

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#75

WATCHMAN'S WARNING

By Joe McCord



One of God's Originals
An Anointed Preacher of the Word

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Rev. 10:1-11:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swear by him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he had declared unto his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again, and said, go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples and nations, and tongues, and kings.

We have heard many times the truth that the word in the New Testament-the Greek word "Angelos" that is normally translated "angel" -is really a word that means messenger. Therefore, particularly when you find these angels that are in the book of Revelation, it is not primarily talking about wing-flappers, even though we are aware that there are literal spirit beings-angelic beings~ in the heavenly realms. It is really talking about a

corporate messenger of God, a ministering company; these angels appearing in the latter days in the earth.

I have seen for some time, and I know that other ministries have, too, that the angel-messenger here in the tenth chapter, of the book of Revelation is really referring to the two-thousand-year-old body of the Lord Jesus Christ coming from the heavenly realm. I believe that the message of this particular angel in Revelation ten is a word that is brought by a corporate body that is part of that messenger that comes particularly at the culmination of this age.

We have been hearing a word today telling us that if we want to be in that company that manifests life, then we must allow the Spirit of God in this hour of purging, in this hour of judgment, in this hour of dealing, to truly cleanse our walk in him.

We can see in this scripture the characteristics that are going to be in this messenger who brings forth the life of God. For John said the first thing that he saw about this angel that came down from heaven is that he was clothed with a cloud. Now, a cloud is a covering, and we know that in Old Testament Israel when the hour came that God, through Moses, led the people of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt, the word of God tells us that as they traveled in their wilderness journey, they had the cloud over them by day and the pillar of fire by night that covered them. We have already been hearing a word today telling us that if we want to be in that company that manifests the life of God we must yield ourselves to be clothed with that cloud, that is, with the covering ministry that God has provided for us.

And yet, I have noticed that for many years in this part of God's move, we have heard over and over and over again the word "covering," "covering," "covering." You have heard a ministry say to you over and over again "Stay under your covering, stay under your covering, stay under your covering." Some have even questioned why the ministry continues to say that. They have attributed it, perhaps in some cases, to some sick, weak thing that they think is in the ministry, feeling perhaps "They want us to stay under them so that they can rule over us in some natural, carnal, fleshly way," the way ministries from time to time who have not understood covering in its purest sense have. But I have found that although the word is spoken and thrown around over and over again, we have

many people in our midst who do not really understand covering.

Some time ago, I was in a certain assembly and there was a brother there who had invited me and the elders in that local assembly to come to his house for an evening of conversation with him. The reason he wanted us to do that was because this brother, who had been really somewhat on the fringe of the flow in that assembly, even as far as his attendance at the meetings was concerned, was desiring to take a certain step and make a certain decision. And if he made that decision there was a potential, if the assembly went with him in it, that it could effect that entire local assembly. And the brother wanted me and the other elders to sit in his home and discuss the thing with him, which we did one night, from seven o'clock until about midnight, because he wanted those local elders to sanction and give their witness to the step that he wanted to take.

The only problem was that the local elders had said to me, "We cannot really give our witness to this for several reasons, but one reason we cannot is because we do not believe this brother is really under the covering of our ministry." They said, "We have never seen in him any real indication of awareness or need to be covered by us. We have never seen in him any willingness to really commit himself to the anointing of the spirit of God that is in us and really be covered by us. Therefore, we do not feel we can cover him and don't feel we can give our witness."

But he sat in the living room across from me and said, "Brother Joe, I consider myself not only committed to this move of God and not only committed to this word and not only committed to this truth, but I consider myself to be under the covering of these brethren here, and I am frankly a little bit mystified as to why they do not see that I am under their covering, because in my heart, I believe I am."

But as the evening went along and the conversation progressed, I picked up something, and finally, in order to really touch the thing at the root, I decided I'd better ask him a question. Now, before I asked him the question, I pointed out something to him. I said, "You know, brother, the Word of God says that the confusion in these latter days in the earth is going to become so

intense and so great, that if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived. Now, I am convinced it says **IF** it were possible even the very elect would be deceived, because of the fact that it is not possible. Those who truly are in the elect company cannot be deceived."

Brother Buddy Cobb was sharing with me a while back, saying that one of the ways you know the elect is that there is something in them, deep inside, that no matter how much confusion is around, they cannot ultimately be deceived. I see that is really telling us that it is impossible to deceive and sidetrack those who are the elect of God from their ultimate calling of manifesting the fullness of Christ.

Although it is impossible for them to be ultimately sidetracked from manifesting that calling, that, of course, does not mean that it would not be temporarily possible, even in their journey toward perfection, for the elect to hear a voice at some point that temporarily sidetracks or deceives them. Therefore, you find that Abraham in the Old Testament, who was definitely the elect of God, got temporarily sidetracked by a wrong voice and entered into union with his bond maid Hagar and produced Ishmael, and the whole thing was one big mess, although God still worked it all out. But because Abraham was the elect, the son of the promise, Isaac, still came forth, and the purpose of God in him was still fulfilled. He could not ultimately be deceived. But the whole reason that the Word tells us in first John to test the spirits, to see whether they be of God, is because it is possible, even if you are the elect, at some time to hear a wrong spirit and be temporarily deceived.

I said, "Now, Brother, I want to ask you one question. Do you believe it is possible, no matter how many times you have heard rightly from the Lord, no matter how close to God you are, and no matter how much He has used you, and no matter how anointed you have been in the past, do you believe that it is possible that you could hear a voice that you feel absolutely certain is the voice of the Lord, and in fact it be the voice of another spirit? Do you believe that it is possible that you, therefore, could be deceived?"

He paused for a moment and looked across the room at me and he said, "No, I have been led so correctly so long that I really do not think it is possible."

I said, "Well, Brother, we just solved the question as to whether you are under the covering of this ministry or not, because by that statement you have let me know that you are not under the covering of this ministry. The statement you just made has made it crystal clear to me, and I am sure to everybody else in this room, that you do not even understand the need for a covering, because you are convinced that every time you hear that inner voice speaking, it is impossible for you to be deceived. That is the greatest possible deception that anyone could fall into, and you are not under their covering."

Yet that man had sat there all night long saying, "I am," and he did not even understand what a covering is. So I went ahead to explain to him. I said, "Listen, those of us who are really committed to the covering principle in the word of God have had to let the spirit of God break us and deal with us and humble us enough to realize that any of us, no matter how anointed we are, including the most anointed apostolic ministry in our midst, no matter how many times we have heard rightly from the Lord, no matter how long we have walked with Him, yet it is still possible that there is another voice-the voice of an enemy spirit-that will speak to us and temporarily deceive us in our journey. It is because of the fear of that happening that we have submitted ourselves to a corporate covering, a ministry around us that can test those spirits and protect us from that wrong voice. That is what it means to be covered. You have to come to that place, before you can be under any covering, of really facing that and really seeing that need."

Another principle of covering we have sought to move in, in this part of God's move on the earth today, that some have not understood is that, as Brother Sam Fife used to teach, the ministry that is mature and wise will seek to govern God's people, not as much as possible, but as little as possible.

