

God Has a Dream

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with symmetrical, ornate scrollwork extending outwards from both ends.



WEEK ONE

Day One: God Has a Dream

Our God is a dreamer. He dreams big, expansive dreams! He dreams the limitless dreams of a limitless Father, and then He places the life of His limitless Son inside of our hearts so that we can perceive, receive and believe His dreams, even though they are always exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond all that we could ask or think (Eph 3:20).

God has a dream, and it is a dream of His glorious family across the earth – sons and daughters – blessing the earth as originally intended in the Garden of Eden and bringing His life to the world through them.

Genesis 1:26 & 28 (NKJV) Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...”

He dreamed this dream of His glory flowing through His children to fill the earth, and He created the earth and birthed this big, big dream that is so dear to His heart.

And then satan came along, man fell and God’s dream was interrupted. Some may think that God’s dream has changed – that somehow, His mindset is like that of mankind – to minimise expectations in line with ‘reality’. Isn’t that what people do? When circumstances don’t look like their dreams are possible, they reduce their dreams to match their circumstances? But that’s not what God did. He didn’t step back when satan entered the world and mankind deviated from God’s dream. He didn’t think of Himself as beaten, or that perhaps He had better rein in His expectations and hope for something better. He didn’t decide that He would settle for a rescue mission instead of a display of His glorious life through His children across this earth. He instead simply decreed the restoration plan of Jesus (Gen 3:15) and continued to see mankind’s destiny just as He had before.

Romans 8:19 (TPT) The entire universe waits with excitement, yearning to see the unveiling of God’s glorious sons and daughters.



What God dreamed when Holy Spirit hovered over the deep, is what He is still dreaming today. His dream has never changed. He wanted to see His life and glory flow through His children to bless this world, and He still does. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the same today as He was when He formed Adam and Eve, and He'll be the same as He is today, for as long as we're on this earth and throughout all of eternity. He is still dreaming the same dream... even all of creation does. God's dream is embedded in everything He's created. It's in all of creation and it's planted in our hearts. It's the very nature of God, planted within all of the works of His hands. If you look within, you'll find His dream there, in your heart.

God is a dreamer. A big, BIG dreamer. And He hasn't stopped dreaming... He will keep moving forward, to see His dream fulfilled.

Psalm 33:11 - 12 (TPT) His destiny-plan for the earth stands sure. His forever-plan remains in place and will never fail...

His perspective is always hope. If we're going to see what He sees, we must look through His perspective, and God's perspective is full of hope. He can't see anything but hope, because He knows that nothing on earth or in heaven can stop His glorious dream from coming true.

Soak Time

Do you understand that God is still dreaming the same dream as He dreamt when He created the world? Do you believe that He has never altered this dream? How does that affect what you have believed about yourself and about this world?

Look within. Can you discern His dream within your own heart?



Day Two: Seeing Through His Eyes

For us to understand the dream of His heart, we have to be willing to lay down what we've seen before, so that we can see what He sees. We need to wipe away all of our own ideas of eschatology (end time theology – in other words, our idea of how God's dream is going to turn out). Because God's dream will stand.

Psalm 73:17 (TPT) ...in the light of glory, my distorted perspective vanished.

Isaiah 40:26 (AMP) Lift up your eyes on high and see!

It's one thing to look. It's another thing to truly see. And we must know that we are never really seeing reality, until we're seeing through God's eyes and from His perspective.

I recently flew to from Brisbane to Vancouver (Canada). This was my first time flying across the Pacific Ocean and I was left absolutely astounded at how BIG the world is, and how BIG our God is! After all, He holds the world in the palm of His hands (Isa 40:12) and it had just taken me 15 hours in a plane to cross only a portion of it – there was still so much more of the world I hadn't even come close to seeing, and I was astounded at the thought of what God had created!

As we were flying and I was looking out the window, over the clouds, I was arrested by the realisation that everything I'd believed – which I thought was big – was actually small! That even though many people would have considered me a big thinker, capable of receiving and believing big visions from the Lord, all of my thoughts and my perspective instantly felt puny and insignificant, because I knew that God's thoughts and dreams and perspective was so much bigger still! I very clearly heard the Lord's message to my heart: *"Come up and sit with me and dream."*

I realised that God was showing me, 'Your perspective is not yet My perspective. Expand what you think is possible and lay down what you have seen as your reality, and instead choose My reality, for it is truth.'

I also realised that He was giving me an invitation and I believe the Lord invites us all into this. And that is permission to dream WITH Him, not just in Him. He said to sit with Him and dream, and of course that is already our spiritual



reality. We are already seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Eph 2:6). The blood of Jesus has made the way for us to live there, and paid the price for us to dream with Papa God. The Bible tells us that *'We have the mind of Christ, and we know the thoughts and purposes of His heart'* (1 Cor 2:16).

So get ready to dream with God! We are going to see the most astounding and astonishing things! I believe Habakkuk 1:5 is a prophetic description of what we are coming into:

Habakkuk 1:5 (AMP) *Look around [you, Habakkuk, replied the Lord] among the nations and see! And be astonished! Astounded! For I am putting into effect a work in your days [such that you would not believe it if it were told you].*

It's time to lay down our distorted perspectives and to pick up His perspective of hope. Hope is the most precious commodity on the earth today, and He wants us to live from a place of hope. To see with His eyes. To dream His dreams. And when we do that... when we really believe the dreams that He reveals to us in the secret place, we cannot help but live in undiminished hope. These are the most exciting times ever to be experienced on planet earth – what a time to be alive!

Soak Time

Do you feel excited or fearful about the times that we live in? Why?



Consider this word from the Lord and record what He speaks to you through it:

Your perspective is not yet My perspective. Expand what you think is possible and lay down what you have seen as your reality, and instead choose My reality, for it is truth. There is a way, and it's My way. There is a reality, and it's My reality. There is a truth, and it's My truth. There is a life and it's My life. Let go of your shackles, let go of your limitations. You must choose through whose eyes you will see – from which perspective you will view the world. Will you be so concerned that you be right? Or will you let yourself see what I see?



Day Three: Jesus the Dream Restorer

So God began this world with a dream in His heart and He today holds the same dream in His heart. He planted His dream into Adam (The first Adam), yet Adam lost the dream. He stopped looking from God's perspective. Instead of seeing generations of glorious sons and daughters filling the world with the life and love of God, he allowed his perspective to dwindle to the size of a single tree in a single garden and he – who had already been given the authority in the world to bring that dream to pass – gave away God's dream. Yet God didn't diminish the size of His dream, He didn't wring His hands and wonder whether He should just give up on it... God just moved forward with His plan, and sent Jesus – the second Adam – to restore His dream on the earth.

> **See:** 1 Corinthians 15:45 & 47

Jesus – the express image of God – went through persecution, rejection, betrayal and an excruciating death on the cross, when at any moment He could have called for a legion of angels to deliver Him. Jesus didn't have to die – He chose to. Jesus wasn't forced to stay the course and not deviate from the purpose for which He came. He chose to. What does that tell us?

Jesus' nature is not failure – it is victory!

Jesus (who is the express representation of God), when He hung on that cross, didn't come short. He was able to say *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). He had completed down to the last detail, everything God had sent Him to do (John 17:4). He didn't quit halfway, He didn't back down, He didn't diminish His purpose. He left heaven and came into the world for a specific purpose and He fulfilled it down to the last detail. Then He put His **'It is finished' spirit** inside of us so that we could be **'It is finished' people!**

We have to know that just as Jesus didn't give up halfway when He was hanging on the cross, He isn't taking us out of here with this thing half done either! God's dream, which He has nurtured from the beginning, will be fulfilled!

He's got great plans. We only have to open our prophetic ears and sit with Him in heavenly places and dream and we will be filled with such hope that we will hardly be able to contain ourselves. There are prophetic words that are yet to be fulfilled in the Bible of the body becoming one (John 17), the nations being



discipled (Matt 28:19), and even whole nations being won in a day (Zech 2:11; Isa 66:8).

