



Hearing, Believing, Anointing

By A. York

Message by A. York, New Year's Young Peoples 2004/2005:

Father, life is such a short journey. Lord, You see all these dear ones who are, so to speak, beginning life, at least most of them. Lord, I pray that the truth that You are, will grip their hearts everyday. Guide them in the precious and wonderful way that You can, to fulfill Your will and not follow the things of this age, which are all passing away. But the things that are eternal will go from age to age, fulfilling Your divine will in the Kingdom. In Jesus, precious name, Amen.

It's wonderful to see everybody. It's terrible not to remember your names. But there's one place where your name is never forgotten. Now where is that? It's written in heaven. Our citizenship is in heaven. From whence, from where, in other words, we look for our Redeemer. We look for Him who is the head of the body; the head of all things to the church...So shall it be with you as you walk with Him. The Spirit of God, even in your daily conversations, will cause you to speak words of strength, words of life, words of peace, words of understanding, and things that pertain to the Kingdom of heaven. "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace and

joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). Therefore, we are in His Grace and in His love and in His great Salvation, heirs with Him and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

I would like you to turn to the Book of 1 Corinthians the twelfth chapter. Now from time to time I've spoken to you as young people from the fourteenth chapter and perhaps I should do a little review before I start on the twelfth. I'm going back to the preparation of these things because of your youth, but the things that God has unfold in this move of the Spirit are such that we need three things. Do you have your pen and paper ready? I want you to write this down because the reason is scriptural and it is practical. You and I need, every member of the body needs, *a hearing ear*. A hearing ear. Jesus said over and over again all through the New Testament and in His message in revelation, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 11:15). There is no difficulty any greater from your youth until we get promoted to glory, no difficulty any greater than not paying attention. When God speaks we need to pay attention. The reason is that, "...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him:"

(1 Corinthians 2:14). Oh, that puts us all in that position where we are all...what?...fools. In our wisdom we are fools. Is that what it says? Am I over-interpreting? We need the mind that is within us to be subject to the Spirit of God in order to receive the things of the Spirit of God.

How many are here for the first time? Raise your hands. Well don't be shocked if I say some things that you've never heard before. But they are very simple; they are scriptural. They are the things that God has unfolded in this move of the Spirit. Why? Because God is dealing with a people that will hear His voice and walk with Him and obey His will. We have all kinds of gospels, everywhere in this world. But there is one place where you and I find consolation and that's in the shelter of His Holy Spirit, anointing our life in the way that our gift and our ministry functions for the glory of God and to do His will. (A hearing ear. A hearing ear.)

The second thing that we need to have is *a believing heart*. A believing heart. "...For he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who..." once in a while seek Him? No! But "...diligently (continually) seek Him" (Hebrews

11:6). Diligently seek Him. The faith of the Son of God comes not because we are so smart or so intelligent, but it comes through that avenue of His divine teachings where, on the Sermon on the Mount, He said where the blessing falls. I haven't time to go through all the blessings that are there in that glorious and marvellous teaching, but needless to say we must have a humble mind, for there lies the secret and they key to having that divine flow in our lives. So, believing is the place where you honour God. You honour the Son of God, you honour the power of the coming age, and you honour the power of the resurrection. A believing heart.

And the third thing we need to have is *an anointed soul*. An anointed soul. Now we taught you in the classes here before about the value of communing with God in the unknown tongue everyday. I won't ask you if you talked to the Lord in the unknown tongue today but if you have in the last month? Raise your hand. Last week? I won't narrow it any more. The reason being I want to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance to be in that place before the Lord where you are in that flow of His anointing. For as we have said over and over again and the scriptures in 1 Corinthians 14 says, when I speak in the unknown tongue my spirit prays. Oh, why don't you do a little shouting? You better stand up and do a little shouting. Hallelujah! Amen! If you haven't spoke in the unknown tongue or if you never have, life your hands to heaven and let the anointing of God flow down over you!

