

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#76

PRIDE

By Buddy Cobb



A Faithful Apostolic Teacher of the Word

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Are you aware that God is seeking to do a deeper work in you in order that He may bring you forth as a man of righteousness? When we first come to the Lord, and have that initial experience with Him we receive forgiveness of sins and cleansing by the blood of Jesus, and a restoring of fellowship with God, so that we who were afar off might be brought nigh unto God and restored to that fellowship which was lost in the garden of Eden by our father Adam. Being the descendants of Adam, we have inherited his nature which is earthy. As a result of his transgression, we all were born alienated from God and from the life of God, not in fellowship but in a broken relationship. When the Lord first moves in our lives to heal that breach between us and Himself, so that fellowship with God can be restored, there seems to be a tendency in many to think that God has accomplished all that He intends! Now that we have been reconciled to God by the death of his Son, cleansed by His blood from guilt of sin, forgiven all trespasses, given the gift of righteousness, having received His mercy and grace, we may now think that we have it made with the Lord and our standing with him eternally secured!

I would like for you to open your Bibles to Job 1, for I perceive that God is showing us, by the way that He has dealt with those who have walked with him before us, a pattern. As we observe God's dealing with Job as one who walked with the Lord and was righteous in His sight, we can come to understand God's purpose for us today.

This is necessary if we are to have a correct understanding and a proper balance in our own thinking between what God does **for** us and what He must do **in** us in order to bring us to perfection. Many believe that the initial experience that they have had with God, when they freely receive all that God has done for them in Christ is all that is necessary in order to gain the inheritance that He has prepared for those who love Him. But God is bringing us to a clear understanding that

the initial work of reconciliation and blessing in bringing us to Himself is only the beginning of that which He wants us to do. For at that point, He only reveals to us what He has done for us in Christ Jesus. We find that God has done a lot of things for us in Christ Jesus!

He has done tremendous things for us in Christ Jesus! We rejoice in all that He has done for us, which He worked through the obedience of His Son, a tremendous benefit that we are all partakers of this day! We are grateful for those things that he has done for us, but let me tell you that the Bible is clear, the patterns are clear, that God not only intended to do great things for us, but He also intends to do certain things **in us**. It is not just what Christ has done for us that is our hope of glory, but it is Christ **in us** that is our hope of glory! Amen!

Of course, the work had to be done **for us** before it could be done **in us!!** We had to be first reconciled to God from whom we were alienated before He could get us back into His hand and continue the work which He began back in the garden, that is to bring man forth in His glory, in His image and in His likeness! The purpose of God is revealed to us in the New Testament in John 17:22 and 23:

And the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them; that they may be ONE, even as we are one., I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them as thou hast loved me.

God has predestined and ordained that we should be made conformable to His image. This is what perfection consists of, being made one in Him. The reason God is interested in making us just like His Son is because the Son is just like God the Father. We find that God the Father is the standard of perfection. Therefore, until man has been brought forth into the image and likeness of God, he is not in the image that God created him to be. The Bible teaches us in 1Corinthians 11:7 that the man is the image and glory of God! This is God's purpose, to perfect us by bringing us to

the fullness of the stature of Christ, unto a perfect man, at which time we will be made just like Him in the image and glory of God!

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

This certainly was not accomplished by our initial experience with God, but requires a "working out", and co-laboring with God to finish the work! Paul, speaking to the Galatian church, understanding God's purpose for the church, the mystery that was hid from the foundation of the world, knowing they had experienced that initial work of salvation in Galatians 4:19 cried, "My little children, of whom, I travail in birth again until **Christ be formed in you.**"

In 1Corinthians 15:40, we read that the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. God will not give His glory to another. Therefore, as long as we are of the terrestrial (earthy) and not of the celestial (heavenly), we are not in the one, we are in the other. And that disqualifies us from receiving the glory that the Lord wants us to have. So God's purpose, you see, is not only to reconcile us to Himself, but to change us from that which is terrestrial to that which is celestial, to change us from the earthy to the heavenly, that we might come forth in that oneness that He speaks of in John 17:21 where He says, That they may all be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us ...That is, brought to that same life, the same nature, the same glory.

Jesus prayed in verse 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one. It is the same glory! We find, however, before we can receive that glory, a work must be done. The purpose for which God has reconciled us to Himself is that we might be changed from glory to glory until we come forth after His image and after His likeness in His glory! This is God's stated purpose right from the very beginning, where it says in

Genesis 1:26 Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Salvation is not just something which is like a gift bestowed upon us, although it is a gift. It is not something that God could just place in your hand. While it is a free gift, it is a free gift that required that you buy it, and if you do not buy it, you do not get the free gift. Therefore, Jesus said before you begin this pursuit after the inheritance, after the free gift, you'd better sit down and count the cost of receiving it.

Sometimes when people want to give you something it does not turn out to be a free gift, although they freely give it to you. For instance, I can freely give you a number of things that I could think of that would bring you into the worst sort of bondage. For instance, if I freely gave you a jet airplane, you would find right away that you would have to do several things in order to operate that airplane. You would need many dollars in the bank to get it off the ground! So the "free gift" could become very expensive if it was going to benefit you at all. This is the way I see God speaking to us in the book. This is why He tells us to be careful what we hear and how we hear it.

When God reconciles man to Himself, we find that His initial purpose is to bless him. Therefore, the first experience that we have had in coming to God is a blessing. It is all for a purpose. God knows our nature, He knows the frailty of man, He knows the selfishness of man, and He also knows the pride of man.

I was thinking about how large the universe is and how small the earth is in relation to the total universe. As we come close to the earth we see what a minute being man is upon this little speck of sand that is found way out in the universe and how we have to keep coming down, down, down just to get to the earth out of all the expanse of the universe. We would have to travel billions of light years just to get to one end of what man knows to be the universe and the time to go out to the other side in another direction would

take additional billions of light years of traveling. Once you arrived at this small planet called Earth, which is no more than a grain of sand out in the universe, then you would have to get a lot smaller to get down here on earth to realize that there are creatures here called man. After you have gotten small enough to get down on the Earth to observe that there were such creatures walking around the Earth, then as one of the ministry pointed out, you could hear some say, "There is no God." I was thinking, as he was bringing this forth, describing the smallness of the earth that we live upon, and the puniness of man that is here, that the only thing bigger than that great vast universe out there is the ego that is within man! The only thing that can swell out to greater dimensions than the universe and its limits is the pride in man. That is the thing that God wants to deal with. This is the key thing that God must deal with in man if He is going to bring man from being what he is, earthy, selfish, self-centered, and proud, to being just like God. What a task!

Only God can perform it.

This formidable object, vanity, "man's pride", is the thing that got man in trouble to begin with, and until it is totally dealt with, it will hinder the work that God must perform in us to bring us to perfection. If you noticed in the words of the song that we were singing tonight, "If you humble yourself, that is a big IF! If man will humble himself and pray, God will move and do the rest of the work. The problem is to get humble, and what makes that such a problem is the pride that is in man. There has to come the skillfulness of which God only is capable of moving in, that God alone possesses to break through the pride of man. Once God does, He has a broken vessel that can now humble himself before God and pray. When that happens, then God can finish the work that He proposes to do **in us**, for He will now have a vessel that is not just anointed and gifted, but also **broken and submitted!**

I want to stress the difference between what God has done **for us** and what God has yet to do **in us**. You will find that

many Christians love to give their testimony and the testimony that they give us is what God has done for them. They can remember the exact day that God did it. They can remember the exact hour and the exact circumstance in which it happened. They love to get up and recount how and what God did for them. Of course, that is only adding to man's pride, because after all, when you get up and give a testimony of what God has done for you, it shows that God has chosen you above all the people of the universe to bestow His blessing and His grace and His honor upon. Let us be honest. Does that deal with pride? You can see that it does not deal with pride one bit. Therefore, God at that point has begun to address the problem that must be resolved if man is going to come forth in the image and likeness of God.

