

It's Harvest Time

The Notes in this Nine Week series are a compilation of the works of Pastor's Frank and Parris Bailey unless noted otherwise.

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Week One

Catch the Wave

*I have heard all about You, LORD. I am filled with awe by Your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again (**REVIVE YOUR WORK-** NKJV) as You did in years gone by. Hab. 3:2 NLT*

It was early summer of 1994 when I received this prophetic phone call from Dick Mills. Now receiving a phone call from Brother Mills was not that unusual, he would often call me and talk about his latest treasures he had discovered. His treasures were an old book that he would come across in his travels. It would be a set of Bishop Ellicott's commentary he found somewhere in England or the discovery of a reprint of John Trapp's commentary. He loved those books but that is not what this conversation was about. He was asking me what I thought the next move of God would look like. At the time I didn't really understand the question (I thought I did). To me, it was irrelevant. I didn't really know what a move of God would look like. Brother Mills was seeing through different eyes. He had been a teen at Sister Aimee Semple McPherson's church, he had witnessed much of the healing revival, and he had been a key player in the charismatic revival of the sixties and seventies. He had tasted the different streams and had an anticipation that something great was about to hit again. Thus the question, "**What do you think the next move of the Spirit will look like?**"

Several months passed until I heard from Dick again. This time he called me with the excitement of a teenager in his voice (in 1994 Brother Mills was in his seventies). He was calling from Toronto and wanted to know if I had heard of the Toronto blessing. Suddenly I remembered our last phone conversation and I finally understood his question. "What will the next move of God look like?" You see by this time our church had been swept into a fresh move of the Holy Spirit. We were experiencing waves of supernatural joy, people falling under the power and going into trance like states for hours, healings, deliverances, salvations; God had come down in a very unusual way. The most outstanding and common trait of this move of the Spirit was the joy, the kind of joy that was accompanied by laughter. You know the kind, that deep belly laughter that goes all throughout your being. Peter called it **JOY UNSPEAKABLE**. Now the question was making sense, before now I had no way of knowing what a new revival would look like. **Sometimes our preconceived ideas just get in the way.**

Looking back on these events, I want to learn again from Brother Mills example. Too many older Christians get stuck on the proverbial good old days, I don't want to be like that. Brother Mills had tasted of the afterglow of Azusa as a child in Sister Aimee's meetings, he had tasted the power of the healing revival, he had been involved in the charismatic renewal; he still wasn't satisfied. There had to be one more wave. That's where I am today; Lord, just one more wave. Are you ready for a new move of the Spirit. If so, let me ask you a question. **What do you think the next move of God will look like?**

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD REVIVAL MEAN?

*“Repent, therefore, and reform your lives, so that the record of your sins may be cancelled, and that there may come seasons of **REVIVAL** from the Lord,”
Acts 3:19 (Weymouth New Testament)*

- A. To live again; To receive again a life which has almost expired.
- B. To rekindle into a flame the vital spark which was nearly extinguished.

“A person in good health does not need reviving, he needs only daily sustenance. Who thinks of reviving the noontday sun, the ocean at its flood, or the year at its prime? The tree planted by the rivers of water loaded with fruit need not excite our anxiety for revival, for it’s fruitfulness and beauty charm everyone. Such should be the constant condition of the sons of God.” (Spurgeon)

Throughout history there have been seasons of revival, when the Lord moved on the hearts of those who had lost their first love. In those times, He rekindled the flame in the hearts of His people with an unstoppable fire that not only affected their personal lives but the church and land as well. Being true revival it spilled to the streets and ignited a passion that awakened new souls to salvation and who in turn were brought into the kingdom on God.

“In its classic sense, revival can be defined as a season of unusual divine visitation resulting in deep repentance, supernatural renewal and sweeping reformation in the Church, along with the radical conversion of sinners in the world, often producing moral, social, and even economic change in the local or national communities.”

Steve Hill- The Revival Bible

2. WHAT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST REVIVAL'S IN HISTORY?

Throughout the Bible there have been many revivals, but probably the greatest revival to date happened 2000 years ago, on the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2. Gone were the crowds that once followed Jesus. After feeding the multitudes, He would tell them *"unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood you have no life in you"* (John 6:53) which pretty much, all but killed the momentum that had built over the "Son of Man" from Galilee. Then He would be crucified and buried and all hope was lost and they would return back to their ordinary lives. Rumors of His resurrection and the testimonies of 500 who saw Him ascend into heaven maybe peaked their interest, but their first love was nowhere in sight and disillusionment had set in. Even out of the 500 who saw Him rise into heaven, only 120 would tarry in Jerusalem, to wait and pray. *"A bruise reed He will not break and a smoking flax He will not quench"* was a promise in the scrolls of Isaiah, but the embers of the flame had dimmed and were threatening to be extinguished forever. ***Until.... Suddenly,*** like a "heavenly hurricane" the sound of a rushing mighty wind and fire from heaven descended without warning...

3. IN ACTS 1:12-14, WHAT WERE THE 120 DOING WHILE WAITING FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER TO BE FULFILLED?

Vs. 14, *"These ALL _____ with _____ accord in _____ and _____."* Revival usually comes in response to a group of people who are committed to praying to God to ***"Revive us Oh Lord"*** and ***"Light the Fire again"*** in their church, in their city and in their country. Spurgeon writes, "and when revival comes to a people who are in this state (of lifelessness) the Holy Spirit simply brings them to the condition in which they ought always to have been; He quickens them, gives them new life, stirs the coals of the expiring fire and puts heavenly breath into their languished lungs. The soul which before was insensible, weak and sorrowful now grows earnest, vigorous and ***Happy in the Lord.***"

**"Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?"
Psalm 85:6**

4. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FAITHFUL MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE PRAYING FOR A MOVE OF GOD?

Acts 2:1-4 says, "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 _____ where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of _____, 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."

True revival begins when the Spirit hovers over that which looks dead and produces an explosive revelation of His light-giving Word, exposing what is needed to initiate change and create new life. (The Revival Bible)

5. WHAT WAS THE INITIAL RESULT OF THE REVIVAL OUTPOURING AT PENTECOST?

Acts 2:5-36 tells what happened when "the sound" was heard outside, on the streets. Peter addressed the crowd that gathered and simply told them what happened and presented the Gospel to them. In doing so, the following was the response of the multitude:

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **38** 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. **39** 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." **40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about _____ souls were _____ to them. Acts 2:37-41

It spilled out on the street. People were cut to the heart and asked, "What must I do to be saved?" They repented from their sins, were baptized and 3000 people were added to the church. When the Holy Spirit descends and true Revival happens, it will not stay inside the church doors. What starts out as a flame will soon spread like wild fire through a dry and parched land. With people ignited by the fire of God, it can't help but affect the lost in our families, our cities and in

our nation. When that fire and passion burns in your heart it is like “fire shut up in your bones” that must get out. You **MUST** tell someone. “For out of the overflow of the heart your mouth **WILL** speak.”

6. HOW IS REVIVAL MAINTAINED?

42 And they _____ in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

Seasons of global revival have come and gone, but the wise will realize that a lifestyle of revival can be maintained and realized. The secret is... “We mustn’t be like the cock in the fable that finds a jewel in his farmland but goes back to his enchanted couch of sloth, covered with rags and dreams of riches and great increase of goods to come.” (C.S.) If he just but open his eyes he would see The River that flows through his land and in it is where the Pearl of revival can be found. The one who has found this Jewel and drinks perpetually from the Source Himself (the Holy Spirit) will continually find himself **RESURRECTED, REVIVED, RESTORED AND REFRESHED. (kb)**

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE NEXT GREAT REVIVAL WILL LOOK LIKE? REMEMBER PASTOR FRANK’S ADVICE... DON’T LET YOUR PRECONCEIVED IDEAS GET IN THE WAY FROM “CATCHING THE NEXT WAVE”!!!