In the same way that God governed Old Testament Israel from the smallest place in the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, from the smallest piece of furniture in that tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, and governed that whole Tabernacle from that place where his Shekinah glory dwelt, that ministry that is a wise ministry in God will not be seeking to suffocate the people, or ever get their leadings for them, or ever tell them what to do, but

will always be there to leave them free to hear the voice of the spirit of God and wait for God to deal with them until they come to the place of humbly recognizing that they could hear a wrong voice and therefore desire to be covered by that ministry. But it is never, never, ever the calling of that ministry to get your leading for you, or to hear the voice of God for you, because you are all capable of hearing the voice of God. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice." It is only the calling of the ministry to protect you when you hear a voice you think is God and is, in fact, a wrong voice. It is not their calling to govern over you as much as possible, but to leave you free to grow up and mature and be able to hear the voice of the Spirit of God, covering and protecting you, but governing as little as possible, not as much as possible. Therefore, we have also always taught in this move of God that, when it comes to the word that does come forth through this voice of many waters, this corporate messenger, every one of you is absolutely free in the Spirit to witness, whether you believe that word when it is ministered, or whether you do not believe it, because we cannot impose doctrinal truth upon you, and we cannot impose spiritual principles upon you. They can only truly become a part of your life as you, through your union with the Spirit of God, witness to them and allow the reality of them to be worked in your inner being and in your inner man. Therefore, we also have taught that when the Spirit of God leads you into a corporate body-life situation or when the spirit of God leads you into a corporate farm, that there is an order for the corporate life in that house and the corporate life in that farm, and that order comes out of the belly of the corporate ministry. Elders govern over the body of Christ, and they receive the order of God for that farm, in the same way that the governmental order for the United States of America came out of the belly of George Washington and the fathers that God was using in that hour to establish this nation. Therefore, when you are in that corporate situation, whether it is a house or a farm, when you go there, you are committing yourself to submit, not to the individual personalities of the ministry of that farm, but to submit to the principles of order that govern it, to the governmental order of God that has come out of the belly of that ministry. Now, when you are living in that house

or farm you are still free to not witness to all those principles of order, but if you live there and have committed yourself to live there, you should submit to those principles of order. Otherwise you are free to leave. You are not free to stay there and do your own thing. That is still the problem with all of us—we want to do our own thing. I was going to Birmingham, Alabama, to minister for a night. Brother Wayne Gentry from Alaska drove me, and we had a beautiful sunny spring afternoon, driving across the freeway in Georgia and later in Alabama. As we were driving along that day, Brother Wayne turned on the radio and picked up a gospel radio station. We began to listen to some of the gospel music coming from this station, and it was certainly entertaining, to say the least. There was a girl who came on singing, "I'm gonna jump down, touch the ground, turn around and praise the Lord," and I thought, "My, that is 'edifying'?" But eventually a fellow with a combination rock-country beat came on, and he was singing a real "beauty" that went basically like this: "Me and Jesus got our own thing goin', me and Jesus got it all worked out, me and Jesus got our own thing goin', don't need nobody to tell us what it's all about." And I said to Brother Wayne, "That is the theme song of half the people in this move of God." That is the theme song of the individualistic nature in all of us that says, "Well, bless God, I do not really need to be checked and covered and balanced because 'Me and Jesus have got our own thing going,' and we will work this whole thing out and I do not need any ministry, any covering, any check and balance to tell me what it is all about." Now, that is the thing that has to be broken in us! When God leads us into corporate life on 'il farm, in a house, or whatever, there is a principle of order that governs the life on that farm or in that house, and that order has come out of the belly of the ministry that is the covering. When you go there you are saying you will submit yourself, not to the individual personalities of these ministries, but to the principles of order that God, through them, has brought forth. There may be some to which you do not witness, and you are free to not witness to them, but if you have committed yourself to live there, you are not free to move against that order. You are only free to leave. Because there are principles of order that have been established, not by the

word through one father apostolic ministry, but they have been established and witnessed to by the whole corporate ministry in this move of God. They have been witnessed to by countless elders in this move. They have been confirmed by prophetic ministry as visions have flowed from coast to coast and from shore to shore, and those are established as principles of God in our midst, the "voice of many waters. You are still free to not witness to them, but if you have committed yourself to a corporate situation, you are not free to not move in them and to do your own thing.

I was ministering on a farm in the North about a year and a half ago. One of the elders sat down with me to discuss a problem they were having with their young people on that farm. He said, "Brother Joe, we are having some real difficulty here because the young people on this farm are in the cabins at night listening to rock music on the radio." I said, "Well, Brother, that should not even be permitted here, because there is a word that has come forth in this move through the voice of many waters. There is a very clear word that the Spirit of God spoke through Sister Ethelwyn Davison some time ago that was witnessed by all of us in the ministry, that was witnessed by countless elders across the land, that was confirmed by prophetic ministries from shore to shore, and it has been confirmed by the voice of many waters in this move that there is a principle that will tell anybody with understanding that rock music is from the pit!" Even "Little Richard," one of the worst, sickest, most demon-possessed homosexual individuals who ever walked the face of this earth, who has recently been saved and filled with the spirit (My memory of him from my youth was this screeching voice screaming "Good Golly, Miss Molly" and some other things that were worse) since he has given his life to minister now for Christ, will not touch rock music. He will not even sing gospel songs that have that beat behind them. He says it is the same spirit and it is from the pit. Brother, you talk about some changes going on! He said, "I told God, 'God, I am a homosexual. I cannot help it, I was born this way!' " He said, "God told me, 'No, you were not born that way. I make men men and women women!'" And he said, "I just plain had to face up to reality." I said to the elder, "Listening to rock music shouldn't even be permitted,

because as a principle of order on this farm, they are not free to do that. They are free to leave the farm and listen to all the rock music they want, if they don't witness to that truth, but they are not free to live here if you, as elders, would enforce that order." And he said, "Well, Brother Joe, the problem is some of the elders on the farm. It is their children who are listening to the rock music, and they don't want us to enforce that principle of order too strongly, because they are afraid if we do, maybe their children will leave." And I said, "Well, Brother, if you do not as an eldership get together on this, you are going to lose every young person on this farm." And they did just about lose almost every young person on that farm. But, praise God, although it became a pretty messy situation, recently the spirit of God moved upon us to witness for a brother to go in there who understands order. The people, by this time, were broken enough and humble enough to want to be clothed with a cloud and to want to be covered, because they had gotten desperate. Now we have seen the spirit of God take a farm situation that was one of the worst and, by His grace, it appears it is going to become one of the best, because they are learning the need to be clothed with a cloud. These are some of the areas where we really need growth.

I was on a farm up North very recently. There was a nineteen year-old young man on that farm. The elders insisted that I, with another elder, counsel with him as soon as I got to the farm. The reason is because God had sent an unsolicited dream through a Prophet ministry. It was one of the scariest dreams I think I have ever read in my life. It indicated that that young man had a call of God on his life, and that God was not going to play around with him. If he would not yield and answer to that call, his very life was in danger. We sat down with him, in love, and I said, "Listen, son, if somebody had a dream like this about me, I don't think I would sleep for three months!" I said, "You really need to see the seriousness of this and let it work in you the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom." And he said, "Brother Joe, you know what one of my problems is. One of my problems is rock music. I have not listened to it for three or four years, but, because when I was younger, before I had any experience in God and before we came to this farm, I listened to so much of it that now, three and four years

later, I can walk across this property and hear the words of Mick Jagger (who, by the way, is a satanist and a devil worshipper), and I will hear the words of Midnight Rambler and all that other garbage ringing in my ears." The spirits that are behind that thing have sought to destroy his mind. We dealt with him firmly and lovingly, we had prayer with him, and we left. I got a phone call from the elders on that farm about three weeks ago. They said, "Brother Joe, this young man decided to leave the farm. He decided to go into town and get himself a job." They said, "He went into Fort St. John, and the first day he was there he got a job. That evening in town he was walking down the street and an old knee injury began to work on him and suddenly the cartilage in his knee locked. He fell flat on the streets of Fort St. John and could not walk. He had to be taken to the hospital, where they had to operate on the knee." The two elders talking to me on the phone said, "We were just with him in the hospital, and he said that he did not really let it work the fear of God in him, that it should have worked when you gave him that dream, but he said he sure understands it now! Brother Joe, we believe he is really being dealt with by the Spirit, and he wants to come back to the farm. We feel we should bring him back with us, but we wanted your witness, since you had counseled with him." And I said, "Yes, brethren, bring him back, but bring him to all the elders there and explain to him that, although the word of God to him this time is that God is bringing him back, this does not necessarily mean that it will be the word of the Lord next time. It is going to depend every time on the voice of the Spirit of God through His covering, and therefore, he had better let it work some seriousness in him." Beloved, we had better all let the word that we have been hearing these last two or three days really work some seriousness in our spirit. Because, time after time, He has shown us mercy, but we are coming to an hour when things are closing in and none of us knows about next time. And everyone who (praise God) is in this company who manifests the life of God is going to have been broken enough to see their need for a covering. They are going to be in that mighty angel that is clothed with a cloud.