An anointed soul. The apostle prayed that the people would be preserved body, soul, and spirit blameless unto the coming of Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23). Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace and find help in time of need. How often do we need Him? Not just one day out of the week but we need Him everyday, every hours if we're going to walk in the Spirit. I would like to start with 1 Corinthians the twelfth chapter; this is the New King James version, verse eleven. "One and the same Spirit works all these things distributing to each one individually as He wills." People are interested in the gifts. People are interested in their function and it wasn't until 1948 that we were aware that Spiritual gifts could be imparted by the laying on of hands of the presbytery.

The presbytery being a multiple of Elders. So the "...One and same Spirit works all these things distributing to each one individually as He wills." Now a lot of young people growing up say they would like to be like so-and-so and be able to do like so-and-so. But you will find that what you want isn't the priority with our Heavenly Father and with the Holy Spirit. The priority is that each one receives as He wills. You can't be like me. I want you to be, and every one of you to be, the part of God has made you for. That's what the Lord wants. That's His plan.There's not another girl in the world like this young lady. The dear Lord made her the way she is for the gift of God. He has imparted to her heart and to her life to be that part of the body that He wants. The same goes for everyone else. I put in my margin beside that verse a two-letter word. And it is spelled H-E, with an exclamation mark beside it in the margin because too much of the human enters in. We want what *He* wants. That's what the Holy Spirit of the living God designed for our lives and for His divine purpose. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13). Oh, what life there is in that living water in that Spirit. Marvellous! I might say in passing that being baptized into one body, the body of Jesus Christ of which He is the head, it doesn't matter what your background is or what you *have* believed. He wants you to believe in Him. "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does it share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). We hear about the tolerance that humanity wants to purport for all the cultures of the world. Can you see humanity entering into this at all? The Spirit baptizes all into one body, whether Jew or Greeks or slaves or free, regardless of the culture. Whether I'm a slave boy or the king on the throne, there is just one, one, one culture. One culture. That one culture supersedes all man's needs, and meets every need, transforms every life from the life of fear of *this and that* and the other thing that promotes so many of these cultures. Knowing that God has you in the hollow of His hand;

knowing that, as the apostle said, there is nothing that can separate us for the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Perhaps we should just turn to that in Romans 8:37. He is describing a lot of situations previous to this verse. But he says, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquers through Him who loved us." Situations, stories, situations, but here's the believing heart," ...more than conquers through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded... (Now this is a wonderful persuasion, marvellous persuasion, a heavenly persuasion, an eternal persuasion.) ...I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us for the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). What a persuasion! What a marvellous thing that a believing heart can embrace!

Can I repeat myself and tell the story again of a little boy in Texas? About thirty people were in this room. He's two years old, just learning to speak a few words and all these people had never heard me speak before. They were a little bit apprehensive to respond. So anyway, I asked for an amen and there was just dead silence. So then, I said it again... "Amen." You would have thought that you were in a morgue. So I thought, "I'll try it once more...see if I can get these people stirred up." I forget the subject I was on, but the little fellow, he was sitting beside his mother listening to me. So he, all of a sudden, after the third time I said amen, says, "Aaaammen!" Well, the whole thirty people started to laugh. They realized that the child in their midst was going to lead them, so they started saying amen. I had no trouble again with getting them to say amen. So I've always referred to him as my "amen boy." The Lord bless him. Now I've got to get back to where I was.

1 Corinthians 12:14, "In fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body' is it therefore not of the body?" Hands have a wonderful function. Feet have a wonderful function. We use them all the time without thinking. But what is the equivalent spiritual lesson that the apostle wanted us to learn from this illustration? Let's read on. "If the ear

should say, 'Because I'm not an eye, I'm not of the body' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?" (1 Cor. 12:16-17). Notice the words, "...*But now...*" that wonderful word, *now*. I'm always overwhelmed by the Spirit of God putting everything in the scriptures that is important to our walk with God and to truth in the present. "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." *As He pleased*. Not as I pleased or some of you pleased. What you want or don't want. It may all be irrelevant unless it fits with the plan and purpose of God. The whole body were an eye. Imagine if the whole body were an eye...It's impossible! The distinct individual that you are, to walk before God in His grace, makes you that part of Himself that He wants to fulfil. This is His eternal purpose in the coming ages. What you are, and what is taking place in this short pilgrimage here, is the testing. Yes, it's the testing. Called, chosen and faithful. But the big job is in the coming ages. Oh, you'll say, "I haven't done enough for the Lord. I don't know how." Commit it to His will and ask Him to lead you everyday. The biggest job is still ahead in the coming ages. "...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepare for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9). Do you believe that? Glory to God!

