

HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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I want to thank the Lord for the time that we had in Moncton Canada with Brother Fred, Brother Ray, and the assembly there. First of all let me relay their greetings. Everybody was telling us to send their greetings, so receive greetings from the brothers up there. Also there are some who even talked about coming down in the fall so we just pray the Lord would work that out and if it be His will, we would be very happy for that. Amen.

I want to thank the Lord of course that He gave us safe travels but also there was one specific thing, really it was a miracle that I noticed. Every time we've gone out there, we've always had a struggle with the jet lag. I think it's certainly harder when we go east, even all the times we've ever flown out to Indiana or Georgia there's always been an issue with the jet lag as well. But this time, like I say: it was a miracle.

First of all, there were a couple of nights that we only got three or four hours of sleep because of the flights but when we woke up, we were fine. And not only that, we basically went to sleep at the same time we do here in Phoenix but on *their time* and we got up at the same time. I should say: *the same hour* not time, but the *same hour* according to their time zone. And everything was just fine. I was amazed.

And it really didn't click fully that we had gone that way the whole time until about Monday evening or maybe even Tuesday on our way back I began to realize: this entire time the jet lag wasn't a problem. So I really thank the Lord for that. It was really a miracle. We really appreciate everybody who was praying.

The first night the title of the subject was: Do Not Be Weary in Well Doing because we know that we have an enemy. I know when we look over the last four years, for all of us there has been a struggle in our spirit as we desire to walk with the Lord, to walk pleasing to Him, and to continue walking in the light of His Word.

But we see in the body of people that we have been a part of, how there has been a *separation in direction* and that's hard on this flesh.

We are all people and we love our brothers and sisters. It's difficult on our natural emotions. There are tears that have been shed and that's always something the enemy can come in and really try to take advantage of.

I just felt led to preach a sermon that would be a help as Paul himself said: *be not weary in well doing, there is a reward for standing for the Lord.* [Galatians 6:9] Praise the Lord.

He will give us strength when we are weak. [Isaiah 40:29] And we can *rejoice* even when this flesh doesn't feel like it. If we get our mind in the right place and look at what the Lord has done and where He's taking us, I have to say: we can *rejoice in the Lord.* [Philippians 4:4] Praise the Lord.

For the rest of the services, basically what I was looking at is: *the nature of truth.* How we are led in the light of truth. How the Spirit of truth works and manifests itself among us, specifically as we are looking at the time factor of the Two Days [Hosea 6:2] and approaching the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I also spoke on being able to *discern the spirits* that are at work *today.*

I mentioned this a few times up there and I've said it here as well: I marvel how we sat for *decades* under the ministry of Brother Jackson and how he made it so clear that *revelation is essential* for the church.

He would look at the attitude that the Branham movement had taken and how they just came to a complete stop in receiving anything further from the Word of God. He *exhorted us* and *admonished us* that the Lord is *always* going to be opening up more of His Word. Praise the Lord.

Yet here we are almost twenty years after the passing of Brother Jackson and we're seeing an exact replay of that. The very brothers and sisters with whom we sat and who heard that same message from Brother Jackson, now they say: revelation is not that important. There is nothing of revelation that they have received since our brother left the scene. They won't recognize anything that the Lord has brought.

I'm not talking about recognizing a man or men, even though yes, if we do see what the Lord has brought, I have to say: He has used men to do that.

But at first we at least have to be able to see what has been brought *in the Word.* Then that's also going to bring us clarity as to the men He's using.

Brother Jackson preached a message before the Lord took him home. At the time I didn't even realize the gravity of that message but the last message he preached was: Darkness Is Setting In.

I have to say tonight: over the past few weeks and even years, but specifically the past few weeks, the message is no longer Darkness Is Setting In, *darkness is here*. That's absolutely the truth.

I was telling the brothers in Canada that when we look at the young people today, and I'm not talking about the young people in this church, I thank God for the young people who are part of this assembly. But in general when we look at the youth today, people who are in their 20s or even in their 30s and 40s, to me as long as they're below 50 that's young [laughs]. If we look in the world today at those who are, let's say between twenty and forty years old, it is so hard to find anybody who has some kind of a pull to the spiritual things.

Now I will say: yes thank God there are some people who still have certain principles. There are still some who say: there's a right way to live and a certain morality that has to be upheld.

But when we look at how many have really had a true encounter with the Lord, we can even look around at other churches and we do see that some of the young people say: I want to be baptized. And I have to say: that's wonderful. Our hope should be that they've had a true experience.

However when we look at their life, for many of them church is for Sunday but outside of that, they're just too busy and too wrapped up in the things of this present life. We can see that in their soul there's really not a fire for the things of the Lord.

So again, I thank God when there is *one here* and *one there*, but that is also a sign of how close we really are to the coming of the Lord.