Now, one other principle of covering is that a covering is there for those who want to be covered and

see their need to be covered. I was really burdened, and I still am, for the brother who sat across from me in that living room and said, "I believe that I have always heard right and I am going to hear right every time. I do not really think I can be deceived."

I have also been burdened, until recently, for a sister in this move of God who is a spiritual daughter of mine.

Shortly after she came to this move, due to the marriage that she was in, she was in a situation where she could not be where there was a covering, and she could not regularly flow in body meetings. Because it was in the will of God, and there was nothing she could do about it, the Spirit of God spoke sovereignly to that woman in ways that have astonished me over and over again. But, until very recently, I have been concerned that the thing she does not know, that I and some of the other ministry up here do, is that that can be very dangerous, because there is a spirit of the enemy that will allow you to hear right three hundred times in a row, just waiting to set you up one time. And the time he is going to set you up is when you have finally come to the place that you have heard right for so long that you do not believe that you really need to be covered, that you do not believe that it is really possible that you really could be deceived. Recently I learned that this sister was being pressured by some people, some elders in the move who knew that I had been something of a spiritual father to her, to keep in touch with me and to call me and to write me and tell me what she was doing. I finally wrote her a letter, and I said, "Sister, there is one thing I want you to understand very clearly. You are not under any obligation to be covered by me. You do not have to write me, you do not have to call me; you do not have to counsel with me. God knows that we are busy enough now, that we are not out looking for more people to counselor, for more people to call us on the telephone. But I want you to know that a covering is there for those who see their need to be covered, for those who are aware of the danger of deception and for those who therefore willingly and freely express to the ministry and demonstrate to the ministry their awareness of that need. It is a principle in the spirit, you see, it is not a law."

But I will tell you, we have come into an hour where those who are going to grow up in Him and those who are

going to be in this mighty angel that manifests life are going to be those who are clothed with a cloud. They will deepen their relationship with God to be able to hear the voice of God, but they will humbly submit their leadings, the important ones, to the covering of this corporate, many-membered man. Then it says that a "rainbow" was upon the head of this angel. The head, of course, is Jesus. The rainbow is the battle bow that was put in the cloud back in the days of Noah when God made a covenant that He would not destroy the earth by water any more, but He said, "The next time I will do it by fire," and it is a symbol of the covenant relationship that you and I have with Father God through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. And you know something, I believe that those who enter into life are going to be those who have done business with Him on the basis of that blood covenant. I believe they are going to sense a security in His unconditional love for them. They are going to know the truth of that scripture that says, "We are accepted in the Beloved."

I do not want to get entangled in the age-old theological debate that has gone on for centuries between the fundamentalist Baptists on the one side with their so-called "eternal security" doctrinal saying that once you are saved you are always saved, and the Armenian section of the church that the Pentecostal group has gone in with, that because it came out of the Armenian movement, says you are not saved always once you have been saved, because if you fall into sin you are lost again and have to keep coming back, because the Word says you are in death, and get saved over and over and over again. I do not want to get into that debate because I have long seen that the way they teach it, both sides are wrong. For you see, it is true that once you are saved you are always saved. The only problem is that nobody has been fully saved yet. Our spirit has been saved. It has been quickened and made alive. But right now God is in the process of saving this soulish man-bringing your mind and your will and your emotions under the dominion and under the government of your spirit. When that has been done, then the last step, which will be the putting on of the redeemed body, is going to take place, and then you will be fully saved. And that is why the Word says that those who endure to the end shall be saved. So many

build an image and then strive in their flesh to meet that image, whether it is a fundamentalist image, whether it is a move of God image, or whether it is a Pentecostal image. It is not a pure work of the Spirit of God within, because they never have entered into the security of that covenant relationship. They are still striving to gain the approval of God, not recognizing that they already have been accepted in the Beloved. And that is the reason the mental institutions are absolutely full of religiously sick people. That is the reason the majority of the demons in it are religious demons. The huge numbers of people who are there are sick, and they are religiously sick because of false images they have built and spirits to which that has opened the door. But there is a company coming forth that will rest in that part of the work of Jesus, that finished work that has been done for them, as it has been pointed out in this convention. There is still a side of it that we have to enter, not through our striving, but through our yielding to the spirit of God.

Therefore, this mighty angel has a rainbow on his head and it says, "His face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." Now the sun, of course, the light of this world, is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I believe this is telling us that those in this many membered man who manifest life at the end of this age will be those who have entered into a living relationship with the Father through the Son. Though they are aware of the need to have the life in them corporately checked and balanced by the life that is in those around them, they are also aware that they individually have a vital, intimate, personal relationship with the Son of God. They will not use corporateness as an escape to avoid being dealt with personally and to avoid the deep dealings of a personal relationship with the Son of God.

We had an elder on one of the northern farms share a dream that he had recently. I believe it is a very timely word. He said that in this dream, which was very vivid, he was in a great valley between two mountains and a war was about to begin. Camped in this valley were all the various end-time bodies in army camps, bodies that are scattered from South America, through the States, Alaska, Canada, and the Far East. Because he is an elder on one of the northern farms, he found himself on horseback riding back and forth, observing the members of his body,

who were gathering together, mobilizing for the war. As he rode on horseback, a word came to him that there was a courier, a messenger, in the camp and the messenger was looking for him. The courier came up and asked his name and said, "I have orders to bring you to headquarters right now." This brother got on his horse and followed the courier. The courier took him up a steep, steep mountain incline that went higher and higher and higher, and it reached the clouds of heaven, and it went up beyond the clouds to a very, very high outpost on the top of the mountain where the headquarters was established. He got off the horse and went into the headquarters, and when he walked inside there was a big military position room, and, suddenly, out of a side room, Brother Sam Fife and three other father ministries in this move, all of whom are still on this side of the veil, came walking out of that side room. He saw that in this position room, at one side, there was a great big bay window overlooking the valley below and overlooking the other mountain. Three other generals came out of this side room, and only Brother Sam Fife spoke, and he looked at the brother and called him by name and said, "Come over here. Look out that window and tell me what you see." The brother said he went and looked out the window, and for a minute he did not see anything. The other three men and Brother Sam Fife were standing there. He looked back at Brother Sam, who said, "Tell me what you see down there." He looked, and over on the other side of the valley he saw on that mountain top the gathering of the enemy forces, and suddenly a shudder went through him, because there were thousands of them, and he said "Ohhhhh." Brother Sam Fife said, "Now look down at our camps in that valley and tell me what you see down there." He looked down. The sun was starting to set, and it was starting to get dark. He looked and he saw that among all the bodies that were gathered in that valley below, there were some who had a light in the camp, and there were some who did not. And he said, "What I see is that, as this battle gets ready to take place, some of our camps have a light burning in them, and some of our camps do not have any light burning in them." Sam said, "That is right." He said, "Before this battle starts, every last one of those camps has got to have a light burning in it. That is your job." Our brother said that then he was led

into a side room where other father ministries, including Herb Myers, Buddy Benton, and others who have crossed over the veil, were also there, and they all gathered together. They were holding torches in their hands, and a torch was put into his hand. It was dark now. He was sent outside the headquarters and climbed onto the horse, knowing that it was his calling to go down into that valley to make sure everyone of those camps had a light burning in it. And he said he got onto the horse and began to travel down that steep mountain incline with a horrible sense of seriousness, of soberness, over the task that was before him and the hour that he was in. He said he woke up from this dream at about three thirty in the morning in a cold sweat, trembling and shaking from head to foot. He got immediately onto his knees and said, "Father, what meaneth this?" Well, one thing it means, beloved, is that we really have come to the hour when everybody who is going to be in this mighty angel had better be clothed with that cloud and stay under that covering, and be nurturing their individual relationships with the Son of God as never before, and have their candlesticks burning and their lamps lit, because the great latter-day warfare is just before us.

