with God, we were guarded by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could put our faith in the coming Savior. God’s Children through Faith Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian and teacher to lead us until

Christ came. So now, through faith in Christ, we are made right with God. But now that faith in Christ has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian” (Gal 3:23-25, NLT). Under the law, by the power of sin, we were kept from being made right with God. “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col 2:13-14, KJV). Here Paul here gives an illustration of a Roman prison. The prisoner was locked in a cell and a list of his crimes was nailed to the door of the cell. When he had served his sentence the list was removed and taken away. When we accept Christ, our sins are nailed to the cross never to be remembered against us anymore. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom 8:1-4, KJV).

4. To redeem them that were under the law

Before Christ, we were dead in trespasses and sins living under the direction of the god of this world but now, because of Christ, we are set free from the power of sin and death. “Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God” (Eph 2:1-3, NLT). Our redemption was purchased by the

sacrifice of Jesus when He shed His blood on the cross. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:18-20, KJV). According to The Merriam Webster Dictionary, to redeem is to free from captivity by the payment of a ransom. Before we came to Christ we were under the judgement of the law and kept in the prison- house of sin. Jesus shed his blood as a ransom to release us from the penalty of the law. “I the Lord have called You [the Messiah] for a righteous purpose and in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and will keep You; I will give You for a covenant to the people [Israel], for a light to the nations [Gentiles], To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who sit in darkness from the prison” (Isa 42:6-7, AMP). It is interesting to note that Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison during the time He was placed in the tomb until He was resurrected. “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built” (1 Peter 3:18-20, NIV). Under the law the high priest entered into the Holiest Place once a year with the blood of bulls and goats and made sacrifice for himself and the sins of the people. He had to repeat this year by year. Jesus the High Priest of the new covenant entered into the true tabernacle in Heaven and brought His own blood providing us with eternal redemption and setting us free from the law of sin

and death. For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb 9:11-12, NKJV).

5. Receive adoption as sons

In God’s plan and purpose the focus is to bring forth sons as administrators in His kingdom. This is not about gender for there is neither male nor female in Christ. There are differences in males and females in their nature and physical appearance but not in importance or ability. God made their function in the body of Christ different but not inferior or of a lesser value. “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal 3:26-29, NIV). In a natural adoption, a child of a different family and bloodline is taken into another family and becomes part of that new family. In spiritual adoption when one accepts Jesus and is born again into the family of God and the body of Christ, it is by the shed blood of Christ. Their spiritual bloodline is changed and they become new creatures in Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor 5:17, KJV). Because we are born into the family of God we can call each other brother and sister because the blood of Christ flows in our spiritual veins. “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those

he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified” (Rom 8:29-30, NIV). “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:14-19, NIV). We are born into the family of God as spiritual children but we are not meant to stay that way. God wants us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:1-3, NIV).

6. Sent forth the Spirit of His Son in us

It is because we are sons that God sent the Spirit of His son into our hearts. We are not sons of God in name only but are of His Spirit also. The same Spirit that dwelt in Christ dwells in us as well. After the resurrection and shortly before Jesus returned to His Father He met with His disciples and spoke to them concerning the kingdom of God. Shortly before this He had met with His disciples and spoke to them about receiving the Holy Spirit. “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my

Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost”(John 20:21-22, KJV). “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”(Acts 1:4-5, NIV). Jesus told them that when He left he would send the Holy Spirit as a comforter and helper. Up to that time He had been with His disciples and was able to lead and guide them on a personal level. Now that He was going back to His father he told them that God was going to give the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort them. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever”(John 14:16, KJV). Now not only the Holy Spirit would be with them but He would be in them as was promised in Jeremiah when it was prophesied that the law would be written on their hearts. Now the Holy Spirit would indwell them and lead and guide them as they followed His leading. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall

he speak: and he will shew you things to come”(John 16:13, KJV). About 800 years before Christ, Joel prophesied regarding the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit”(Joel 2:28-29, KJV). This prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost; it came with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and with tongues of fire, which sat on each of them. In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son and in the fullness of time, at the proper time or in the time appointed of the Father, He sent forth His Spirit to bring to pass the completeness of His plan and purpose. “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the

Spirit gave them utterance”(Acts 2:1-4, NKJV). In explaining what was happening, Peter spoke and said this is that which was prophesied by the prophet Joel and this promise is for everyone: “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call”(Acts 2:38-39, NKJV). This promise is for as many as the Lord shall call even down to our day. Praise God, He is still pouring out His Spirit upon all who seek His fullness.