When we look at that Seventh Seal Time Factor, we know once that seventh seal is *opened*, the door of grace to the Gentiles will be *closed*.

As I said in Canada: if the age of Grace closes and the seventh seal is opened on Wednesday, and don't worry I'm *not* saying literally *this next Wednesday* or anything like that, but if it's opened on a Wednesday and somebody has come to the Lord on Tuesday, they are *not* going to be a bride saint. It's not enough time.

Now you might ask: well how much time do we need? I don't know, that's in the Lord's hands. But I know one thing: it's *not*: you're saved on Tuesday and you're a bride saint on Wednesday.

There has to be a process of *growing in the Word*. [Matthew 13:23] There has to be a process of *growing in the fruits of the Spirit* [Galatians 5:22-23] and a certain process of *experience of tests and trials* [1Peter 1:7] so that we can come to the *stature* that Paul spoke about. [Ephesians 4:13]

So we have to understand: as far as coming in and being a bride saint, that will have some kind of a stopping point even before that seventh seal is opened.

I'm not proclaiming that we're at that point. Again, that's in the Lord's hands. But I will say: as we look around today, we see there are *very few* people with that *hunger for righteousness*.

Let's go to the book of Matthew chapter 5.

Really, when we look at every verse here, I'm talking about what we call The Beatitudes, this is looking at all the saints that would *potentially* be Bride Saints. And at the end time, it's looking *at the Bride Saints*.

Outside of the Gentile time, going into the 70th week, it's even looking at those who would walk in the light that God will give them.

But as we are living in this Gentile age, this has its full application to the Bride Saints in different aspects of their spiritual walk.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:

Part of the nature of hunger or thirst is that the longer you go, the more you desire it. You have to have it. If you're hungry, you're not going to be satisfied until you sit down to a meal. Praise the Lord.

I remember when I used to go to Faith Assembly back in the 70s and early 80s. And not just that, I've also heard the testimonies of many others. There was testimony after testimony of how God had led people to the knowledge of Brother Branham, whether it was while he was still alive or even after he had passed. And how they *rejoiced* as they learned what God had given him.

Then after he went off the scene and after they came to a basic knowledge of what God had given him, yes of course there were still details here or there, but how many times they said that in the very church where they were sitting, a *hunger* began to grow in their heart: *there's got to be more for the church*. Praise the Lord.

They would pray and seek the Lord. Some of them had a vision. Some had a dream. Some, their path just crossed with the right person. But one way or another, God brought them to know about the ministry of Brother Jackson.

And as they began to listen to his ministry, they could say: praise God. And they could thank God that He had led them to the *continuation* of what He was giving to the church.

So here when Jesus says:

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:

Then he says:

Matthew 5:6

for they shall be filled.

Praise the Lord.

And really that begins with receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

God knows your heart. He knows my heart. And as we heard the gospel message, some did *sincerely* repent. You say: Brother, you shouldn't say *sincerely repent*, you should just trust that if somebody repents, it's sincere. Well yes, as we hear any testimony, we trust that it's sincere but the Lord knows. Praise the Lord.

The reality is: there are some people, there are *many* people, they know there is a God. Maybe they have a problem with alcohol, and really what they want is for God to give them victory over the alcohol. For somebody else maybe it's smoking.

Others can just see that they don't want to live in a worldly environment. They know it's not good for their family and it's not good for them. And if that's what they're looking for, the Lord can give them that. You can find them in a church.

Again, they can be there on Sunday morning singing with tears rolling down their face: *oh how I love Jesus*. But as far as there really being a hunger and a desire for the things of the Word of God, as far as actually walking closer to the Lord, they don't want it.

If you begin to talk to them about something, maybe Serpent Seed or the Church Ages, whatever it may be, they will tell you: I don't need to hear that, it's not important to me. I'm just happy to know I'm saved.

Well they can say they know they're saved, but at the end of the day, God is the One Who knows the heart.

But if we have a sincere heart, then praise the Lord, He will fill us with the gift of the Holy Ghost. That's where it begins. And as He feeds us of His Word, we digest His Word in our spirit, and then we desire *more*. Praise the Lord.

And as that desire is there, He will fill it. That's a promise. Praise the Lord.

While we were in Canada, I was just thrilled how many times our conversation was brought to the things of the Word as we would sit at the table to eat. Even on Monday as we went with some sisters to see the countryside and the region. By the way, it's very green up there [laughs]. But just in our fellowship, they had questions about things of the Word. There was a *desire to understand*. Praise the Lord.

I'm not saying that: oh I've got the answers, but I was the one who was there with them at that time. So they were asking questions and we were conversing about the things of the Lord. I didn't say: hey sisters, we need to take some time now and speak about the Word. That was just naturally on their heart. Praise the Lord. That's the way it should be. Praise the Lord.