In the book of Job, we have such an excellent example laid out for us. I would like to begin in Job 1:1. There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

You can see that this is a pretty good credential for a man. It goes on to say in verses 2 and 3:

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

When you have the blessing of God upon you, so that it can be recognized by everybody, especially yourself, that you are the greatest man in all of the east, what does that do to your pride? The east country speaks to us of where the sun rises, i.e. the light of truth first dawns, this is the time when God first begins to move upon us in blessing! Until the light shines within us, we are in darkness and we do not know from whence we come or where we are going, but when the light rises within us, we suddenly realize that we are a child of God and that His blessing is now upon us. You see, the blessing had now come upon Job. God first blessed him and

established him as the greatest man in the east. When people give their testimony, many times you can hear in what they are testifying to, all the blessing that God has bestowed upon them, that truly they must be one of the great men of the east, one of the great men of the family of God just rising up out of the darkness into His marvelous light. When God first begins to bless us, He often begins by working miracles through us. You pray for someone and they get healed. I remember the first time I prayed for a man who had cancer. He happened to be my pastor at that time. God healed him! He is healed to this day. I began to feel that I was pretty great in the kingdom of God! Things were beginning to happen in my life and through my life. I was teaching a Bible study group and people were being converted and their lives were being changed. We had a little baby in our Bible study group that was adopted by one of the families. The baby had twisted feet and the doctors said it would never walk straight, even with braces it could not be straightened. The father did not believe in divine healing. After a personal experience when the Lord delivered me supernaturally from an attack of illness upon me, I gave my testimony at a meeting and the father changed his mind about divine healing because he said, "I know Buddy would not lie about it, so it must be true, so it must be for today." As soon as the father changed his mind, the baby's feet were straight and they are straight to this day. The father, mother and child are on one of the community farms serving the Lord today.

When we see things begin to happen through us, do you know what that does for us? It makes us feel that we are something special, something great in the sight of God! It does not deal with our pride except to inflate it! Job was this way. I was invited several times to get up in full-gospel meetings and give testimonies of how God was moving through my life, and of course, I was giving the glory to God, but also swelling up in pride over the fact that God was using me. This is what happens until such time as God is ready to establish you in His righteousness. It is one thing

when God cleanses you with the blood of Jesus and marks off all your past record in His book, and then begins to take account from that day forward. Amen!

You know that your past record does not count with God, be it good or bad. So when God wipes out your past record that is the end of it! God is no longer interested in what we have done. His interest is not our past record, but what we are going to do today! For **now** becomes the acceptable time! If you are going on to perfection with God, you will never make it on your past record or seniority. You make it upon your faithfulness, upon your current commitment which you must keep current daily.

There is only one way to keep it current daily, that is to **die** daily! Our credential with God is not based only on what God has done for us in the past, but on what our response to Him is currently! Your credentials with God is something that once you get it you have to maintain it and it takes a daily maintenance.

Job was aware of this, he was not ignorant of this. Job had been blessed by God to the extent that he was the greatest man in the east. Verses 4 & 5: And his sons went and feasted in their houses, everyone his day, and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all for Job said, it may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus Job did continually.

We can see that Job recognized that there was a need for continual sanctification. He daily offered up those sacrifices by which he hoped to keep the judgment of God from coming upon him and his family in case they had sinned. He recognized that if judgment ever came to his house, it could destroy everything and cause him to lose all that he had gained from God. He was a man who had received much! So Job was hoping by his burnt offerings to satisfy, that is to propitiate God! You can understand that since Job is the

oldest book in the Bible there had to be a consciousness in him of how God moved in the days of Noah and judged the world. God's wrath was kindled against every living creature that He made. He said that it repented Him that He had made man, because He looked upon man and saw that man had become flesh, that is, chosen to hearken to and walk after his flesh, and that the thoughts and intents of a man's heart were only evil continually. God's wrath was stirred and He said, "I am going to destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth!" Job had this knowledge of God, and if we know the truth we also live in this consciousness that if we transgress against God, if we kindle His wrath against us, if we go against what He tells us to do and stir up His wrath that He is a formidable one to be dealt with! It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God! Even Paul said, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." So the fear of the Lord is a healthy thing. It can give man the proper incentive to walk after God and to keep His commandments. If we do not have the fear of God, we will lack a strong enough incentive. If we do not believe that God really means what He says, if we do not believe that He really will pour out his wrath and judgment upon us, but instead believe that we have a standing with Him that nothing can change and are confident that we stand, then we're in a dangerous place, because we do not have the proper fear of God to motivate us into daily obedience. The Bible says in 1Corinthians 10: 12: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There are many hurtful snares and traps out in the world that we can be lured into through our own lust and drawn away into another way that is not the way of God, that is not the path of righteousness, that will cause us to lose our fellowship with God. Therefore, if we are to continue in fellowship and go on to perfection, we must stay on the right path. The thing that is needed within our lives to help keep us on that right path is the fear of the Lord! Without it we will not deny ourselves and be obedient to what God directs.

We will not take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. In Proverbs 16:6 it says: ... and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

Until we depart from evil (our own way) there is no fear of the Lord in us!

I want to define something about fear because the kind of fear that is a healthy fear in God is the fear of what it is going to cost you, what you are going to lose, if you do not keep covenant and stay in an unbroken fellowship with God. Everything that God does, He does through covenant, and that covenant requires something not only on God's part, but also on our part. The Bible warns us that in the last days there will be covenant breakers upon whom the wrath and judgment of God will come! This type of fear that is going to keep us walking upright is the absolute knowledge, the certain knowledge that if we do not keep covenant, if we break covenant, that we are going to experience the wrath and judgment of God coming upon us, instead of the blessing of the inheritance. Having preached to others, we ourselves can become a castaway!

There is another type of judgment of God that comes to the house of God which we should not fear, but that we should actually desire to come, because unless that judgment has come upon the house, it will never be established in the righteousness and holiness without which we will never see God. Hebrew 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (much less be made perfect in Him.)

So there is one judgment to be feared which is a healthy thing to have, and there is another judgment that must come which is not to be feared. Until God has dealt with us by bringing us to the knowledge of the truth, we will fear the kind of judgment coming upon us that we should not fear. I want to give you an example of that judgment, both in the book of Job and in the book of Genesis. Let us first turn to Genesis 3.

After Adam and Eve had transgressed God and moved in their own wisdom - by the way, I would like to point out something here –and that is when the devil came to Eve and to Adam and tempted them in the garden, I would like for us to realize at this point exactly what was working, lest we also fall into the same trap as Adam and Eve did. That is, Adam and Eve had first received what God had to say about the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After they had first received what God had to say about it and even were able to repeat it to the serpent, then they heard what the serpent had to say about it. We find that the serpent had something different to say about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil than what God had to say about it. The choice as to whom they were going to believe, however, was sovereignly in the hand of Eve and of Adam. In other words, what I want to point out to you is whatever you embrace as truth, whatever you listen to to embrace as a way you are going to move and go, is never forced upon you by some other power, neither the devil nor God, for the decision as to what we are going to embrace or the way we are going to take is always sovereignly our own. Therefore, let us realize that it is always a matter then of what choice we make that will determine the way which we go. It is not the power of persuasion of the devil that will cause us to take his way, and neither is it the power of persuasion that will cause us to take God's way. It is what we ourselves judge to be the right way. Therefore, the Bible lays the responsibility squarely upon man in this situation, not upon the devil.

We want to realize that the Bible is clear, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, that the responsibility is laid squarely upon man for the direction that man takes. It does not lie on the serpent, neither does it lie upon God, but it lies upon man. Romans 5:12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

The reason for that, of course, is because man is the one who makes that decision. He sovereignly makes that decision.

You and I daily make these decisions. We hear all kinds of voices speaking, but what we respond to and what we embrace as truth, what actually directs us in the way that we take is what we choose to hear! In the beginning God spoke His word, then the devil spoke his word, then Eve spoke, and the man made his choice. It is man who makes the final decision in the matter! Now this is always the case, brethren, and the only thing that can actually lure us out of the truth of God is the power of lust and pride that works in man. Because we have this pride working in us, the Bible says in Romans 8:20, we have been made subject to vanity. The thing that makes us subject to vanity is pride. Therefore, the flaw that is in this natural man is this element of pride which God must deal with. You can see that it is the thing that the devil was able to capitalize upon to lure Eve out of the way. The appeal to her was on the ground that she could be like God, that she could make a decision - you are perfectly capable of making your own decisions - one thing that people criticize about those who are walking after the Spirit is that they no longer seem to make their own decisions. So the devil says, "Look, it is time you grew up. What do you want to do, always be babes? Don't you ever want to come to the place where you can judge good and evil for yourselves?" But you see, man did not understand how he was made, did not realize the frailty of his own construction and his own limitations, did not understand that God did not put in him the ability to guide his own steps, as it stated in Jeremiah 10:23: O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Proverbs 20:24: ... how can a man then understand his own way?