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you”(Joel 2:23-25, KJV). The former rain was the rain that came to prepare the ground for seeding and the latter rain came so the crop would ripen and make it ready for harvest. The former rain is a type of Pentecost and the latter rain is typified as the pouring out of the Spirit in the last days. Truly there was a mighty outpouring of the Spirit in Pentecost but the prophet says that this was only a moderate rain. Many have thought that which happened at Pentecost was the ultimate spiritual experience. The dead were raised, the blind saw, diseases were healed and the church grew until most of the then-known world became Christians. If this was in moderation, then how wonderful and glorious must be the time when the former rain and latter rain are poured out together in the first month. After

IMPORTANT DATES

Feast, North Battleford	April 1 - 4
Henry, Illinois	Friday, April 30 - May 2
Week of Prayer and Fasting	June 6 - 12, 2010
North Battleford Camp	July 4 - 11, 2010
North Carolina Camp	July 25 - 31, 2010
Pinelaw Summer Camp	August 2 - 8
Caribbean Summer Camp, Antigua	August 8 - 14
Park Valley, Saskatchewan	September 3 - 6
Winkler, Manitoba	September 3 - 6
Hidden Acres, Ontario	September 3 - 6
Nebraska Meetings	September 24 - 26
New York, New Jersey Camp	(TBD)

Pentecost the church flourished for a while and then entered a period of decline until the light of the gospel was almost extinguished. This was known as the dark ages. It is genuinely accepted that it lasted from the fourth century to about the fifteenth century AD. It was a time of spiritual upheaval with the control of the church in the hands of the ecclesiastical hierarchy and was full of pomp and ceremony but mostly devoid of the Spirit. Then the spiritual tide began to change and God began to restore that which had been lost to a backslidden church. Gradually some of the priests and lay brethren began to experience spiritual renewal. They ministered these spiritual things to the people and the people accepted them. In the sixteenth century, Martin Luther received the revelation 'The just shall live by faith' and God began restoring to the church that which had been lost. Adult baptism and rejecting the formality of the religious system soon followed. From that time there were many revivals and outpourings of the Holy Spirit and the march of restoration carried on. In 1904 the Welsh revival led by Evan Roberts literally turned the nation of Wales upside down with the emphasis on holy living and relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit. This, no doubt, had an influence on the Pentecostal revival, which took place in 1906 in Los Angeles in a building that had once been a stable, among other things, located at 312 Azusa Street. It is significant that when God sent forth His son he was born in a stable and when He sent forth His Spirit it was in a stable also. In the Azusa street revival, God restored the truth of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. This was not well received by the established churches and was rejected as heresy. This has been the pattern throughout the ages. When God moves, those who cannot see it often reject it. In 1948 God moved once again in a sovereign way and

it was prophesied that the gifts of the Spirit would be restored by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, which was born out in Paul's admonition to Timothy. "Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you"(1 Tim 4:14,NIV). There was an overwhelming sense of reverence in the midst and it was prophesied that they should take the shoes off their feet for they were on holy ground. The central theme of this move of the Spirit was the coming together of the body of Christ. God continued to restore to the church things such as prophecy, singing in the Spirit and body ministry. Church order and government as well as kingdom truth and sonship were also revealed. God has restored, is restoring and will restore to the church everything that is needed to complete God's plan and purpose to His creation. We have read in scripture about the former rain in Apostolic days, we may even have experienced some of the latter rain of the nineteenth and twentieth century but now God says he will give rain in the time of the latter rain if we ask for it; "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field"(Zech 10:1, KJV). He also promises to send a deluge of the early and the latter rain in the first month; "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month"(Joel 2:23, KJV). God is not finished restoring and He promises to open the windows of Heaven and pour out blessings in abundance; "And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer-

worm, my great army which I sent among you And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed"(Joel 2:24-26, KJV). I think we can all agree that these are the last days and that God is bringing His plan and purpose into being. The things of this earth are passing away and God is bringing forth His kingdom. He is answering the prayer of Jesus, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven"(Matt. 6:10,KJV). A time is coming when the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isa 11:9). "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"(2 Peter 3:13, KJV). Praise the Lord! He is bringing to birth a people to rule and reign with Him, an overcoming people who have defeated the ruler of this world by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony. "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth"(Rom 9:28,KJV). Our finite minds cannot really imagine the glory of these last days but the Spirit of God has revealed some wonderful things to us. Even so there is so much more that has not even entered our minds yet. "That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." But we know these things because God has revealed them to us by his Spirit, and his Spirit searches out everything and shows us even God's deep secrets"(1 Cor 2:9-11, NLT).

7. Abba Father

"And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt"(Mark 14:36, KJV). Abba Father is what a child would use to

speak to his father. It is a term of honor and great respect. As Jesus prayed in the garden, He was in great sorrow of soul, not so much for the suffering that he would endure on the cross but because of the separation that would happen when He would be rejected by His Father for the sins of the world. "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"(Mark 15:34,NIV) I can hardly imagine the agony He must have endured knowing that His Father would forsake Him and He who knew no sin would become sin for the redemption of the creation. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"(2 Cor 5:21, KJV). Even as Jesus was able to address His Father as Abba Father we also can do so for He has sent His Spirit into our hearts so we can address our heavenly Father as Abba Father (Gal. 4:6).