See this finger wiggling here? How many can see it? Ok. One day I was in Peoria. And there was this boy...I suppose he's either four or five. His dad had to go to work but his mom brought him to church. So I started to wiggle this finger when I was dealing with the body of Christ. I asked his mother what his name was. She said, "Travis." So I noticed that Travis had been watching me and listening intently. And when I wiggled the finger I said, "Travis, why does that finger move?" His mom didn't figure he'd answer but he said, "Because it wants to." He spoke right out. That finger wanted to respond to the life of the rest of the members in the body. Doesn't it? The mind tells it to move and the rest of the body gives it the ability to move. Do we all want to respond? "And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body" (1 Cor. 12:19-20). There's one thing about God's grace in your life and that is if you can so believe in Him that you keep that smile all the time. There's nothing as refreshing as a smile. Amen? Verse 21, now these are all in the now. "And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. Notice the words, "...that seem to be weaker." Does your mind and the enemy give you a lot of trouble, thinking, "Well, I'm so weak. I'm pretty near asleep when it comes to the function of the Spiritual body." Well, what does the scripture say? "Those members of the body which *seem* to be weaker *are necessary!*" (1 Cor. 12:22). Did you hear it? "...Are necessary." I think that one of the translations says 'people'. So here the Spirit of God makes us aware of the fact that what seems to be feeble is more necessary when it comes to membership in the body of Christ.

How many are here within the range of 13 and 14 years of age? Raise your hands. I want to see how many are here... We love you all and we know that the Holy Spirit will fit you in. When you're young you feel that... well, there's either two of extremes... there are some kids who feel they are the most important people on the earth. Then there are those, to the other extreme, who believe they are the most feeble people on earth. But God has a solution to it all. You are necessary. Put that note - you 13 and 14 year olds - put that note in your notes or by that verse, "I am necessary to God."

Verse 23, "And these members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour. And our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty." Well, you look at somebody and you say, "So-and-so doesn't do very much. They're not really on fire for God." How do you know? They may spend a great deal of time in intercessory prayer. They may be in contact with God about your needs and you don't know it. That hand doesn't know that the arm and the joints and the shoulder and all the rest of my body are joined together. It soon knows that if it's cut off - or you do. So there's the un-presentable parts.... greater honour. This is the Holy Spirit speak-

ing by the apostles. This is not my idea. This is God's idea. Do you ever think about all the functions that are in your natural body? I'm sure you all have. You all evaluate yourself one way or another. You say, "Well if I only had red hair, I'd be better looking. Or if I had blonde hair I'd be better looking." However, the natural body serves as our home for this short journey here. But the heavenly body will be that which is transformed by the grace of God to shine forth in the ages to come in the administration of the glorious function of the Kingdom of God in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost when men learn the ways of God. "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;" (1 Cor. 12:26). Let something fall on your toe and you'll soon know that all the rest of the body is suffering. How many are carpenters here? How many times have you hit your finger with a hammer? That finger sure suffers, doesn't it? You baby it up until it's healed. What's our attitude? Well, do we say, "Well, serves him right for hitting his finger." No. "Should have been paying a little more attention." No. The rest of his body does everything to heal that. So it is in the Spiritual body. You do what is your ability to help heal what the hurt is. Amen? One member suffers and all the members suffer with it. "Or if one member is honoured all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). Now here's one of those *nows*, in what we've read in these few verses. Isn't that marvellous? To see how God has brought these truths in such a simplistic way. Oh, we don't learn anything like this in University. No, you won't! I'm not saying you shouldn't go to University. I'm saying that you have to separate the natural from the Spiritual. "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." Or another translation says, "...members in particular" (1 Cor. 12:27). How important is it to you that you are a particular member of the body of Christ? To me it is the highest honour, the highest honour of a lifetime. I didn't know - I went through bible school, I was ordained as a minister and I was in three of four churches before this move started - how that God had hidden these things, these truths, from those who were our teachers. But when the time was right the Holy Spirit revealed these things.