God built us in such a manner that the moment that we declare we are capable, that we do not need Him anymore, we succeed in leading ourselves astray and down a path that, though it seems right to us, ends in death and destruction. As it says in Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

What would cause one to profess oneself to be wise? There is only one reason why we profess ourselves to be wise and that is because we become wise in our own eyes. Isaiah 5:20-21: Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight!

The root of this desire to judge for ourselves, disregarding what God has said, and basing instead on how it looks to us, is pride!

Notice how man makes out when he judges himself. Man never judges himself to be a fool; therefore, he proves himself to be one. Amen! Any man who will judge himself to be a fool will prove that he is really not a fool. It is a wise man who will realize that he is a fool and admit it. Amen! Wouldn't you say that it is a wise man who is a fool and knows it and will admit it? It is a foolish man who is a fool, but says he is not. It has been God's purpose to reveal to us this pride that works in us, that causes us to judge ourselves to be wise. It says in Romans 1:21-22: ... but became vain in their imagination - and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools.

God has so set things in the world that when we judge by the seeing of the eye we cannot judge things right. Every time we open our mouth and make a judgment out of our own wisdom, we always get it wrong, for the truth is invisible and must be revealed by God! It will not be long before the judgment of this world will come, the light will rise, and every judgment man has made will be proven to be wrong and man himself will be proven to be a fool. So any man who professes himself to be wise will miss the highway of holiness In Isaiah 35:8-9, it says: And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though FOOLS, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up

thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there.

In order to keep from erring in the path of righteousness, we must see ourselves as fools, because fools shall not err therein. When you know that you are a fool, you live in the realization that you are not able to guide your own steps! You understand that it is not in man to know the way that he should go, how then can he direct his steps? Professing myself to be a fool, I can become wise, because I then go to the fountain of knowledge; I go to the fountain of truth. I say, "Lord, I am a fool, but you are wise; I am blind, but you can see; I am helpless, but you are not; I am weak, but you are strong. Therefore, I am going to place my hand in yours. Because you have such good eyesight that you can see the end from the beginning, I want to trust my hand in your hand, and I am going to let you guide my feet in the way of peace."

Now, you have to know the truth about yourself before you will come into that kind of walk with God. As long as you think you are wise, you will make decisions for yourself, based upon your own superior knowledge and wisdom, following your own way you will surely go astray.

As we look in Genesis 3, we can see what was really working. We can see that God gave His word in the matter, the devil gave his word in the matter, Adam and Eve had the last word in the matter and therefore, when God came, things were out of order! Adam and Eve chose not to continue to honor God as God, Adam lost his thankfulness for the relationship that he had with God, and chose to hearken to the voice of his wife instead of the voice of God and be joined to her in transgression rather than continue in unbroken relationship with God! He chose the way of the flesh vs. the Spirit and rose up and professed himself to be wise, and had now embarked on the course that was destined to prove himself a fool. So it says in verse 8: And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool

of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. Now this hiding behind trees. Can you see what this little maneuver is? It is a device of man and it is for a very definite purpose. Guilt will cause one to want to hide from God, in hope that they might escape the judgment of God. However, when caught, man has a very clever maneuver and it is "point your finger at the other one, get the light on them, then the light will not be on you." This is what I see God is showing us here. It is "hiding behind a tree". You hide behind somebody else's life and say, "Lord, look at what they did.

That ought not to be. The fault is not so much with me, as it is the other." Surely God ought to see that what they did is not right, and if you can get God dealing with them, that will get God off your back! You see, that is the kind of judgment that man is fearful to have come upon him that he should not fear. Because until that judgment comes upon us, our house will never be set in order. You can never be brought forth as a righteous one until judgment comes to your own house. So instead of desiring that God should judge the other, my desire, when I really get wise, is for His judgment to begin with me! Instead of wanting to avoid that judgment coming to our house, instead of offering up daily sacrifices to keep it off of our house, we should say, "Lord, bring it!"

Until judgment comes and this man of sin and pride has been dealt with and thoroughly broken, so that he will humble himself before God and pray, there is no healing for his land. God is wanting us to see this truth so that we will not fear His judgment, but recognize our sovereign need for it. Until it comes and does a work **in us**, never mind what others are doing, we need to see that the work must **first** begin **in us!** When Jesus was here in the world, he was not worried about the Father judging the others. He was worried about the Father perfecting Him so that He would have a readiness to revenge the disobedience of others, when His own obedience was fulfilled! So it is with us, 11Corinthians 10:6, And

having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Jesus stayed on the course that the Father set before Him. You would think that Jesus could have had a little more compassion for the world. He came into the world and was made perfect by what He suffered, and then left a lost world behind Him! Does that seem right, that He should get himself perfected first? Doesn't it seem selfish to get yourself perfected before others? He was the first one to make perfection. If He really cared, why didn't He get me there first? Right? Isn't that the argument? That is the reasoning of man, but not the plan of God! Often when saints leave the city in obedience to God's call to community, someone will ask, "where is your burden for the lost?"

Would you not be able to help others more by staying in the city? The answer is no, for until we have our own obedience filled up we have no readiness to help others! We must first allow the work to be done in us, then we will have a readiness to help others. For: "The husbandman that laboureth must be the first partaker of the fruits." 1 Timothy 2:6. Do we see the need for judgment to begin at our own house? When we can see the need at everyone else's house, and are quick to point it out, do you know why? It is to avoid judgment coming to us, because when it comes, it does get to our **pride**. Amen! This is a key thing that must be dealt with in us before righteousness can come, before His house will be known as the house of righteousness!

Our desire must shift from judgment coming upon others to coming upon ourselves. I can guarantee you that although others need judgment on themselves, you also need it and I need it. Until we get God to do it within us first, we are guilty of what Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:3-4: And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

If we would just let God take the beam out that is in our eye first, then we would be able to see so much more clearly how to remove the speck that is in our brother's eye. Amen! This is God's way, this is God's order, and I thank Him that He is bringing forth a people that is coming to the realization of this truth. "Lord, your house needs to be judged. It is in a mess." It has been in a mess even from the beginning.

Read the New Testament epistles and what do you find? God's house was in a mess! We have heard many say, "Oh, if we could only have a church like the early church. If you read the Bible, you will see that we have one just like it, with all its problems! Everything you read about them is happening right now! It is such things that are not even mentioned among the Gentiles. So the heathen think that they are perfectly justified in condemning us and saying you cannot be God's children, look how you are behaving. Even so, God has not called any of us to judge one another. But he has called us to judge ourselves. He said if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that ye be not judged.2 - For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Romans 14:13 - Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

How can we judge ourselves until He causes His light to shine upon us that will give us the correct light in which to see ourselves. Luke 11:34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

We do not see that we need judgment so much as others need it. We even fool ourselves into believing that we are moving unselfishly when we wish for judgment upon others rather than ourselves, since we see their fault to be more than our own. Being blind to our true condition we wish that judgment would come where it was needed most - on others.

We see that the greater fault lies with others and say, "Lord, why don't you start there?" This began with Adam and Eve in the garden. They were guilty of transgressing God! When they heard the voice of the Lord God coming, what did they do? They **hid themselves** from the **presence** of the Lord! "Why does a man want to hide himself from the voice and presence of God? It is because when man comes into the presence of God, who is light, he sees himself as he really is! The last thing he wants to see is what he really is like in his own guilt! He would rather look at himself by his imagination in his own light! As long as I am using my imagination to look at myself, I can imagine that I look pretty good, and not as bad as others, or as much at fault. We thank the Lord that He will not leave us in this deception but has promised, that "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!"