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father"(Rom 8:15,NIV). Jesus further indicates that He and His disciples are of the same family by calling them brothers. "In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers"(Heb 2:10-11,NIV).

8. No more a servant

"What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father"(Gal 4:1-2,NIV). We are born into the body of Christ as immature children of God but we are not to remain as children. We

are to grow up in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure"(1 John 3:1-3, NKJV). God has provided everything we need to grow up into Him. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"(Eph 4:11-16,KJV). As we grow up in Christ we progress from being a servant to a son who has a place of authority in the family. Though we leave the time of being a servant, a son of God always carries the spirit of a servant. Jesus, though Lord, laid aside His reputation and became a servant.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and

took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"(Phil 2:5-7, KJV).

9. A son

Every parent looks forward to the day when his children become mature and are able to take a responsible place in society. Today there are not many family businesses but, in the economy of Israel, a son was expected to take a place of authority in the family business and in making decisions in the family. In a Jewish family when a son reaches the age of thirteen, a Bar Mitzvah is celebrated as a confirmation or coming of age ceremony. The boy is now expected to keep the commandments and be responsible for his own actions. It is the same in the family of God. I am sure there is rejoicing in Heaven when a child of God matures to the place where he takes on the role of a son. This is what a son of God is, one who has grown into a place of maturity and is being led by the Spirit of God. "All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear - you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father." The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory"(Rom 8:14-17,Phillips). We know that when Christ appears at the end of the age to set up His kingdom, we shall be like him for we shall see Him as He is. This is the hope of the church but before He comes in the Heavens He is coming in His people to mature and perfect them. When He comes, He is not coming for a weak divided church but for a glorious church without spot or wrinkle (Eph 5: 27). He has given us the Spirit of God, which was sent from the Father, to guide and

direct us so that we might become a glorious church. We are growing up into the head, which is Christ, being filled with all the fullness of God. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all"(Eph 1:22-23, KJV). When He comes to set up His kingdom He will come to a church that will be administrators in that kingdom; those who will rule and reign with Him. "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth"(Rev 5:10, KJV). The world is in a mess. There are wars, rumors of wars, strange weather patterns, floods and tsunamis; everything around us seems to be falling apart. We can almost read the predictions of Matthew 24 in our local newspaper and on the six o'clock news. As J. B. Phillips notes, mankind is "in a sort of universal travail" not knowing what will happen next. Praise God, God has a plan to rescue the whole creation "from the tyranny of change and decay." He is bringing sons to birth who will deliver and bring forth a mighty deliverance and liberty to creation.

Let the Heavens be glad
And the earth rejoice,
The sons of God are coming
forth.
Though the earth may shake
And the billows roar,
Sons are coming, creation to
restore.

"In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited - yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share

in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God! It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail. And it is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realised our full sonship in him. We were saved by this hope, but in our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we do not yet possess. But if we hope for something we cannot see, then we must settle down to wait for it in patience"(Rom 8:18-25, Phillips).

10. Heirs of God through Christ

"For God has allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in him. And here is the staggering thing - that in all which will one day belong to him we have been promised a share (since we were long ago destined for this by the one who achieves his purposes by his sovereign will), so that we, as the first to put our confidence in Christ, may bring praise to his glory! And you too trusted him, when you had heard the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. And after you gave your confidence to him you were, so to speak, stamped with the promised Holy Spirit as a guarantee of purchase, until the day when God completes the redemption of what he has paid for as his own; and that will again be to the praise of his glory"(Eph 10-14, Phillips). God has written a will and given us an inheritance. He has signed the will in Jesus blood and has given us His Spirit as an assurance of that inheritance. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children,

then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together"(Rom 8:16-17, NKJV). We are heirs of a kingdom, which can never be shaken. We are sojourners in this world but our citizenship is in the heavenly realm and we are heir to the riches of God in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear"(Heb 12:28, NKJV). "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"(Col 1:12-14, NIV). As has been mentioned before: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"(1 Cor 2:9-10, KJV). There is much of our inheritance that has not been made plain at this time but God is revealing it to us as it is needed. It is so much more than just going to Heaven, walking on streets of gold and living in a mansion. Just what it will be I cannot even imagine because my mind is so limited. In the eternal realm "We will know even as we are known"(1 Cor 13:12). "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy

in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea”(Isa 11:6-9, KJV). “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down

out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their

eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’”(Rev. 21:1-5,NIV).