There are numerous prophetic words that have been spoken over Australia – that the last great move of the Holy Spirit will come from Australia and extend to the nations. We haven't seen these incredible things yet – but we're going to!

We are not in a time for sitting back, cutting back, or giving up. We are not here to pray for a rescue mission. We are here to see the dream in the heart of God fulfilled on this earth.

God sent Jesus to restore His dream. Now...

God is sending us to finish His dream!



What is Holy Spirit speaking to your heart about the truth of His 'It is finished' nature and therefore your 'It is finished' nature?

Are you excited about being here to finish God's dream?



Day Four: Adam's Choice is Our Choice

So the question is:

Will we believe who God says we are? Will we repeat Adam's sin or will we align ourselves with Jesus' victory?

Adam's sin was not believing who God said He was. He already was like God – made in His image – yet Adam was tempted into believing that he wasn't who God said He was. God's dream is accomplished by His life flowing through His children. Adam disconnected from the life of God that was within him, and there began a continual decline in understanding and revelation as mankind lost everything that God had placed within them.

But Jesus! He came back to show us the truth about who we are, the reality of our adoption as the sons of God, and the fact that God's dream is still very much alive.

When Jesus came to restore the dream, He restored the revelation of Who God said that we are. He made it possible for mankind to once again be who He created us to be.

Yet while we find ourselves today with revelation being restored, the body still is not walking in the fullness of the grace God has given us through the finished work of Jesus. Many mistake works for grace and are still disconnected from the dream of God, trying to make their own dream happen in their own way, in the 'name of God'. But God's dream happens when His children want His dream and His will above all else, they walk with Him in intimacy and boldness in who they are, and they allow God to fulfil His own dream through them.

We are – you are and I am - in the same position as Adam and Eve right now. We are created in the image of God, connected to His Life. Am I going to realise I already have it all, or let myself be deceived that I don't? Am I going to complete the dream of God on this earth?



Soak Time

How do you answer the above questions?

See yourself in the same position as Adam and Eve right now. Is what you're believing in your heart about yourself right now, consistent with what Adam and Eve believed about themselves, or is it consistent with what Jesus believes about you?



Day Five: The Commission WE Will Finish

Now we need to go back and look at what He commissioned US to do through His power in us, so that we could finish God's dream:

Matthew 28:18 – 20 (AMP) ...All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days...to the...close and consummation of the age.

What honour – His dream is left in our hands!

Yes, there will be an end and Jesus will return – but not until we've done what Jesus asked us to. Read Matthew 28 closely. It talks about disciples, not converts; and nations, not individuals. We were commissioned by a Big thinking Jesus who loves nations and who died to redeem nations. We think we're fulfilling the Great Commission when we witness to a neighbour down the street or invite someone to church who prays 'the sinner's prayer'. But true disciples live for Jesus and teach others to do the same. And while it's wonderful to see our neighbour and maybe even their family come into the Kingdom of God, Jesus was lifting His eyes a little higher when He spoke these words. He is talking here about discipling whole nations!

Discipling whole nations means the transformation of entire nations, including bringing His Kingdom way of doing things to the social structures of those nations – Mountains of Business, Government, Education, Family, Arts, Media.

"As His delegated authority on earth we have the responsibility to carry on the assignment that Jesus received from the Father – "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). The devil is defeated but many of his works remain unchallenged." Bill Johnson

Do we really think Jesus is going to give this instruction, put His Spirit in us and say 'Oh, close enough's good enough.'?

That doesn't sound like the Jesus I know. He is a 'It is finished' kind of guy! And as He has put His very Spirit within us, that makes us 'It is finished' kind of people, because Jesus finished everything.

As Bill Johnson puts it:



“Our commission is clear: We are to disciple nations! And to ensure that this seemingly impossible task would be possible, He caused the One called the Desire of the Nations to live within us. This revelation of Him is ultimately a revelation about us, for we are His body.” Bill Johnson

The world thinks they hate Jesus, but they actually desire everything that is within Him, and therefore everything that has been planted within us. Why? Because He has made us to be life-givers, problem solvers, Kingdom advancers and unconditional love-dispensers. With the power of Jesus within us...

“Changing the course of world history is our assignment.” Bill Johnson

I think Johnny Enlow (author of The 7 Mountain Renaissance) expresses the heart of the Father, for the fulfilment of His dream, the best:

“Satan...I’m going to defeat you with My kids who so know Me that they refuse to settle for anything less than the real Me and My better ways of doing everything. They will rise up on earth with all that I am in heaven. They have My very image stamped into their core, and it’s only a matter of time before it comes out in all they do. Creation itself is groaning, awaiting for that core of who I am to be released through My clear-thinking sons and daughters. I’m going to crush you, but I’m going to do with My kids.

Soak Time

You are one of His glorious children, and He intends to crush satan through you. Do you believe and accept this as truth for your life? Why or why not?



WEEK TWO

Day One: The Completed Picture

Our assignment to disciple nations and change the world through the life of God within us, is confirmed by countless scriptures throughout the Bible. We can see God's big picture dream everywhere that we look – our God is a God of prophecy. He speaks those things which be not as though they are and He continually declares UNTIL the natural realm lines up with what He has decreed. Prophecy is always God's reality and God's reality is OUR reality if we are living the life of the spirit and not the flesh.

While Jesus gave our commission to us in the New Testament, just before being transfigured, He was essentially confirming what God had already commissioned mankind to do in the Garden of Eden – to fill the earth with His life and glory! The Old Testament is full of prophetic promises about the transformation of the nations and the nations being paraded in all their glory. This has been God's plan from the beginning, and we can see it very clearly when we look at scriptures such as Psalm 67:

Psalm 67 (TPT)

*Send us out all over the world
So that everyone everywhere
Will discover your ways
And know who you are
And see your power to save!
Let all the nations burst forth with praise;
Let everyone everywhere love and enjoy you!
Then how glad the nations will be
When you are their King.
Yes! You, Lord, are the Shepherd of the nations!
Let all the people praise you more!
The harvest of the earth is here!
Then all the ends of the earth will give him
The honor he deserves And be in awe of him!*



There are a lot of 'all' references! This Psalm is clearly talking about every nation and all people in all places, loving and praising and knowing the power of the Lord! This is the dream of our God for this world.

Soak Time

Go back and read Psalm 67 again, laying down any limitations, existing perspectives or fleshly thinking. Pray, *'I command my flesh to lie down. Lord, I want to see this scripture through your heavenly eyes. Show me the truth of this scripture. Give me a picture of what this looks like'*. And then wait on the Lord, with your spiritual eyes wide open, and your natural eyes closed. What does He show you when you read this scripture with an open heart and then close your eyes and let Him paint a picture for you?



Day Two: Overflowing Glory

Now here is another feast for our souls as we look at prophetic promises from the Lord for the future of our earth. How do we know this is talking about the earth and not about heaven? There are no enemies in heaven. There is no reason to subdue and take dominion in heaven – these terms are about displacing evil with the Kingdom of God. So now, read this Psalm knowing that it is talking about the very earth underneath our feet.

Psalm 72 (TPT)

*May he subdue and take dominion from sea to sea;
May he rule from the river to the rim.
Desert-nomads are bowing at his feet!
Every enemy falling facedown, biting the dust!
Distant kings will surrender and come with their gifts
From every continent and coastland;
They will offer their tribute to you.
O King of kings, they will all bow before you.
O King of kings, every nation will one day serve you.
...Long live this King!
May the cities be full of praising people, fruitful and filled –
So that his name may be honoured forever!
May the fame of his name spring forth!
May it shine on, like the sunshine!
He is the one and only God of wonders,
Surpassing every expectation.
The blazing glory of his name will be praised forever!
May all the earth overflow with his glory!*

We must remember that this is not fiction. This is prophecy. Prophecy is God's truth – His reality, declared before we see it with our natural eyes. It is not a hope, it is not a bedtime story – it is THE truth. This is what the inhabitants of this world are going to see. And the how? I think the last line of Psalm tell us this...