We see in Adam and Eve's case how the human nature works, no humbling of themselves before God, no confessing their wrong, but each pointing his finger at another, while covering his own nakedness. This is a picture of one of the greatest flaws in man. The unwillingness to see his own fault, and to accept responsibility for his own deeds and hiding behind trees. In Genesis 3:9, 10 and 11 it says: And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

How did you get yourself in this fix? How is it that you find yourself stripped of your covering? What has happened to you? Have you done what I told you not to do? Adam was caught! Adam could not say, "I didn't do what you told me not to do," because he had. The only thing he could do now was try to think of a good excuse why he did it. It would be especially good if he could think of how to shift the blame from himself to someone else! That would shift the

responsibility for his not hearkening to what God had said, and leave him justified. If there was just some way that he could justify his evil deed and get the blame off of himself and on to someone else, then he would escape the judgment and the judgment would come upon another. Therefore, Adam, in an effort to justify himself, came up with a perfect excuse. He said in verse 12: "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." We have the same thing going on in the church today. We come into an assembly and there is the woman congregation who has been given as a responsibility to the local ministry. And we ask the ministry, "How come you have this problem and that problem?" They say: "Because of the woman which the Lord has given me. " And you ask the woman, "What happened?" And she says, "The serpent beguiled me." You see, no one wants to accept the responsibility, but everyone wants to pass it on. Why? Because they do not want judgment to come upon them, but they want the judgment to come upon the other. "If you would straighten out this woman, we elders would be all right," And the woman says, "If you would just stop this serpent from running around here, we would not get bit." Now, who turned the serpent loose? Obviously, it was God. There would not have been a serpent in the garden unless God had put him there. Doesn't that make God responsible if you get serpent bit? The fact that God said "Don't touch the tree where the serpent is," and I did, now what does that have to do with it? If God did not want me get bitten, He shouldn't have put that awful serpent there to begin with, right? You see, I will come out scot-free if I can just have **my judgment** in the matter, and the blame will go where it belongs, on someone else, even God! But I will never be established in righteousness that way. I will never come to perfection. We have to see our need not to hide, and not to put forth the finger, but to say, Psalm 139:23-24: Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

It takes quite a dealing with a man to bring him to that place where he will ask God to try him! It is one thing to accept judgment when it comes, though we did not ask for it. It is another thing to come to the place where you will ask for it, because you see the **need** of it! It will only happen when one has been brought to the place in God's dealing that he recognizes his own inability to judge himself accurately! Until judgment has come, there can be no righteousness maintained in our daily walk. Without walking the path of righteousness, there can be no going on to perfection. Without going on to perfection, we will never be able to see God, for He dwells in perfection! We must be just like Him if we are to see Him as He is in the Holy of Holies! I John 3:2,3: Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath his hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

In Romans 6:10 it tells us that when Jesus died, "He died unto sin once." In our experience we die to sin today, but tomorrow we might very well come alive to it again, because we do not put it off once and for all. We do not deal with it in our mind in an eternal way. We just deal with it in a temporal way. We think, "I know that this should not be in my life, so I am not going to yield to that today. I am just not going to let that manifest anymore." But we do not really get it to the cross. We just push it out of the land ... for today. The next thing we know, we are tempted again in that which we put off before (today we are weaker), and we find that because it was not crucified and buried, it is back to get us entangled and overcome us! We can then end up with our last state being worse than our first!

Can you see the need for judgment to come to your house, that which will actually destroy the works of the devil? Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to make an

open show of him, to defeat him completely. If you do not kill an enemy, he will retreat for a season, muster more forces, and come back in greater strength.

Therefore, we want to put our foot right on his neck. In order to put your foot on the neck of the enemy, you have to recognize who the enemy is. The enemy is not just the one who comes to tempt us! The enemy is the **nature inside** us that can be tempted!

Therefore, judgment does not need to come upon the serpent, although he will be judged. God has created and released the serpent to test and to try us because we cannot get serpent bit, lest we put our hand to the hedge which God has put around us. God's hedge is His word of truth, which we must receive and believe together with the leading of His Spirit. In Psalm 91:11-12 it says: For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

God has sent the angels of **His presence** to lead us in the right way. It is the hedge that God has given us, and as the hedge is there, the Scripture says, "Whoso putteth his hand to the hedge shall be bitten by a serpent." You are not to remove the hedge that God has put around you. I have seen God build hedges around people to stop them from doing the thing that they were determined to do. Instead of the person honoring the hedge that God had put around them, they interpret it as being an obstacle placed in the way by the devil. They put their hand to the hedge and they pushed right on through it. When they did, they got their way and ended up serpent bit.

God wants us to realize beloved, that every word which He speaks to us is not just to bring us into a bondage to Himself, but that we may know the things which are true. The truth is essential to keeping us free from the bondage of sin and in the path of righteousness. In other words, God's purpose is not just to rule over us; His purpose is to lead us and to guide us in the way of the truth and in the way that

leadeth into life everlasting. We need this guidance, because it is not in us to know the way. All that God does is for our sake and our benefit. He does it to help us and to supply what we cannot supply for ourselves. Until such time as we become thankful for His provision and understand our dire need of it, we will make the same mistakes as Adam and Eve, who changed the truth of God into a lie; exalted themselves as wise, made their own judgment, lost their garment of righteousness, were found naked and attempted to hide (cover themselves) from God when He came in judgment and wrath! What motivates us to hide from God is the fact that we are proud and we do not want to be exposed. We do not want the shame of our nakedness to be seen. However the Scripture says in Proverbs 28:13: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

God's problem is to bring us to the place where we will confess the truth and forsake our sins, so that by His **mercy** and **truth** our iniquity can be purged.

In Job, we can see how God accomplishes this. The first thing He does is bless us, knowing our pride, knowing our ego, knowing our selfishness, God makes us the greatest man in the East ... for a season. As each one of us has been dealt with by God and has come through that time of God's blessing being upon our life, we have been like a rising star coming out of the East. We had our recognition and our reputation and were in the hall of fame among our brethren, being called upon to speak in all kinds of meetings and to give our testimonies - God moving through our life and doing marvelous things. It was like the disciples who had joined themselves to Jesus. Jesus had chosen each one, taught them, and sent them forth one day, two by two. He had seventy of them, and it had been a wonderful experience following the Lord. The greatest experience of all was still in front of them the day He sent them out. They were learning marvelous truths, and they were hearing things that men had desired to hear from the foundation of the world

and had not heard. They had the most marvelous teacher that had ever walked this earth, and were under his ministry and were in discipleship to Him. He was a master that was being recognized by all; it was a tremendous thing to find themselves in fellowship and in company, and even a disciple of this man Jesus. He was really stirring things up and people were paying attention, and He was becoming very popular. It was obvious that God was with him, for no man could do the things that he was doing, lest God be with Him. Then one day Jesus said to His disciples, "OK, men, it is time for you to be exercised a little now. You have come to the place where I want to bless you a little more. You have been under the teaching and it is now time to put a little of this into practice. I will send you out two by two. I want you to pray for the sick; and I want you to raise the dead; I want you to cast out devils; I want you to do cures; and I want you to let the people know that the kingdom of God is come, right here on earth. It is right here at hand and it is time for men to repent and to come into the kingdom. I want you to go forth and declare the kingdom with power, confirming the truth by miracles that you will be performing. It is going to be a great time! Now, go out there and have yourselves a great time. God will be with you." And the disciples went forth in the power of the Holy Ghost. It was just like Jesus said - every time they prayed someone was healed; when they ran into someone that was demon possessed all they had to do was speak the word, and the devils were subject to them and they came back rejoicing over the power of God that was upon them and their ministry! They said, "Lord this is marvelous - why, you have one of the greatest ministries that the world has ever seen - surely you are the Christ, you must be the one that we all have been looking for what else could happen that would be greater than what we are experiencing? We could take the whole world for you now, because we have the power of the kingdom of God, all the power of God and heaven is right here with us - we found that the very devils were

subject to us. This is marvelous." Jesus said, "OK, men, now that you have tasted and seen that the life to come is good, now that you have had a taste of the power to come and the new heavens and the new earth that we are going to bring forth in this next age, now that you have had a foretaste of the power of the life to come, I think that you are ready for the next in line." And they said, "Go ahead, we are ready." Jesus said, "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will have no life in you." They said, "What was that?" Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whosoever eateth me and drinketh my blood will have eternal life. And if you are not willing to do so you will not have any life." They said, "Eat your flesh and drink your blood?" He said, "That's right. Eat my flesh and drink my blood. Let me explain it to you. As I live by the Father, even so ye shall live by me. As the Father hath sent me, I propose to send you. As I live by the living God, even so, ye shall live by me. Therefore, let me explain it to you one more time. Whosoever shall eat of my flesh and drink of my blood hath life.