We have begun to war in the spirit as never before. A couple of weeks ago I was having some various battles in my mind. The Spirit of God woke me up at about three **am** in the morning and said, "You are not warring against flesh and blood." I have talked to some ministries in this convention who have said they have just been in a warfare in the realm of the spirit. I have talked to one or two with physical battles who say, "God has shown me that what I am really battling is a spirit-battle," because we are coming into that warfare against principalities and powers such as we have never known, for the final sifting of God is going on, to finally separate those who will manifest the life of God in this mighty angel messenger.

Then it said "His feet were as pillars of fire," because of all the principles to which we have long said "Amen" under the anointing mentally, all the truths in which we have long rejoiced, all the revelation about which we have long shouted, there is now coming a dealing of the spirit of God, a purging and a burning, in order to "burn our feet" and bring those things into the reality of a walk in

Him. If there is one thing I believe I clearly heard as I have been sitting here in this convention, it is the desire of God to actually bring us into a walk in holiness, a walk in righteousness, and a walk that is pleasing to Him. I have found myself sitting here thinking, in a sense, it would not matter if I never preached another word; I have been finding myself sitting here, not caring about that in the least, but saying, "God, bring me, by the dealing of your spirit, into a walk of righteousness and holiness," because the feet of that messenger are beginning to burn as pillars of fire.

"And he had in his hand, a little book open," it says, and he set one foot on the sea and set the other foot on the earth, and began to cry with a loud voice like a lion roaring. And when he cried, it said, "Seven thunders uttered their voices." I believe the two feet of that messenger are a many-membered company, coming at the end of this age to actually walk out the life and principles of God and of Christ. And I believe the two feet of that angel are a two-witness company that is prophesied in the book of Zechariah, where it speaks of the two witnesses who have always stood before the Lord of the whole earth, who are the two witnesses of the eleventh chapter of the book of Revelation. I have always been able to fully affirm and witness to the truth that Brother Sam Fife preached, that those two witnesses, those two who have always stood by the Lord of the whole earth, are the apostolic and prophetic ministries, for the word of God says in Ephesians 2:20 that the Church is built upon Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone, with the apostles and the prophets as the foundation. I believe that what the Word is talking about is a many-membered man coming at the end of this age and manifesting the Spirit of Christ in fullness, coming with a word and a life and a nature that is going to enable them to put one foot upon the earth, which is the carnal, religious system of this world, and another foot upon the sea, which is the masses of humanity, and to bring a word that will finally judge and cut a people loose from the earth and the sea and bring them into heavenly realms. I do not believe that it is talking about one company of prophets over here and another company of apostles over there. I believe it is talking about a many-

membered man, manifesting in fullness the nature of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is the apostle and the prophet. He is going to manifest the light of His glory and His nature in the dark hour at the end of this age in a many-membered man that will cry like a lion roaring and expose the deception and the darkness that are in the earth and the sea, to cut a people loose from it and enable them to soar in the heavenly realm of the newness of life that is in Him.

I ministered a word about a year ago last winter in Lubbock on the sealing of the sons of God. I recently got a letter from someone saying to me that, as she is going through the present dealings of God, that word is coming back to her again and again and again. She said to me, "I feel as though we are living in the calm before the storm." That witnesses to me, and some of the prophecy in this convention has indicated that. She said, "I keep thinking about the word you ministered on the sealing." In that word I pointed out that when God judges the earth and sea in these last days, He is going to judge them by allowing them to be deceived, for it says in Thessalonians that, because men do not love the truth, God sends them a great delusion, that they should believe a lie. It does not say the devil sends a delusion. The devil is just a messenger-boy to bring the delusion; it is God who is sending it to those who do not love the truth. Now, there are two extremes in people that really burden me. They burden me that, by God's grace, I stay free from them myself. Sometimes, if they were not so tragic, these extremes would amuse me. One is the extreme of those who say to me as that one brother did, "I do not believe I can be deceived," which is the greatest deception you can know. The other extreme is the precious, fearful people who live in a paranoiac fear of deception. They are always afraid to hear any new truth. They are always afraid to penetrate beyond the letter of the word into the spirit of the word. They are always afraid of any new and different revelation that comes along. They are petrified that some Jim Jones, some Maharashee, some false prophet will come along and lead them down a garden pathway of deception, and half of their prayer life is spent on their knees saying, "Ohhh, God, please do not let me be deceived." I see a key truth they have not gotten hold of yet. God is

increasingly impressing upon me that the only people who get deceived are the people who want to be deceived, and beloved, you are not going to be deceived in these last days unless you choose to be. Those who are deceived get deceived because they do not love the truth sufficiently to search it out and face it at all cost. Therefore, in some area of their flesh where they do not want to be dealt with, where they do not want to go the way of the cross, the enemy comes along with a spirit to feed that area, and they quickly reach out and buy it and get deceived, and the great delusion has been sent them because they did not love the truth. Therefore, if you want to avoid deception, love the truth, seek the truth at all cost, and do not desire to be deceived. Cry out for light, *cry* out for truth, cry out for understanding, cry out that God will bring it to you through His Spirit, through your brethren, through the covering ministry that He has given you, and cry out, "God, let me see it and face it at all cost." I can guarantee you that, if that is the real desire of your heart and the genuine, sincere cry of your heart, you will not be deceived in these last days.

I have come to see how great and progressive the deception out there in the earth, in the carnal, religious system has become in this hour, and the time that we have reached in that deception. Though I touched on some of this truth in the past, God has given it to me clearer now, and therefore, bear with me as I share it with you. I came to see how late the hour is when I read a book two years ago entitled **THE FINAL CONCLAVE** by an author named Malachi Martin. Now Malachi Martin is still a loyal Roman Catholic. He has been up at the highest levels of the Catholic hierarchy. He was an associate of Pope John XXIII and worked intimately with him. But he wrote the book, **THE FINAL CONCLAVE**, to expose what was going to happen in the conclaves after Pope Paul VI died. He wrote it some months prior to Paul's death when he knew that Paul was terminally ill. When he wrote the book, he would not let them put out any galley proofs on it. He did not want any advance reading of it. He had it mass-distributed overnight through his publisher all across the nation, because he was afraid that if anybody read it ahead of time, the Roman Catholic Church would close in and suppress the book because it contained a number of secrets that were not known to

even twenty men on the face of this earth prior to his writing of it. And so far as I have been able to ascertain, the book reviews pretend the book does not exist. It appeared all over the country for a few months, then suddenly disappeared. The Roman Catholic Church never talks about it, to my knowledge. Everybody acts as if the book does not exist. In that book, Malachi Martin pointed out that, prior to the death of Pope Paul VI, the Kremlin had made a proposal to the Vatican. They said, "If, when Paul dies, you will elect a pope who will promise us that neither he nor the Church will ever officially criticize international communism, when finally, in our election we control Italy, we will promise you that we will give you freedom of religion. We will let you keep all your property in this country and allow you to continue to operate within our bounds as a church." Now please understand the fine lines here. They did not say he cannot speak out individually against communism and criticize it. They did not say you have to stop the priests from saying negative things about communism. What they said was, "We do not want any corporate official proclamation from the Church or the Pope criticizing international communism. We do not want the Pope to ever speak ex-cathedra against it." Most people do not understand Roman Catholic theology very well. I do not understand it well either, but I once studied it for a whole year, and most people do not understand that the Catholic doctrine of papal infallibility does not mean that the Pope is infallible. It means that when the Pope speaks ex-cathedra in his capacity as the vicar of Christ or the representative of Christ in the earth, when he speaks ex-cathedra on matters of faith and morals, that statement is an infallible statement. Now, that has not even happened more than five or six times in the whole history of the Roman Catholic Church. Now it became obvious to me with the election of John Paul I that they had bought the Communist proposal. When John Paul I had his coronation, for the first time in history there were official representatives from the Soviet Union and the communist satellites there, and he officially welcomed them in his address. Not too long after that, when he suddenly died, they brought in John Paul II, who was the absolute perfect cover for this deal because, for the first time in modern history, they had a man from a communist

