

KINGDOM NEWS

The Kingdom is Yours; the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever.... (Matt. 6:13)

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Motto for the year of 2013

Come out from among them and be separated and I will receive you," says the Lord.
Know you not that you are the temple of the Living God? Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
(2 Corinthians 6:16-17, 7:1 KJV Adapted)

The Chief Cornerstone



Improper Use of Our Emotions

If you don't mind, let's jump right in...

For the sake of this discourse, we are talking about the emotions (as a faculty of our soul), and what God intends that we should do with our emotions. The soul is comprised of (as we know it) the faculty of mind, will and emotions. The Lord intends that all of our faculties, all of our energies will (at length) be consecrated to Him, for His use. And so we hear the scripture say that the first and great commandment is that we shall love the Lord with our mind, will AND emotions.⁽¹⁾

Now for many of us this is NOT good news; "...that our emotions (and the use of them) are supposed to be consecrated to God." We thought that this

Chief Cornerstone

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The Leadership Corner

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Resources

All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

We are currently in the summer season. Many children are out of school and some families are gearing up for vacations. Summer can be such a great time of year. Imagine what summer means in the kingdom of God, particularly this summer.

Now, we know that God does not take vacation, but does he do specific things in the summer months that He may not do in the winter months? Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." This means that God is moving in a very intentional way during this summer season.

As I prepared to write this article, the Lord spoke softly in my ear and said "resources." Then He began to minister to me about some key information we, as believers, need to be aware of.

When the year began many of us had ideas about the direction God would take us in. We prepared our hearts and minds to move in this specific direction. As the first and second quarters progressed, we worked diligently to implement what we believe we are supposed to be doing. In effect, we were sewing our seeds.

Now we have come to the season where God is transitioning us into the next phase of the journey for this year. Those of you that have been with us since the beginning of the year, you will

The Leadership Corner

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A Journey to Intimacy

The Fellowship of the Mystery

Or the Mystery of the Fellowship

While taking a stroll through Ephesus⁽¹⁾ one morning, the Lord began to give revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ⁽²⁾ in this way:

The Lord has made us alive. He has given us new life. We, who were dead in trespasses and sins. We, who walked according to the course of this world. We, who took our queues and directions from the prince of the power of the air. But God... who is rich in mercy; Who so loved the world (us); quickened us. He (*for the sake of His vast and far-reaching love that He had towards us*), even when we were worthless, rebels, outlaws, dead: twice dead, plucked up by the roots⁽³⁾ ... us; He made us, together with Israel, alive with Christ. Oh for the grace of God, that brings salvation. ⁽⁴⁾ Our Lord has raised us up together (both Jew and Gentile) and gave us both seats at the table in the heavens; access now having been granted, in Christ Jesus. What an amazing investment He has made, on our behalf. What a great and wonderful sacrifice He has endured. This He did, for the sake of the "Mystery."

In the ages to come what He is doing to us through Christ (turning stones into sons),⁽⁵⁾ will be used as an *object lesson*, of the exceeding riches of His grace and kindness. And so we see again, that it is by grace that we are brought to salvation. It is not by works that we have done; therefore we have "no bragging rights" within ourselves. If we boast (which we may certainly do); we boast in that we "know Him" and that we are "known of Him." We are a peculiar treasure, wrought by His hands in Christ Jesus. Being now made vessels of gold and silver; we may be made useful to Him for good works. For this has been the plan of God from before the foundation of the earth.

"What good works?" you ask. Valid question; and very timely. Here is an excerpt of the intentions of God for us:

Good Works

- To be found in Him not having our own righteousness (*a legal conception of righteousness; wrought by works of the law*), but the righteousness of God that comes by faith in Christ Jesus;⁽⁶⁾ and the faith of Christ Jesus
- To provoke Israel to jealousy⁽⁷⁾
- To make known to the principalities and powers, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham⁽⁸⁾

Disclaimer: Please let it be known that the "us" that have been made alive is (yes, *is*) the new covenant Body of Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; consisting of both Jew and Gentile; the middle wall of partition now having been destroyed through the body of Messiah.