And if you do not, you will not have life." They said, "Lord, that is a hard saying! Who can hear it?" The joy that they had just experienced, that tremendous experience of being anointed ministries, able to heal the sick and to cast out demons, suddenly lifted right off them. They said, "Lord, it has been interesting being with you up to this point, but we will see you later."

You can see, beloved, as long as it is blessing and there is a flow of the Holy Ghost and no dealing with the pride of man, we do not mind sticking around in discipleship. Just the moment that God begins to get us in a place, having brought us through the realm of letting us taste and see that the Lord is good, and letting us taste of the power to come and of the life that is eternal and incorruptible, and then God begins to get us in a corner and say, "Now that you have come and you have tasted and you have seen that it is good, and can see the potential of this power and life, are you ready to let me do the work **in you** that will bring you to the full

inheritance of it?" And what did many of His disciples do at that point? They walked away! They are still doing it today. People do not mind sticking with the Lord as long as there is power and the joy bells are ringing. Let the party take on a serious note, and let things begin to come forth in the strength that is needed to do the work **in us**, that must be done **in us**, and we find at that point some people lose their enchantment with it all. When they do, they do not walk away saying, "Well, I was just not able to take it." But they begin to do what man always does and that is, they pass judgment on what they reject, instead of on themselves, and in so doing, they are heaping coals of fire upon their own heads. It is the test that God has us all in. I will tell you what causes people to become disenchanted with the Move of God. I will tell you why the devil is upset with this Move of God. It is because we are teaching that unless you eat His flesh and drink His blood, that you will have no life in you. That is what people do not like about this Move of God. They will follow along as long as there is recognition and blessing, and as long as you do not talk about judgment and their sins. When God gets ready to do that real circumcising work in the heart of man, you will find that most will lose their enchantment with the Move. They lost it in that day with the Move of God, and they are still losing it today with the Move when it gets to that point. This is why people turn back. Let's not mistake it. It is not because the Move is wrong. It is because they do not want to expose themselves to the judgment of God. The last thing that man wants to see is the truth about himself, and the thing that we **must** see is the truth about ourselves, if we are going to be made the righteousness of God and lay hold on eternal life.

You might think that Job, who had pretty good credentials and was called the greatest man in the East and had been blessed by God, would have been a little bit different, because as we go on in the scriptures we find that God releases Satan to come and try Job. After the devil had destroyed his household and all of his goods, after he had

lost everything that God had given him through calamity, and affliction had hit him, he was filled with boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. In Job 2:8 it says: And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal, and he sat down among the ashes.

All of his household had turned to ashes. You might think what a terrible thing for a man who had received such blessings from God to have nothing left but ashes, but you have to remember that the Bible says He will give you beauty for ashes! Can you see that we have to first get from God that which is the blessing. We then have to let him turn it into ashes, so that we will have the ashes to exchange for the real beauty of holiness that God wants to bring us into, which we must have in order to see Him!

Job is now coming forth in God. He was in the right way. He did not understand it and was misinterpreting the things that were happening to him, but he was careful not to curse God. In verse 9 and 10 it says: Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

We can see Job maintaining his righteousness. Although all this is happening to him, there was no brokenness in him yet. He was still maintaining his integrity.

In chapter 32, we find that Job had some comforters that came to him, some counselors! We find lots of these in the move of God - Job just had three, but we generally have more than that around who are always able to discern that there is a problem but never come up with the answer. They always say, "Look, I know there is something terribly wrong and how can this be the move of God; look at what is happening. After all, when we walk with God these kind of things do not happen. If this is really the true move of God everybody would be righteous, everybody should be sweet; there should not be any backbiting or any strife, there should

not be any talking about one another or rubbing each other the wrong way. When you are really moving with God none of these things happen. There is no calamity when you move with God. Everything is smooth. Why, it is like a river... with stones in it! And the stones just roll along!

We all know how it is supposed to be in the house of God, but as we look around, we can see that's not the way it is. We all can see problems, and we all complain and murmur and say, "This ought not to be! I do not know why God does not judge that situation over there.

Why, have you heard what is going on in this place and have you heard what is going on in that place, and have you heard how they are fighting, and have you heard about the division over here, and what so and so did, and you know so and so just left." And all these things are happening all over the place and we are saying, "What is going on? This is the house of God? This is a mess!" So we can find the fault because there is plenty of it to be found, but how many of us can find the answers, that can put our finger on the root cause to really explain why all this calamity has come. How come the house is in such a mess?

Who can put their finger on the real reason, the real root of the problem as to why it is in a mess. You know we even pray and say, "God, these things ought not to be and for your great name's sake remove it." But God is not going to remove it for His great name's sake until it has done the work **in us**, so that His name can be declared by a people who have been made just like Him!

God's purpose is not just to remove the affliction. The Scripture tells us in Proverbs 26:2: As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

Therefore, if we find ourselves in it, we are in it because of a problem that is most likely hid from our view. The real root of it is in us, yet hid from our view. The root of Job's calamity was in him, yet hidden from his view, and it was also hidden from his friends view. Therefore, they could not

find out the problem and neither could he. So for about 30 chapters in the book of Job, they exhaust themselves finding fault and insisting that Job had done something wrong or all this calamity would not have come upon him. And all the time Job is resisting all the arguments against him and saying, "How can I, the greatest man in the East, the one who is upright before God, who eschews evil and loves righteousness, a man who has sat in the gate, and out of whose mouth has flowed the wisdom of God, how can a man like me, a man of honesty and a man of integrity have a blemish? There is nothing wrong with me. It is just because God has found occasion against me and counts me for his enemy."

Even though God had been blessing Job so greatly, He still had not brought him to a place where he could see himself accurately. Until God comes in a certain manifested way, there is no way for us to know the truth about ourselves. We will judge by the way it looks to us. Until the light dawns, rises within us, which enables us to see properly, we cannot see accurately what the real truth is.

Job had not yet come to the place where he could see the real truth about himself that God was bringing him to, and all Job's wise counselors had exhausted themselves. Job 32:1 says, "And these three men ceased to answer Job because he was righteous in his own " Job still maintained his own righteousness. Then in verses 2 & 3 eyes.it says: Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, yet had condemned Job.

Now you can see that God hates both of these things. God is not going to go along with any of this kind of conduct, where we would justify ourselves instead of God and that we would find fault and not have the answer. Note that if you are moving in these ways that you are not moving in a way that will cause God's favour, grace and blessing, to be upon you,

but His **wrath!** We read in verses 4-6: Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he. When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled. And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.

You will notice in the scripture that God always pictures the spiritual one as the young man. If you will think about it for a moment I am sure you can realize why this would be true, because it is the second born, it is the second man in the natural, who is the younger man and is always the spiritual man in the plan of God. The first born is always the old man, the natural man, and God is teaching us that wisdom does not come with age! It comes with anointing! In verse 7, 8 and 9 Elihu says: I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand **judgment**.

Therefore, you can see that just because you are the older person in a situation that does not mean that you have the superior wisdom **in** that situation. God is going to use the anointed person. Now Lord, why would you use the younger? If you are going to bestow your anointing upon somebody at least you could respect my age and let **me** be the one since I am the older, to have the wisdom in the matter.