country, Poland. Secondly, they had a man who had individually spoken out against communism in Poland, but who, at the same time, said, "I have learned to live in a communist country and get along with the communist leaders." Anyone who really understands Marxism knows you cannot live there and get along with them without eventually being swallowed up by them. When his coronation took place, for the first time in the history of the world, it was carried live on television to the Soviet Union and the communist satellites. They bought the deal. Both John Paul I and John Paul II said in their coronation addresses, "One of our major projects now is the reunion of our separated brethren." Those are fancy words for saying, "We want to reunite all the Protestants who have been separated from us and bring them back into the fold." By the way, they were not called "separated brethren" until the Vatican council. What the Protestants were called prior to that were heretics. But suddenly, when the antichrist spirit in the time table that the mystery of iniquity has set up saw that the time was approaching to begin to bring forth the beast that comes out of the earth in Revelation 13, the false prophet ministry that builds a one-world, false, super-church; when he saw that time was progressing, suddenly the terminology changed and the Protestants were called "separated brethren." Therefore, the whole earth out there, the whole religious system, including all the charismatic ministries that are spending all their time ministering to Roman Catholics, is going to be swept into that thing in a mass deception.

Now you see, I don't feel sorry for all the Roman Catholics and Protestants who are going to be deceived by that. It is happening because they do not love the truth enough. Anyone could check and find this out. The truths that we have ministered in the Word concerning this can be searched out by anyone. The only reason they have not searched out these truths is because they do not love the truth enough to seek it, to seek it at all cost. Therefore, a great delusion is coming that is going to cause them to believe a lie. And the masses of humanity that are getting swallowed up in the sea, in the one-world government they are building out there, are deceived by it because they want to be deceived by it.

I am going to cite some quotations, on which I will comment. Then I will tell you who these quotations are

from. " ... That is why Marxism represents a further vital and creative stage in the maturing of man's universal vision to a greater extent than any previous mode of political thinking. Marxism puts a premium on the systematic and rigorous examination of material reality and on guides to action derived from examination. It has been said earlier that Marxism, disseminated in a popular level, in the form of communism, represented a major advance (notice these words, "a major advance") in man's ability to conceptualize his relationship to his world, in spite of its materialized determinism it carried, and that was the source of much of its appeal, an essentially ethical message. Marxism, born of the social upheaval produced by the combined effects of the industrial and national revolutions, provided a unique intellectual tool for understanding and harnessing the fundamental forces of our time as both a product and a response to a particularly traumatic phase of man's history. It supplied the best available insight into contemporary reality. It had fused political action with strong ethical elements. *Even the entrance of a communist party into a major Western government as a coalition partner does not dictate a fundamental change either in Western relationships or in the internal character of the West. The nations of the West are in a position to go through a transitional phase, which in some cases might involve the assimilation of communist parties into their political processes.*"

Now just listening to those statements, would you say that the man who wrote them is a communist? Would you say that he is a very strong Marxist? I believe you would. Wait till I tell you who the man is. But before I do that, I understand why he says that, in some ways, it seems like an ethical system. Brother Tom Rowe was pointing out very clearly yesterday morning that, when God brings forth a new society (a term I believe God, through Brother Stan Martin, has coined), it will not be this cutthroat, competitive beast nature of people fighting one another, but we will seek to distribute what God has provided for us to meet the needs of our brethren. And, you see, just plain economic communism has said, "We are going to distribute the goods from each, according to his ability, to each according to his need." That can sound very ethical. There is only one thing the Marxists and the communists of this world do not tell you, and that is that Marxism and communism and the revelation behind them

could not care less about the poor of the world. The people financing it are the wealthiest people on the face of the globe. They are financing it because they want to eliminate the middle class so that they, the elite wealthy, can govern over the whole thing and build a world slave state. And so they used a man by the name of Marx to foster a philosophy that said, "The masses must overthrow the Proletariat, the wealthier classes," and so forth, in order to bring forth a more equitable distribution of goods. But they do not really care about the poor. What the wealthy are trying to do is use the masses to create a revolution to eliminate the middle classes so that they, the elite wealthy, can govern the whole world and bring in the one-world anti-Christ governmental order that is prophesied in the thirteenth chapter of the book of Revelation. Some day, when God brings forth a new order, there will be sons of God, not through some Marxist doctrine, but through the agape love of God that has been corporately released in their midst. Sons who, out of a burden, out of the pure love-union of the Spirit of God, no longer moving in that competitive beast nature, will meet the needs of one another, out of love, in a distribution that is equitable, where all need is met in a new kingdom age. But it won't be the false kingdom age that these men are building. And the reason, beloved, that I know my only security is in God is because the quotation I just cited is from the National Security Advisor of the United States of America. They were written by Zbigniew Brzezinski, who is the head of all security in the United States, who controls the intelligence operations in the United States; the man whom Jimmy Carter appointed to be the National Security Advisor. Those statements are in a book he has written entitled, **BETWEEN TWO AGES**. He is aware, as are we, that we are between two ages, and he intends to be used to bring in another age, and he will, and so will we. But, praise God, the age he brings in is going to be the deception in the earth realm. Then, when it has run its course, God is going to bring forth the real thing in the purity of his agape love. But when I read that and realized who wrote it, I said, "We have got some 'security' now!" Our security is indeed in the King of kings and the Lord of lords and in the Lord God of hosts and in Him alone, Amen! Now, there is a sense in which even as I minister

these truths to you, there is a partial fulfillment of this scripture that says that mighty angel, that messenger, is going to come and put one foot on the earth and expose what is going on there and put another foot on the sea and expose what is going on there. But one day, when God manifests Himself fully in a corporate, many-membered man and the two witness company, when the feet of this angel messenger are set loose, praise God, this earth and sea are going to be judged.

Now you notice that this messenger put one foot on the earth and the other foot on the sea, and he spoke in a loud voice. It said, in fact, that he cried like a lion roaring. For a long time I have wished I could be more soft-voiced. Every time I try, I get excited and the softness goes away, but I think one reason it said this messenger cried with a loud voice is because at least part of his message that exposes the earth and the sea has to be in a pretty loud voice to shake and cut God's people loose from the false security we all tend to keep looking for in the earth and in the sea. We, the elders in Lubbock, were recently led by the spirit of God, by a sovereign dealing of the Spirit in our midst, to become burdened to start a Christian school. One night, during a season when I was home in the local assembly in Lubbock, I felt a burden to tell the people, "Do not think the Spirit of God is leading us in this direction because the word that He has given us on education has in any way changed. It is not because the word has changed that He is leading us in this direction. It is because of the validity of that word that He is leading us in this direction." One of the sisters in our assembly in Lubbock who had been taking a course in education over at Texas Tech came to me one night after the service and said, "You know, Brother Joe, as I took this course over at Tech, I came to understand for the first time the real validity of Brother Sam standing on a platform and saying that the whole educational system as the world has known it is of Lucifer, because when I studied it, I saw that it all went back to the concepts of Aristotle and Plato and of men like John Locke and Rousseau, who were absolutely sick, and men like Voltaire, who were demon-possessed, and another guy who came along in modern times by the name of Dewey. I saw the philosophy of every one of these men was tangled up in the humanism Brother Buddy Cobb preaches about, and I saw that they were

inspired by demonic powers, and for the first time I could fully see the reality of that word that the whole thing out there is of the enemy." It is not that we were ever really against education, per se. You want to be as educated as you can become under the leadership of the Spirit of God and advance and grow and understand in the mind of Christ. It is simply that we are against that carnal, Luciferian, natural, temporal educational system that is leading them into the pit.