Beatitudes

By Kenneth Wensley

(taken from tape)

Bless the Lord. Well, we are more than two or three this morning. Bless God. And how wonderful it is that God looks upon the two and the three and that He would even come and be in their midst. His ways are so wonderful aren't they? We are grateful that He doesn't need the multitudes. He needs just the two and the three that are able to come into His presence. How wonderful it is that He is moving today in the way He is. That is all important. Nothing else is as important as that. Nothing. It's that moving of the Holy Spirit that will attract men and women. Nothing else. I think about what Paul said. That he ministered what he ministered and what he ministered was the word of faith. Not just many words, but the word of faith that was in his heart and that's what he ministered to the people. Faith begets faith in the heart that is prepared by God to receive. Faith. That wonderful substance and evidence of the heavenly things. That is what we need; more of that substance and that evidence of the things that are not seen. Paul said that without faith it's impossible to please Him. The reason that it is impossible to please Him without faith is because you can not believe without faith. There has to be that evidence, that

substance, in your heart. Faith is the gift of God. It comes down from above. It's something that God gives to us so that we might be able to believe. Bless the Lord. God is sovereign in every beginning. It doesn't matter what you consider, whether it's creation as a whole or whether it's your own experience, it is always in the beginning, God. He came and He planted that seed in your heart. That seed of faith, which is really the good seed of the word of God. That is the living word that liveth and abideth forever. That's what He plants in your heart and your mind and He did that sovereignly. When I look back, I didn't have much to do with it. Neither did you. God caused you to hear the word of your salvation and because of that wonderful substance and evidence, you were able to believe and accept Jesus as your saviour. Heavenly things were made real. Weren't they? Glory to God. Otherwise, why on earth would you believe in something you can't see? So we thank God for the wonderful gift that He has given. When the scripture says that it's more valuable than gold, and it is, I tell you without faith you may shipwreck. Treasure it and value it greatly. As the scripture says, “hold it” and let it be the greatest treasure in your heart, what God has put

within you. Bless His name.

We read in Revelation how they sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb. That song of the Lamb is a song of peace. Peace with God, peace in your heart and in mine because Jesus is Lord. Bless God.

I feel led to take you through the Beatitudes. Matthew 5: And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him and He opened His mouth and taught them, saying “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” I'm not going to read it all, I'm going to go from verse to verse. The poor in spirit. Blessed are those that have a need and that feel that they have a need. That there's something that they're lacking. And God looks for that, that longing in the heart, that sense of need. And he says, “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” or more correctly “of them is the kingdom of heaven.” Of them or from them in the heart. It is this sense of need that causes light to shine upon our pathway. When God sees that sense of need, He causes light to shine. Bless His name. And the wonderful thing about light is that it reveals the hidden things, the things that we didn't know were there. I expect there will be many things in our lives that we didn't know were there until the light of God revealed them.

So that is what that being poor in spirit produces. It causes God to come and shine light upon our pathway. In verse four, "Blessed are they that mourn." There's always a wrong idea about this. You can say "blessed are they that repent," that's one saying there. "Blessed are they that repent." There are two kinds of mourning or sorrow that are spoken of in the scripture. "Blessed are they that mourn," because of things that have been revealed, that are not right, the hidden things "for they shall be comforted." When this repenting comes to our hearts, God begins to reveal something of His will. We've heard this, that meekness is not weakness, but rather it's strength in yielding to a higher will. We come to a place where we've got to decide that we're going to submit to His will. I'm reading of another scripture that says "Taste and see that the Lord is good." When we begin to submit to His will, we find that He is good. His will is good for us and He is so good. Bless His name. He's so, so good and that creates a longing for more in our heart. It creates a longing. It should do. These are the things that should follow one after the other. So it says, "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness." Bless God. We want more of Him. More, more oh Lord, more of You. I'm sure that's been the experience of every one of you. You begin to long after God, after righteousness. Righteousness, the things that are right. And then verse seven, "Blessed are the merciful." You know, what begins to take place is that the love of God begins to come into our hearts. We no longer look down on anyone. That love is extended to all because it's of God. Now you may not have heard this, but we're credited with showing mercy when we have the authority to extend it or deny it. We can choose. There are all kinds of people who don't deserve anything I guess, or we think they don't, but