Why do you insist it be the younger? Can you see His purpose? What is He after? What is God trying to deal with in man? It is his pride! Now if it is not a blow to your pride to have the youngest one in your midst to come forth with the greatest wisdom, I do not know what is. But you see that in every way God moves, He moves always to deal with the pride that is in man. If I rise up in my pride and say, "Who do you think you are? Why, I was teaching the gospel when you were still in the cradle." Who

is speaking ... the anointing? Why does God do it that way? Why doesn't he honor the wisdom of the older man? Because the greatest thing that God has to deal with in us is PRIDE! Therefore, He is going to put the truth in the mouth of babes to see if we will humble ourselves and pray so our land can be healed. Do you get the picture? There is none of us who are going to come out untouched.

We all must be broken. God is going to perfect us in ways that we would not choose, that in fact, we would exercise diligence to avoid, and if we succeed in avoiding it we avoid our perfection! For He takes the wicked in their own wickedness; He takes the crafty in their own craftiness.

We can see God had not yet brought Job to the end of himself. We see how God continues to move, He uses the younger one in the midst to bring forth the wisdom that caused the rest to stand silent. In chapter 33, verse 1-7 Elihu says: Wherefore, Job, I pray thee, hear my speeches, and hearken to all my words. Behold, now I have opened my mouth, my tongue hath spoken in my mouth. My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart; and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly. The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. If thou canst answer me, set thy words in order before me, stand up. Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.

We can see how it is when one begins to move by the Spirit in a situation to bring judgment, to bring the Word of God, to bring the answer, to put their finger on the root of the problem causing such affliction as Job was suffering. For Elihu was able to see by the spirit the root cause of Job having to go through such problems! It was not because of anything Job had done! It was because of something within that was hid from Job's sight. The thing that was hid that could not be seen by Job was the fact that he would justify himself instead of God, that he had not done anything. It was just the attitude that he would take when **apparently** he

was suffering unjustly. So God has to put us in situations where we have done nothing **apparent** that causes us to have to suffer such things. It looks like we are suffering them unjustly.

We have to suffer things that are in our sight unjust in order to be tested to see if we will justify ourselves in the situation or God. If we say, I do not deserve what is happening to me, I have examined the situation carefully, I have done absolutely nothing to bring all this calamity upon me. What are we really saying? We are saying that God is laying upon us more than is right, something that is not just.

Now Job thought that God must not be aware of what all was going on or this could not have been happening. Either that, or God counted him for an enemy and had marked him just as a man whom He had rejected. You see, Job could not conceive that the problem could be in himself; he could not see that his attitude was the problem, that his willingness to justify himself instead of God was the thing of which God was trying to make him aware. What is it that works in man that causes man to justify himself and say, "I do not deserve something?" What is it that would keep him from saying, "I must have some fault in me or this could not be happening to me. There must be something in me that I am blind to, even though I cannot see it, because I know God is just!?" Until we have really been dealt with by God and our pride broken, we will not take that position. The Bible also teaches in Job that Leviathan, the devil, the dragon, is king over all the children of pride. Before God can be our king, this pride must be broken. God will drag us through hell and back to break that pride. Amen! But thank God He will! Job was going through his hell to get there. Elihu continues speaking to Job in chapter 33:7-9: Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee. Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of thy words, saying, I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me.

This is what Elihu heard Job say. Certainly Job had not said that in those exact words, but it was in what Job was saying. He was declaring this very thing before God, "I am clean, I am innocent, I am without transgression, neither is there iniquity in me." Verse 10 says: Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy.

That is the trouble. The trouble is not with me, but it is just that God counts me for his enemy. You see, man always sees his problem as outside himself. In verses 11-17 it says: He putteth my feet in the stocks, he marketh all my paths. Behold in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man. Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters. For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep doth fall upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide Pride from man.

God wants to deal with this pride that is in us, that causes us to resist the very dealings of Him! That which makes us blind to our own faults! That which causes one to refuse to believe they are responsible for what is happening to them. Job came to recognize (and so will we) that God is a just God and that He will not lay upon man more than is right, that He does not do without purpose or without cause everything that He does. Everything that is happening to you, God is altogether aware of it. How many times have you wanted to bolt and run out of the very circumstance that God had put you in? The reason that you wanted to run was because of the pressure that was upon you. Let me tell you that the pressure that you were feeling was the pressure of God trying to break through your self-pride to get to you. When we see our need for God to do that, we'll stop wanting to run from that situation and from that conflict and from that calamity. We will just stand still and humble ourselves and pray. When we do, God says I will hear and I will heal your land. Glory!

The devil would like to get us engaged in all kinds of programs and works for God. He said "Look at all God has done for you ... you ought to do something for Him." But you see, God does not need a man to work for Him. The Word tells us God is not worshipped or served by the works of man's hands. God does not need anything. We are the ones who have the need. The devil desires to sidetrack us into doing those good works for God, when we are in deliverance ministries, or going out and winning souls. It is just to get you busy doing something that would avoid judgment coming to your house.

You know, for the sake of the ministry, for the good of the world, better you be occupied in serving others than seeking God to judge your house. But the world is not going to be delivered except by a first fruit company who also themselves have first been delivered. It says in 11 Timothy 2:6: The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

In Job 33-18-23 we read: He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain: So that his life abhorreth bread, and his soul dainty meat. His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen; and his bones that were not seen stick out. Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand to shew unto man his uprightness:

When man finds himself in this situation, when man is in such affliction like Job, if there be a messenger around, an interpreter, one who can come in the anointing of God and show what the root of the problem is, why one is in such a straight place, why one is in such affliction, it says! Obviously there are not many who are able to do this, one among a thousand, who can show unto man God's uprightness. Man is so busy trying to cover himself, that he has no time, no sight, or no ability to comprehend the righteousness of God. He does not see that God is moving

righteously in everything that is happening! Man judges by the visible instead of the invisible. His attention is so much upon self and the unjust thing that is happening to him that he cannot see the righteousness of God. He cannot see there is some fault in him that God is trying to bring to light, that if he will allow God to do what He has purposed to do and allow this affliction to serve the purpose for which God has brought it, that it is going to bring forth, like a fire, the impurities out of this man. It is going to bring to the surface, like the refining pot, that which must be brought to the surface and skimmed off so that we can have a perfect sterling character inside, one without fault and without flaw. However, man is so preoccupied in defending himself, justifying himself, and so filled with pride that he will not allow God to get through to him and he will not humble himself. He just maintains his integrity.

God knows how to make a fire seven times hotter! You see, the Lord is making clear here that the problem can never be resolved, the purpose of this affliction can never be realized, lest there be an interpreter, someone to come and help the man who is blind to his own fault see the root cause of this affliction. It says in verses 23-26: If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness: notice what happens in verse 24: Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom verses 25 and 26: His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth: He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness. Verses 27 and 28 are very important parts: He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

When proper light and judgment comes that enables us to see the truth about ourselves and about God in every situation, then the purpose for which it has come is fulfilled! As soon

as the purpose is fulfilled then God says, "Deliver that one from going into the pit, his flesh shall be fresher than a child's, he will return to the days of his youth, there will be restoration, there will be healing in that land." God will say, "I have found a ransom, deliver him." But unless we come to judgment, righteous judgment in the matter, we are still trapped, hopelessly in the dilemma, and all the while going down, down, down, down, into the pit of death, perishing in our own corruption! There is no renewal, there is no healing, there is no deliverance from the bonds of corruption until there comes proper judgment, until we render unto God what is God's, that He is righteous and that we ourselves are at fault. What does that do to your pride? It destroys it. And that is what God is after. Think of this. God only wants to deliver us from our righteousness that He might clothe us in His righteousness the moment that we are willing to cast off our garments. You say that you would be ashamed of standing before the Lord naked! You do not have to worry about it. If you take yours off, He will cover you with His. It is just getting yours off that is the problem. If we are fools enough to do it, we will prove ourselves to be wise. The world hates us when we walk this way because it strips and judges the man of pride. A man of pride cannot walk this way. It is against his nature and it is against everything he stands for. Jesus was a man who came and walked this way and he said, "The world does not love me because I testify to the world that its deeds are evil." What was the testimony that the world bore of him? They said, "You call us evil; you are evil." He who is judge of the world judged the world. What did the world do? Accept the judgment? The world turned right around and judged Him. When Jesus comes to our house, what do we do? When He came to Job's house, what did Job do? Judgment came to Job's house, God came to Job's house. Job was asking for God. He said, "If I can just find God" and God was there judging him, for God was in that calamity; God was there. But instead of Job judging himself, he judged God. We

do it all the time, and until we stop doing so our land will not be healed. Job 33:27: He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