All the earth will OVERFLOW with His GLORY!



The nations of the world are not going to fall to their knees before the Lord because we build some new church buildings or run some new programs! They are going to be captured by the glory of the Lord – His Presence, love and wisdom manifested in this earth! They are going to recognise His Life – His unshakeable, untainted, powerful life – flowing through His glorious sons and daughters (Rom 8:9). The ones who know who they are and Whose they are. The ones who live in oneness with Him – constantly abiding in the Life source that lives within them, as Jesus did.... Only doing and saying what they see and hear the Father do and say. The laid down lives of lovers who have put their flesh aside and the ideas of man – even the manmade ideas of the church - and are walking in the truth of Galatians 2:20 – *It's no longer I who lives but Christ Who Lives in me.* As His pure life and Presence overflows from His children's lives, His glory will be seen and felt all over the world. And everyone will want it!

His glory will not only be seen and recognised by those who profess their belief in Christ, but it is prophesied that the whole world – including those who don't know the Lord – will recognise His glory and it will be so magnificent and so inviting they will want it and they will run to it.

That means the glorious children of God who are being unveiled will be **distinctly different** to the world and even to the church as we know it. They will truly imitate their Father, like dearly beloved children (Eph 5:1), because their hearts are merged as one.

The world doesn't recognise who God is now... they do not know His glory because He has been represented as much by flesh as by spirit. What are they to think about God or know about Him, when the 'children' of God are in many ways divided, judgmental, powerless, and are experiencing as few solutions to their problems as the rest of the world? Yet, that is not the inheritance that has been given to us! We are the children of God, and we are called to be one with Him, Who is **distinctly different** to the world. When we are one with Him and His glory flows through us without limitation by our flesh, all the world will see who He is and all the world will want Him and all the world will finally know Him!



Day Three: The Earth Will be Filled

Imagine it! We've seen the glory flowing through individuals and the world changes forever as a result of their lives. But this is talking about a filling of the world with the glory of the Lord... many children and much glory flowing!

Habakkuk 2:14 (NIV) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea...*

The world will know HIM. They will know Him because His children will be one with Him and the world will finally experience Who He really is.

Isaiah 2:2 – 4 (NKJV) *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house...of God. He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Or as the MSG states it: *He'll show us the way he works so we can live the way we're made.*

These scriptures give us a prophetic picture of the mountain of the Lord's House – the Kingdom of God (His way of doing things) – being established on the top of every mountain of society (think of business, family, education, celebration, media, government and religion – yes, religion and the Kingdom of God are two very different things!). Everyone in every sphere of society will recognise the Kingdom of God because of the glory of the Lord that they see demonstrated, through His sons and daughters who carry His glory wherever they go. They will seek His Kingdom and they will want to know His ways. And when this happens, it brings peace to the nations.

Isaiah 60:3 (NLT) *All nations will come to your light; mighty Kings will come to see your radiance.*



Even the Kings of nations will come to the light of the glory of God. In fact, I believe this is how many cities and nations will come into His Kingdom – the shifting that takes place when the leader recognises the Lord, and dedicates that city or nation to the Lord. We’re already seeing miraculous instances of this happening around the world even now, with Mayors and Presidents coming into the Kingdom of God in unprecedented numbers and miraculous ways (see www.transformourworld.org).

This may all ‘look’ impossible, but we’re made for this! We’re made to see ourselves, our lives and our world with spiritual sight, not natural sight. After all, we are the people who have been commissioned to pray for the sick knowing they’ll recover, raise the dead, speak other tongues, and Jesus has said of us that even if we step on poisonous snakes, they will not hurt us. If we have the capacity to look at a dead corpse in front of us and see and declare life, we can do the same thing when we look at our world, and declare His prophetic promises over it. If we choose to be the glorious children of God that the Bible speaks of, who will overflow His glory to the world, we can’t be convinced by what we see with our natural eyes. We were created to see with spiritual sight and to live with our spiritual sight as our reality.

“Our assignment is to live as though nothing were impossible. The command to disciple nations is not figurative. It was a literal command that has the backing of Heaven for those who embrace the assignment.” Bill Johnson

Soak Time

Will you embrace this ‘impossible’ assignment to live as though nothing were impossible, through the glory of God within you?



Day Four: True Revival is Transformation

We've heard much talk about 'revival' – stories of past revivals are told with much desire to re-experience them; reports of revival 'breaking out' now cause excitement within the body of Christ. However, the Lord said to me...

"There has never been a true revival."

The Lord showed me that there has been repentance from sin and mass conversions in many of the 'revivals' in the history of the world. However, the world has not yet seen a collective army of glorious sons and daughters – one with Him – arising at once, fully alive in His life, healing the sick, raising the dead, taking His wisdom, love and His ways into all of the institutions and facets of our society, and filling the world with His glory! Revival means 'life'. He doesn't bring revival – He IS revival. He IS life! It's only when His children come alive in His life that the world can come alive. Religion is nothing but a counterfeit – it does not raise the dead to life!

Many 'revivals' result in increases in church attendance and even periods of reduced crime in cities and places, yet in time that place may end up much the same as its former condition because there is no true and lasting transformation of all of the structures and institutions which make up its society. Until the Kingdom and glory of God is brought into the heart of a town, city, society, culture or nation, there is no heart transformation and therefore there is not permanent change. It is the same with people. Someone can accept Jesus, but never live out of the Kingdom and glory of God that is within them (Luke 17:21), and as such they may 'stop drinking or smoking' or they may go to heaven after they die, but never live as a truly transformed, glorious son or daughter of the Most High God... as ambassador of heaven on this earth.

We've seen glimpses of life – people truly alive and living from the Kingdom of God within them. People like Smith Wigglesworth and Kathryn Khulman brought the Kingdom of God to the 'mountain of religion'. Today the Lord is unveiling glorious sons and daughters over the whole earth, and in every sphere of influence. He's raising them up in homes and in marketplaces and in offices and in cities, towns and nations. The momentum is beginning and the collective glory is brightening. The glory of the Lord will be seen over the whole world, so there will be miracles in the marketplace, miracles in the schools,



miracles in government offices. There will be answers revealed to every problem. His Presence – the purity of love – will be evident everywhere and the true heart of God will be revealed, known and adored.

We have primarily been counting on people's fear of hell as their motivation to get saved, but there is a better way. Up to now, a sense of eternal insecurity has brought in much of the harvest, but in the coming days, the beauty and glory of God will win the hearts of the masses, and that harvest will be immense." Johnny Enlow

After all, it is *'the kindness of God that leads men to repentance (Rom 2:4).*

God has a purpose in inviting us to live with Him in the secret place and offering us His glory to display to this earth. He wants to give us, from His wisdom, the solutions to the problems of this world. He wants us to soak in His Presence in the secret place and then in His power, take His glory and love and wisdom to the world around us, so that mankind is liberated from the bondage brought to the earth by satan – who has come to try to steal the dream of God for His children.

Ephesians 3:10 – 11 (NLT) *God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Once again, He is asking us to be **distinctly different**, because the world is looking for solutions and they can't find them. The world is in pain and without hope, yet God intends that the glory of God would be displayed through His children to such an extent that the world would come to them – to the carriers of the Kingdom of God – to find the permanent transformation they so desperately need.



Soak Time

What wisdom – solutions to problems – have you already heard in the secret place?

What problems do you want to seek the Lord for solutions about now? What answers are planted in your heart that the Lord wants you to bring to the world? Ask Him to show you.



Day Five: Arise and Shine

The glorious sons and daughters of the Most High God are created for the world to be drawn to God in them. Within us lives the God Who has every answer to the most impossible looking situations. The Bible talks about this upcoming time in Zechariah. Remembering that at the time this scripture was written, there was no framework for the word 'Christian' as this was prior to Jesus' crucifixion.