One day I was in a little house meeting over in The Pas, Manitoba. This minister's wife - I was kind of shouting like this. Maybe I shouldn't have been shouting so loud but I was so happy about this particular scripture. She blurted right out, "Well I never saw that before!" Well, the dear Lord opened her eyes. The dear Lord will open our eyes to the truths of His grace and of His love, of His divine working in our life. Amen?

Verse 28, "And God has appointed these in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues (or languages)." Now, because we have all these members in the body, we don't have only two eyes to do the seeing. Sometimes I wish I had two in the back of my head so I wouldn't have problems with a crank in my neck. Maybe you would wish this sometimes too but perhaps we wouldn't be just what God wanted if we had four eyes. You know, two eyes serve us real well if they're working right. But a little while back mine started clouding over and the doctor said I'll have to have some implants. So they put the implants in and I have 20/20 vision if

everything is right. But if I have a bright light shining against my eyes at night, my lenses start to star. Do I ever have a time with those bright lights! You know there are a lot of bright lights on television and so many places. I never thought of it until right now but maybe all they're doing is starring and stars aren't in God's body. I say this because, "Many will come to me in that day..." Jesus said. "They will say to me [to Jesus] ... 'have we not prophesied in Your name? Have we not done many wonderful works?'" What does Jesus say? "I never knew you; Depart from me, you workers of iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23). "Ye didn't do," he said, "the will of my Father." You made merchandise of your gift. You used it to make you popular. It's the one that God sees who humbles himself under His mighty hand that God will lift up. There's so much teaching here I can't cover it all but I'll go over to 1Corinthians 13:13 & 14:1. 13:13 says, "And now abides...[that work *abides* means to be there constantly]...faith, hope, and love. These three but the greatest of these is love." "Pursue love...[I love the New King James translation of this verse. The old one says "follow after." Well,

you could follow one step behind or a hundred miles behind, but this translation says *pursue*. That means being close to Him, close to the Lover of your soul. 1 Corinthians 14:1, "Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." I wasn't able to be here for all the service this morning but I came in and heard the prophecies and I was thrilled, just thrilled. How many have prophesied in the last month? How many have not prophesied in the last month? Do you need help? You see how important you are. We are all of this to make you aware that "For you all can prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged" (1Cor. 14:31). So what's your biggest problem with prophesy? Could I name the one thing? The one thing that will cause you to hold back when the Spirit of God is moving, that one thing is what? Fear. I will not fear.

Father, we are grateful for Your presence today. We're grateful for your Holy Spirit that abides, is continually in the now. Let that anointing be upon each one that they may enter in more and more each day. Bless us as we commune together and the rest of this day. In Jesus name, Amen.

In Heavenly Places

By F. T. Paterson

In the book of Ephesians the term 'In Heavenly Places' is used four times. Once about Christ seated in Heavenly Places when he was raised from the dead.

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," (Ephesians 1:20, KJV).

Twice speaking about our position in Christ:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" (Ephesians 1:3, KJV) and again "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" (Ephesians 2:6, KJV).

The fourth time we are told that it

was God's intent that the church would reveal the manifold wisdom of God to all authorities and powers in Heavenly places.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God," (Ephesians 3:10, KJV).

In the vernacular of today let me say; "This is awesome", to realize we are seated together with Christ in the Heavenly realms. Our feet may be here on the earth but our spirit is with Christ in the heavenly realm.

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian" (Eph 2:19,

TLB).

True, we do not as yet see all things put under His feet, (Heb 2:8)

"What we actually see is Jesus, after being made temporarily inferior to the angels (and so subject to pain and death), in order that he should, in God's grace, taste death for every man, now crowned with glory and honour. It was right and proper that in **bringing many sons to glory**, God (from whom and by whom everything exists) should make the leader of their salvation a perfect leader through the fact that he suffered. **For the one who makes men holy and the men who are made holy share a common humanity**. So that he is not ashamed to call them his brothers, for he says: "I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will

sing praise to you” (Heb.2:9-12, Phillips).

We are adopted into the very circle of God’s family.