Answers

3. Continued, One, Prayer and Supplication
4. Filled the Whole House; Fire
5. Three-thousand , added
6. Continued Steadfastly

Takeaway

1. We can't get stuck in the good old days, we must always be looking for a new move from God.
2. However, revival can and should be the constant condition of the sons of God.
3. Revival usually comes in response to a group of people who are committed to praying to God for revival.
4. Revival spills out onto the streets.

Week Two

Swallowed Up in God

But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. Acts 26:16

Obviously, Paul's ears were open to the voice of Jesus. He began to clearly hear the voice of Jesus. You know, God has some incredible things He wants to show each one of us. He has mysteries in His Word that He wants to share with you. It's more than just getting information from the Word of God. There's so much treasure locked up in the Word of God for you and for your life—treasures beyond measure, more precious than silver, more costly than gold and diamonds. There are precious treasures hidden away in the Word of God. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. (Rev. 2:11) He who has eyes to see, let him see what the Spirit of God is showing His Church. There are things He wants to show you in His Word, there are things He wants to speak to your heart, but some of us are dull of hearing. We can't hear the voice of God because we are breathing in the wrong atmosphere.

This devotion comes from a sermon preached at Victory Fellowship several years ago. The first part was a teaching, the second part, a small prophetic word. Are you in touch with the spiritual world? Are you receiving input from The Lord? Jesus called that "having ears to hear". Christianity is more than a belief system, its a living relationship with the Living God. Maybe He is speaking to you today, maybe He is speaking through the following word of prophesy.

If anyone is thirsty, let Him come to Me and drink. Oh, if anyone is thirsty, let Him come to Me and drink. (John 7:37) I have things to pour into you and things to show you. In My presence, in My presence, in My presence, you'll be made whole, you'll be made whole. The thing, the damage that's taken place in your past will be mended. I'll pour the oil and the wine on you, and you'll be washed and you'll be purified, and your wounds, the wounds of past trauma, past rejection, and past disappointments in your life will be healed as you step into My presence. Allow me to wash you in My holy presence and I will begin to swallow up your past. It will be a distant memory like a shadow that can hardly be part of your consciousness. You'll forget those days and they'll be long gone as I wash you and swallow up your past. As you yield to me in sweet surrender, I'll begin to consume you just as I consumed the lambs of sacrifice. I'll begin to consume you, My son, My daughter—an acceptable sacrifice, reasonable service as you yield yourself, as you offer yourself.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHO DOES THE LORD USE IN MINISTERING AND WITNESSING TO PEOPLE TO BRING REVIVAL TO A FAMILY, A CITY AND A NATION?

“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.” Proverbs 18:16

He wants to use _____. He has saved you, opened your blinded eyes, opened your deaf ears to see and hear of His hidden treasures, not only for you to be enriched but that you would share with others what you have received. Such was the case with a man named Jonah.

Jonah was an Old Testament prophet and his gift (that the Lord gave him) brought him before great men. He would prophesy and speak the oracles of God to the King in his nation. While being used in his gift, the Lord called him to go to preach to the sinful people of Nineveh. His message? **REPENT** (For Jonah’s story-see Jonah 1-4)

2. WHY DID JONAH NOT WANT TO GO TO NINEVEH?

“Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.” Jonah 4:2

The people of Nineveh were wicked to the core. They not only harassed the Israelites but they mutilated people, sacrificed children by burning them on altars among other brutal, vicious acts. Maybe Jonah was downright scared or possibly that they did not deserve forgiveness. But the biggest reason of all... Jonah knew the nature of God. He said If I go and tell them to repent, it s just like You God to forgive them. So Jonah ran the other way and refused to do what God had called him to do. (see-Jonah 1:1-3)

We too are sometimes just like Jonah. The Lord has saved us and redeemed us, but because of **prejudice, fear, selfishness, past hurts, emotions, opinions of others etc.** we just do not want to share the Gospel with others. So we run from what God (or put off to another day) what we know we should do or what He has flat out called us to do.

But soon Jonah found out, that none can hide from God. The Lord found him on a boat, brought a fish to swallow him up and got him to where he needed to be. **The Lord then**

used Jonah to bring about one of the greatest revivals in history.

3. IN ORDER TO BE USED OF GOD WHERE DID JONAH HAVE TO GET TO?

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. “Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish’s belly. And he said: “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, and He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.” Jonah 1:17-2:1-2

He had to come to the _____ of _____.

Running far away from God, he was confronted with a storm that he couldn’t overcome. With no other option, he was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great big fish. Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “He knew he was as good as dead... *the earth with its bars closed behind me forever....Jonah 2:6.* Yet in this pit of hell, with no help for escape, **he began to pray. (Note: every great revival begins with prayer).** He offered up a sacrifice of thanksgiving. It was at this point that he was consumed, obliterated and annihilated.

It was in the belly of this great fish that who Jonah was, **was lost in who God is.** His strength was swallowed up in His...He no longer had an identity. His identity was Christ. Here Jonah faced a divine intersection... a crucifixion of the man he once was. It was no longer Jonah’s will that mattered only God’s will. Have you lost your life so that you can find His? Has there been an intersection in your life where you ceased to exist and Christ took over? Have you been to that “dead-end” crossroads? Did something take place in your life where your life stopped and His life took over?

Has your life been “Swallowed up in God?”

4. WHAT DOES THE FISH REPRESENT?

“and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17b

The fish was a place of _____ for Jonah. This is where he had to go to meet God. He was being swallowed up by God. When God has a plan for your life there aren’t many choices. You might think there are, but that fish is waiting for you. There is a fish appointed for each one of us.... Jonah didn’t want to go to Nineveh, but he was going one way or another....You can do this the easy way or the hard way..... Unfortunately most of us take the hard way. (FB)

5. HOW IS THIS A PICTURE OF THE SALVATION EXPERIENCE?

“3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:3-4

Salvation is a violent intervention in our lives. With Jonah and with the likes of men like Paul and others, God came down and swallowed up their lives. On the road to Damascus, Paul had a plan to do something but his will was swallowed up by God's will. It was gone! Jonah's plan to run from the presence of God was gone when he met the fish. God's will intervened and just took the place of their wills for their lives. God has a plan for your life. He is not really interested in your plan... Christianity is a death experience. At salvation, your life is finished. Finished. It's over. A crucifixion takes place, and there's a burial. Baptism is a burial service. It is under that watery grave that you declare, "My life is finished. My will is over. Someone else has taken over my life." (FB)

6. WHAT GETS SWALLOWED UP?

"I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart." Isaiah 40:8

Well to begin with, your _____ gets swallowed up. It needs to be, it needs to be eaten by a great big fish. The Holy Ghost whale comes and eats us. He'll devour all your sinful past, all the stuff you wish you'd never gotten into, the stuff that messed up your life. When you get swallowed up by God, His presence consumes all the stuff that caused you to mess up your marriage, mess up your family and mess up your relationship with your parents. God wants to swallow everything that has devastated you, everything that has disrupted and destroyed your life.... When you get swallowed up in God, it will be as if that old life never happened.... My past is the past and it's over. Swallowed up in God. I don't have to dig up those old skeletons and cry over them again. They are gone, finished, swallowed up in God!

Just like your past, your _____ can be swallowed up too. Jonah's was. He thought his future was somewhere else- on that boat to Tarshish. But God had another plan, and Jonah was swallowed up and spit back to Nineveh again.

And of course you _____. Jonah had very many real present circumstances in that belly of the whale. But the Lord also swallows up your present situation, yours right now. Your sickness gets swallowed up in His healing. Your poverty gets swallowed up in His provision. Your depression gets swallowed up in His joy. There is healing, provision, forgiveness, deliverance and joy. There is freedom from the past and hope for the future.

When I am swallowed up in God, He changes my will so that my cry becomes, " I delight to do Thy will, Oh God." Doing His will becomes the joy of my life.