Zechariah 8:23 (NIV) *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'"*

Stop and think about that! Have you had one person seek you out to the point of hanging onto you and going with you wherever you go because they can see God in and with you? And this is talking about ten people from all languages and nations, for each person who knows the Lord. What a drawing the light of the glory of God within us has to this world, if we will lay our flesh down!

As you can see, from what we have looked at this week, the prophetic vision for great hope for our world, has been painted throughout the scriptures. So that leaves us with only one question: Are we going to look at the darkness or the light?

When we hear such hope being shared, yet we then look around us or watch the news (which, I might add, is presently biased and controlled by the kingdom of darkness), we may find ourselves conflicted. Yes, there's still a lot to happen in order for this hope to come to fulfillment. However, we WILL see the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21). Yes, there is darkness in this world, but the Bible tells us that we have been transported out of the Kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col 1:13). We live in the Kingdom of God, just as the Israelites lived in Goshen. When the plague of darkness came upon the nation of Egypt, all of the Egyptians were in darkness, yet in Goshen – where the Israelites lived – there was continual light.

This is the reality in which we live right now. We live in a spiritual Goshen, and we will progressively see the darkness become light as we learn to live more and more, as one with our King, so that His glory shines through us and the world sees it and is drawn to it. We will hear His voice in the secret place – He



will give us answers to problems; He has already filled us with His love, wisdom and dunamis power. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead already lives within us now! And this power is greater than any darkness the world can bring. After all, *greater is He Who is in us than he who is in the world!* (1 Jn 4:17).

In the midst of this truth, there is only one choice we have to make:

Isaiah 60:1 – 2 (AMP) *Arise...! Shine..., for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness [all] peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you..., and His glory shall be seen on you.*

This is the time to ‘Arise and Shine’ not to ‘Behold Darkness’.

Which will you choose?



Consider your everyday perspective on your life and the world. Have you had the tendency more to ‘Arise and Shine’ or to ‘Behold Darkness’?

After doing this week’s devotionals, has anything changed in your perspective? Moving forward, do you choose to ‘Arise and Shine’ or to ‘Behold Darkness’?



WEEK THREE

Day One: Getting Off Track

We talked last week about the choice that we have: Either to arise and shine, or to behold darkness.

If we behold darkness, we going to get off track.

Essentially, the darkness is the work of the enemy. In the same way that if we look at our sin, we actually strengthen sin (1 Cor 15:56), looking at the darkness instead of the light will strengthen what we don't want. To behold darkness is to take our eyes off the Lord, and place it onto the works of the devil.

Are we to live in denial of what's happening in our world? Absolutely not! But when we keep our eyes on the Lord, He alerts us to what we need to know and do at any moment. He will also keep us in a truthful perspective. But if we behold darkness, it will darken our entire perspective.

We need to challenge many long-held mindsets which have been preached from pulpits for generations. We can never be who God has called us to be while holding onto these mindsets, because they require us continually to behold darkness.

There have been many lies spoken, which have tried to steal the dream of God and replace it with satan's dream – of darker, and darker, and darker! We participate with furthering satan's dream when we proclaim darkness instead of light. We must align ourselves with the dream of God for this world, arise and shine, and proclaim truth and hope.

Here's how the body is beholding darkness in this time: Any time we are...

1. Proclaiming the judgment of God; instead of proclaiming that everything is fully paid for and there is peace between God and man.
2. Declaring that things are getting worse and worse; instead of declaring God's nature of increase which makes things better and better.
3. Looking for the rapture as our escape strategy; instead of looking for His promised restoration; or



4. Begging God for a revival He's already given us or excessively focussing on spiritual warfare as though it's our responsibility to win victory; instead of simply walking in the victory He's already won for us.

This week we're going to shine light on the darkness and discover God's perspective as He contends to see His dream fulfilled on this earth.

Soak Time

Have you heard any of these things being preached from pulpits, or online?

What affect do these perspectives have on your heart?



Day Two: #1 God is Not Judging Anyone

Many may initially 'fall off their chairs' when I say this, but let's hear the whole story first:

God is not judging this earth.

I recently saw a post on social media, which said: *"The judgment of God may hit America as early as this summer!"*

This post is representative of many such opinions that there is an angry God in heaven, ready to dish out judgment to those who refuse to bow down to his name, or to those who engage in sin (which, I might point out, includes ALL of us – believer and unbeliever). And in one way, it's no surprise that people would have this perspective, as in the Old Testament, when men lived on this earth without the Holy Spirit in their hearts, God had no option other than circumstances with which to train, teach and guide people.

It was actually God's desire that we would never even know judgment, or the difference between good and evil. Once man ate of the fruit of the tree and lawlessness entered the world, however, it was an act of mercy for God to bring in the law to show us what the standard of righteousness was, - to stem the tide of growing sin while He strategized to bring Jesus into the earth. He also needed to show mankind that we could never fulfil the law and therefore reveal our great need for Jesus. This was to prepare our hearts to receive the righteousness offered by Jesus when He came.

However, we have to understand that Jesus changed everything about how God deals with mankind! The doom and gloom declared about the judgment of God on this earth, just doesn't mesh with the angelic words spoken to declare the birth of our Saviour: *"Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards men"* (Luke 2:14).

Many people still believe that sin is the issue. But it's not. Sin is not the issue! Sin has been dealt with by Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 19 & Colossians 2:14 tell us to know that we've been reconciled to God by Jesus, and that our trespasses are no longer being imputed against us.



2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21 (ESV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Soak Time

How can sin still be the issue in this world, when God made Jesus to BE sin?!?! God is not wringing His hands about our sin because He doesn't count it against us any more. He's far more interested in showing us who we now are in Christ Jesus! And after all, the one who knows that they're righteous, tends to sin far less than the one who's identity is 'I am a sinner', anyway! God's focus is on transformation – His dream being fulfilled on this earth - not judgment. Do you see God as judging the world or do you see bad events which happen on the earth as part of His present-day judgment? Why or why not?



Day Three: For the Whole World

So now, let's look at another scripture which shows us that God is not judging anyone.

Colossians 2:14 (NLT) *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.*

How can you be judged for something that is no longer a part of your 'record'? People with a clean slate can't be condemned.

Some people argue that the issue with sin is not regarding believers, but unbelievers. That God is judging the nations because of the sin of the unbelievers and He's going to protect the believers but bring judgment on the nations themselves. Well, just in case you missed the highlighted text in 1 Corinthians 5 which states that *God is reconciling the world to Himself and is not counting their trespasses against them*, have a look at this:

1 John 2:2 (NKJV) *[Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

So we can see that the freedom from judgment of sin has been extended to the whole world – the unbelievers as well as the believers. Everyone is forgiven – some just don't know it yet! We can see that the issue of sin was settled on the cross. The only question is, whether or not we reject that settlement as fact for us today.

The consequences of sin are not the wrath of God. They are the natural outcomes for particular choices. If someone has illicit sex, they may get pregnant or contract an STD. If someone wastes all their money, they are not going to be wealthy. If they break the law, they may be fined or end up in jail. Everything bad that happens is not the judgment of God – it's the natural consequences of foolish actions and the body of Christ simply needs to take responsibility for our choices and stop blaming God for everything.

Yes, the Bible clearly states that there's a day of judgment - and God is not judging the world until that day! We are in the period of *Peace on earth, goodwill to men.*



So let's not behold darkness any more by participating with satan's strategy to do bad things in the earth and then cause people to reject the God 'behind it' by blaming Him for it all. Our God is a good God and He is love. We are ambassadors of that love, not His judgment.

Soak Time

What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of God's love, in the midst of world events? How can you arise and shine with the influence that has been given to you, and declare God's true nature?



Day Four: #2 The Gospel Makes Things Better

Another common teaching or expectation within the body of Christ, which causes us to 'behold darkness' is the belief (which is taught as fact) that 'things are getting worse and worse'. However, let me ask you: Has your life gotten better since YOU heard the Gospel?