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Again, I go back to Job and how God instructed those three men to go and have Job pray for them. They had said all kinds of things that had hurt Job deeply, but he prayed for them. And then a wonderful thing, it says "after he prayed for them, the Lord turned again the captivity of Job." It seemed to take that. Everything turned around after that. It's wonderful when the love of God can come into our hearts. Verse eight, "Blessed are the pure in heart." I think of the Psalmist, when he prayed, "Lord search me and try me and know what is in my heart." I hope we've all asked God to do that. He searches out the motives of why we do things and he exposes the motives that are wrong so that we can put them away. "Pure in heart," you can say, otherwise we will not see Him. "For they shall see God" and I think of that scripture where it's written, "When we see Him, that is Jesus, we will be like Him." I don't know if you can turn that around or not with, when we are like Him, we shall see Him. We will see Him in one another, bless God. That's a tremendous truth in this hour. It's the very one thing that is denied by that spirit of anti-Christ. They will not see Jesus. They will not see the Christ. They will not see the anointing in you or in any member of the body. Yet that anointing is there and that's what anti-Christ means, it means anti-anointing or anti-anointed. Verse nine, "Blessed are the peacemakers." "Blessed are the peacemakers." Do you know there's only one criteria for being a peacemaker and that is the cross. There's no other source of peace, but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is what will qualify every one of us for being called a peacemaker. It's just a matter of following Him and being led by His spirit. "For they shall be called the children of God." Verse ten, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake,"

because they're going to believe. Bless the Lord. The righteousness of God is always by faith in believing. You can be persecuted because of association, because you're called by His name and you belong to Him. And that's good. You can go on beyond that and be persecuted because of what you do for Him. More than because of Him, but for Him because you're an active believer and worker with Him. In this eleventh verse He says, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you." This is where you become really associated with Him. Suffering with Him, not because of Him, not for Him, but with Him. If we suffer with Him then we shall also reign with Him. Isn't that what the scripture says? There is a progression here. We need to be drawing closer and closer to Him and to His will. I guess we always rejoice in the simplicity of it. Just doing the things that He wants us to do. Obeying what we know too be His will. That's pretty simple, isn't it? Listening to His word. There are a host of things we have been instructed in I guess all down through the years. I think of another scripture, how it's so important that the things we have received from the beginning should abide within us. If the things that you have received from the beginning shall remain in you, then it says you shall continue in the Father and in the Son. There's a wonderful place here that God is calling us to. John writes about it and it's deep. There are things there that are so wonderful, but again I say it's all just so simple as walking with Him. I'm glad that it has none of the complications of men and that sort of thing. As one of the brethren always says, "Keep on keeping on." That's about as plain as you can put it, isn't it? Keep on keeping on. Keep on believing. Bless God. I suppose there are many, many things that could be said about this. Then He says, "Rejoice and be

exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven. For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” We are in this place of patience where we need patience that we might receive the promise. The next step is Godliness. Godliness brings persecution. Piety, holiness. Paul says, “Without which, no man will see the Lord.” If you can define God then I guess you can define holiness. We need to be greatly interested and concerned about the things that are going on in the church and in the realm of the Spirit. And I say this,

don’t get your eyes on the things that are going on in the earth. We know what’s going on in the earth. God knows what’s going on in the earth. We don’t want to be a part of it. I say this, we need to be careful we don’t know their fears also. I don’t want to know their fears. There’s going to be lots of them. I don’t know which translation it is, but he speaks of how the whole world is lying in the lap of the wicked one. If you can picture a child lying in its mothers’ lap, asleep no doubt, that child has no idea what’s going on. None what

so ever. Those that are in the world do not know what God is doing. They don’t know what position they’re in. They don’t know that they are being motivated by the evil one. They don’t know that every word they speak is a word of unbelief and rebellion, evil, with no honour to God anywhere and that’s the way it is. We don’t want any part of that, but I tell you we sang about the peace of God and we can have peace in our heart. It’s worth so much. Great and wonderful treasure.

The Lord bless you.

The Unequal Yoke

By Mervin Sundbo

A yoke is associated with beasts of burden. Oxen, for example, were yoked together in such a manner that they could only pull in one direction. When the team is equally yoked and they pull together, it makes the burden lighter. In order for the team to share the burden and pull together in the same direction, they must be of equal weight, size and temperament. The scripture in 2Cor. 6: 14, reads as follows: “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” The Phillips says, “Don’t link up with unbelievers and try to work with them.” The yoke or link spoken of here is a bond, union, partnership or close relationship. Do not be unequally bonded or united with unbelievers. Now, obviously we cannot avoid associations with unbelievers in our daily living for we rub shoulders and have interaction with them all the time. We should be providing them with a good example of how a Christian lives his/her life. This scripture goes far beyond incidental contact or association in the work place, classroom or sports arena. It speaks about a union, a close relationship or a bonding that could

cause significant stress in your life if the yoke is not equal; the burden is not shared and if the pull is not in the same direction.