We have now been made new, quickened, raised from the dead. But let us not forget where we came from. In time past, as Gentiles (*according to the flesh*) we were called "the Uncircumcision." We were differentiated from "the Circumcision" (according to the flesh), *who were for the most part*, biological descendants (progeny) of Abraham.

At that time, we (*the Gentiles*) were without access to Christ; not having been given the oracles of God. We were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and unfamiliar with the covenants of promise, given to Israel. Absent the covenant promises of God we had nothing to hope in. We lived our lives, without God, and at the whim of the prince of the power of the air, who governs the affairs of the children of disobedience.

But now.....

In Christ, those of us who *were* renegades and rebels, have been invited into covenant with the Father; not by the blood of bulls and goats or the ashes of a heifer,⁽⁹⁾ We were given access to

whole "thing" called Christianity was about God making our present life "better." While in fact, *if properly understood*, this thing call "Christianity" is about us exchanging our "present life" (the good, the bad, and the ugly); for the life of Christ. Where did I get that from?

I overheard Paul talking to the church at Galatia (2:20). He said, "I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me." The 21st century version of Christianity *should be* of the same root and stock as the Christianity that God commissioned Paul to bring to the Gentile.

Therefore we too have a responsibility to be crucified with Christ, and nevertheless to live; as Christ lives in us. That includes our mind, will and emotions.

Today let's consider what we are to make of the faculty of our emotions. There are a myriad of emotional expressions that we may have. By way of clarification, we are less talking about the various expressions themselves. More so, we are seeking to understand our responsibility before God for the use of our emotions, in general. A good place to start would be "in the beginning."

Quick question (*okay two questions*)... **Where did our emotions come from?**

Our emotions were given to us by God, as a part of our "make up;" along with our mind and will.

A next and reasonable question would be "**Why?**" For what purpose were they given? There are many ways to answer this question. But I submit for your consideration that the following is a fundamental answer to the "Why?" question.

The mind, the will and the emotions were given so that we may offer them back to God; for His use. One reason that God gave us emotions is because we were created in His image and after His likeness. And when we consecrate our emotions to God; He will use them to express Himself through us; to the world, and to those around us. He will through the use of our emotions, teach us how to respond to the difficulties of life. So that the world, can see manifestly how God feels about things.

They'll have the *Word of God*; and the *servants of God* expressing the Mind, Will and Emotions of God.

Allow me to place a solemn warning just here. If we do not consecrate our emotions to God, they will betray us and they will cause us to run afoul the plan of God for our lives; and for the lives of those around us. It is probably also wise, that we identify the parameters of our "emotions" as including our appetites, passions, lusts, preferences, proclivities, etc.

The Old Testament, as a whole, is in one (*not-so-correct*) sense a compilation of "types and shadows" that have been explained or revealed to us in the New Testament. Now... now ... that doesn't mean that the people, places and things of the Old Testament aren't significant. They are **VERY** significant. (*That's a hint for those of you who don't think we should regard the Old Testament*). I'll give you another frame of reference:

*But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) and has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus.***⁽²⁾

Not only is the Old Testament a compilation of "types and shadows;" our present world and this present age are also "types and shadows" of the ages to come. Nevertheless, the people, places and things of this age, are presently significant, as you know very personally.

Again, the Old Testament is so significant, that Jesus quoted it repeatedly!!! You'll hear Jesus (*pointing back to the Mosaic Law*) and saying things like...

- You have heard it said "thou shalt not kill" But I say ... *even before you get hot enough to kill ...* if you are angry with your brother without a cause, you'll bring upon your head the judgment of God.⁽³⁾

- You have heard it said "...an eye for an eye; and a tooth for a tooth" But I say "... if they smite you on the left cheek; *tell them you have two cheeks and the other one doesn't want to be left out.*"⁽⁴⁾
- You have heard it said "... love your neighbor and hate your enemy...." But I say ... "love your neighbor *and bless and pray for your enemy too.*"⁽⁵⁾

He even went so far as to say that the Law and the Prophets were pointing to Me.⁽⁶⁾

There are over 200 prophecies that foretell the person of Jesus Christ. They prophesied: *what He would do; what He would say; where He would be born; how He would die* and much more. That's pretty comprehensive, for a *type* or a *shadow*; don't you think?