The Gospel is GOOD news! 'Gospel' actually and literally means 'good news'. So how can the Gospel go out into the world in all the many places and through all the varied channels it is, and things not actually get better?!?!

The world only looks worse when our source of information is the news, or the fears of those around us. Un-renewed hearts will always partner with fear over hope – that doesn't make what they speak, true. We must also remember that the mountain of Media is not (yet) operating in the Kingdom of God, and is in fact controlled by forces of evil. We're going to take back that mountain, but as it stands at the moment, the media is declaring satan's storyline for this time. All those who align with this storyline are aligning themselves with fear and fear is definitely NOT from our God.

If we will just shut off the noise, we will hear Holy Spirit's voice in the secret place. And He will whisper His perspective to us, and speak life to us as He did for Caleb and Joshua, who saw the promised land as conquerable when every other leader of every other tribe, and every Israelite it represented, said it couldn't be done. God is the life giver!

So if we shut off the constant drone of fear coming from the world's media, and look at the full picture of what's happening in the earth, there's actually a very different conclusion to come to. In fact, things are NOT getting worse and worse. Because the Gospel makes things better and better, and it's been doing this since Jesus came to earth and gave us the good news in the first place.

Would you really have liked to have lived in the dark ages? With death outside of your front door, plagues wiping out millions of lives, and fear all around you all the time... and on top of it, the Holy Spirit shut up and the Word of God inaccessible? Not for me, thank you! I think the world has gotten better.

And think of places where missionaries have gone, and brought the Gospel. I remember hearing of some courageous missionaries who went to a place where there was a barbaric practice of holding a festival in which infants were



fed to crocodiles! They brought the Gospel to these people, the people received Jesus, lives were changed and the practice stopped. Is that not making things better? And accounts such as this could be told from places all over the world where missionaries have taken the Good News.

In Paul's day, worship to the gods included sex outside the temple with temple prostitutes. I'm sure glad we've moved past this one!

Even in the church, religion ruled more so than the Gospel. If we lived in John Calvin's day, people were regularly burnt at the stake or drowned – by the church!!!! Men died because they believed that we should all have access to the written Word of God (because it used to be locked away for only the priests to read), or for their belief in salvation by grace and faith (not works), or because they believed in baptism by immersion. Most of us in here today would be dead if we lived in this age and had the courage of our convictions! The church is nowhere near perfect, but I think things have gotten better, don't you?

On the other hand, let's also realise that there simply is no depravity being committed today that we cannot find in the history of the world. We don't like the rainbow agenda infiltrating our society? Think of Sodom and Gomorrah – it was so bad there, God had to destroy the cities! I've not yet had neighbours who were willing to send their daughter outside to be defiled in order to calm down a sexually crazed mob.

And think about abortion. It is not something new, that has only started happening in our generation. It's just that it's out in the open now. In the past, abortion was more of a 'backyard' practice. There has been prostitution and murder and every kind of evil, since the beginning of the world. Let's stop convincing ourselves that it's getting worse and worse, as though these social ills have never ailed us before! The first parents on the planet had a murderer in their family! These evils have always been there - but God has a plan to eradicate them!

Soak Time



Have you had a mindset of the world getting worse and worse or better and better? Why?



Day Five: Caleb and Joshua Perspective

So let's get some present day Caleb and Joshua perspective:

- Last century was the least bloody century, even with two world wars.
- In America, abortion rates are half what they were in 1990 and 2/3 of abortion clinics have closed since that time.
- In the same 4 months when Isis hit the world news, just one ministry saw 6 million Muslims come to Jesus.
- There are transformation stories evolving all over the world. Ed Silvano, of *Transform Our World* (www.transformourworld.org) is an incredible source of vision for what is REALLY going on in the earth. They have been painting a vision of transformation around the globe, and where the body is coming together and contending for their cities and nations, and they are seeing incredible transformations. For example, Ciudad Juarez, in Mexico, was not too long ago, known as the murder capital of the world. Yet when God ignited His people to believe for transformation, violent crime decreased by 93% and it is now a safe city.
- There are many other transformation examples in places like Uganda, Newark (New Jersey USA), Argentina, the Philippines and Hawaii, where the Kingdom of God is displacing the kingdom of darkness, and they are seeing extensive spiritual and natural change.
- Miracles are becoming more and more commonplace – Andrew Wommack Ministries (based in the USA) has seen 50 – 60 people raised from the dead. An American missionary in Mexico, David Hogan, has at the time of this writing, personally seen 28 people raised from the dead, and through others associated with his ministry, they have collectively seen over 400 people raised from the dead! Profound miracles are becoming more and more commonplace! As much as we honour men in the past like Smith Wigglesworth, these accounts are far higher in number, and yet there remains a mindset of spiritual 'greats' in the past and the 'good old days' of revival, as though it is not happening now. It is!
- Read reports from Christ for All Nations (www.cfan.org.au) if you want to get some Caleb and Joshua perspective – there are constantly miracles occurring! The blind are seeing, and the deaf are hearing; the paralytics are walking! Praise Jesus!



- This is happening in Australia, too. Danny Nalliah of Catch the Fire Ministries (www.catchthefire.com.au) and Rise Up Australia political party (www.riseupaustrialiparty.com) has seen numerous miraculous healings, including the dead raised to life again. Just watch 'The Normal Christian Life' (www.thenormalchristianlife.com.au), which documents the body of Christ in Brisbane, praying for people on the streets and seeing incredible miracles happen. There is no place on earth where God is not moving. It's not just happening in third world countries – it's happening here, too!

We think we've gone backwards because we look at the book of Acts and compare, but our comparison is drowned in negative media. Every single miracle in the book of Acts is happening today. EVERY SINGLE ONE!!! Transformation of society IS happening today. If there was a book written today to contain all of these stories, it would read as excitedly as the book of Acts, maybe even more so.

So the question is, whose report are we going to believe?

The fact is that the kingdom of darkness is being displaced by the Kingdom of God and He intends for this to cover the whole world.

Soak Time

Are you aware of the miracles and the transformation that is actually happening in the earth? If not, check out some of the links in this devotional and find out. What do you think and feel when you see these things?

Do you need to change your sources of information, so that you can better arise and shine, and avoid beholding darkness?



Another great source of Godly perspective about what's happening in the world comes through the prophetic voice of Johnny Enlow (www.johnnyandelizabeth.com). His books, *The Seven Mountain Prophecy*; *The Seven Mountain Mantle*; and *The Seven Mountain Renaissance* are alive with hopeful perspective and we highly recommend them to you.



WEEK FOUR

Day One: Children of the God of Increase

The kingdom of darkness is being displaced by the Kingdom of God and He intends for it to cover the world. We looked at this last week, and saw that the Gospel makes things better.

The Gospel is a Gospel of Increase because God is a God of increase.

Isaiah 9:6 – 7 (AMP) *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end...*

Did we really read that?!?!?! In other words, from the point in which Jesus came to the world, these scriptures declare that His government (His Kingdom rule – in other words, the Kingdom of God) shall continue to increase continually from that point on. The Kingdom of God is not losing ground – it is gaining it!

It also says that peace will continually increase without end. Peace! Not darkness and not fear. In other words, these scriptures declare a world that gets better and better! And why not?!?!? Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus is a victorious King Who has conquered His enemies and given all authority to His brothers and sisters. Of the increase of His government and of peace there truly shall be no end...

God is a God of increase; Jesus paid for our increase; and we are children of increase.

Proverbs 4:18 (AMP) *But the path of the [uncompromisingly] just and righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines more and more (brighter and clearer) until [it reaches its full strength and glory...*

Are we seeing a theme here? Brighter and brighter. Increase and expansion. This is what the lives of the righteous are supposed to look like! Never does God speak about us as going back and forth, up and down, or being diminished. He declares us as going *from glory to glory* (2 Cor 3:18), not from darkness to darkness!



He's always increasing; and His army is increasing.