By the way, they now have a thing in addition to the sex education you have heard about. It is called thanatology-death: education. In these courses, young people are taught, "You are growing up in a world that, despite the fact that the baby boom has stopped, is going to be overpopulated, and therefore we are coming toward an hour in the new social order when, as people reach a certain age and are no longer useful to society, the best thing will be to remove them from the scene." They are given, first of all, a role-playing incident where seven of them are in a life raft where there is only room for six, and the safety of six depends on eliminating one. Then they are given different characters in that raft, one of whom is a drunken preacher, to try to decide which one should be eliminated. Then there is another role-playing incident where grandmother has gotten to be eighty and she is not very healthy. She is no longer useful to society, and those little children, somewhere around sixth or seventh grade, gather around grandmother to say goodbye to her before she is removed. The beast is moving out there to imprint his image, his nature, his concepts in the minds of the fallen humanity of the sea, and it is because the word we have heard on education is true that God is burdening us to bring forth the pure thing by the spirit.

Even what they have out there in the earth, the so-called Christian church schools, are getting worse, and they are not going to be protected when the government really closes in because the Supreme Court of this country has said, "We are only going to protect your freedom-of-religion rights (according to the First Amendment of the Constitution) if you can prove to us that the matters of religion are to you a conviction. And most of those Christian schools out there in the system do not stand up to that kind of requirement.

Some of you have heard the David Gibbs tapes and how one pastor was in a courtroom and said, "We have a school as part of our church because we do not want our children exposed to the violence and sexual sickness that is in that school, that public school, that Philistine school!"

The lawyer said, "Well, tell me something, Pastor. Do you have a television set in your home?"

"Yes."

"And, of course, you spend time watching that T.V., sometimes with the children there, don't you?" "Yes."

"Tell me something, Pastor, are there any programs on that TV. that are violent?"

"Oh yes, it is terrible!"

"Are you always able to get your children out of the room before that violence comes on?"

"Well, not always."

Tell me something, Pastor. Are there any obscene things, what you consider obscene, unclean, sexual scenes on that television set?"

"Oh yes, some of the programs are horrible!"

"Uh huh. Tell me something, Pastor. Do you have a fine tuner on that T.V., a thing you can turn to make the reception just absolutely perfect?"

"Yes."

"Well, that is very interesting, sir, because you have just told me that, at great expense, amounting to hundreds of dollars, you are bringing into your own living room the kind of material that you claim you object to your children being exposed to in public school!!"

You see, beloved, it won't "wash:" It is not going to stand up as a matter of conviction, and therefore, God is having to call us to be separated from that thing, and it is taking a deep dealing of the Spirit of God to cut us loose from the earth, from the sea.

And, it says, that when this angel cried, seven thunders uttered their voices and John said he got ready to write down what the seven thunders said, but when he started to do that, there was a voice from heaven that said, "Don't write it down. Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not." Those seven thunders, I believe, represent the total, full unveiling of the mystery of God, which God did not have all written down in the letter of the word in this book, but the

fullness of that mystery is being unveiled through a corporate, many-membered messenger, through the part of this angelic messenger that comes at the end of the age. I noticed that Brother Eli Miller said the other night, "I don't want to steal Brother Buddy's thunder." You know that angel messenger is thundering in this hour, and there is a shaking that is going on all around us. I can tell the Lord is closing in, mountains are exploding, and I understand that Mt. St. Helen's did just that again this morning, which is a type and a shadow of, I believe, the wrath of God, being absolutely pushed to its limits until finally it explodes. We sat here on the platform this morning, and all of a sudden I thought that I had suddenly gotten a nervous stomach or something. Everything seemed to be rumbling, and I thought, "My Lord, I'm going to faint. What is happening to me? This is it!" And then I realized that it wasn't something in here. It was something out there, and there was an earth tremor that shook and had that microphone swaying for about four or five minutes. Brother, the mountains are exploding and the earth is shaking! I turned around to Brother Eli Miller and said, "I think I had better catch the next plane back to Lubbock and pray for you guys. You might have an earthquake here." There is still that fearful old nature in me that would rather not be caught in the midst of the battle, but, beloved, the word He has given us, and is giving, is to prepare us for this great latter-day battle, and the seven thunders are being uttered.

And it says this angel stood on the sand of the sea and on the earth and "lifted up his hand to heaven and swore by Him that liveth forever and forever, who created heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth and the things that therein are, and the sea and the things that are therein, that there should be time no longer." But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished as He has declared to His servants, the prophets, and I believe that angel is beginning, by the anointing of God, to sound. I will talk in a minute about what the Greek here really says, literally. You have a many-membered messenger that for some time has been declaring to you that you had better get out of the temporal time realm and quit centering your life in the temporal and yield to the dealing of the spirit of God, to rise up in the heavens and

get an eternal vision. We are moving toward an hour where, for us as a people, temporal time as we have known it is to be no more; that you are no longer to think of yourself as a temporal, carnal being, observing birthdays and having beginning of days and end of life, but begin to get a vision of yourself in the spirit, as an eternal spirit-man, called to live and soar in the heavens; called to manifest the realms of eternity without beginning, without end, manifesting the nature and the life of the eternal one; no longer bound by the carnal, low, fleshy, temporal things of the earth but, for you, time shall be no more. God give us grace to begin to live and walk in the reality of that, but the literal word there in the Greek (a better translation of it) is the word "delay," and what it is really saying is that from the time that the seventh angel begins to sound, there will be no more "delaying."

I have been thinking how, as Brother Buddy Cobb said, "God is still having to instruct us in so many realms." Do you know why? Most of the walking-truth we have heard we have said "amen" to, but we have wanted to delay it. We have said, "Yes, some day I must manifest that, some day I must **die to self**, some day I must let Him really deal with me, and that is a wonderful revelation. I will put it on the shelf for when God gets me ready some day." We seek to postpone, postpone, delay, delay, delay. Only now, what I am hearing today is the word of a trumpet message that is saying, "You had better quit delaying, because God is not going to wait for you any longer." God is not going to delay things any more from the time that this messenger begins to sound. When the trumpet is sounding, "delay" shall be no more, and God is saying, "I am going to finish the mystery of God which I am declaring through my servants, the prophets." So many live under the illusion that things are just going to go on and on and on. Next year will be like last year and the year after that and the year after that and the year after that and the year after that, but you begin to wake up to realize it isn't going to be that way when mountains start exploding and sending volcanic ash through the air, when suddenly Miami is in the midst of rioting and flames, when a Cuban dictator who said four years ago, "We are going to take the war of revolution to the streets of America," and now four years later the prisons of

Cuba have been emptied, in the same way that the Trojan horse in the old days with the soldiers inside of it was brought right into Troy, an army of them, massing on the shores of Miami. You begin to realize next year isn't going to be like last year and the year after that, and the year after that, and the year after that, and you begin to suddenly realize that all the carnal, temporal things you are hanging onto amount to absolutely nothing! When you begin to get the vision of the realms of eternity, you begin to realize that all the struggling and strivings of your flesh man, its ambition, its desire for this and that and the other thing, are suddenly beginning to be consumed by a fire that is going to show their true worth to be absolutely zero and that the one thing that you can have in that hour that can enable you to stand is His nature within you, His spirit coming forth. Your only hope is this angel clothed with a cloud, this corporate covering, this fellowship that is to be brought and deepened into the reality of the agape love of God that will enable you to be in the company that stands in light in the hour when the darkness fully sweeps across this earth and many just presume it will go on as it has. The word says time is not going to be delayed any longer.