(#3-6 Pastor Frank Bailey -Swallowed up by God- The Unseen World of the Holy Spirit)

7. WHEN THE FISH VOMITS JONAH UP WHERE DOES HE HEAD TO?

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

Jonah 3:2 Having personally experienced the Lord's salvation, Jonah was now ready to preach it. What a sight he must have been as he moved steadily through Nineveh with the message of God's impending judgment and His offer of repentance. Amazingly, the whole city- from the king down, repented of their wickedness, and God relented from His judgment. (*see- Jonah 3:5-10*) The same can happen right here in New Orleans. The Lord wants to use **YOU** to bring **REVIVAL** not only to your **FAMILIES**, but to our **CITY** and our **NATION**. It's time to stop running in the wrong direction. Let your life be swallowed up in God and let Him **MINISTER** and **WITNESS** through you!

Answers

1. YOU
3. End of Yourself
4. Appointment
6. Past, Future, Present

Takeaway Lessons

1. He wants to use YOU to touch your family, city and nation.
2. Sometimes prejudice, fear, and past failures gets in the way of doing God's will.
3. Our Past, Present and Future must be swallowed up by God.

Week Three

Following in His Steps

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

I used to read the storybook **"PIG PIG GROWS UP"** to my children. The picture of this huge pig stuffed into the highchair, crib and stroller still stands out in my mind. In so many ways I find myself in that predicament. God bids me to come and follow him, and I am still stuck with my pacifier, or holding onto to a older Christian suffocating him. The Holy Spirit beckons to go deeper. After all we should join in with the Shulamite when she says, *"I am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves. The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved."* Song of Solomon 7:10

What I love about this scripture is she is up and moving, wanting to direct her efforts to working in the kingdom. You know that you are growing in grace when your eyes are off yourself and on others. The storybook ends with **PIG PIG GROWING UP**. There is nothing worse when we get stuck in offense, depression and hopelessness. If we don't watch out we spend many, many precious years wasting away on past regrets. Listen to Spurgeon: *"To be happy, I say, we must go forward. Ahead is sunlight. Ahead is victory. Ahead is Heaven. Ahead is Christ! To stand still is danger; no, it is death. O Lord, for the sake of our happiness, help us to advance; for the sake of our usefulness, let us ascend. Oh, if only we would grow in grace, if only we would grow stronger in faith, mightier in prayer, more fervent in heart, holier in life, who can tell how much we might accomplish? Men who walk lightly leave faint footprints, but men who have the tread of Roman soldiers stamp their footprints on the sand of time, never to be erased."*

How do you keep growing? Well, He that started the good work in you will finish it. In other words more grace will be given. Grace upon grace! Understanding the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives also helps us understand that our lives are not about us struggling each minute of the day but relying on him for our very breath. We should also use every means possible in our spiritual walk. Searching the scriptures, praying in the Holy Ghost, and intimacy with Christ to name a few. Enjoy the journey for pete's sake!

Pastor Parris Bailey

1. WHAT COMMAND ARE WE GIVEN FROM THE LORD?

*“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example** for you to **follow in His steps.**” 1 Peter 2:21*

We must become a _____ of Christ. He has not left us to wander aimlessly alone but has left us well equipped for our journey. In 1 Peter 2:21, the word “leaving” implies leaving behind, like leaving behind a pattern to follow. The Pulpit Commentary says, “It means a copy set by a writing or drawing master, which was to be exactly reproduced by his pupils. The life of Christ is our model. In particular St. Peter urges us to imitate the Lord's patience in suffering undeserved afflictions. In the last clause the figure is changed to that of a guide along a difficult route, so difficult that those who follow must put their feet in his footprints. We should follow His steps, one by one, closely following Him...”

So in order to imitate Christ we must as 2 Peter 3:18 says, “**GROW in GRACE and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**” One way that we get grace and knowledge is to study “the pattern”, the example left behind, written in His very own words. We must follow His steps of Love, Faith, Humility and Zeal. His constancy in Prayer, His submission in baptism, communion, sufferings, “and in His meekness, patience, courage, and resignation to the will of God, which is what is here intended, and in which His people are to follow and imitate Him.” John Gill

2. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE GROWING IN GRACE?

*“I am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the **field**; let us lodge in the **villages**. Let us get up early to the **vineyards**; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves. The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.”*

Song of Solomon 7:10-13

The Shulamite, (in the Song of Solomon) is an excellent example of someone who has grown in grace. Here is what Pastor Parris has to say about her, “she is up and moving, wanting to direct her efforts to working in the

_____ . You know that you are growing in grace when your eyes are off yourself and onto others.” You can see the change in this woman from the opening chapters in the Song of Solomon. In chapter 1 she says, “My own vineyard I have not kept and the sun has burned me etc. To the last chapters of 7 and 8, where she has moved away from her self absorbed state of being only occupied with own field, her own village and her own vineyard but wants to go forth to the “FIELDS”, “VILLAGES” and to the “VINEYARDS”. ***She has experienced personal revival and wants others to experience revival as well.*** No longer wandering aimlessly, she now has a mission to work alongside her beloved, leaning on His strength, not on her own understanding, nor trusting in her own righteousness, but on the Lord who is the Righteous One, allowing Him to work through her to impact her world.

3. HOW DO WE KEEP THE FIRES OF REVIVAL BURNING ?

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved? Beneath the apple tree I awakened you;...” Song of Solomon 8:5a

The above passage holds the key to keeping the fires of revival burning. We must continue to walk side by side our Beloved and continually leaning on Him. And where does He take her? Back to the place where they first met, “the apple tree,” where He first awakened her. We know we are growing in grace when the love in our hearts for Him burns as when we first met Him. This passion causes us not only to lean upon Him and walk with Him along the path, but to join with Him in His work in His kingdom and to share His love with others.

“This is what revival is all about, rekindling the flames of _____ in our hearts. To feel like we felt when we first were saved and just couldn’t get enough of His constant presence.”

To remember, “The spot where the first breathings of love came forth....Nothing is more delightful and more helpful to the believer than to go over in thought, again and again, and especially when faith grows feeble, when the heart is cold and fickle under the influence of worldly temptations and difficulties of the Christian course, the history of the first beginning of the spiritual life. It is here, we cry out for the fullness of grace, and it is given us.” (Pulpit Commentary)

4. WHAT THINGS CAUSE YOU TO GET STUCK AND NOT GROW IN GRACE?

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the

house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” Psalm 27:4

Pastor Parris writes, “There is nothing worse than when we get stuck in offense, depression and hopelessness. If we don’t watch out we spend many, many precious years wasting away on past regrets.”

“Living out of our soul realm and learning how to commune with Him (and to lean on Him), is vital to our Christian way of life.” Parris Bailey

Sooner or later you as a Christian will have to _____ all your anger that “this didn’t happen or God didn’t come through. Maybe you spend everyday striving and facing unrest over past regrets. Why don’t you just push all that stuff from off the table and begin to just say, “give me one thing LORD, to see your beauty! He will surely come! He will fill you with joy, soothe your sorrows, guide you in difficulty and strengthen you in weakness. PB

5. HOW DO WE LEAVE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND?

***“We do so by telling others about Him,
sharing His love
and making DISCIPLES.
In this way we leave a legacy
that glorifies God.”***

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28: 18-20

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do _____. John 15:5

In the same way, let your light shine before _____, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be _____, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in
vain in the Lord***

1 Corinthians 15:58

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and
through us _____ the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.
2 Corn. 2:14*

*So that you will _____ in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all
respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of
God.” Colossians 1:10*

***I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I
have not _____ my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden
your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from
the great congregation. Psalm 40: 9-10***

*For God is not _____ so as to forget your work and the love which you
have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the
saints. Hebrews 6:10*

Answers:

1. Follower
2. Kingdom
3. First Love
4. Lay Aside
5. See Scriptures

Takeaway Lessons:

1. We must become a follower of Christ
2. You know you are growing in grace when your eyes are off yourself and onto others.
3. We leave a lasting impact on others when we take the time to make disciples.