“Praise be to God for giving us through Christ every possible spiritual benefit as citizens of Heaven! For consider what he has done - before the foundation of the world he chose us to become, in Christ, his holy and blameless children living within his constant care. **He planned, in his purpose of love, that we should be adopted as his own children through Jesus Christ** - that we might learn to praise that glorious generosity of his which has made us welcome in the everlasting love he bears towards the Son” (Eph1:3-6 ,Phillips). According to our natural birth we share in the blood-line of our parents and siblings. According to our spiritual birth we share in the spiritual blood-line of Christ and the family of God. Because of our spiritual birth we are partakers of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and as the children of God we have the right of inheritance in the family of God.

“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 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 1:11-14,Phillips). It has been God’s plan from before the foundation of the earth to bring forth the full redemption of man. Simply stated it is this: **‘To bring many sons to glory’**(Heb. 2:9-10). We can follow this theme throughout scripture from the days of creation when He Said: “Let us make man in our image”(Gen 1:26) to the book of the Revelation with His promise to the overcomer: “He that overcometh will inherit all things” (Rev. 21:7). It comes forth in God’s promise to Israel; He tells them that they shall be a special people to

him:

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel”(Ex 19:5-6, NKJV).

Because of Israel’s disobedience He gave the same promise to the church:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10, NIV).

There is a difference in the promise; to Israel he says **‘you shall be,’** and to the church, **‘you are.’** We have His promise that He might present her to himself “a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing”(Eph 5:27, NKJV)

We have been grafted into the vine of God’s promise of being a special people unto the Lord and partaking of the life that flows in the vine. Israel was pruned from the vine for a while so that we might be grafted in (Rom.11:17). How this will all come about I do not know but this I do know that every thing will one day come under the headship of Christ and we will reign with him as Royal priests forever and ever. (Rev 5:10, Rev. 20:6, Rev 22:5)

“And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ” (Eph 1:9-10, NIV)

It has been God’s purpose that through the many sons He is bringing to glory that He will deliver the creation from the curse which came upon the earth because of Adams transgression. Christ came to redeem us from that curse and that redemption is complete, there is nothing we can add to it. When Jesus cried on the cross, “It is finished,” **it was.** The scope of our salvation starts at the

cross and continues eternally but we have not, as yet, received all that salvation includes. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to work out our salvation (Phil. 12:2). This does not mean, of course, that we provide for ourselves any part of our salvation for salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9).

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NIV)

We have obtained everything that pertains unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) but we have not, as yet, entered into everything that salvation holds for us. Salvation includes healing but we do not as yet see everyone healed or delivered. Salvation includes many things which we do not see the fullness of, but, praise God it is God’s desire that we enter into the fullness of salvation.

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,” (Ps 103:2-4, NKJV)

As mentioned before, our redemption begins at the cross. We are born again as spiritual children, and as with all children, the desire for them is to grow and mature. This is God’s desire for us as well. Spiritual growth takes place as we partake of the deeper things of God as the Spirit of God remolds us from within and we partake of the life in the vine (John 15) and let that life of the vine flow through our branches producing the fruit of the Spirit. Let us be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14) and as we are led, maturity and perfection will be revealed in our lives. To be led by the Spirit can happen on every level of our Christian life, not only as we reach a full level of maturity. The Holy Spirit was sent as a helper to bring us to maturity and will guide us whether we are spiritual children or manifested sons of God.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13, NIV).

As children of God there stretches out before us the promise of maturity. We will progress along that promise

by our everyday life and experiences in exactly the same way as Jesus did, by the things that happened to Him. It was by the things that He suffered (from childhood to the cross) that He was perfected.

“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb 5:8-9, NKJV)

Even though as children of God we have not reached the maturity of sons of God we are still sons of God by his promise and we have the power (authority) to become mature sons of God.

“Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the Father” (Gal 4:1-2, NKJV)

As immature children of God we have the right of inheritance and are joint heirs with Christ until the time appointed by the Father at which time we will enter into spiritual adoption according to the promise.

“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 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 1:11-14, Phillips).

“as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13, KJV).

By accepting Jesus as our savior we are born again as spiritually immature children. By spiritual birth we are given the right, or authority to become sons of God, we receive the spirit of sonship (or adoption) and the

promise of entering into spiritual Adoption.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2, KJV).