Joel 2:2 & 11 (NIV) *Like dawn spreading across the mountains, a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come... the Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command.*

We are not getting smaller, we are not getting weaker, we are not being squashed. We are rising up, mighty and strong in Him and growing in number every day. This large and mighty army is an army of victory, not of defeat!

Song of Songs 6:10 (TPT) *Look at you now – arising as the dayspring of the dawn, fair as the shining moon. Bright and brilliant as the sun in all its strength. Astonishing to behold. As a majestic army waving banners of victory!*

This is a description of the bride of Christ - You are part of that army and we're moving forward, not backwards!

Soak Time

Re-read Isaiah 9:6 – 7. Ask Holy Spirit to show you what it looks like for you, your family, your community, your nation and your world, for this scripture to be fulfilled. *God is not a man that He should lie* (Num 23:19). If He has declared continual increase of His Kingdom and of peace, this is what we should be expecting and decreeing!





Day Two: A Garden of Righteousness

The Lord is raising up an uncrushable army, because He Himself is uncrushable!

Isaiah 42:4 (AMP) *He will not fail or become weak or be crushed and discouraged till He has established justice in the earth...*

God's not giving up on His dream in this earth; He's not giving up on seeing it accomplished. He's not going to fail, He's not going to become weak. He's the same yesterday, today and forever! He's strong and He's going to stay strong and He's going to stay excited and He's not going to stop until He sees His desired justice IN THE EARTH. Justice is 'just as it was' before the fall – restoring something to its' original intent. God is walking out a relentless pursuit of justice and His kingdom is going to increase and increase and increase until every evil thing is rooted out of this world and everything shines with His glory!

Isaiah 61:11 *The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him. His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring with plants springing up everywhere.*

He calls us His righteousness and we are bursting forth like beautiful plants! He will have a garden with plants that spring up here and there and everywhere – more and more, near and far, until the whole world looks like a garden bursting forth and covered with His glory and beauty!

There have always been people who believed that this was possible – that the world could and would get lighter and brighter. John Calvin fasted and prayed until most of Geneva was converted, and there was not a house without at least one praying person in it. Think of it - a city in which there was at least one praying believer in EVERY house, whom John expected would also pray and fast until their entire households came into the Kingdom of God. Would people do things like this if they believed that no matter what they do, the darkness is only going to get darker and darker? No! Yet men and women, the world over, consumed with a God-given vision of hope for light, are receiving assignments from the God of increase and believing that it is possible see the whole world transformed. And they are acting on it!

Is it possible for a whole family to be saved? Is it possible for a whole city to be saved? Is it possible for a whole nation to be saved? Is it possible for the whole



world to be saved? Yes, Yes, Yes and Yes!!!! Everyone will praise Him and His garden will spring up everywhere! They aren't my words – they're His! Do we believe Him?

Soak Time

Do you believe that it possible for your entire family to be saved? What are their names? If you do, declare that they will be saved!

_____ will be saved! _____ will be saved!

Do you believe that it is possible for your entire town or city to be saved? If you do, declare it! _____ will be saved!

Do you believe that it is possible for your entire nation to be saved? If you do, declare it! _____ will be saved!

Do you believe it is possible for the entire world to be saved? If you do, declare it! _____ will be saved!



Day Three: #3 Hang on for the Ride

So we've been looking at ways in which we can get off track by beholding darkness. When the body declares that God is judging the world, or that things are getting darker and darker, it is beholding darkness rather than our risen King. The same King who didn't give up on the cross, who defeated satan and all of the principalities and powers that held us captive – that same King is coming back for us. But He's not coming back to rescue us – He's coming back to celebrate with us!

The concept that the rapture is our ticket out of here... that life is about 'hanging on till Jesus comes back to get us', is not from the heart of God.

Many love to preach about the 'end times' as though we're right on the precipice of Jesus' return, and that it could happen any moment or any day. What would He be coming back for if He came back now?!?! It certainly wouldn't be to celebrate or to receive as a gift back to Him, His dream fulfilled.

Don't you want to hand it to Him? To give Him the gift of His dream fulfilled! The joy of knowing that His kids loved Him enough to die for Him and let Him live His life through them – to lay down their lives to see HIS dream come to pass on the earth. To hand him the earth as a gift, wrapped in ribbon and to be able to say, *Father, it's all glorious!* That's what burns within my heart. That's what I want my life to be about. And I will spend every moment of every day from now until I find myself in heaven with Him, dreaming with Him about the reality of what is possible when His glory is released and His children say '*I believe, Father*'.

He's not coming back to rescue us from a half-fulfilled mission. He's not conceding defeat and taking back the prophetic words He's uttered as though He were a liar! Let's look at this world through the lens of His glory.

The 'end times' as referred to in the Bible, is the entire period between the first and second comings of Christ. Every single generation, from the time of Paul, has expected Jesus' return. There have been many generations since, all of which have expected His coming.

I was told by the generation older than me, that I'd never be on this earth beyond 30 years of age because Jesus was coming back by then. I grew up with a fear that I'd never get to live the dreams that were in my heart, and a



wondering about whether it was worth trying to accomplish them anyway, if I could just be snapped away at any moment, before even accomplishing these things. Kris Volotton talks about the fact that he didn't even go to college because the mindset of his generation was that Jesus was coming anyway, so why make plans for the future? People sold houses, made unwise choices and did nothing with their lives – waiting for an expected arrival which didn't come.

There was a book which sold 4.5 million copies, called *'88 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in 1988'*. Of course, when the rapture didn't happen, the same author went on to release a book the following year, called *'89 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in 1989!'*

Enough! No eschatology! Do we really have to have an 'end time' theology anyway? We will limit God and put Him in a box and miss Him in the same way that the Pharisees missed Jesus, if we have it all set out about how WE think it will happen. It steals our focus and stops us from being long term thinkers and hearing from God for the solutions to the problems within our society. Why would we bother trying to solve the problems around us if we have no expectation our attempts will make any difference and in fact they could be a complete waste of time because Jesus is coming to take us any moment anyway? Can you see what an incredible strategy this has been for the kingdom of darkness – keeping God's people hopeless and passive?

Soak Time

Have there been things in your life you haven't done, or decisions you've made because of the prevailing mindset that we're only hanging on until Jesus comes back to get us anyway? What might have happened if you'd instead done the things that were on your heart or made different decisions?



Day Four: Overcoming Evil With Good

Is it truly reflecting our Father's heart if our strategy is to 'hang on until Jesus comes to get us'? What kind of children of God are we, if our most grand and lofty strategy as a body is looking forward to the rescue mission?!?!?! Do we know who we are and Whose we are? How are we like our Father, children of God, in that? He tells us to *imitate our Father, as dearly beloved children* (Eph 5:1).

Where is the victory in the rescue mission? We're called to be an Army and He has given us the nations as our inheritance. He's waiting for us to take them.

"We were not commissioned to look into the clouds for His coming (Acts 1:11). We were commanded to "occupy" until He comes (Luke 19:13 KJV)." Bill Johnson

The word 'occupy' is a military term, and it's used for the purpose of advancement. God doesn't want us sitting down here, wringing our hands and wondering how on earth we're going to make it until He decides to come back and relieve us from the evil surrounding us.

He tells us our strategy clearly:

Romans 12:21 (NIV) *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

DO NOT be overcome by evil! DO NOT be overcome by evil! Don't look at the world around you and think that you have no power to stop the darkness! Don't see yourself as helpless and insignificant to the affairs of this world, but connect with the identity of Christ within you. Believe who you are and Whose you are and ROAR!!!!!! You cannot be overcome by evil! You have the spirit of the Living God within you! You cannot be overcome by evil, but the Lord commands you to overcome evil with good. And He never tells us to do something that He hasn't already equipped us to do.

We can no longer look at the evil around us and ignore it, hoping for a quick return from our Saviour. This is a command from our Father... our loving and gracious Father Who has empowered us all with His life. The very life that raised Jesus from the dead dwells within us NOW, so how can we possibly sit there and say we can't see how it's possible for the world to become brighter and brighter instead of darker and darker?!?! Let it not be said of us! Let it not be said of us!