Sidebar: A "shadow" hints of a thing that "*has come or has gone.*" So a shadow can appear either *before or after* a thing, right. The laws of Physics seem to agree. If the light is behind us, our shadow comes around the corner before we do; doesn't it? I'm going to stretch you a bit here.

I submit for your consideration, that the prophecies of the Old Testament cast the "shadow" of Jesus Christ both backwards and forwards in Time. They tell of what "shall come" as well as "what has been done." Israel had been watching the "shadows" and regarding the "types" for generations; not realizing that the shadows were pointing both directions in time. And at the hour appointed, there He came around the corner of Time, into a little town call Bethlehem. And so we see that the "shadow" has indicated to us *what was to come.* But the scriptures also tell us that that which shall be has already been:

The thing that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.⁽⁷⁾

The "shadows" in the Old Testament also indicate to us that the Lamb was already slain BEFORE the foundation of the world.⁽⁸⁾ And so we see the "shadow," pointing backwards in time too; indicating to us *what had been done.*

The major events in the Old Testament were intended to foretell of the coming Christ. The lives of men, women, and children; nations, kindred and tongues; woven and interwoven to create a tapestry of life; a portrait even. Throughout the scriptures (and in our own personal lives), we've seen events and transactions, where we have had an opportunity to choose between what God says and what we want. And when we choose *us* or *our* preferences we end up empty or bankrupt. You've seen something like that before haven't you? You've seen situations, or opportunities, where we have (*by an inappropriate expression of emotion*) compromised or sold out the commandments of God, for something we wanted to do instead. We sacrificed the directions of God, on the altar of our emotions. Will you allow me to take you on a journey of the effects of allowing our emotions to make casualties of us; in the plan of God? If it's all the same to you, we'll take the scenic route; we tend to remember the journey better when we visit a few landmarks.

Please remember along the way that if we refuse to submit the use of our emotions to God, we will in many ... many... many ways derail the plans of God for our lives, both strategically and personally. See if you can identify an example of that below.

In Exodus 17⁽⁹⁾ and Numbers 20⁽¹⁰⁾, two events take place:

Event #1

In the wilderness of Sin, near Raphidim (not quite 30 days out of Egypt) the children of Israel were thirsty. To say that they were giving Moses a hard time would be the understatement of the century. What was Moses to do? The Red Sea was quite a distance behind them; with not so much as an oasis in front of them. Moses cries out to God, "Help!!! These people are thirsty, and I don't have any water to give them!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" The Lord very calmly says to Moses. Get your rod. You and your boys, bring Israel to the Rock at Horeb. *I'll stand before you upon the Rock.* Moses, you smite (or hit) the Rock and water will come forth,

enough for everyone. Moses obeys and there was water sufficient for everyone. Well done, Moses. So now we have a "type and shadow" of things to come. By this transaction, the Lord has prophesied to us. [...more on this a bit later...]

Event #2

Not too many days later, in the desert of Zin (near Kadesh); *as the laws of nature would have it*, Israel was thirsty again. This time Israel is pressing in on Moses and Aaron. They make it to the tabernacle, face down in the dirt; they cry out to the Lord. Again, in His "calm, cool and collected" fashion; He tells Moses: "Take your rod; and speak to the Rock" and there will be water sufficient for all. Moses is angry with Israel by this time. He grabs his rod in one hand, and Aaron in the other hand, and goes out to the Rock. While fussing at Israel, Moses strikes Rock twice. The Lord is VERY displeased with Moses and Aaron. The Lord said to them, "...you didn't sanctify Me in the eyes of Israel."