I have been thinking of how in 1976 in December in the Lubbock convention, Brother Sam Fife stood before that convention on the first night and said, "The word that God has given me as the theme of this convention is: 'Evening shadows have begun to fall.'" There was a sister in the East on a farm who had not been to that convention and who had not heard the tapes of that convention, and about one month afterward, not even knowing what the theme was, she came to me with a dream, and in that dream she heard the words, "Evening shadows have begun to fall." Yet many sat in that whole convention and listened to that entire word and walked out of there thinking, "Next year will be like last year, and the year after that and the year after that," but you know something, some of the child education bills he warned against in that convention are law now. The inflation that he warned about in that convention has shot up to 19%. The domino theory that he warned about in that convention of Marxist Communism under its satanically inspired power, marching into nation after nation after nation and causing one after another to tumble has

progressed. In three and one-half years, Afghanistan is gone and the next thing you know Iran is going to be gone, because that is what that whole thing is really all about. Eventually they will take it over and they are marching and marching and marching and now they are even on our shores, through these masses that have just come in. When I was down in Peru and Ecuador along with some of the other ministry back in January this year, I could see signs of the consistent progress of the thing marching, marching, marching, and things are not as they were three and one-half years ago. They are not even the way they were one year ago, and they are not the way they are going to be next year or the year after that or the year after that or the year after that, because the plan and the purpose of God is progressing, and the dealings of His permitting the antichrist spirit to progress in His plan out here is going on. Now, it is not anything to make us afraid. We can abide under the shadow of the Almighty, we can be encompassed about with songs of deliverance, we can rest in the security of His love as long as we are walking in obedience to the leadership of His spirit. There is plenty of time for Him to finish the work, but there is not plenty of time to get out of the spirit and go our own way and say, "Me and Jesus have got our own thing going, me and Jesus got it all worked out, just me and Jesus got our own thing going, we don't need anybody to tell us what it's all about." The problem, beloved, with that, is that He is not going to go along with your "own thing." He is only going to go along with His own thing. Therefore, we have come to that time when we must face the seriousness of the fact that soon time shall be no more and his message, this messenger, His word is going to be finished, and He says, in verses 8-10, "The voice which I heard from heaven spake to me again and said, 'Go and take the little book (containing the revelation of God) which is open in the hand of the angel which stands upon the sea and the earth.' And I went to the angel and said 'Give me the little book.' And he said unto me, 'Take it and eat it up, and it shall make thy mouth sweet as honey.' And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter."

The Spirit is telling us that as that time approaches, we are going to have to eat and digest this word to which we

have long said "amen," and when we do, we will find that it is a word that is very sweet to our taste when under the anointing of the Spirit of God in these conventions. We are listening to it, but when God then puts us through the trials and testings and dealings and shakings of the Spirit in order to enable that word to be digested and become a part of us, we find the digestion process can get pretty bitter as He demands that we eat the word. But this is what I see really happening beloved: We are in an hour where there is a people beginning to eat and manifest this word. I was thinking of something as I listened to the truth on "love" in this convention. Recently we had a local elder in Lubbock get up one night and minister a very clear word, a brief, but good, solid word on I Corinthians 13, laying out all the principles in that chapter that are the manifestation of the attributes of God's love. I was impressed by the clarity and truth of it. As I sat there, the Spirit of God was speaking to me, and I was thinking how very often over all the years of walking in God many of us have heard love preached, love, read I Corinthians 13, and have seen that the One who loves is never seeking His own and is never puffed up. We have seen all those things and said, "Yes, that is the love of God that has got to be worked in me." And we see those attributes, and then we strive to fulfill them and find we cannot, because no matter how many sermons you hear on it, no matter how well you might memorize that chapter, for that love to be real, your nature has to be changed. Jesus did not perfectly manifest the love of I Corinthians 13 because He had a bunch of principles memorized. He manifested it because it had become His nature. Every creature, of necessity, manifests the nature that is within him, and God said to me that, for that ever to really be in you, there has to be a purging, burning fire, the fire of testing and tribulation; and finally the fire on the altar of incense as you offer yourself completely, even the Christ-nature in you, and you are swallowed up in His love. That fire has to first come and begin to burn within us, to purge this carnal, fleshly, selfish beast nature. Until that fire begins to work in you, after your Baptism in the Spirit, you are not capable of loving anybody but yourself. All that fire does in its very beginning is a burning, purging work to begin to manifest something of the nature of His pure spirit-love within

you, so that, praise God, you begin to become concerned, in some measure, about that which is outside of you. I received a letter recently from an elder up north with whom I had counseled at the last Bowen's Mill convention concerning various people who are on the farm where she is an elder. She was still corresponding about some of these needs, and in the letter she said, "I am constantly amazed at the depth of your concern for God's people." I looked at that and thought, "Me?" In fact, I picked up the letter and said to my wife, who was standing nearby, "Hon, do you think I have a deep concern for God's people?" She said, "Hmmm." And I said, "Well, I want you to read this." And I read the words from the letter and said, "That blesses me a little, that encourages me some." And I stood there saying, "I'm amazed at my concern for God's people." And my wife said, "I can tell her something else you are very much concerned about," meaning myself. You know, so often, after I have ministered the word, which has supposedly been a selfless impartation of His life, I ask my wife, if she is home or if she is in the room after I get back to the house, "Now, was that word anointed, was that alright?" It is not really that I am that concerned that the anointing fed the people, as I am that the anointing came through me to feed the people!

So, you see, that fire must burn, beloved, in order to at least get you beyond the boundaries of self, in some measure, of beginning to love Him in one another, beginning to pour out a concern that is outside of you. But then that fire is going to keep burning because, ultimately, your calling is to manifest the redemptive love that will reach out even to those who despise you and persecute you and say all manner of evil falsely against you for His sake. Now there is only one way God can work that in you, and that is to set up the circumstances where those around you despise you; where those around you speak evil falsely against you; where those around you begin, through the spirits that are working in them, even though it may be unconscious, to come against the life that is in you; and as that fire burns, there has to be that work to discover a certain truth which is:

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, water poured out of His side as He was wounded there. Let that love be

worked in you so that when your enemy comes against you, the wound in your side will reach out and send the water of His love and His word, to reach right back out to them and draw them back into union with your spirit, letting that wound in your side simply be an open door to not allow yourself to be divided from them in the spirit. Only then does that redemptive love begin to burn within you, till you have the nature He had and you can say, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they do." Or the love that Steven had, saying, "Father, hold not this sin to their charge." That is redemptive love. It is not going to be worked in you by your just knowing the attributes. It is going to be worked in you by the dealing of His spirit, by the purging fire of testing and tribulation, by the fire that burns on the altar of incense where you offer even that Christ nature within you to be consumed and to be swallowed up in His pure agape love. But do you know something? I am seeing that word begin to be digested in some saints.

Many times during the last two or three years of his life, I remember Brother Sam Fife ministering and saying, "Do you know, some day in these bodies and on these farms the love of God is going to become so powerful and real that you'll just step on that farm and the love of God will be there so thick you can cut it with a knife, and you'll hardly be able to stand the love that is in those places." He said, "You'll even find yourself wishing somebody would get out of the spirit just so we could remember what it was like in the old days!" And you know, when he ministered that, I would sit there and say, "God, help me believe that!" I would hear him ministering that, and I would look at the messes that we had around us in some of these places (and we still have some), and I would say, "God, I would like to believe that." But, to be honest with you, it was hard for me at that point, other than by sheer faith, to think that was anything but a hopeful pipe dream. But you know something, there is a work of the spirit going on, and I am beginning to see that love show up here and there. Do you know what is bringing it forth? There is also the work of the purging fire, the judgment of God that has begun in the house of the Lord, and I am seeing Him put His finger on vessel after vessel, including ministry and some of the things that we have

harbored all our lives that are in us, like reinforced concrete, and some of the spirits that have been plaguing us from the time of babyhood. He is putting His finger on them and saying, "Either that spirit is going, or you are going, but both you and that spirit are not staying in this house!" I have had Him do it sometimes when I thought maybe I was the one going instead of the spirit, because it is a thing going right to the very root of your being, but, although I have seen a few leave, you know what is happening most of the time; some spirits of the enemy are leaving and some housecleaning is going on, and there is a manifestation of love. I have begun to see it in a few places here and there. I have begun to taste of some of it. I have begun to feast in that garden that is talked about in the Song of Songs, and I am beginning to see the love of the beloved released in the pure spirit realm. And do you know something? I believe that word is going to be absolutely fulfilled!