Let us not be the ones waiting to be rescued, but be the ones who surge forward in His power to rescue the world!

Soak Time

Are you waiting for the rescue mission, or are you taking on the mission to rescue the world, through the life of Christ within you?

What does it look like for you to overcome evil with good in your life, family, community, nation and world?

When the Lord says in His Word to '*not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good*', do you take this as a suggestion or as a command? What does this mean to your life?



Day Five: The Restoration of All Things

So no more looking for the rescue mission!

“We must rid ourselves of the idea that Jesus is coming to rescue His church. That lie has dislocated many generations of revolutionaries from their purpose in the same way a joint is pulled out of place. It has put the Church into a defensive posture of occupation to protect what we have, instead of positioning ourselves for the purpose of increase...” Bill Johnson

There are only one of two ways we can approach this life:

Hang on till Jesus comes OR Hang on for the ride!

You will have to hang on – if you choose to accept this mission, there will be a ride like you have never known, expected or imagined. There will be adventures coming your way that you could not have conceived of in your biggest dreams! There will be challenges, there will be celebrations, but it will be a glorious ride and it will be wild!

Hang on for the ride, because there will be no rapture until restoration: Jesus is not coming back until...

Acts 3:21 (NKJV) *Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Heaven is retaining Jesus UNTIL! UNTIL!!!! Until the times of restoration of all ALL things! What do you think that restoration looks like? We haven't seen it fulfilled – YET! But this scripture is clear... we won't see Him again, until the times of restoration of all things – not in the times of darkness and destruction when we can't take it any more and He comes to get us out here! God's dream WILL come true!

And just in case we're unsure whether the previous scripture actually refers to us now, or if it only refers to the spiritual reality of what Jesus purchased for us on the cross (and not necessarily the physical manifestation), here's another:



Ephesians 4:9 – 10 (TPT) *Having first descended into hell, he has ascended triumphantly into the heights of heaven to begin the restoration and fulfilment of all things.*

The Bible tells us that Jesus descended into hell for us when He died on the cross – He took back the keys to sin and the grave and set the captives free. He then ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding towards this assignment:

The restoration and fulfilment of all things.

What Jesus accomplished on the cross, was finished! He purchased everything for us, and spiritually speaking it was done – completed – in that very moment! What He BEGAN was the manifestation of that purchase – the restoration and fulfilment of all things, so that what He'd won for us in the spiritual would now be seen in the natural.

He began this assignment and He's going to finish it, just like He completed His assignment on this earth. Jesus has never quit anything that He started. He's the author AND the finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2). And His eyes are set and focused on the restoration and fulfilment of all things. We don't know how much will be completely fulfilled before He returns again, and in reality that's not important because all that will do is bring us into an end time eschatology which will distract us. But we know which direction He's headed in. We also know that He's no quitter and He's not taking His eyes off this assignment until it's complete, just as He was able to say to the Father when He was on the earth, 'I have completed down to the last detail, all that you asked me to do.' That's all we need to know. Let's partner with Him in this assignment towards the fulfilment and restoration of ALL things.

Soak Time



Do you feel excited? If you've chosen to 'hang on for the ride', ask Holy Spirit to show you a glimpse of what you've signed up for! 😊



WEEK FIVE

Day One: Blaze of Glory

Last week, we looked at the fact that Jesus' eyes are set on the fulfilment and restoration of all things. The footnote in Ephesians 4:9 – 10 actually says in the Greek, 'that HE might fill all things'.

This is how the fulfilment and the restoration of all things is possible – when people are filled with Jesus; when schools are filled with Jesus; when governments are filled with Jesus; when businesses are filled with Jesus; when movies are filled with Jesus; when nations are filled with Jesus. It's happening! It's happening!

As we are filled with His fullness and take His life and His way of doing things (in other words, the Kingdom of God) to every facet of our world, we will see what has been prophesied.

Habakkuk 2:14 (KJV) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

The rapture is not our hope. Jesus is our hope.

I remember asking the Lord once, when I was still confused by beholding the darkness that was around me, and listening to the ungodly narrative of the church: *"Are we going to have to go through the tribulation? Is this for your people, or are you taking us out of here before then?"*

Holy Spirit clearly said to me, *"You're going out of here in a blaze of glory."* I immediately clapped my hands together and said, *"That's good enough for me!"* Not one time since then, has end time theology mattered to me. Whether He comes before or after the restoration is complete makes no difference to me. All I know is that my eyes are on Jesus and we're fulfilling God's dream together, and that's all that matters.

We don't need to 'put off' the fulfilment and the restoration of all things to a future time. We can walk in oneness with Holy Spirit right now, and ask Him how He wants us to release the fullness of His life through us, and how to bring His life to the various facets of the world around us. We can be part of the fulfilment of this prophecy and see the knowledge of His glory cover the earth.



Soak Time

Do you really believe you can have an important part to play in the fulfillment of the prophecy that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea? Why or why not?



Day Two: Until We All Attain Oneness

So we could put it this way: That Jesus' return is based on completion, not a set date. God's focus is simply restoration, and He's given many other scriptures to show us that He intends to forge towards this goal until He sees it fulfilled.

One example is Ephesians 4:13, in which He talks about the five fold ministries and how they have been established by the Lord as part of His plan to see the fulfilment and restoration of all things. The five fold ministry is the apostle, prophet, evangelist, teacher and pastor – working together! These anointings are the anointing of Jesus and when they function together, it makes what has seemed impossible (the fulfilment and completion of all things) possible.

Ephesians 4:13 - 16 (TPT) *These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness in the faith, until we all experience the fullness of being one with the Son of God, and finally be become one perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed in the abundance of Christ. And then our immaturity will end... All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.*

The key word in this scripture is UNTIL. The Lord says that the five fold ministry will be given on the earth UNTIL we ALL attain oneness in the faith (in other words, oneness with each other) and experience oneness with Him. God is not giving up, Jesus is not coming back and the five fold ministries will not stop operating on this earth UNTIL this happens. And when it does, we will finally be operating as one perfect man – which is exactly what the 'body of Christ' is created to do and be. We are to be one perfect man – Christ on this earth, for 'As He is, so are we in this earth' (1 Jn 4:17). We are to receive our direction from Him because we are one with Him – our direction is never to come from the rules, institutions, expectations and requirements of man.

Sadly, we have often looked more like a dismembered corpse than 'one perfect man' in the past, but the Lord is raising up His bride and she is becoming more and more radiant, and as the five fold ministries open up and operate and function in this earth and everyone finds the place in which they 'fit' within His body, we will see the fulfilment of His words. Whether or not the world becomes perfect before Jesus returns, we can see clearly here that the Lord intends to do a work in His church.



Are we to be excited about Jesus' return? Absolutely! But not for the reasons we have been taught to in the past. We're not to be excited by the prospect of being rescued, but the prospect of presenting the world back to the Lord in glorious splendour.

"The promise of Christ's return does not give me permission to be irresponsible with Christ's command." Bill Johnson

Regardless of how much we anticipate the Lord's return, we were given no permission whatsoever to ignore the commission that Jesus gave us before He left the earth – the last thing He told us was to take His authority and use it to preach the gospel to all nations, to disciple the nations, and to operate in His signs and wonders on this earth. (Matthew 28:18 – 20). He's made it clear what we're to do, and the level of vision that we're to walk in. Let's just go the direction He's heading and leave the rest up to Him.

Soak Time

How does Christ's commission to you in Matthew 28:18 – 20 impact your life when you know that we're not waiting on the rescue mission?



Day Three: #4 He's Already Done It

So we've been looking at the ways that we can get off track by beholding darkness. The first is declaring the judgment of God, the second is expecting things to get darker and darker, and the third is hanging out for the rescue mission. We've countered each of these lies with the truth found in His Word.

Finally, we're going to look at the last way, which is an excessive and unscriptural focus on spiritual warfare. Is spiritual warfare important? Absolutely! But we have to know at all times that we war FROM victory, not for victory. We have to know without question, that He's already done it!!!