The events in Exodus 17 and Numbers 20 have similar characteristics, but very different intents and outcomes. Here we have an opportunity to learn that it is important to not just look at what actually happens; see if you can discern the intentions of God. While (in many instances in life) God "tolerates" what happens; it is very likely that He would have preferred otherwise.

Dashing a Myth: Just because an event has occurred (or occupies a place in the spectrum of time) doesn't, therefore, mean that it is what God would have preferred. Question: What might God do differently in your life, if you simply allow His Sovereignty; if you simply seek out and submit to His direction? Pardon the comic relief: Do you remember the old, old commercial of the turtle and the tootsie pop? The turtle asked, "How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll®, tootsie pop?" He removes the wrapper and begins to count the licks: 1... 2... 3... crunch... as he bites and devours the whole tootsie pop. He then

looks into the camera and says "...*the world may never know...*" Please don't let that be said of your life.

Back to the wilderness ...

Exodus 17:1-6	Numbers 20: 1-11
Wilderness of Sin	Desert of Zin
Israel pitched in Rephidim	Israel abode in Kadesh
No water	No water
Moses cries out to God	Moses & Aaron cry out to God
God gives direction	God gives direction
Directions:	Directions:
Take your rod	Take your rod
Take Israel to the Rock	Take Israel to the Rock
<i>Smite</i> (hit) the Rock	<i>Speak</i> to the Rock
Moses obeys God	Moses obeys "his emotions"
The Lord gives water	The Lord gives water

On the 1st floor, these two events are essentially the same and could be summed up in *two words*. "Israel was thirsty ... God gave water." But on the 31st floor, these two events are tremendously different.

From here on out, please watch very ... very ... closely. Sssshhh, we won't want to miss the hand of God. Something absolutely amazing is happening before our very eyes. The Sovereign God, with His finger is "drawing lines through the sands of time." He's drawing lines that cut across the generations; lines that cut across nations, and peoples and tongues. Lines that point to the person of Jesus Christ: *what He will do* and *what He will say*. Lines of prophesy, that teach us how to draw Living Waters out of The Rock of our Salvation.

Let's not forget how we got here. You'll recall that we're talking about how it is imperative to submit to; and to sanctify our emotions to God, so that we don't betray Him by their improper employment. We don't want to forfeit the

intentions of God for our lives; through our allegiance to our emotions, do we?

Back to the sand: In this context, the first line that the finger of our Lord God is drawing, is from Exodus 17, where He has directed Moses to "*smite the Rock*," in order to bring forth water. The line continues to be drawn down through the sands of time to Isaiah 53⁽¹¹⁾ where the scriptures tell us what happened when the Rock was struck. Oh, did I mention, that in God's direction to Moses in Exodus 17, when the Lord told Moses to take the rod and gather the people, He also said that He [God] would "stand before Moses upon the Rock;" thus symbolizing the Divine Partnership (between God and man) fundamental to the Plan of Salvation. We see the details of this in our Lord's resume, in Isaiah 53. We're told that He was wounded for our transgressions, and He that was bruised for our iniquities. We're told that it pleased God to bruise Him; to Himself, stand upon the Rock.⁽¹²⁾ We're told that for the transgressions of His people, it was *necessary* for the Rock to be struck. And just in case we didn't hear it when Isaiah said it; the Lord said it again, through Caiaphas:

Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.⁽¹³⁾

And again, in Pilate's discussion with the Jews:

Then said Pilate unto the Jews, "Take Him, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to "strike the Rock" This occurred that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled ... signifying what death He should die.⁽¹⁴⁾

The line continues, passing through Exodus 17, down through Isaiah 53, pointing us to the Cross.

Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were

opened; and out flowed the waters of life...."⁽¹⁵⁾

It is probably reasonable here to note that the finger of God, didn't *begin* the portrait in Exodus 17; and even though we see the frame of it in Genesis 3⁽¹⁶⁾ the portrait didn't *begin* there either. The Rock was smitten before ... the portrait was set before, the foundation of the world.⁽¹⁷⁾

Now there are other lines, in the sands of time, one picks up in Numbers 20.