Let's go to the book of First John.

1 John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

What is darkness? It's an absence of the light that is on the freshly opened Word of God. Praise the Lord.

I'm just going to give an example: predestination. I thank God that *predestination* is a truth of the Word. Amen. But what if I learn about *predestination* and never desire or never learn anything beyond that?

We have the Pentecostals. They say: we need that Pentecostal experience. Yes we do. But I'll say this: if we truly have that Pentecostal experience, it's going to put a desire in our heart to *receive more* of the truth of God's Word.

Again what we see is: God brings His Word to people who *claim* they love the Lord, but they *reject His Word*. They're happy to live with the glare or the reflection from what He brought in a previous day but they are *not* walking in His light for *this day*.

He says here: *if we do that and we say that we have fellowship with him,*

1 John 1:6

we lie, and do not the truth:

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

Who is in the light? *Jesus Christ is in the light*. Praise the Lord.

He's the one who looks at the church. As Almighty God inspires and shows him: now it's time for the church to see more, as he is the *head of the church*, he is the one who *leads the church along*. Praise the Lord.

That's why he said: *where I am, there shall my servant be*. [John 12:26]

Now we know the Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven but he has servants *here on earth*. He's not talking about the actual physical location where he is, but it's *where he is putting focus on the Word*, his servant will also be putting focus *in that same place*.

His servant will also be looking at, studying, and preaching *according to the light that He's giving today*.

Now he says here:

1 John 1:7
as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,

How beautiful that is!

The modern Church world today, they want to do it backwards. They want to make it: well if we have fellowship one with another, then we are walking in his light. But that's *not* what he says here.

He says:

1 John 1:7
if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,

And that's the beautiful thing.

I'll say this: unless we are *truly walking in the light*, we don't have *true spiritual fellowship* because I'm going to be looking at it one way and you're going to be looking at it differently. Then it becomes: well let's talk about cars.

Nothing against talking about cars but at the end of the day, our fellowship is *spiritual fellowship* if we can talk about the things of the Lord. And not argumentatively, not: well I'm kind of subtly trying to prove my point while you subtly try to prove your point. Because at the end of the day we're going to end up back at cars or the weather, and that's as far as it's going to go.

And talking about the weather: it's been extremely hot here in Phoenix. We could talk about that for a while [laughs].

Again, the beautiful thing is when we can talk about the things of the Lord. It's a *joy* because we love Him, He loves us, we love one another, we love His Word, and we're thankful for what He's given us.

It's not: I'm trying to get in front of you or you're trying to get in front of me, but it's simply *rejoicing in the Holy Ghost*.

John said here:

1 John 1:7

if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,

This is that *true fellowship*.

It goes beyond just going to the same church or having some kind of a meeting and inviting all kinds of people. And: oh we had 400 people at our meeting. Well we can do better than that by going to a football game. Numbers can go way beyond 400 people but the question is: do we truly have *fellowship with one another*?

If we are *walking in the light*, we have that *fellowship*. But if we are not, we don't have that fellowship. There will be disagreement.

Once we get out of the light, when we're in darkness, one walks one direction and another walks another direction, spiritually speaking. Yes we can go to the same assembly or meeting but *spiritually* we can't see the same thing.

1 John 1:7

and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

There are so many who want to claim that *the blood cleanses them from sin* but they really have no concern about walking in the light.

I have to say: why does John even write that if it really just applies to everybody regardless?

But he says: *if we're walking in the light, as he is in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin*. Praise the Lord. Amen.

Let's go to the book of Psalms.

Psalms 119:140

Thy word is very pure:

Now the word *very* in English is a little bit lacking, but in Spanish it basically says it's *the most pure* that something can be.

Psalm 119:140

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

In other words, David is saying here: *I love Your Word. There's nothing pure like it.*

Why? Because it was not really written by man. Yes God used men to pen the letters but it was the Holy Ghost that inspired it. Throughout this entire chapter which is, as far as I know, the longest chapter in the whole Bible, David is exalting the Word of God and telling how much he loves the Word.

I'm going to close with this thought tonight: David could exalt the Word and tell how much he loved the Word, and yet David had not received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He did not live in a time when the Word was *revealed* but he could *rejoice* with the smaller portion that was made known to him.

How much more should we *rejoice* and *love* His Word *today*? We live in a time when we not only have the Word as it is written, but now as the Holy Ghost was given on the day of Pentecost, God has *opened up the understanding of His Word*.

Yes He gave a portion to those of the Old Testament but *now* He has given *access to the understanding of the Word* in a full sense. How much more should we rejoice in that? Amen. Praise the Lord.

Let's go ahead and pray.