Week Four

“It’s Time to Pour Out”

Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Matthew 14:15

Matt. 14:16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” I love the various accounts of this great miracle in the ministry of Jesus. In Matthew’s gospel, we see the connection of the death of John the Baptist to this defining moment in the ministry of Jesus. When He could have retreated He decided to advance. It appeared that the Lord was going away into seclusion when compassion stopped Him in His tracks. He was moved by the hunger of the crowds that were chasing after Him. When the disciples wanted to send them away, Jesus opened His heart. You can hear Him saying, “Why send them away? All they need is right here”. It wasn’t just food for their belly that they longed for. Their true hunger, even though they were not in touch with it, was a craving after the Lord. They were starving for spiritual food and Jesus was about to spread the table. From this miracle forward Jesus began to talk about the real reason He came. It was not just to heal the sick and feed the hungry, He came for far more than that. He came to give His life as a sacrifice. He came so we could eat the true food, His body and His blood.

Here is a powerful thought on this event from Matthew Henry.

“Christ would not dismiss them hungry as they were, nor detain them longer without meat, nor put them upon the trouble and charge of buying meat for themselves, but orders His disciples to provide for them. See how reluctant Christ is to part with those who are resolved to cleave to Him! ***They need not depart.*** Note, Those who have Christ have enough, and need not depart to seek a happiness and livelihood in the creature; they that have made sure of the one thing needful, need not be cumbered about much serving; nor will Christ put His willing followers upon a needless expense, but will make their attendance cheap to them.”

The Lord doesn’t want to turn any of us away. Even today, the table is spread. He is calling whosoever will to come to the gospel feast. There is no longer a need to look for sustenance and answers anywhere else. He is all we need.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE POLITICAL WORLD BEFORE JESUS PERFORMED THE MIRACLE OF THE FEEDING THE 5000?

3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. 4 Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." 5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. 6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. 7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. 8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." 9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus. Matthew 14:3-12

It was troublesome times in the political world in Jesus day. Herod the ruler of Jerusalem at that time, was living an immoral, compromising lifestyle. He was openly committing adultery with his brother's wife, watching his niece dance crudely before him, murdering John the Baptist, really doing whatever he pleased, anything goes....(needless to say there is nothing new under the sun.) But when the leaders of the day were not living righteously and were choosing to do what was right in their own lives, and when those actions touched Jesus family personally (*His cousin- John the Baptist- was beheaded by Herod,*) we see how Jesus responded to such calamity. Instead of starting a political demonstration and picketing the palace – **He chose instead to _____ in times of trouble.**

2. IN HIS DARKEST HOUR WHAT DID HE DO?

Matt. 14:12-14 Then his disciples came and took away the body (of John the Baptist) and buried it, and went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

All of us know what it means to face difficult times, how we respond in those times will ultimately define our lives. Today's scripture gives us a glimpse into the personal, human side of Jesus, this has been a source of great strength to me many times. Jesus had just heard the news of John's execution, He knew what that meant. His days were also numbered. He had decided to retreat to a quiet, remote location with His disciples for prayer and reflection but life was not going to allow such luxuries. The crowds of hungry, desperate, hurting people followed Him out into the wilderness.

Jesus was obviously grieving over the death of John as well as pondering the implications of His death on His own life and ministry. In the midst of His greatest conflict to date, He stepped into an incredible, possibly unprecedented time of ministry. He ministered to the people for several days, miracles were breaking out as He healed the sick. Next, He performed one of the greatest miracles of His ministry, the feeding of the 5000 with five pieces of bread and two small fish. That very night He walked on water and stilled the storm. The next day He healed as many as touched the hem of His garment in the land of Gennesaret. Then next, He gave His famous sermon in the synagogue about Him being the Bread of Life. During His darkest hour He unleashed a frenzy of _____ that had never been seen before. (FB)

3. WHO DID HE USE TO POUR OUT TO THE HURTING AND THE HUNGRY THAT DAY HE FED THE 5000?

John 6:8-9 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

He used a small boy. He didn't have much to give, ***but he gave what he had.*** The Lord used what was in the little boys hands and multiplied it to bless many. Whatever you have in your hands, if you place it in the Master's hands it will grow and grow.

4. WHAT WAS THE SECRET ABOUT THE BREAD AND THE FISH?

When you place your little into the Master's hands, you will learn the secret of _____. Charles Spurgeon writes, "The bread began to grow in the disciples hands. Peter had a loaf in his hand and broke off a corner; to his amazement it was just as big as before. He broke off more, yet the loaf was not all used up. He kept breaking it, and the loaf continued increasing till

everybody had received his full. Wonderful hands they were, were they not? No they were not! They were only rough hands of a fisherman. Those other hands which first took , and blessed and brake, were doing the deed all the while. It is wonderful how God works by our hands, and yet His own hand does it all.”

5. SO WHAT IS OUR PART AS ONE OF CHRIST’ DISCIPLES?

Get to work each one of you with your own bread breaking for this is Christ way of feeding the multitude. Let each one who has himself eaten divide his morsel with another. Today fill someone’s ear with the good news of Jesus and His love. This is my Master’s way.... Bring your barley loaf, bring your little fish, and put your provision in the common store. Take it back from the Great Master’s hands filled with that blessing which makes it fruitful and multiplies it, and then feed the multitude with it. So shall you go forth with joy, and be led forth with peace. (C. Spurgeon)

“God has no insignificant saints or unimportant believers in His kingdom. Every believer has a _____ in time and eternity- not because of who we are, but because who God is within us.... You and I have the potential to make an eternal difference in eternal souls for the greatest cause on earth- the eternal glory of God. Yet this everlasting difference can occur only as we forsake the subtle temptations to influence others through the strength of our personality or gifting and intellect, and instead rely exclusively on the gifted strength , love and wisdom of the indwelling River of God. “To cling to my natural virtues”, notes Oswald Chambers, “is quite sufficient to obscure the work of God in me.” Only the Spirit flowing through us can make a lasting God honoring difference in those around us.” (Releasing the Rivers Within- Dwight Edwards.)

It’s time to pour out!!!
Revival is Joy coming in
and Joy going out!!!
Pastor Frank Bailey

Answers

1. Pour out
2. Ministry
4. Multiplication
5. Vital Part to Play

Takeaway Lessons

1. In times of trouble (political or otherwise) we must pour out to others.
2. We give what we have.
3. The secret of multiplication is found in placing what we have into the Master's hands.

Week Five

“Remembering His Goodness”

“Happy is that people who God is The Lord.” Psalm 144:15

Louis Armstrong use to sing...

**“The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people passing by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, “How do you do?”
They’re really saying, I...I love you
I hear babies cry and I watch them grow,
They’ll learn much more
Than we’ll know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world.”**

A few years ago Frank and I vacationed on the island of Oahu celebrating 40 years of walking with the Lord and marriage. I cannot recall spending this much time resting and soaking in His creation. We saw beautiful sunsets, rainbows, a tropical storm, waterfalls, rain forests, myriad of fishes, an abundance of sea turtles, and have eaten way too much food. We swam, snorkeled, kayak, golfed, star gazed, hiked, read and tried to do nothing. There have even been two shark attacks in the one week that were there! (Just great!) But I love this remark from Matthew Henry; “As all this, and much more, cannot make us happy, unless the Lord be our God, so, if He be, the want of this, the loss of this, nay, the reverse of this, cannot make us miserable.”

Thomas Watson says this about being blessed: “Blessedness lies in the fruition of the chief good. It is not every good that makes a man blessed, but it must be the supreme good, and that is God. Christ comes to us and puts a new nature into us. Our state is altered by something that is perfect and holy. We will never be the same again. Watson goes onto to say; “Something which brings blessedness must have a delicious taste in it, such as the soul is instantly ravished with. There must be in it spirits of delight and quintessence of joy, and where can the soul suck those pure comforts which amaze it with wonder and crown it with delight. In God, says Augustine, “the soul is delighted with such sweetness as even transports it.” The love of God is a honeycomb which drops such infinite sweetness and satisfaction into the soul as in ‘unspeakable and full of glory’. (I Pet.5:8) A kiss from God’s mouth puts the soul into a divine ecstasy, so that now it cries out, “It is good to be here.”

Pastor Parris Bailey

1. WHEN THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR WORLD THAT ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL, WHAT MUST WE REMEMBER?