In Exodus 17, we learned that it was *vital*; that it was *necessary*; that it was *imperative*, that the Rock be smitten ONCE. Here in Numbers 20, we find that in order for us to draw waters out of the well of Salvation, it was *not* necessary the Rock to be smitten AGAIN.

Sidebar: Because the Rock was *willing and able* to give the Waters of Life, it wasn't necessary that it be struck twice. "But Christ, having entered once into the holy place, thus having obtained the waters of life for us for this He did *once*, when He offered up Himself."⁽¹⁸⁾

This time, the Lord's directions are: "Moses, *speak* to the Rock." Wait, what's happening here? The first time Israel was thirsty, the Lord gave orders to strike the Rock. We've seen that the Rock didn't need to be struck twice. But still there is another Rock. Why?

Who is the Rock? Well, according to 1 Corinthians 10:4, Christ is that Rock. We see His *type* in Exodus 17. And then according to Deuteronomy 32:4, the Rock is God. We see His *shadow* in Numbers 20. How can we be sure that the second mention of the Rock is God? Perhaps the finger of God draws a line down through Numbers 20 and points us to John 16: 23-24.

"And in that day you shall ask Me nothing," says Jesus. Most certainly, you have My word, that whatsoever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Until now, you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you shall

receive, that your joy may be full. ⁽¹⁹⁾

This was a long journey, but what does all of it mean? And what does this have to do with the proper use of our emotions? (*Smiling*: You thought I had forgotten, didn't you? I told you we were taking the scenic route.) There were two very similar events in the "*book of types and shadows*," one in Exodus 17, the other in Numbers 20. Were these two events intended to point us somewhere? Of course they were. Exodus 17 pointed to the Christ and the Cross, and Numbers pointed to the Father in John 16. We're taught, as far back as Exodus 17, that He would be wounded for our transgressions and that it please the Father to bruise Him. We're taught as far back as Number 20, to ask the Father in the name of Jesus, and it shall be given.

By Moses' *obedience* in Exodus 17, we're taught "*what to do*," as Israel went on to conquer their enemy. By Moses' *disobedience* in Numbers 20, we're taught "*what to NOT do*," as Moses and Aaron were prohibited from entering the Promise Land ... Talk about a "School Master." At the time of these two events, Moses very likely didn't know the eternal effects of the directions that he had received from God. On one occasion (Exodus 17) Moses obeyed and it was accounted to him for righteousness. On the other occasion (Numbers 20) Moses disobeyed and it brought down the displeasure and judgment of God. And so an eternal benefit was lost to Moses because he pledged allegiance to his emotions. By the grace of God, the Lord still provided water.

Moses didn't know that we'd be reading his story. And you don't know who will be reading your story, in the ages to come.

Note here very carefully ... Moses did not intend to *dishonor* God. He simply *honored* his emotions, which of course led him to betray God's honor. Sound a little bit like the story of your life? It sounds like the story of *my* life. Emotions unchecked, seeking to avenge themselves, at all costs. Please know that being led by your emotions is extremely expensive. It could cost you your life, both spiritually and naturally.

The Lord would be honored by our submitting the use of our emotions (*as well as our mind and will*) to Him. Emotions are a gift *from* God, so that they may be a gift *to* God. And God will, through the use of our emotions, be a gift to the world; so that His name may be hallowed, His kingdom come and His will may be done in earth as it is in Heaven.