God is looking upon each one of us. God is waiting to hear, "I have sinned and perverted that which was right and it profited me not!" The thing that stops our deliverance is our justification of self. The moment we come to the place where we will stop doing that, God says, "If any say. . ." Listen, **"if any say!"** If our relationship with God is not what it should be, let me tell you why it is not. He has not yet heard you say that, because His word says, **"if any say:** God it is not you who is at fault! It is me! If my relationship with you is not what I think it ought to be, it is not you who is at fault, Lord, it is me! I have perverted that which was right, and it has not profited me, Lord." Watch out! He will clothe you with His righteousness, deliverance will come. Try it! When we let judgment come to our house and we judge things right in God's sight, we are on solid ground and God will open up the windows of heaven, pour out His blessings, and deliver us. God will say "Deliver that one," and your life shall see the light - you will see the face of God with joy. You will not be ashamed and want to hide when He comes, because you will have a proper robe of righteousness upon you, not yours, but His.

As Elihu continued to speak with Job in Job 35:1-8 Elihu spake moreover, and said, Thinkest thou this to be right, that thou saidst, My righteousness is more than God's? For thou saidst, What advantage will it be unto thee? and What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin? I will answer thee, and thy companions with thee. Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds which are higher than thou. If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art, and thy righteousness may profit the son of man.

The fact that we come to righteousness does not do anything for God, it does something for us. The fact that we sin does not do anything against God, it does something against us. Therefore, all this is not for the Lord's sake, but it is for our sake. As we wake up and realize this truth then we will no longer resist the potter's hand, we will no longer fear the judgment of God coming upon our house, but we will desire it to come. We will say, "Lord, bring it. Try me, prove me. Get me in those circumstances that will cause any wicked way to be brought up so that this house can be purged, that I might go on to fulfill the purpose for which you created me and be made one in the Father and in the Son. Until it first happens to us and **in us**, it will not happen to the rest of the world. There has to be a first fruit company that goes through the deliverance. The deliverance is not that bad once pride has been broken. Once you break that old pride, once that thing has been broken down, it does not have the power over you like it had before. Then you will find that it is not so bad to walk humbly before thy God. In fact, it is a relief. You do not have to try to maintain that old image any longer. As long as you have an image that you don't want to be tarnished, or appear imperfect before others, you constantly work at it to keep it up. But once God has shattered that all to pieces you have nothing to maintain. It is like getting rid of your house, your car, your job, and everything at the same time. All those things that required your labor and constant attendance, you suddenly have been delivered from it all that you might be free to serve the living God.

How wonderful to be delivered from having to maintain false images and to be made free to worship God in Spirit and in truth! Jesus said in Matthew 11:30, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." It is your yoke and your burden that is the load! His yoke and His burden is easy and it is light! Praise the Lord! What a marvelous deliverance to no longer have to maintain that image that we always valued so much.

If you have ever had a prized possession you were always scared that someone was going to steal it or break it. You know that you can be under such tension worrying about losing things, suffering the loss of something valuable, that it is actually a relief when someone finally breaks it or steals it. You say, "Thank God, I do not have to worry about that anymore!" Well, think what a relief it will be when we do not have to maintain our facade any longer. People will point their finger at us and say, "Those poor people can't even make a decision on their own." That's right! . . . I don't know anything, as I ought to know it! But then neither do they, only they don't know it! The world killed a man once who said that he did not know anything, and never met anyone who did. He said that there was only thing that he did not know, and that was that he did not know anything, and had never met a man who knew any more than he did. That is the state of man. What are we apart from the Lord? The Bible says nothing! What do you know apart from Him? Nothing! And it is a blessing when you know that you do not know anything. You are in a terrible fix when you know nothing and you think that you know something. It is even worse when you believe that you know everything, and have all the answers. Praise God for deliverance! We find that when God brings us to this place of deliverance before Him, we can then humble ourselves and can pray and receive deliverance! God said, "I have found a **ransom**, deliver that one." A ransom is a price, and there is a price to this free gift of deliverance. You have to swallow your pride. Glory! Death swallowed by life!

As things progress in Job 36, Elihu gives Job a warning in verse 18-22, Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke; then a great ransom cannot deliver thee. Will he esteem thy riches? no, not gold, nor all the forces of strength Desire not the night, when people are cut off in their place. Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction. Behold, God exalteth his power: who teacheth like him?...

Elihu said, "Job, you have chosen iniquity rather than affliction, you have chosen to judge wrong (i.e. to justify yourself) in the situation rather than to accept the affliction. Choose the affliction." Why would he say to choose the affliction? Well, embrace the affliction, recognize that it is from God, accept the affliction as something that has come upon you, that God is working for your good to reveal and bring out that imperfection within you that it might be purged out! Elihu said, "Instead of choosing the affliction, Job, you have chosen iniquity, you have chosen to justify yourself instead of God!" Let me show you why Elihu said this. In Isaiah 48:9-11 it says: For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver, I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. for mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

The redemptive work of Christ does not refine us. That is not the work that God uses to refine us! It is not the work that Jesus did for us, but the work God wants to do **in us** that refines us! Though we have been redeemed with silver, (i.e. the death of Christ), we have not been refined with silver. What refines us is this furnace of affliction. Job had been redeemed as far as being in a relationship with God, Job had been under the grace and blessing of God, but he had not been refined. God had to destroy the blessing Job had first received and turn that blessing into ashes. Why into ashes? Because Job was in the furnace of affliction where the refining work is done. When one is in that furnace of affliction like Job, being refined, their spirit is heaviness, their joy is turned into mourning and their beauty to ashes! But then the scripture teaches us that if that one will say, "Behold I have perverted that which is right and it profited me not," then God will say, "Deliver that man, he has come to the knowledge of the truth ' ' " And his life shall see the light and he will see God's face with joy. As it says in Isaiah

61:3, God will turn their mourning into joy and their ashes into beauty and their spirit of heaviness into the garment of praise!

Though many are called only a few, the Scriptures say, shall be chosen (see Matthew 22:14). When is one chosen then? Whenever God redeems them by the blood of the Lamb or because Jesus died for them on the cross of Calvary? No, that is the means to the calling; but that is not the means of the choosing. How come there are only a few chosen? Because when they get into the furnace of affliction they burn up before they will lose their pride. They justify themselves, choosing iniquity (which is any self-serving act) rather than justifying God!

We need to understand and get the vision of what God is doing and see what His purpose is in putting us in that furnace of affliction. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they were put into the furnace? Because they were faithful to God, the only thing that burned up were their bonds and they came out not even smelling of smoke! Hallelujah! If you are in the furnace of affliction, you will find, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that there is another, man in there with you, one who promised that he would never forsake you or leave you! If you will yield to Him, He will bring you out. He will show you the purpose for which you are there. The only thing that will happen to you is that you will lose those things that have been binding you hand and foot. Let us be understanding of God's ways and let us see how we come to the inheritance of the first born, the double portion!

By the time we get down to Job 37, Elihu has spoken by the spirit of the Lord his piece and has shown forth his opinion in the matter. Once God's servant comes onto the scene and speaks God's word, you can be assured of one thing, that God is going to show up and confirm it! It is one thing for an anointed ministry to be there and it is another thing for God to operate by the spirit within the hearer to cause him to perceive the truth of what the anointed

messenger is speaking. God had to be there on the scene and God did show up, but how did He come?

In Job 38 it tells us in verses 1 and 2: Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

How did the Lord answer Job? He answered him out of the whirlwind and said, "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" Who is this who is moving in the dark counsel of his own knowledge? Who is this that is moving in the dark counsel of his own imagination? When Eve looked at the tree of knowledge of good and evil she saw that the tree was good for food and she saw that it was desired to make one wise. By what faculty was she able to see that? It is called the imagination, because she had never eaten the fruit. It was not by revelation experience that she knew that, but it was only by imagination!