There are many relationships that could be classified as unequal yokes, but the one that is most common is marriage. This does not mean that we have to match up IQs or that we must be in every way compatible, but it does mean that in certain ways we should be of like minds. There are some areas that should not be compromised. You can live with weaknesses in a mate because you will have no choice. The perfect man or woman has not yet been born. Unless you are a complete egotist, you will recognize your own shortcomings and therefore cannot expect perfection in others. However, you can insist that a prospective mate walks the same spiritual road that you walk. Amos 3: 3 asks this question, “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” This is a rhetorical question with an obvious answer. Life’s journey is a whole lot more pleasant when you are walking it with someone of like mind; someone with whom you see eye to eye. This does not mean

there will not be disagreements from time to time. The important thing is, can you deal with the disagreements in a mature and respectful manner? Immaturity tends to be selfish; the “I-want-my-own-way” attitude, while maturity is selfless; a willingness to listen to the other person’s point of view and to consider his/her feelings.

During courtship, keep your eyes wide open. What do you see that you like? What do you see that you do not like? Do you see selfishness or selflessness? Does his/her conversation center on me or is he/she genuinely interested in you; your interests, values, spiritual beliefs and attitudes? Is there a level of maturity that you detect and admire? A recipe for disaster is the union of two immature people. If you are considering marriage, you must be able to accept the person as he/she is because, as much as you may think you will change him/her, the reality is that you will not. What you see and are subjected to in the courtship is what you will see and get in the marriage, only more of it. You can take that to the bank! You say, “Well, people can

change.” The answer is that people can change if they really want to and they sincerely ask for God’s help in making the desired changes. Let’s consider some concrete examples: (1) if there is dishonesty (not telling the truth) before marriage, you can rest assured you will deal with some sort of deception after marriage, (2) if there are signs of verbal or physical abuse in the courtship, the marriage vows are not going to magically change that, (3) and if financial matters are contentious issues before marriage, they will continue to be after marriage. (4) Children are usually an integral part of marriage. The time to discuss them and the disciplining of them is before marriage not after the first child has arrived. You must be in agreement on the methods of correcting children. If you are not in agreement in this vital area of marriage, you will bring confusion in the minds of your children and they will learn the art of playing one parent against the other at a very young age.

As I mentioned earlier, there are some things you should not compromise on:

1. Your prospective mate must have given his/her heart to the Lord. You must walk the same spiritual path, not only for yourselves and your happiness, but also for the sake of the children that you may bring into the world. Marriage is a decision that is so important, someone once said, “It will bring 90% of your happiness or 90% of your misery.” I believe it. In a little brochure titled “A Testimony,” my first wife wrote these lines, “On August 22, 1964 (44 years ago) we were married. Brother Holt, you have often talked about the joy of two people who are united in the same belief and it is certainly true. The joy and happiness are beyond compare. To be able to converse freely with someone you love about someone you both love is wonderful. To have it any other way would be to slur a marriage. To think of having to live with a

man without the companionship and fellowship in the things of the Lord makes me very sad.”

In a *Sharon Star* that was published some time ago, there was a testimony titled, “The Unequal Yoke.” I do not know who wrote it as it is signed, “A Sister in the Church.” However, I would like to quote an excerpt from it. “Time is one of the best factors for proving and working things out. It is important to walk carefully before God. Obedience and much prayer are of utmost importance. Watch and be alert to the little things that will make you aware of the sincerity, or lack of it, in your boy friend or girl friend. Give yourself time and make sure he or she is serious and has a good experience with God, and is not just a Christian for your sake. The idea that one will come to church or be a Christian after marriage should never be accepted.”

2. What God has to say about marriage and the home reveals the high regard He has for this union. His pattern is one of headship and submission. How can the husband/father function, as he should, if he has no understanding of how to carry out the responsibilities of headship? How can the wife/mother function, as she should, if she has no understanding of, or desire to walk in, submission? The result can only be discord and heartache for father and mother and confu-

sion in the minds and hearts of the children. The pattern for marriage is outlined in Ephesians 5:22-25 and 28-32, “Wives submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.... So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each of you in particular so love his own wife, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 6:1-4 speaks of the relationship that should exist between children and their parents. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ And you, fathers, do not

ILLINOIS GATHERING (King's House)

Friday, April 30 - Sunday, May 2, 2010

The King's House retreat center is located on the East side of the Illinois River across from the town of Henry, IL.

From I 80 go south on I 80 which runs into S 29. Follow S 29 to E 18 in Henry, from E 18 turn north on RT26. From I 74 take 116 East to Rt. 26 in East Peoria. Go north on Rt. 26 to Henry IL.

We will begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch. Price includes room with private bath, linens, meals and meeting rooms. We will collect from individuals at the retreat.

Charges for Room & Board:

Age 0 - 3 No Charge; Age 4 - 12 - \$25; Age 13 - Adult - \$50.