We must remember His _____.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:" Psalm 103:1-2

One of the characteristics of the fallen race of Adam is forgetting the goodness of our God. David obviously knew the importance of stirring up his faith, he often did this by remembering God's benefits and past deliverances. This practice started in David's youth. Remember when he faced Goliath? He told King Saul he could deal with Goliath and strengthened himself and assured Saul by saying, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." David was confident of God's future care because of God's past faithfulness. We can and should strengthen ourselves in The Lord by rehearsing His past works on our behalf. Pastor Frank Bailey

2. WHAT IS THE SECOND THING WE SHOULD REMEMBER?

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations," Deuteronomy 7:9

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lam. 3:22-23

We should remember His _____.

"Have you had no deliverances? Have you passed through no rivers, supported by the divine presence? Have you walked through no fires unharmed? Have you had no manifestations? Have you had no choice favors? The God who gave Solomon the desire of his heart, hath he never listened to you and answered your requests? That God of lavish bounty of whom David sang, Who satisfieth

thy mouth with good things, hath he never satiated you with fatness? Have you never been made to lie down in green pastures? Have you never been led by the still waters? Surely the goodness of God has been the same to us as to the saints of old. Let us, then, weave his mercies into a song. Let us take the pure gold of thankfulness, and the jewels of praise and make them into another crown for the head of Jesus. Let our souls give forth music as sweet and as exhilarating as came from David's harp, while we praise the Lord whose mercy endureth for ever."
Charles Spurgeon

3. WHAT IS THE THIRD THING YOU SHOULD REMEMBER AND RECALL OFTEN?

He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me. Psalm 18:19

You must remember what the Lord has done for you. Sharing your _____ is a key factor in overcoming fear, worry and anxiety about the future.

So what has The Lord done for you? Did he draw you out of a sinful life and forgive your sins? Did he deliver you from the power of those sins so you can walk in His freedom? Has he provided for you, has He fed you, has He protected you, has He kept you from disaster and tragedy?

So today, let's join with David and sing and rejoice before The Lord, "O my soul, bless GOD. From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless GOD, don't forget a single blessing! He forgives your sins—every one. He heals your diseases—every one." Psalm 103:1-3 *The Message* Pastor Frank Bailey

4. WHAT IS THE FOURTH THING WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER TO DO?

We must remember to be _____.

"Forget not all His benefits." Psalms 103:2

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, "It is so easy to forget. Many of us get stuck on ungrateful, "What have you done for me lately?" If we were able to see clearly we would be humbled by His constant care for us and speechless at His perfect detail in orchestrating our lives. What may seem like a meaningless existence, adrift in the swelling tides of life, tossed to and fro by the constant onslaught of trouble and disappointments in this howling wilderness, is actually a beautiful work of art being painted by the Master Artist. His plans are perfect, His promises are sure, His purposes will be fulfilled."

Here is Spurgeon's thoughts on this powerful short verse:

"It is a delightful and profitable occupation to mark the hand of God in the lives of ancient saints, and to observe his goodness in delivering them, his mercy in pardoning them, and his faithfulness in keeping his covenant with them. But would it not be even more interesting and profitable for us to remark the hand of God in our own lives? Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God, as full of his goodness and of his truth, as much a proof of his faithfulness and veracity, as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that he wrought all his mighty acts, and showed himself strong for those in the early time, but doth not perform wonders or lay bare his arm for the saints who are now upon the earth. Let us review our own lives. Surely in these we may discover some happy incidents, refreshing to ourselves and glorifying to our God.

5. WHAT IS THE LAST THING WE ARE TO REMEMBER?

We must remember that we are _____. We have the Holy Spirit. He promises to be by our side, to walk with us, to strengthen us, and to infuse His power into our very lives to endure anything that comes our way.

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give **you another Helper**, to be with you forever," John 14:16 ESV*

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. **For I AM the LORD YOUR GOD.**"*
Isaiah 43:1-2 ESV

*Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; **for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]"** Hebrews 13:5 Amplified*

Answers

1. Goodness
2. Faithfulness
3. Testimony
4. Grateful
5. Not Alone

Takeaway Lessons

1. We can be confident of God's future care because of God's past faithfulness.
2. Sharing your testimony is a key factor in overcoming fear.
3. The Holy Spirit will always be there to help you.

Week Six

“Get Soaked”

“And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.” Luke 5:37-38

There are some new concepts and terminology you have to become familiar with when you begin to enter the world of renewal. One of the things that has become common in our services at Victory over the last twenty years has been soaking in the Spirit. To those who have not experienced the renewing power of the Spirit, “soaking” is a foreign term. If people who have not experienced the profound power of the Spirit observe people soaking in the Spirit, it may seem strange or unimportant. To those who are continuing to experience the power of His love, soaking becomes a daily part of your life. The Holy Spirit’s presence is real, it is tangible and powerful. Extended time spent in His presence can have a lasting impact on our lives.

Here is John Arnott’s explanation of soaking:

“What is a wine skin? In ancient times, people took a goatskin and made a leather bag out of it. They worked and prepared the leather, then filled it with new wine. The wine, of course, was fermenting; therefore, it would stretch the bag. When the bag became empty; it would be flattened out and put aside. What happens to a leather bag that is used to being moist and then is folded up and put it away somewhere? It becomes dry and stiff. The leather bag then needs to be renewed by soaking it in water- thoroughly immersing it. That is what the Holy Spirit is doing with some of us- just soaking us! That is why we believe in soaking prayer.”

Maybe your wine skin is dry and stiff. That is what happens to a Christian that doesn’t value the anointing and doesn’t take time to soak in His presence. What is the solution? There is only one; soaking. This practice of soaking became a regular part of our services in New Orleans since we began to experience His mighty outpouring in our church in 1994. In most all of our services we have opportunity for personal prayer through the laying on of hands. Many people find themselves on the floor “resting in His presence”. They are encouraged not to rush and drag themselves off of the floor. Stay there for awhile, this is the place of change. I think its time for all of us to get soaked.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHAT WILL EXTENDED TIMES OF SATURATION PRODUCE IN OUR LIVES?

As we spend extended times in saturation, “getting soaked”, we will find the anointing increasing in our lives. Having the Anointed One and His anointing flowing in our lives is only way to be ready and prepared for what happens in your life and what will happen. It also is the only way to make yourself ready for the Bridegroom when He comes.

“Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” Matthew 25:3-4 Spurgeon spoke of our need for the anointing in every area of our lives. “My soul, how much thou needest this, for thy lamp will not long continue to burn without it. Thy snuff will smoke and become an offence if light be gone, and gone it will be if oil be absent. Thou hast no oil well springing up in thy human nature, and therefore thou must go to them that sell and buy for thyself, or like the foolish virgins, thou wilt have to cry, My lamp is gone out. Even the consecrated lamps could not give light without oil; though they shone in the tabernacle they needed to be fed, though no rough winds blew upon them they required to be trimmed, and thy need is equally as great. Under the most happy circumstances thou canst not give light for another hour unless fresh oil of grace be given thee.”

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “We need the anointing in every area of our lives. We need the oil for prayer, we need oil for revelation, we need oil for ministry, we need His unction just to sustain us every day. By His anointing we are saved, by His anointing we are kept for the coming day of The Lord. No one knows the day of His coming, our lamps must be trimmed and burning.”

2. WHAT DOES THE WORD ANOINT MEAN?

Rick Renner writes, “The word “anoint” comes from the Greek word “chiro”. It speaks of the _____ or rubbing of oil or perfume upon an individual. If a patient came to a physician because he had sore muscles, the physician would pour oil upon his hands; then he would begin to deeply rub that oil into the sore muscles of his patient. So lets think of the hands of the Anointer. Oil in Biblical times was very expensive; therefore, rather than pour the oil over the person freely, a person would instead pour it into his hands and then apply it to the other person. So when we think about God anointing our lives, God Himself- the Great Anointer- filled His hands with the essence of the Spirit and then laid

His mighty hands upon our lives, pressing the Spirit's power and anointing ever deeper in us. So when we speak of a person who is anointed, we are actually acknowledging that the hand of God is on that person."