God speed, until next time. <cc>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Matthew 22:37-38
- (2) Ephesians 2:4-7
- (3) Matthew 5:21 *JCW version*
- (4) Matthew 5:38 *JCW version*
- (5) Matthew 5:43 *adapted*
- (6) Luke 34:44; John 1:45
- (7) Ecclesiastes 1:9
- (8) Revelation 13:8
- (9) Exodus 17:1-6
- (10) Numbers 20:8-11
- (11) Isaiah 53:5, 8, 10
- (12) Exodus 17:6; Isaiah 53:10
- (13) John 18:14
- (14) John 18:31-32
- (15) Matthew 27:50-54
- (16) Genesis 3:14-15
- (17) Matthew 25:34; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8
- (18) Hebrews 7:27; 9:11-12 *JCW version*
- (19) John 16: 23-24

**You May Have the Wrong Enemy
in Your Crosshairs**

Heretofore, the devil has been cited as the culprit in our misdemeanors and felonies. Confirmed, we believe that the devil walks about as a "roaring lion" seeking whom he may devour. And so we *ought* to believe, for thus says the scriptures. (1 Peter 5:8) But I think that our sights have been stretched a bit too far. We've been looking too far afield for the enemy. There's a saying that goes: keep your friends close, but keep your enemy closer. Well, maybe that is more a reality than a warning.

- JoAnn C. White

remember God told us He would do two key things in 2013, establish and grow us. During the first half of the year, He was establishing us. Now, it is time for growth to occur.

While "growth" may sound exciting (and it is), there are also some growing pains that will be involved. And, there are some important preparation steps we need to take. Are you ready?

First, we need to identify the resources God has provided in order to grow us. Think about this. In terms of the vision God has placed in your heart, try to determine what resources you will need to move toward that vision in terms of "growth." What you have used up until this point may have been fine, but now you and I need to think about what we need in order to expand. This might include a vehicle, moving from one location to another location, more people to help with tasks, etc.

Once we have identified what will be needed to take the next steps, we are to look around in our environment to see what resources God has already begun to provide. Here is what He told me. God has already begun to provide the resources we need to take our first few steps in terms of expansion. He is not going to give us the resources. Instead, He has already placed them in our environment, well within our reach.

God said He has given resources, but we may not have identified them as such. This is why it is important for us to recall the directives God gave us back in December 2012 and January 2013. If we understand where we are supposed to be going and where we are now, we can successfully prepare to take the next steps.

What resources has God placed in your environment? It could be money, people, extra time, specific items, or any number of things. Now, let's be very clear about this. God is not saying you will use the resources you had all along. Oh no, He is saying that He has provided "additional" resources for us. Our job is to identify what those additional resources are. Once we do this, we can make an appointment with God to discuss how these resources are to be engaged to begin the growth phase He has ordained for each of us.

Having said these things, someone may think, "How can she be so sure that God has given ME additional resources? She doesn't know my situation. I don't see that I have enough to cover my current needs. How could I possibly have additional resources?"

All of these are good questions and indeed valid concerns. However, when God speaks, what He says is true. Hear the word of the Lord. God has given all of us (no one is excluded) some additional resources over these last few months. Our challenge may be to ask the Lord to help us to "see" what it is He has provided that is more than what we had on January 1st of this year.

If we will open ourselves to have God reveal His provision,

we will see what we may not have seen before. Next...

Once we are able to clearly see the additional resources God has provided, we are to prayerfully determine what we are to do with these resources. We must understand that they have a specific purpose and are not to be wasted or treated as if they are to be used the way we use our regular resources.

God is funding His plan for our lives. He has placed key resources in our environments and we are to show kingdom leadership when allocating these resources.

Second, we are to make all of the necessary changes in our lives in order to effectively utilize the new resources. This is where the growing pains begin. Let's first take a look at our schedules. We may be used to using our time as we have been over the last six months. However, what worked before will not work moving forward. We have got to make intentional changes to our schedules to accommodate growth.

We will need to invest more time focusing on the tasks required in the expansion phase. Changes in our schedules will look different for each person. For some, we may need to go to bed earlier. On the other hand, some of us may need to stay up an additional hour some evenings. We may need to rearrange when we handle certain tasks. Instead of going grocery shopping in the evenings, we may need to go first thing in the mornings.

Depending on the journey we are on, some of us may need to also look at our diets. Are we going to need to make changes to what we eat and/or when we eat? In addition, many of us will need to consider if the friends and colleagues we have now will be able to go with us into the next phase. Some people should not be permitted to continue to have close access to us simply based on the requirements we have to embrace for successful expansion.