The Greek word from which sons is translated is ‘tekonon’ which would be better translated as children and should read children of God rather than sons of God. I do not want to split hairs but it changes the meaning, implying that we are already mature sons of God. The Greek word for sons is ‘Huiois’ which carries the meaning of a son that has been placed in the position of authority in the family. As we grow in the Lord we do come to the place of a mature son of God in the family of God. This is where spiritual adoption takes place. Spiritual adoption actually means the placing of a son into a place of responsibility and authority. The Greek word used for spiritual adoption is ‘Huiiothesian’ which has the meaning of the placing of a son. This is in essence what is meant by spiritual adoption. In Israel when a child has reached the age of maturity they have the ceremony of adoption and are inducted into the place of authority in the family.

“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (huios). For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship (huiiothesian). And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children (tekonon). Now if we are children (tekonon), then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Rom 8:14-17, NIV).

Thank God we have the spirit of adoption in our hearts and there is a yearning for something more. To enter into that which lies ahead. The revealing to creation of the manifested sons of God.

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of

our bodies” (Rom 8:22-23, NIV).

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the first fruits of God’s spiritual creation; the sons of God. The spiritual adoption that God has planned is that we should come to a place of spiritual maturity where we can be workers together with God (2 Cor 6:1). It is plain that our Christian life should be one of spiritual growth, of entering in to a deeper spiritual walk as we live in this earthly realm.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Eph 4:11-15, NIV).

This is the plan of God in a ‘nutshell,’ to bring forth a people after His name who will be led by His Spirit and attain a level of maturity which will allow them to deliver the creation which was cursed by Adam’s disobedience. He is bringing forth a company of glorified sons of God who have grown up into the likeness of Christ. They will have taken on the attributes of Christ, grown up into Christ which is the head, to be partakers of His divine nature and will have been given the unspeakable privilege to enter into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Praise God forever for the vastness of His grace, which we do not deserve, and His mercy which has given us the authority to become sons of God.

“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).

The process of entering into sonship is one of maturity and change and that of bringing to birth a new creation. The apostle Paul writes that he is traveling in birth till Christ be formed within the

Galatians (Gal 4:19). There is travail within the church, among those who hear the voice of the Spirit, to bring forth those that desire to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. It is evident that not all will respond but there are those who will hear the call with the ears of the Spirit and respond. *He that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.* Those who hear are a firstfruits of the creation of God.

“These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” (Rev 14:4, KJV)

A great wonder appeared in Heaven, (Rev. 12), a woman waiting to bring to birth a son. Standing before her is a red dragon waiting to devour her child. The red dragon is interpreted as the devil, or Satan, who stands in opposition to anything that would usurp his authority.

“The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him” (Rev 12:9, NIV).

The child that is coming to birth will rule all nations with a rod of iron and put down all Satan’s power and authority in the earth. Satan is in great urgency to see that the child would not be born because this child will be bringing about Satan’s defeat. As soon as the child was born he was caught up to God and to His throne (into the heavenlies). The interpretation of this scripture may be open to some discussion but it seems quite plain to me that the woman is the church being in childbirth and bringing forth the sons of God, for out of the church will come the sons of God. The woman brought forth a son and we may wonder at the use of son in the singular if she is bringing forth the sons of God. The sons that are coming forth are those that have grown up into the measure of the stature of Christ. They have taken on the attributes of Christ and are one with Him. They have grown up into the head which is Christ. They are the fullness of the many-membered body of Christ and have come to a place of unity with Christ.

“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 8:28-30, NIV).

“And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven” (1 Cor 15:49, NIV).

We see today a divided powerless church and God says He will have a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. We see the church today on many levels, from dead formalism to emotional entertainment, from those who go no farther than accepting the Lord as their saviour to those who truly see God’s plan and purpose, from the morass of religiosity to those who desire with all their hearts to enter into the fullness of God. It is not a case of God playing favorites or preferring one group above another, rather it is to those who will make themselves available to God that will enter into sonship. When speaking about sonship we are not talking about going to Heaven after we die. We are assured of Heaven by accepting Christ as our saviour. Every blood-washed child of God has been called to sonship but every child of God will not answer the call of sonship. Every child of God has been chosen for sonship but not all children of God will enter into sonship. There is one more part of the equation that is needed to enter into sonship; it is faithfulness. Not only called, not only chosen but to be faithful to call and to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev 17:14, KJV).