3. WHAT DOES THE NAME CHRIST MEAN?

Christ means the _____ . JESUS CHRIST walked on earth, He walked in the anointing. He was full of the Holy Spirit.

*In Luke 4:18, 19, He said, The spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has **anointed** me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

4. WHAT ARE ELEVAN FACTS ABOUT THE ANOINTING?

- A. SETS YOU APART, CONSECRATES YOU FOR A SPECIFIC TASK** Poured on flesh to enable flesh to do what flesh cannot do... SEE 1 Sam 16:13;
For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, 1 Corn 1:26-27

- B. BREAKS THE YOKE- OPPRESSION, DEPRESSION, DIVIDING WALLS ETC.** *It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil. Isaiah 10:27*

- C. TRANSFERRABLE** - Used in praying for the sick- *"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." James 5:14-15*

- D. PRECIOUS-** Consider the woman with alabaster box. Prepares you to face anything, even death itself. *"For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial." Matthew 26:12*

- E. PRODUCED IN THE OLIVE PRESS** – Enabling you to handle difficult situations. *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane (OIL PRESS), and said to the disciples “sit here while I go and pray over there...” O My Father , if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” Matthew 26:36 See also John 16:33*
- F. PRICELESS- Cost nothing- Cost everything**
“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” Isaiah 55:1
- G. WE MUST STAY CONNECTED TO BE CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH THE ANOINTING? SEE Zechariah 4 The supply does not run dry**
- H. WE MUST PUT OURSELVES IN A POSITION FOR THE ANOINTING TO FLOW -**
 2 Kings 4:1-7- Elisha and the Widow’s Oil
- I. LEAVES A FRAGRANCE-** *“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.” 2 Corn 2:14-16*
- J. WITHOUT IT OR LACK OF IT PUTS YOU IN DANGER**
“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also,

saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Matt 25:1-13

K. PRODUCES UNITY AND A BLESSING

A Song of Ascents, of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing-- life forever." Psalm 133:1-3

"I shall be anointed with fresh oil"- Psalm 92:10

Answers

2. Smearing
4. Anointed One

Takeaway Lessons

1. The only way to handle whatever life throws at you is by having the anointing flowing through your lives.
2. Jesus Christ is the Anointed One
3. There are many benefits to the anointing flowing into our lives.

Week Seven

“Angel Water”

“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” John 5:8

I love the story of the pool of Bethesda, multitudes just waiting by the pool for a miracle. Suddenly, the miracle worker Himself came walking up to the pool. “Do you want to get well?” “What kind of question is that?”, the lame man must have said to himself. Of course he wanted to get well, why else would he be lying by that pool. But did he really want to get well? Many of us like our excuses. They give us a safe place to hide. If we were made whole then we would seem vulnerable. We wouldn’t be able to hide behind some excuse to avoid our fear of living a spiritual life. It’s much safer to stay “lame”. Then came the direct word, “If you want to get well, rise, pick up your pallet and walk”. That’s what the lame man did and that’s exactly when he received his miracle. He was made whole. Charles Spurgeon spoke about the power of faith in God’s word from this passage. Check it out:

“Like many others, the impotent man had been waiting for a wonder to be wrought, and a sign to be given. Wearily did he watch the pool, but no angel came, or came not for him; yet, thinking it to be his only chance, he waited still, and knew not that there was One near him whose word could heal him in a moment. Many are in the same plight: they are waiting for some singular emotion, remarkable impression, or celestial vision; they wait in vain and watch for nought. Meanwhile these poor souls forget the present Saviour, who bids them look unto Him and be saved. He could heal them at once, but they prefer to wait for an angel and a wonder. To trust Him is the sure way to every blessing, and He is worthy of the most implicit confidence; but unbelief makes them prefer the cold porches of Bethesda to the warm bosom of His love. O that the Lord may turn His eye upon the multitudes who are in this case today; may He forgive the slights which they put upon His divine power, and call them by that sweet constraining voice, to rise from the bed of despair...”

Just as Jesus walked up to the man by the pool long, long ago; today He has walked up to you. Actually, He has walked up to all of us. “How is that possible?” you ask. It ‘s really quite simple. Jesus lives and works today by the power of His word. All it takes is for someone to take God’s word for himself.

What are you suffering with today? Are you just a lame man (or woman) waiting for your luck to change? Actually, you’re in luck. Your luck has changed. The Lord is standing here right now. He is speaking through this devotion. “Do you want to get well? It’s time to pick up your life and walk”.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. HOW DID THE LORD VIEW THIS MAN'S SICKNESS (John 5:1-15)?

"See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." John 5:14

"Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." John 9:3

In this particular case (the lame man at the pool of Bethesda), Jesus tells him to sin no more, indicating that possibly this man's sickness may have been connected to some sin. However, no one can just assume all sickness is due to sin in a person's life. Consider the story in John 9:3-4 *Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

The healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda (the Pool of Mercy) and the healing of the blind man at the pool of Siloam (Sent) are among the many miracles that Jesus performed. As far as the blind man, this man who was blind from birth and had an encounter with Jesus. "The Lord viewed it as an _____ to display the power of God. Jesus spit on the ground, made "clay" from the mud and told the man to go wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam." -Pastor Frank Bailey

2. WHAT DID BOTH MEN EXPERIENCE THE DAY JESUS HEALED THEM?

The lame man at the pool of Bethesda and the blind man at the pool of Siloam both got more than physical healing that day, they began to drink from the eternal waters of life that brought _____ and awakening to their whole being. Today these waters are available for all of us. We can go and wash ourselves in these waters of renewal, and like the lame man and the blind man, will find ourselves looking into the face of Jesus.

Maybe we are not lame or blind like the men in these stories, but let's say we may not walk and see as clearly as we should. If that is the case, let's go wash in the pool of renewal.

3. HOW IS VICTORY FELLOWSHIP LIKE THE POOL OF BETHESDA?

John 5:1-3 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda,

having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

Several years ago I met a minister who was visiting New Orleans for lunch. We had a very normal lunch and really never delved much into the nature of what God was doing at our church. As we finished this minister asked to pray for me and gave me a word for our church that he felt impressed to share with me. The jest of the message was that The Lord had given Victory Fellowship a very special, and yes, unusual mantle. He said it was like the Pool of Bethesda in the book of John, the place where there were healing waters for the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. This word was a powerful word of confirmation for me. You know it is not easy to go against the stream and trends of modern Christianity. This was a confirming word of God's unique work at Victory Fellowship. (FB)

4. WHAT THREE BASIC ISSUES DID THESE PEOPLE AT THE POOL HAVE?

In John's account of the man who had been bed ridden for thirty eight years, there is some powerful truth for us today. The scripture says that the blind, the lame and the paralyzed, were waiting there for their miracle. I see three different kinds of issues portrayed in this passage that may apply to some of us today. Of course these folks had real physical sicknesses but they also speak to us about other emotional conditions common today.

First, there were the _____. This speaks to us of those who have no spiritual perception. Without Christ, we are all blind, unable to perceive the reality of The Lord in our lives. One touch of the Master's hand and all of that changes. Instead of groping around in the darkness of our own understanding, we stand in the light of His glorious truth.

Secondly, there were the _____. Maybe you feel spiritually lame today. You believe the Bible but you can't seem to translate that into your day to day behavior. I call that spiritual lameness. Today, if you hear His voice, you can rise up and walk, no longer lame, but able to walk in the power of His love.

Finally there were the _____. This speaks of those who have been traumatized by past experiences or by the trials that they are currently facing. Having devastating, heartbreaking, things happen in our lives can cause us to become like paralytics. We have been hit hard, maybe by a divorce, a sickness, or some catastrophic financial situation. Fear has gripped your heart, you have become paralyzed with fear.

Today, Jesus is passing your way. If you are blind, the light of His glory is shining in to your heart. If you are lame, His hand of strength is embracing yours, He is calling for you to rise and walk. Paralyzed? The fear is being driven from your heart. You are being set free from your past, you can begin to live again. Pastor Frank Bailey

5. SO WHAT IS “OUR PART” CONCERNING BEING HEALED WHETHER PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY OR EMOTIONALLY?