Can you see that we have a lot of work to do just to prepare for expansion? It's true. Let me give an example of some additional resources God has placed in my environment and the changes I will need to make to engage these resources.

In our small agency God has brought several volunteers and college students. We will have four new people starting at our agency this fall. In addition, one of our contracts has decreased in terms of sending us referrals. This means I have more time to engage the new team members. I had to ask God to give me direction as to how to effectively engage the new staff members. We have two major projects that will start during the summer. I need to set aside time to train the new staff (and some of the existing staff) to handle the two new projects.

Initiating two major projects and bringing on four new staff members all at the same time is a huge undertaking. As a result, I have had to make significant changes to my work schedule. In order to be effective I will have to create

training plans, help the new staff until they gain sure footing with their responsibilities, and continue to handle my already demanding other tasks.

During the time I am training my team there will be many mistakes, times of frustration, and mixed emotions about how we are handling our projects. I have to be patient, realistic, and provide the leadership they will need to be successful.

As I said at the beginning, summer is a great season. It involves closing out the first half of the year and stepping into the second half. During this time, we have an opportunity to review our accomplishments and make the necessary changes to keep moving forward.

God has already provided the resources we need to take our next steps. Once we have identified these additional resources and determined the changes we will need to make, the road ahead becomes doable.

We have stepped into our season of expansion. We have exactly what we need. Now, let's move forward!

Joyce M. White, LMSW

Journey to Intimacy

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God, by the blood of Christ; who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God; thus restoring peace (*both vertically and horizontally*). *Vertically*, we may now have peace with God; for Christ *is* that peace. *Horizontally*, the Cross of Christ has made of two peoples (*circumcision and uncircumcision*): one new man (*the Body of Christ*). Also by the Cross, He has destroyed a (*then very prominent*) stronghold: the "middle wall of partition;" those "arguments" that had previously set Jew over against Gentile (*and Samaritan, and Greek, etc.*) and vice versa.

Sidebar: We see something of the result of that in Peter's vision of the sheet being let down from heaven; full of every variety (*all manner*) of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. The Lord said "Arise Peter ... kill and eat." Peter said, "I'm not *that* hungry. I have never eaten anything that is common or

unclean."⁽¹⁰⁾ We see how that God's *choosing* Israel and the ordinances of the Mosaic Law set Israel apart from all of the other nations of the world.⁽¹¹⁾ Now ... now before the hair stands up on the back of your neck (*at God's choice of Israel*); hear the whole story. God's choice of Israel was so that He could (*through His relationship with Israel*) win the hearts of the rest of the nations, to Himself.⁽¹²⁾ This was something of a "first fruits" administration of salvation, according to the wisdom of the Sovereign Lord God. One of the challenges was that Israel was so busy trying to "be like" the other nations.⁽¹³⁾ They compromised their opportunities to be used to draw the other nations to God. My fear is that we as the "*the Church*" ... "*the Ecclesia*" are doing the same thing. Our big brother Jacob (*Israel*), had "forgotten" what God continues to show us in nature (physics very specifically); that "opposites do attract." In their haste to have their "own way" they didn't realize that if they had 'stayed the course,' as set by God; they would have been "like" the other nations; for the other nations would have been "like" them. And they would have been "like" God; a true "win-win" situation. For this is the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world to our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁽¹⁴⁾ For by that crucifixion was the middle wall of partition destroyed; and the bringing to life, in Christ, one ... new ... man (*comprised of both Jew and Gentile*). Ah, the *mystery of the fellowship*.

Oh, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Who is "Him?" Christ, and what God is doing through Him. Oh, that the eyes of our understanding may be enlightened; so that we may know what He has called us to hope in. So that we may know what it is that God intends to accomplish through Christ, in us. That hope involves what God will inherit through the saints. That hope involves the richness of the expression

Journey to Intimacy

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of His glory; as we come to see the exceeding greatness of His power toward us [Gentiles], who believe. This same richness is a display of His mighty power. We saw one expression of that power, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.⁽¹⁵⁾ We saw a quite another greater expression of that power when God raised Jesus from the dead, and set Christ at his own right hand in the heavens.