Send Reservations, by April 12, to:

Randall G. Snoko, 128 Tanglewood Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611.
Phone (309) 694-7048, e-mail - rgsnoko@juno.com

provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”(NKJV). This is the pattern for the equal yoke; a man and a woman bonded in holy matrimony, united in the same spiritual beliefs and walking in the light of the same spiritual experiences. The sister who wrote in the *Sharon Star* about the unequal yoke, that I referred to earlier, had this to say concerning the headship of the father, “If you are a young woman, remember the man has to be the spiritual leader and will he be able to do that? Would he teach the children? Would he conduct the family altar? Could he submit to authority over him? In other words, will he lead the family in the order God has set for us, being the example you and your children can follow? Can you submit yourself to this person wholeheartedly?”

Submission is willing and voluntary obedience to a proper authority. In the case of marriage, God has vested headship in the husband (her proper authority). Furthermore, He has charged the husband to use that authority in a prudent manner, and love for his wife is the main ingredient in her willingness to submit to

his headship. What is headship? What does it look like? We take as our example or model the nature of Christ; a nature of love, of compassion, of forgiveness, of servitude, of obedience. Christ has delegated or entrusted to husbands/fathers His headship, in our marriages. That means that they stand in authority under Christ in the office that God has placed squarely on their shoulders. Therefore, when a wife submits to her husband, she is submitting to Christ.

Now, if we want to walk in headship or in that authority, we must be willing to be under authority and that authority is Christ. You see, submission and headship, as described in Ephesians, are spiritual principles, not external laws. They are conditions of the heart. When we see submission as unto Christ and when we see headship held under the authority of Christ, it sheds a whole different light on our willingness to embrace it and walk in it. If you are thinking of marriage and have a fuzzy understanding of the concept of headship and submission, discuss this with your elders during the counseling sessions. A successful marriage will depend upon walking in this important principle.

Strong marriages are vital to the church, the body of Christ, and they are the cornerstones of our society. The erosion of the marriage institution in our world today is having devastating effects on the lives of children and mothers and fathers. A while back, I read a column in a local newspaper by Laura Schlessinger and this is what she said, “Never before have we had so many children in broken or never-made homes; children into drugs, violence and sex; children killing themselves and others; children raised by institutions instead of by parents; children killing their own infants; children being molested by mom’s many boyfriends; children not doing well academically and children lost emotionally.” She goes on to say, “When words like family values, two-parent family, commitment, morality and religion become denigrated and people protecting these concepts are condemned as phobic and hate filled, the society is doomed.” The picture described here is accurate as we witness society spiraling into an abyss that sinks ever lower with each passing year. It is God’s people, one marriage at a time, one family at a time, walking in the order and

PINELOW SUMMER CAMP AUGUST 2 - 8, 2010

Greetings Everyone!

On Monday, August 2, saints from all over North America will come together to worship the Lord and learn more of Him at the beautiful setting of Pinelow Park in Washington State. We invite one and all to come for this great week of fellowship.

**Please send your reservations as soon as possible by email to:
martz@shelbrook.com, or phone 604-858-9009.**

Please state date and time of arrival and numbers of children including ages. I will confirm your reservation so you will know that you have been registered.

The check-in time begins Monday, August 2nd at 4:00 p.m. and the camp concludes with breakfast on Sunday morning, August 8th. Please advise me if you plan to be at the camp for the first evening (6:00 p.m.) meal.

The camp is located on North Deer Lake Road, just a short 45 minute drive north of Spokane, Washington on Highway 395.

For Canadians NOTE. You are now REQUIRED to have a passport to enter the U.S. Please don't make plans to attend if you haven't got a passport, as you will be turned away at the border.

Rates are:

Adults - \$100.00 USD

Children ages 3 - 11 = \$50.00 USD

Families

(children up to aged 18) - \$300.00 USD

Please bring bedding, toiletries, bibles, musical instruments, etc., and a heart prepared for a great spiritual week.

May the Lord bless you all.

Daryl Martz

pattern that God has established, led by His Spirit and operating under the anointing of Spirit-imparted ministries, that will turn impossible circumstances into victories. God, who created all things, is in control. He loves His creation and is restoring it all back to Himself. We should be willing and obedient to play whatever part He asks of us in His plan of restoration.

In both the secular world and the religious world, there are many voices. These voices call us to compromise our principles, to question our values and to provide alternatives to our beliefs and to consider alternate lifestyles. Television, Internet, radio, advertising, music, videos, movies and a myriad of other influences all have the possibility of impacting us. The societal solution to discord in marriage is to separate or divorce, but the vow states that the union is binding until parted by death. There is nothing old fashioned about being faithful to the mate you have taken “for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness or in health.” The voice we should be listening to is the voice of the Good Shepherd who says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;

neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand”(John 10: 27&28, NKJV). God has given us much good instruction over the years and He wants us “to be doers of the word and not hearers only.” He desires to save His people from much pain and suffering by instructing us to “not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” Now, the equal yoke is walking the same spiritual path, embracing the same beliefs and accepting the pattern that God has laid down for holy matrimony. This has many implications for everyday life, for rearing children, and for our happiness and our joy in marriage and in the Lord. A couple can both be believers and be on different spiritual levels for a number of reasons, not the least of which are background and experience. Such differences can be the cause of discord and division and therefore need to be resolved before marriage. Some years ago, Brother Whitter wrote as follows on this topic, “the problem of two people deeply in love, but walking two separate ways, creates an atmosphere that can virtually swamp a couple and leave them with permanent injuries. In honesty to one another, this problem should be solved before and not after marriage.” He went on to say, “Happiness cannot be found or

satisfied by stimulation or fantasy, but can only be consummated in two lives being made one in perfect harmony and unity.”

I want to turn my attention to listing a few of the significant decisions that we all must come to grips with sometime in our lives:

1. Choose God—we all either choose or reject the offer of salvation that God holds out to everyone. He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”(2Peter 3: 9, KJV). This decision is the most important for it affects not only this life but also the next, as well; a decision for time and eternity.

2. Your Life’s Work—choose carefully what you will spend a large part of your life doing. Choose a profession you are suited to and according to your gifts and ministry. Ask God to open the door best for you. Mark Twain through the character Huck Finn said, “What a body likes to do is play. What a body doesn’t like to do is work.” Perhaps there is some truth in that.

3. Your Life’s Mate – this whole message has been primarily on this topic. Seek God for the right person for you.

4. Attend Church and minister – choose to attend your local assembly and come prepared to

RESERVATION FORM FOR FEAST OR CAMP 2010

Please check one of the above. Cut out and mail

Please fill in ALL information and cut out and mail to the following address:

ROOM RESERVATIONS,
Sharon Schools,
Box 878
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Z3
or nbreservations@gmail.com

Rooms are filled on a first come, first served basis, so reserve as soon as possible. **YOU MUST RESERVE** your room, as we cannot hold accommodation without you supplying the information outlined. Please cancel your reservation if you are unable to attend, or we may have to charge for the room held open.

Please bring all your own bedding. Linens provided to fly-in attendees ONLY.

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Address _____

Adults: Male _____ Female _____

Children: Male _____ Female _____

Age _____ Age _____

Date of Arrival _____

Date of Departure _____

You will NOT receive confirmation of booking UNLESS we cannot supply your requirements.

minister in accordance with the prophecies that have gone over you. "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching"(Heb. 10: 25, KJV).

5. Daily Devotions – place high priority on having a daily devotional time. In order to accomplish this you will have to set aside time for it, otherwise it will be a good intention but will remain just something you should do but never find time for.

6. Choose to Be Friendly – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Courtesy and a polite demeanor are always welcome. The old song says, "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day." A smile is a universal language. Choose not to be offended. "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble"(and nothing shall offend them, Psalm 119: 165, KJV).

7. Choose to Be Forgiving –

and to ask for forgiveness when necessary. "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4: 32). "Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."

8. Choose to Look After Your Body – "It is the temple of the living God." Exercise, get sufficient rest, pay attention to your physical limits and make healthy choices. Our bodies respond to proper care and they break down when they are abused. Paul said, "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (1Tim. 4: 8, NKJV).

This discussion of the unequal yoke and 8 choices enumerated above are by no means comprehensive. However, I trust there is enough meat here to give you something to contemplate. Our goal should always be to please God and to have His perfect will accomplished in our lives.

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Georgetown, Guyana
Feb. 1, 2010

Raymond J. Udoh
Traveling Deacon - Nigeria
Feb. 3, 2010

CORRECTION OF DATES

The dates for the North Battleford Summer Camp 2010 have been reset to the following: July 4 - July 11, 2010

West Indies Camp 2010

St. John's Antigua

Check-in: Sunday, August 8 at 12:00 PM (noon)
First meal to be served at 5:00 PM, followed by first meeting at 7:30 PM.
Check-out: Saturday, August 14 after the noon meal.

Place: University of Medical Science, Dow Hill, St. John's ANTIGUA

Rates: 0 - 4 years = no charge
5 - 11 years = \$35.00 US (\$90.00 EC)
12 & older = \$75.00 US (\$175.00 EC)

Rooms are fully air conditioned or with fans. Iron and ironing boards in rooms. Laundry facilities are available (\$4.00 US per load, washing or drying (\$8.00 EC)).

Transportation to or from airport is \$20.00 US per person (\$50.00 EC).

To reserve please contact either:

Tashie Mack: 1268-7807599 or 1268-7729510 tashie6@hotmail.com
Anita Joseph: 1268-7236830 or 1268-4615534 neety72@hotmail.com

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS is APRIL 15th, 2010.

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

Sharon Children's Homes and Schools
Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

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