We need to understand God's full program. Everybody likes the beginning of the program and the end of the program, but how about what is in between? As we see in Job, at the beginning it is blessing and at the end it is double blessing! Those are good things, but in between is the furnace of affliction! At the beginning it is redemption with silver and at the end it is inheriting the kingdom riches of silver and gold and precious stones; but in the midst it is the fiery furnace that brings it all forth! As we understand the program, then we will not be shocked at the fiery trials that come to try us (I Peter 4:12-13). Let us understand that we are in the way that God has chosen and that it is through much tribulation that we enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

Job had judged himself by imagination and not by truth. It was how things looked to Job based upon his image of himself! We make decisions like that all the time based on our imagination. We say, "It would be so good if I could go over here and do this. It would be so good if I could make a trip and do that. It would be so good if I could go home and do this or that! How do we know? On what are we basing

that judgment? Vain imagination! It may be good or it may be a disaster. That is why we need to ask God before we move! He can tell us whether it is going to be good or not. The knowledge of good and evil is not in man to discern. Only God knows whether it is going to be good or evil, for it is based on what God says and not on what we determine by our imagination. We are all guilty of building our kingdoms by imagination. How many times do you use the word "imagination" in your vocabulary. Start counting it. You say, "I imagine so." I challenge you to see just how many times you use the word "Imagination" and, how many times, when you have had a chance to check out your imagination, was it reliable? We have people telling us quite often that they have heard the ministry on tape and "now that we see you, you look nothing like we imagined you to be." That is how reliable our imagination is!

I remember back before TV that there were popular characters on the radio and I imagined what they looked like. One day I would see a picture of them and they never looked like what their voice indicated. Our imagination is very unreliable. We ought to be afraid of it, instead of having so much confidence in it. There is only one source of truth that is God. When the Lord tells us then we know; until then, He only knows. The truth is with the Lord!

After God showed up as a whirlwind, He begins to ask Job a lot of questions. He said, "Job, since you have so much wisdom and since you have so much light and are able to judge things so accurately, then let me ask you a few questions. " For 3 or 4 chapters the Lord asks Job questions and Job finds himself sweating more and more before the Lord. His self confidence runs out. He no longer has all the answers, like he did with his counselors. Job begins to realize he is in trouble.

When God shows up there is that searching light, that God Himself is! There is no darkness, there is no shadow or variableness of turning, there is just pure light. When He comes, the light pierces right in becoming a discerner of your

thoughts and of the intents of your heart, the innermost ones. Job said he could tell by God's questions that nothing, not even the thoughts of men, could be hid from Him.

"Lord, you have stripped me and you have laid me bare." In verse 3 of chapter 42 he says: Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Job knew a lot of things until God showed up. He knew how righteous he was, but now he was discovering that he was uttering things that were beyond his capacity to be speaking about. What is happening to that man's pride? It is tearing apart. It is being demolished. Job is being brought into such a wonderful place. It is the place one comes to just before God is ready to give you a double portion of His blessing, the full inheritance! You are totally undone. You have been a righteous man, the greatest man in the East.

A brother once told me that some of the folks are under such oppression in the Move right now that they do not appear to have the freedom that other Christians have when they come together in some public places. He sees other Christians speaking freely about the things of God and rejoicing in the things of the Lord but that some of our people are under such oppression right now. He was wondering about the situation, and had a burden that our people would get that freedom again and a release within themselves. I shared with this brother, because God had been dealing with me in this area and it was fresh in my own mind, and said, "Brother, I think I can understand what is going on somewhat because if you had spoken to Job when he was the greatest man in the East and under the blessing of God, you would have heard a different conversation from him than if you spoke to him in the furnace of affliction. When Job was the greatest man in the East, he was sitting in the gate with all his wisdom pouring out of him and everything was a blessing. It was obvious that God was blessing him, that the grace of God was upon him, that he

was God's called, God's favorite in the world at that time. He was the greatest man in the East; there was none greater than he! Don't you know that the conversation in the gate with the brethren when Job was in that standing before all must have been a tremendous experience for Job! They were all looking upon him and they were all saying, 'Why, he is the greatest! There is none like Job. What a righteous man. Look how he feareth God and look what a just and honest man he is.' And Job is going around saying, 'Well, fellows, do not lay it on too thick. I am humble and meek after all, the glory belongs to God! I would be nothing without Him. But God has chosen wisely because He knew that I would never say anything against Him. I would never curse God with my lips. I would die before I would curse Him.' "

Job almost did curse God before he came to the knowledge of the truth. However if you had been talking to Job later, it would have been a different conversation. There would have been a different spirit, and in fact, you would have thought that Job must have done something terrible. How could all this happen to Job? Surely he must have transgressed God someplace! Job was very close to the double portion at this point! The only thing that stood between him and the double portion was, would Job let God break his pride? That was the only thing that stood in the way! It looked like total calamity; it looked like everything was lost. He was sitting there in the ashes of it all without understanding it, and he was a fraction of an inch away from the double portion and everything hung on what Job would do! Would he refuse the truth, or would he acknowledge the truth? In verse 4 of chapter 42 it says: Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

At one point Job said "I am demanding of you, Lord, I would like to know why you are allowing this to happen to me because I have not done anything to deserve it." He thought that he could demand of God and require God to give an answer as to why it was happening to him, but God does not

give an account of any of His doings unto man. God does not have to give an account of **any** of His doings unto **us**. He is bringing us to judgment, we are not bringing Him to judgment! He does not have to explain to us why He is doing what He is doing. He is testing us to see who we will justify, and teaching us that He does not move without doing things justly. He is a righteous God and He will not lay upon man more than is right. He will not allow Himself to come into account with any man.

Job was rehearsing his own foolishness of attitude toward God when he said in verse 4-5: Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

Job was now in the Presence of God, and in the Light of His Presence was able to see clearly what he could not see before. He could see God as He is, **holy** and **just**, and he could see himself. Therefore, in verse 6 he says: Wherefore I abhor MYSELF, and repent in dust and ashes.

You see, the truth is that we have to see God first because until we see God we will not accept the circumstances as just or understand why they have come. We have to see that God is righteous in the things which He has allowed to come upon us. The moment we see that God is righteous it enables us then to see that we are not, and that, therefore, God has not unjustly done, nor without cause done, what He has done. The moment that we come to that knowledge of the truth, like Job did, where he says in verse 6 "Wherefore, I abhor myself," the pride is gone, it is fully destroyed. There is no more integrity left in Job. The integrity now is all in God. Amen! Job 42:7-8: And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job,

and offer for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept...

Once we come through then God is ready to restore and acknowledge us, and the ones who were the judges, in order to be reconciled to God, will now have to come and accept your priesthood and ministry in order to be brought back into a right relationship with God. Notice another little line here. Verse 10 says: And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends ...

Therefore, the captivity was not really turned until it was manifested that there was no bitterness in the heart of Job because they had condemned him. You see, God works it all together for good. They could not get back to God except through Job, and Job could not get released until he prayed for them. I love God's ways. **We all have to come out loving one another and being made one, that is, being made perfect in one.** It is beautiful the way God does it.

And it goes on to say in verse 10: ... also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Job came into the double portion. Do you know why you get your first portion? It is so God can turn it into ashes in the furnace of affliction that He might destroy your pride! The first portion always serves to make you the greatest man in the East, but the furnace serves to make you like God! We are not refined by the silver, but in the furnace of affliction! We are not chosen when we have just been redeemed with silver, but we are chosen in the furnace of affliction where we are tried so that all iniquity can be purged! Though all is destroyed in the furnace, it is only an investment. You get a double portion when you come out. And God will have brought forth His perfection in you!

Do you think that you can get your double portion some other way? I do not believe that you can. I believe that you have to go through the furnace of affliction. I do not think that silver or gold can secure our inheritance for us. I believe that it can only be done in the furnace of affliction. Therefore in James 5:10-11 we read: Take, my brethren, the

prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

God is not really out to destroy us! His purpose is to perfect us! He does not really want to burn us up. He just wants to refine us and bring us forth as something better than silver and gold. He wants to bring **you** forth - a **son of God** - in **the** image and **glory** of God! Amen