“To this natural hospital Jesus wended His way on the Sabbath of the feast. As the trained eye of the surgeon quickly selects the worst case in the waiting room, as is the eye of Jesus speedily fixed on “a man which had a spirit of infirmity for thirty and eight years, a man paralyzed apparently in mind as in body.” (Interpreter’s Bible)

Christ comes to us and begins to trouble the water. He bids us to leave the world of men and all their solutions. Jump in with unreserved faith and let Him heal you-it’s time to pick up your bed and walk. – Pastor Parris Bailey

Answers

1. Opportunity
3. Light
4. Blind, Lame, Paralyzed

Takeaway Lessons

1. The Lord wants to heal you.
2. When the Lord heals, you get much more than physical healing.

Week Eight

“His Dwelling Place”

*For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place.” Psalm 132:13*

The Lord wants a habitation, a place for His glory to dwell, a place for His glory to be put on display. That was the story of the life of David. He loved the glory of God’s presence. The tabernacle of David was such a place. It was just a tent, it was temporary. Nevertheless, the tabernacle was glorious; the glory of God was on display as David’s worshippers ministered continually before the Lord. Understanding David’s love for the manifest presence helps you to understand David’s psalms, it also helps you understand the significance of the Tabernacle of David. That tattered old tent was a prophetic glimpse into the coming church. The Lord longs for a place to be a habitation for His Presence. Charles Spurgeon captured this in his comments about Zion:

“For the LORD hath chosen Zion. It was no more than any other Canaanite town till God chose it, David captured it, Solomon built it, and the Lord dwelt in it. So was the church a mere Jebusite stronghold till grace chose it, conquered it, rebuilt it, and dwelt in it. Jehovah has chosen his people, and hence they are his people. He has chosen the church, and hence it is what it is. He hath desired it for his habitation. The Lord has spoken: the site of the temple is fixed: the place of the divine manifestation is determined. Indwelling follows upon election, and arises out of it: Zion is chosen, chosen for a habitation of God. The desire of God to dwell among the people whom he has chosen for himself is very gracious and yet very natural: his love will not rest apart from those upon whom he has placed it. God desires to abide with those whom he has loved with an everlasting love; and we do not wonder that it should be so, for we also desire the company of our beloved ones. It is a double marvel, that the Lord should choose and desire such poor creatures as we are: the indwelling of the Holy Ghost in believers is a wonder of grace parallel to the incarnation of the Son of God. God in the church is the wonder of heaven, the miracle of eternity, the glory of infinite love.”

That brings us to today. Our world is stumbling badly with no clue about their need for The Lord. As we settle for secular answers to spiritual problems, our culture is drifting farther and farther from its moorings. The church has got to take her place as God’s Zion. It is designed to be the place of habitation for His manifest presence. We have sadly replaced its primary purpose with an emphasis of self improvement messages or tactics to attract blessings solely for this temporal life. We were created for His glory, nothing less will do. It’s time for the glory to fill His church, it’s time for The Lord to come to His temple once again.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHAT IS THE LORD'S CHOSEN TOOL IN THE EARTH TODAY TO DISPLAY HIS GLORY?

Psa. 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

The church has always taken a lot of grief. How many times have I heard people say they are spiritual but don't believe in the 'organized church'? Well which church do you believe in...? Actually it is the weakness and imperfections in His church that make it so beautiful. He accepts us, covers us, cleanses us, changes us, and then uses us for His glory. In Psalm 110:2, David is prophesying about the mystery of Pentecost. In this Psalm he describes the beauty of the exaltation of Christ, the blessing of His heavenly priesthood, and the incredible power He displays in and through His church. It started on the day of Pentecost, continues today, and promises to crescendo in preparation for the coming King. The church, with all of its goofed up people, is His chosen tool to display His glory in the earth. Pastor Frank Bailey

2. WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, AND WHO IS HIS BODY?

_____ IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH AND THE _____ IS HIS BODY.

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. Colossians 1:16-20 ESV

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph. 1:22-23 (see Eph. 1:17-23 also)

3. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The purpose of the church is to be joined together with other believers, to be built together into a _____ for God by the Spirit.

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.** Eph.2:19-22*

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:5

From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Eph. 4:16

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corn 3:9

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 1 Corn. 10:17

4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING TOGETHER CORPORATELY WEEK AFTER WEEK?

The Bible says, we shouldn't forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb.10:25) and that we should keep the Sabbath day Holy (Ex. 20:8) for starters. In Hebrews 10:24-25 it says, " *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*" Pastor Frank writes, " I love the gathering together of His congregation for worship, there is nothing in this world that even comes close. **As we worship Him in the beauty of His manifest presence, His glory and power increase among us.** As David also said, "This is the place of commanded blessing". Get yourself in church, you will become a part of His mighty plan to display His glory to this generation."

But what we must begin to realize and value is that joining together corporately there is an ***SPIRITUAL IMPARTATION*** that takes place.

5. IN WHAT FOUR WAYS DOES THE BELIEVER RECEIVE AN IMPARTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHEN WE COME TOGETHER AS ONE BODY?

“For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;” Rom. 1:11

A. THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD. Preaching is about more than just receiving good practical information. Preaching God’s word is one of the major ways we receive spiritual impartation into our lives. I think of the sermon Peter preached at Cornelius’s, the Roman Centurion’s house. Peter was preaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus when the atmosphere in the room suddenly changed. Everyone in the room began to be powerfully impacted by the anointing. God’s gift of the Holy Spirit was being imparted to everyone in the house through the spoken word.

Has there ever been a time, through the preaching of the Gospel in church, when it felt like the word spoken pierced you like a sword?

B. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY. Pastor Frank writes, “Many times throughout my Christian journey I have been powerfully impacted through a prophetic gift. I can remember sitting on the front row in a meeting near Dallas, Texas in August of 1994 when Rodney Howard Browne started to prophesy specifically to pastors who were in that meeting. As he prophesied under the anointing I felt as if someone was placing a literal coat upon my shoulders. I was receiving a powerful impartation through the gift of prophesy, my life and ministry were being permanently and dramatically changed.”

Has any one ever prophesied a word of Scripture over you that has impacted your life?

C. CORPORATE ANOINTING. Through our worship a powerful anointing fills the room. Often a heaviness is often felt when God’s glory fills the room.

Have you ever felt the tangible presence of the Lord in a service?

D. LAYING ON OF HANDS. Jesus laid hands on people, the apostles often laid hands on people, and laying on of hands was actually treated as a doctrine of the early church. The laying on of hands transfers the anointing one person has received into other

people's lives. The key is for the right people to lay their hands on you.

So put yourself in an environment to receive from God. There is much He wants to add to our lives.

6. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BLESSINGS OF BEING JOINED TOGETHER?

*They are planted in the house of the Lord; **they flourish** in the courts of our God. Psalm 92:13*

*God is in the midst of her; **she shall not be moved**; God **will help her** when morning dawns. Psalm 46:5*

*And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and **you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.** Isaiah 62:12*

*There is a river whose streams **make glad the city of God**, the holy habitation of the Most High. Psalm 46:4*

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** Matthew 16:18*

*You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ....But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for His own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, **but now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, **but now you have received mercy** 1 Peter 2:5;9-10*

*May he send you **help** from the sanctuary and give you **support** from Zion! Psalm 20:2*

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **And the prayer of faith will save the sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. **And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.** James 5:14-15*

*Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a **cloud by day**, and **smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night**; **for over all the glory there will be a canopy.** Isaiah 4:5*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that **he might present the church to himself in splendor**, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:25-27*

Answers

2. Jesus Christ; Church
3. Dwelling Place

Takeaway Lessons

1. The Church is the Lord's chosen tool to display His glory.
2. We are being built together into one house.
3. There are gifts and blessings available to those who join themselves together with other believers.