Some of us had an early morning breakfast recently in the body in Lubbock. Well, I tell you, after Brother John Clarke had finished speaking that morning, there was an explosion of the prophetic anointing of God, and I know Brother Stan Martin, Brother Roy Mears, and others who were there can confirm with me that it must have been something like being in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, because the glory cloud, as Brother John Clark can also testify, was suddenly there in that place, and we did not want to walk out of that tabernacle! Brother John Clark, Brother Stan Martin, and some of us just stood around there, fellowshiping and basking in the light and love that was in that place, because that mighty angel is now coming down. God is going to do a work to make us eat this book, but it is sweet to our taste when we hear the revelation. Brother, you hear a word on healing and the power of God to set you free from sickness and give you divine health, and you shout, "Hallelujah!" Then you get sick to see whether you can digest that sweet revelation that you tasted, and the dealing during that time becomes bitter to your belly, sometimes literally, if that is where the sickness is. You hear a word on love, the pure agape love of God, and it tastes so sweet, and you bask in it, and then your brother looks at you the wrong way and your sister says something, and you think, "What did she really mean by that?" And then pretty soon the enemy is

beginning to close in on you. As God is bringing you to the place to see if you will digest that word, and that which was so sweet in the anointing to the taste, as God brings you through the dealing to make that word a part of you, it becomes bitter to your belly. But in the end, when it is fully digested, He is going to consume you with His glory and bring you into a new realm, and, finally, in verse 11, John said, "And he said to me, 'Thou must prophesy again before many peoples and nations, and tongues, and kings.' "

You know, I believe the word of God really becomes a part of you, really gets digested, when the spirit of God burns it into your inner spirit man. I believe in memorizing scripture. I rejoice in the body schools and in the church schools where they teach memory verses to the children. In fact, I believe if you are an adult, it is not going to hurt you to memorize scripture, but I hope you are not under any delusion that, just because you have the letter of the word memorized, that means that word is part of you. I heard of a man out our way in Texas recently who has first John memorized, and He can just stand and recite whole chapters of the Bible to you. What he cannot do is stop smoking cigarettes, because, although he has a lot of the word in his head, it has not been burned into his spirit and made a part of him, and the way God really makes that a part of you is to take you through a dealing that makes it a part of your life. Sometimes, of course, God may have you in a meeting, listening to the anointed word coming, the ministry under the anointing, you under the anointing, and suddenly light is given in that word and it becomes part of you. Sometimes God wakes you up in the middle of the night, begins to whisper a word by His spirit to your spirit and make it really light and a part of you; but what usually happens is that He gives you a scripture and then takes you through a dealing.

First Peter 2:24 became part of me years ago. The last part of that verse says, "By his stripes you were made whole." Because I went through a debilitating illness that was very bitter to my belly, I could not digest anything. God finally had me throwaway the medicine and *just* stand on that scripture for something like seven to nine solid months, until finally the healing He had promised me was manifested, and now I walk around and swallow

hot peppers while people stare at me in awe, because the sickness was taken out from the midst of me where it was, and therefore that word became a part of me.

Whenever I read Revelation 10: 11, I think of a couple of ways that scripture has been made a part of me. Years ago, I was ministering a week of meetings, before I was in this move, in a Pentecostal church on Staten Island in New York. I was there for five nights, and I was teaching on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. On the second night there was a man, probably about 40 years old, who came to me and said, "Brother Joe, years ago when I was a younger man in my twenties, God saved me and called me to the ministry, but later the devil got after me while I was serving God in the ministry and a doorway got open and a spirit of the enemy took over an area of my life, and eventually I fell flat on my face. I lost my ministry, I lost my walk in God, my faith became shipwrecked, and I have backslidden for years." He said, "God told me to come to these meetings, and to seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and before the week is over, I want you to pray for me to receive it; but there is one thing that just frightens me almost to death, and that is that now, though I have been blessed by the word you ministered the last two nights, every time that I get on my knees to pray, God gives me the scripture in Revelation 10:11:

"You must prophesy again before peoples and nations and tongues and kings." And I am afraid that if I give my life back to God, if I get baptized in the spirit and give my life back to God, He is going to make me preach the word again, and it was under the pressure of preaching the word that the enemy came in and I fell before!" I said, "Just stay in the meetings this week and later we will pray for you to get the baptism." The meetings were ending up on a Sunday morning. We had a Saturday prayer meeting all night long, and about three o'clock in the morning I was down at the altar in that Pentecostal church praying. I noticed that brother on the other side of the room on his knees, and the spirit of God made me very conscious of him. Suddenly, just obeying the spirit, I got up and began to walk in his direction, and the spirit of God spoke to me one word to tell me what his bondage was. I don't know why, I never told another soul and I never mentioned it to him, but the Lord spoke the word "homosexuality" to me, and I walked in his direction and knelt by him. I put my

hand on his head, just obeying what God told me to do, and suddenly I said, "By the power of the blood of Jesus of Nazareth and in His name I set you free." And suddenly his arms shot up in the air, and a scream like a banshee came out of the depth of his being that practically reverberated and shook that whole building, and when that thing was over, suddenly he had both hands in the air and began to pray in other tongues like a machine gun and began to literally jump around that altar. He began to shout, with the tears coming out of his eyes, "Praise God, I have been set free, I have been set free, I have been set free!" Because of that unforgettable experience, I will never forget Revelation 10:11. But there was something I did not know in those days, because I was a young, eager, zealous preacher with great zeal for the kingdom of God and a lot more zeal than wisdom. (I guess the kind of zeal that sometimes, in our conventions, sends young elders rushing to the pulpit, absolutely sure they have the next line, absolutely sure they must now be heard, absolutely sure they must now carve out a place for their ministry, not knowing that the only way to do that is to let God crucify in you the natural, carnal, ambition for that, and unable to do it even when we tell them that is the way, because it has to be a work of God.)

I had all that zeal, but I did not know that there would come an hour, not many years later, when God would call me to travel, that I would eagerly answer it despite the tearing it brought, and answer it in obedience to the spirit, until at the end of about six months all the soulish enthusiasm for travel would absolutely wear off. I would come to the point where everything in my being completely loathed it and that even the burden to minister the word would become a pressure and a weight, like a noose around my neck at one point, at times making it almost boring, at other times having me wish I could run from the burden of it, until I would have, if there was any way to do it; but every time I did, I, too, would begin to hear Revelation 10: 11, "You must prophesy again before people and tongues and nations and kings," so that God could begin to crucify the natural, carnal ambition and then begin to bring forth a purer burden in the spirit and begin to bring me to the place where I was beginning to be able to minister life instead of just truth to His people. Someday, if God ever allows this ministry to unfold to

you the exposure and the dealings that it takes to be in any measure an effective ministry in this dimension; someday, if He ever really anoints and releases this angel messenger and pulls back the curtain that has necessarily covered His dealings with Him internally and externally, which they sometimes share with one another but are not free to share with you; sometime, if God ever does that, you will sit there in absolute astonishment and awe at the dealings He must bring them through to be a covering to you, and it will kill your natural carnal ambition for anything other than the dealings of His spirit, and you will learn there is before you a corporate man that preaches the gospel. Because, like the Apostle Paul, there is the cry that says, "Woe unto me if I preach it not." But do you know something, beloved? For some of you who are called into this "firstfruits company," for some of you who are called into this "angel messenger," for some of you who are the "elect" of the Lord, there is going to come an hour when His dealing with you is finished. And the mystery of God that is sounded through this angel messenger is finished, and there is going to come an hour when there is going to be a release of the newness of life within you, and the regenerated Christ nature that is in your spirit is going to come bursting out of the tomb, bursting out of the grave clothes, just like Lazarus when the grave clothes were torn off him and he came out of the tomb. And the light that is in you in an hour when all around you is darkness is going to shine, and you, too, will hear a voice that says, "You must prophesy" again and again and again and again "to nations and tongues and people and kings," and then, one day, when that work is done, lay it all down and be consumed up into higher realms of life where we will simply minister life constantly to one another in a pure spirit realm, without ever having to prophesy or preach again. God is going to do that work because His sovereign hand is moving in this hour to fulfill His mystery and His plan, and in the day when the seventh trumpet begins to sound, the mystery of God will not be delayed. It will be finished as He has revealed to His servants the prophets. Amen.