The river of God in Ezekiel 47 is a good type of the levels experience that are seen today. There were waters to the ankles, to the knees, to the loins and then waters to swim in. God will meet us on what ever level we are on but His desire for us is to leave the shallows and launch out into the deep. I thank God for every level of experience that God’s children are on and I do not want to look down on any one’s experience. May God speak to us to come up higher to the glories of the heavenly realm, to a deeper walk with the Lord.

The scripture likens the change that takes place to when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. The term is called metamorphosis and is born out in scripture by the Greek word

‘metamorphou’.

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18, NIV).

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Rom 12:2, NIV).

In view of the promises we well might ask, why have we not entered into those promises or what hinders us from entering into them? Some answers might be that the fulfillment of the promises are in God’s hands and in His time. Also, our carnal nature is always in opposition to the things of God and keeps us from entering into a deeper relationship with God.

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law” (Gal 5:16-18, NIV).

Examining the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into the butterfly might also bring some insight into the question. The life cycle of the butterfly starts with the butterfly laying its eggs. Upon hatching into a caterpillar it becomes a virtual eating machine. When it has had enough to eat it attaches to a branch and spins a cocoon around itself. The process then goes into a resting time and the caterpillar begins to change into a butterfly. There may not be much noticeable activity during this time but a change is taking place. At the appointed time the cocoon begins to split and there emerges the butterfly. It spreads its wings and flies away a completely different creature. Could it be that we have eaten to our full of the promises of God and He has shut us away in the Spirit until the time appointed of the Father when the cocoon of the flesh will be stripped away and we will rise a new creature from the bonds of the flesh and soar away in the Spirit as glorified sons of God?

“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun” (2 Cor 5:17, TLB)!

Transformed

The change is coming O! Blessed hope,

When sons of God shall rise from flesh,

When in cocoon a change is wrought,

And from chrysalis there shall rise, a creature new

An earth bound creature went inside,

The robe of flesh encased him there,

And now from robes of flesh comes forth,

A creature that can soar and not be held to earth.

No more to crawl upon the dust, No more of earth to bind,

And now to rise and walk the stars, The Heavenly realm as home.

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**Osmund Osmundson
(Elder)**

March 12, 2006
Prince Albert, SK

**Emmanuel Galbah-Nusetor
(Travelling Deacon)**

March 14, 2006
Accra, Ghana, W. Africa

Lily Jacob

March 19, 2006
Mangalore, India

A. Erwin Livingston – We Remember.



**“The Steps
of A Good Man,
are ordered
of the Lord”**

Ps. 37:23

God. He had no desire to promote himself or his views above others or the way the Spirit of God was moving. When discussing who felt to give the Word in the next meeting, if more than one were standing ready, his quaint saying was always appreciated, “if it’s from the Lord, it will keep” and he often stepped back.

Erwin’s grasp of the scriptures in bringing out spiritual meaning and treasures of truth was beyond the ordinary. He lived in the Word of God. He was a man of keen discernment and very sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit. We often marvelled at what a free flowing he had of the “gift of prophecy” as he ministered the Word. A Prophet of God indeed!

His inspiration made a difference wherever he ministered. His was a fruitful life in many ways. How thankful we are for the Gift of God to the Church his ministry has been. It will never End. I John 2:17, “But the man who is following God’s will is part of the permanent, and cannot die.” (Phillips)

- Merv Smith

In Jan. 1944, myself a Bible student, my introduction to Erwin impressed me deeply. I could see him as a “kind, big brother” to me. I learned a lot from him over those early years and looked up to him ever since. It is good for us as friends and fellow Christians to assess the values and qualities we learn from one another during our walk together in this life. Here are but a few that I treasure, and will never forget.

The humility that his life expressed was genuine, and probably often served as a gentle rebuke to the proud and haughty, (though nonverbally). His wonderful sense of humour took himself and those close to him through hard times. We travelled together at times in our ministry, I found that one needs a good sense of humour to endure some of the set backs.

A man of great trust and faith in

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