Week Nine

“Sowing in Tears Reaping in Joy”

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 126:5-6

Everyone likes harvest time. Celebration, abundance; what’s not to like? It’s the sowing thing that we tend to balk at. Early mornings, late nights and only promises and hope of the harvest to come. The psalmist paints a beautiful picture of the Christian life, sowing in tears. Often times we sow in prayer for years before the harvest appears. Our circumstances cry out, “it will never happen, The Lord will not answer your prayer”. The enemy whispers “He answers others but He has passed you by”. Even our friends words weigh on us “I don’t know how you keep going on”, or even better, “come on, don’t be so religious, come hang out with us”. But you have heard the promise of The Lord, in your heart you know sorrow will give way to the joy of harvest, it is only a matter of time. Here are some thoughts on this passage from Spurgeon’s Treasury of David:

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Hence, present distress must not be viewed as if it would last for ever; it is not the end, by any means, but only a means to the end. Sorrow is our sowing, rejoicing shall be our reaping. If there were no sowing in tears there would be no reaping in joy. If we were never captives we could never lead our captivity captive. Our mouth had never been filled with holy laughter if it had not been first filled with the bitterness of grief. We must sow: we may have to sow in the wet weather of sorrow; but we shall reap, and reap in the bright summer season of joy. Let us keep to the work of this present sowing time, and find strength in the promise which is here so positively given us. Here is one of the Lord’s shalls and wills; it is freely given both to workers, waiters, and weepers, and they may rest assured that it will not fail: “in due season they shall reap.”

Don’t you get it, your season of sorrow will only make the harvest more sweet. God is never mocked, every seed has no choice but to respond in God’s season of harvest. One of the most unusual seasons of harvest came for us during the aftermath of Katrina. In the midst of incredible sorrow from all of the loss and the unceasing labor of sowing during the recovery, we saw the most amazing harvest, it was beyond imagination. We saw thousands of people helped physically, thousands of people encouraged spiritually as well as receiving provision. We started new churches and a rehabilitation center called Mary’s Song and now even our men’s rehab- The 180 Center. It would have been easy to miss the harvest, we had great excuses to stop sowing in tears. Maybe you have been sowing for awhile, don’t give up. The depth of sorrow and the length of the seed time will give way to shouts of joy in harvest.

Pastor Frank Bailey

1. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SOWING?

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." Proverbs 11:24-25

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10

2. WHAT DOES EVERY SEED NEED?

John 1:4 "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." John 1:4

After we sow our seed, whether it is financial, or an act of kindness, or diligence in our ministry, work or home life, every seed needs the same thing to grow- the _____ of **HIS GRACE**. Basking in His **SONLIGHT**, is placing the seed in the hands of Another and trusting Him to do what only He can do - cause the seed to grow.

Andrew Murray writes, "Those beautiful trees and flowers, with all this green grass, what do they do to keep the sun shining on them? They do nothing; they simply bask in the sunshine, when it comes. The sun is millions of miles away, but over all that distance it comes, its own light and joy; and the tiniest flower that lifts its little head up- wards is met by the same exuberance of light and blessing as flood the widest landscape. We have not to care for the light we need for our day's work; the sun cares, and provides and shines the light around us all the day. We simply count upon it, and receive it, and enjoy it.

3. WHAT MUST WE DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE HARVEST?

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1*

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

We must have simple _____ in God's word and learn to sit in His presence and receive the unspeakable glory of His grace. Andrew Murray continues, "And just as the trees, day by day, and month by month, stand and grow into beauty and fruitfulness, just welcoming whatever sunshine the sun may give, so it is the very highest exercise of our Christian life just to abide in the light of God, and let it, and let Him, fill us with the life and the brightness it brings."

4. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF GOD IN REGARDS TO GIVING?

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." James 1:17

We must be grateful and begin to realize the gifts He has poured out on you today. He is _____. Pastor Frank Bailey writes, "One of the shocking things I learned in the outpouring in 1994 was the nature of God in regards to giving. He is always giving. He is a river at flood time, He is a fountain overflowing, He is a bottomless ocean of blessing and resources, all of which are lavishly poured upon us in Christ. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. We are seated together with Him in His house of abundance. We are receivers, He is the giver. We humble ourselves and drink deeply of this overflowing fountain, as we do we are filled with His joy. Through God's giving and our receiving, he is glorified and we are happified."

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "Our Lord Jesus is ever giving, and does not for a solitary instant withdraw his hand. As long as there is a vessel of grace not yet full to the brim, the oil shall not be stayed. He is a sun ever-shining; he is manna always falling round the camp; he is a rock in the desert, ever sending out streams of life from his smitten side; the rain of his grace is always dropping; the river of his bounty is ever-flowing, and the well-spring of his love is constantly overflowing. As the King can never die, so his grace can never fail. Daily we pluck his fruit, and daily his branches bend down to our hand with a fresh store of mercy. Who has ever returned from his door unblessed? Who has ever risen from his table unsatisfied, or from his bosom un-emparedised? His mercies are new every morning and fresh every evening."

5. WHAT PROMISE DOES HE GIVE TO THOSE WHO SOW? YOU WILL REAP IN JOY

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:6

Spurgeon writes, “He leaves his couch to go forth into the frosty air and tread the heavy soil; and as he goes he weeps because of past failures, or because the ground is so sterile, or the weather so unseasonable, or his corn so scarce, and his enemies so plentiful and so eager to rob him of his reward. He drops a seed and a tear, a seed and a tear, and so goes on his way. In his basket he has seed which is precious to him, for he has little of it, and it is his hope for the next year. Each grain leaves his hand with anxious prayer that it may not be lost: he thinks little of himself, but much of his seed, and he eagerly asks, “Will it prosper? Shall I receive a reward for my labor?” Yes, good husbandman, ***DOUBTLESS*** you will gather sheaves from your sowing. Because the Lord has written ***DOUBTLESS***, take heed that you do not doubt. You will return to this field — not to sow, but to reap; not to weep, but to rejoice; and after awhile you will go home again with nimbler step than today, though with a heavier load, for you shall have sheaves to bear with you. Your handful shall be so greatly multiplied that many sheaves shall spring from it; and you shall have the pleasure of reaping them and bringing them home to the place from which you went out weeping.”

So whatever you have sown, the countless offerings given over the years, the hours of serving the body of Christ teaching your small group, the tears shed praying for the salvation of your loved ones, the words of kindness spoken to someone who needed to hear about His amazing love... Know this, *your “weeping may last for the night, but _____ comes in the morning.” Psalm 30:5* And it is written *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Gal. 6:7 ESV*

**KEEP SOWING YOUR SEED,
FOR YOU SHALL REAP IN JOY,
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!!**

Answers

2. SONLIGHT
3. Faith
4. Ever Giving
5. JOY

Takeaway Lessons

1. You shall reap what you have sowed.
2. We must wait in His presence and soak in His Word while waiting for His promises to come to pass.
3. Through God's giving and our receiving, he is glorified and we are happy.

Extra.... Extra....
Revival Thoughts

We Were Like Those Who Dream

An excerpt from The Revival Bible

Duncan Campbell spoke the first night in the Barvas Church. Both his sermon and the service were utterly unremarkable. People left feeling “somewhat deflated,” leaving Campbell and two church officials at the door. One refused to leave. Standing still at the entrance, he began to pray loudly and passionately. “Oh Lord, You are a covenant keeping God and You have promised REVIVAL. You must keep Your promise. You dare not fail us, You must not fail us. Your honor is at stake.” As he kept repeating the phrase, the power of the Holy Spirit struck him and he fell to the ground.

Outside the church, the other man began to read Psalm 126: “When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.” As he finished, he too, fell under the power of the Spirit. Then Campbell stepped outside. He was amazed to see some 700 people waiting to come in and hear the Gospel! He began to preach but only managed a very small part of his sermon, the cries of the penitents for mercy were drowning out his words so loudly he had to stop. (Mark Stibbe, pastor of Father’s House, Trust Watford, United Kingdom)

The seeds of past mournful tears became investments into a future harvest. God counts and keeps record of the tears shed and reserves them for the future harvests we will reap. REVIVAL recalls those accounts and brings them to record for payment...”(Ps. 56:8, The Revival Bible)