Paul goes on to tell the church at Ephesus (*and us*), what was behind this magnificent display of the power of God. Paul reveals to us a *mystery* that had been '*hidden in plain sight*' for ages, but is now revealed in God's expression of Himself, through Christ.⁽¹⁶⁾

Hidden in plain sight, in Rahab's [Gentile] transactions with the two spies [Jewish].⁽¹⁷⁾

Hidden in plain sight, in Tamar's [Gentile] conception, by Judah [Jewish], of the ancestors of Jesus Christ.

Hidden in plain sight, in Ruth's [Gentile] liaison with Boaz [Jewish].

Hidden in plain sight, in Elijah's [Jewish] transactions with the woman of Zarephath [Gentile];⁽¹⁸⁾

Hidden in plain sight, in Elijah's [Jewish] transactions with the Shunamite woman [Gentile].⁽¹⁹⁾

And we see a particular expression of this mystery when the little maid, directed Naaman [Gentile] to seek out Elisha [Jewish] for healing of his leprosy.⁽²⁰⁾ Elisha, at God's direction, sent Naaman to "dip" seven times in the river Jordan. *Hidden in plain sight* ... little did Elisha (or Naaman) know that hundreds of years later God, Himself, would come to that same river, Jordan, to be baptized.⁽²¹⁾ All along the way, the mystery of the Jew and the Gentile has been laid out before our eyes. But we couldn't see it, because of the enmity; which Christ abolished in his flesh. No longer does the Mosaic Law, with its ordinances, separate us. We are made one by a new and living way. This way was made for us in the blood of His Cross.

But now in Christ Jesus, we who sometimes were far off are brought near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who hath made both one; and hath broken down the

middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you [Gentile] which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit to the Father. now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:13-19)

Israel, knew that Messiah would come. What they didn't know (and we didn't know) was that when Messiah came, that the Gentiles would be fellow-heirs, and of the same body; partakers of God's promise in Christ by the proclamation of the gospel. This assignment was given to Paul, to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles.⁽²²⁾ God was then ready to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world had been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. So we see what God has purposed. Now let's briefly look at why He has so intended. Something of the glory of His inheritance in the saints is that now the principalities and powers in heavenly places might know, by the church, the manifold wisdom of God. And we thought that "church" was this social environment, with a Sunday morning program. The church that is the Church [both Jew and Gentile]; has come to be in accordance with the eternal purpose, of God, which He has revealed to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As you can see our work is not yet complete.

This road is quite a bit longer, and the journey more demanding than can here be experienced. But this is sufficient for the time being.

May the Blessings of God make you rich and add no sorrow with it. ^[JTI]

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Ephesians 2-3
- (2) Ephesians 1:17
- (3) Jude 12
- (4) 1 Timothy 2:11
- (5) Luke 3:8
- (6) Philippians 3:9
- (7) Deuteronomy 32:21; Romans 10:19, 11:11
- (8) Matthew 3:9
- (9) Hebrews 9:13-14
- (10) Acts 10:10+
- (11) 2 Samuel 7:22-23
- (12) 1 Samuel 8:7; Isaiah 2:2+; Revelation 21:24
- (13) 1 Samuel 8:5, 19-20
- (14) 1 Corinthians 2:7-8
- (15) John 11:42-44
- (16) Ephesian 3:3-5
- (17) Joshua 2
- (18) 1 Kings 17
- (19) 2 Kings 4
- (20) 2 Kings 5
- (21) Matthew 3:13; Mark 1:9
- (22) Ephesians 3

The Chief Cornerstone



Moses didn't know that we'd be reading his story.
And you don't know who will be reading your story,
in the ages to come.

The Leadership Corner

God has already provided the resources we need to take our next steps. Once we have identified these additional resources and determined the changes we will need to make, the road ahead becomes doable.



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