We must stop begging God for a revival as though He hasn't already given it to us! Revival is life - HE is life! Life is in our hearts at every moment of the day or night; we can be in revival at any moment. Rather than begging for revival, let's choose to be in revival, and watch what God will do in the lives of those around us!

So many things we already have possession of, because His spirit is one with our spirit (1 Cor 6:17) – we just have to believe and declare it. He's already given us healing; He's already given us prosperity; He's already set us free and made us whole! While we're still begging for something we've already got, we receive no value from the gift already given to us.

In his book, *The Believer's Authority*, Andrew Wommack tells the story of the Scottish Hebrides Revival. There had been people praying for months, begging God for revival. One evening, a man who had never been there before came into the meeting and prayed with them for a while, then suddenly He stood up and said, *"Either God's Word is true, or it isn't. We've got it! I'm going home."* And interestingly enough, revival broke out the very next day.

Often, the body of Christ projects an underlying mindset regarding prayer, which says that somehow God is co-dependent, and that He is changed or moved by our begging, or by the length or fervour of our prayers. However, we know that God is the same, yesterday, today and forever. When we perceive that we must beg Him, we are believing one or more of these lies: That He doesn't really love us; That He is not a good Father, withholding things from us; and that He is moved by our begging (as opposed to our faith). All of these are lies!



Our Heavenly Father most certainly is a good, good Father, who loves us ALL beyond measure. He, Who did not withhold even His very own son, has never withheld a single thing from us! (Matt 7:11; Luke 11:13). He is not changed or moved by our begging, because He's already gone before us and He HAS moved! He sent Jesus! And this purchased everything for us! It's when we come into agreement with what He has already done, that He can effect what He has already decreed on our behalf!

We're not waiting on God to do anything – God is waiting on us to step into the authority and the victory that has already been given to us, and decree and declare it!

When we war FROM victory, and from the promises, we will see them come to pass. We will know what it is to walk in the authority of sons of the Most High God. When we don't know what is ours and we beg God for things that He's already given us, we are wandering around as orphans in our hearts – we may be adopted by our Heavenly Father, but still live out of the fear and insecurity of our old orphan heart.

Just like the father who said to the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son, *'Everything that I have is yours!'* (Luke 15:31), we have already been given all things. We can either act as though we still have to work for our inheritance, or we can trust that everything our Father has is ours.

Spiritual warfare is where sons of the Most High God decree the inheritance that has already been given to them, and command the destiny of the nations to fulfilment.

Will you declare YOUR inheritance?



Soak Time

You are a son of the Most High God. Ask Holy Spirit what spiritual warfare looks like for you?



Day Four: A Defeated Foe

Another lie that plagues much spiritual warfare, is the perception that satan is stronger than us and that WE have to war in order to defeat him. But the truth is that *'Greater is He Who is in me than he who is in the world'*, (1 John 4:4) and Jesus – who is in us - has already defeated satan! He's won!!!

Jesus openly paraded satan, just like the kings of old would do. When a leader in Bible times would take over another geographic area, they would capture the king of that area, cut off their thumbs and toes so they could no longer wield a weapon or run, and parade them naked down the street before the people, so that they would no longer be fearful. Jesus has done the exact same thing to satan – he is stripped, naked and defenceless.

Colossians 2:15 (NIV) *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

The only thing that satan still has is deception, and if he can get us to believe that somehow we still have to defeat him, then that's exactly how we will war against him.

The truth is that he's a defeated foe and He's not to be feared, or even fought. He's to be dictated to, by the terms of our covenant with our conquering King! We find out what we already have, and we declare it to the demonic forces – they can do nothing but bow to the name of Jesus.

Spiritual warfare can be a deception, when it causes us to be distracted by fighting battles that have already been won, or telling us that we're 'under' something. True spiritual warfare is executing the victory already purchased for us, and it can look very different to how it has been presented. I'll tell you what spiritual warfare is:

LOVE GOD – LOVE ONE ANOTHER – DECLARE GOD'S STORYLINE

Love and prophetic declaration to enforce the victory we already have will do more to build the kingdom of God than many of the strategies that have been presented to us as spiritual warfare. Let's speak the truth – it's only in the lies and deception that people believe that satan has any power. Don't weary yourself fighting battles that Jesus has already been victorious in. Decree His



victory and walk in the fullness of the life and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. And you will see satan flee.

Soak Time

What is the storyline that the Lord wants you to declare?



Day Five: Prophesying God's Dream

So the question is, are we going to declare God's dream or satan's dream? Because what we declare (prophecy) out of our mouths, affects what will happen on the earth, and how long it will take before we see the fulfilment and restoration of all things.

Like Ezekiel, we are to speak life over dry bones. God took Ezekiel to overlook a valley full of dry, dead, scattered bones. They weren't even whole skeletons, just bones scattered all over the valley – a dark and desolate place. No sign of life to be seen. Yet God asked Ezekiel *"Can these bones live?"* (Ezk 37:3).

His question to Ezekiel is really no different to His question to us today, as we look around the world, as we see the challenges our youth are facing, as we watch economic hardship in our nations or feel the tangible fear evoked by terrorism within our societies. When we hear reports of Christians being slaughtered, or we see cancer wiping out lives left, right and centre. In the midst of all of this, the Lord asks us the same question. *"Can these bones live?"*

But Ezekiel's lips didn't respond with what his senses told him. He didn't speak out the negative words shared by those around him. He didn't even come up with a positive spin on his own words. He simply asked God what HE saw, by saying, *"You know Lord."*

He heard what God has to say about the situation, He spoke exactly what God said and how HE saw it... and the dry bones came back together bone to bone, skin and sinews and life came back and they stood on their feet, *'...an exceedingly great army'* (Ezk 37:10).

Our focus is not to do more. Our focus is intimacy – to look within, not outwards. To hear His secrets for ourselves and for our nation. Let Him whisper to us, what He sees for our individual and national destiny – and then prophesy it! Speak it out! We have each been given the capacity to receive and declare the words of the Lord.

Many have been prophesying fear, and by doing so, partnering with the spirits who are working to bring forth satan's agenda. No more! It's time to declare God's storyline! It's time to feel His heart and to hear His words, and release them into the earth! This is our purpose... this is our time... this is how the dream of our King will come to pass.



WEEK SIX

Day One: God's Dream for Australia

So let's bring this close to home. God has a dream for every nation of this world. God has a dream for Australia.

On the 14th of May 1606, Australia was given her name:

Australia del Espiritu Santo

"Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures and all those present witness that I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros.....in the name of Jesus Christ hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which His (Jesus Christ's) person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of all the human race.... on this Day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606..... I, take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus.... Which from now on shall be called the Southern land of the Holy Spirit.... and this always and foreverand to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly."

Here was a man who wasn't looking specifically at a valley of dry bones – but he was looking at empty land and vast oceans. And yet he didn't declare what he actually saw – He declared instead what the Lord told him to declare. He declared the dream of God for the southland of the Holy Spirit – that the Gospel would always and forever be preached zealously and openly within all of the lands. He declared the prophetic destiny over us – that we would be the southland of the Holy Spirit. What a prophesy!

We received more of the dream of God for our land from the mouth of Smith Wigglesworth, in 1922.

Prophetic word Smith Wigglesworth, 1922

"Australia you have been chosen by God for a great move of the Holy Spirit. This move of God will be the greatest move of God ever known in mankind's history and will start towards the end of the 20th century and move into the



21st century. This move of God will start a great revival in Australia, spread throughout the whole world and usher in the second coming of Jesus. This will be the final revival before the coming of the Lord.”

The dream of God for our nation is that it would host the greatest move of God the world has ever known, and that it would spread throughout the whole world and usher in the second coming of Jesus. What a dream! And what an honour for Australia!

God has continued to reveal snippets of His dream for Australia throughout history, more recently through prophets such as Lana Vawser:

Lana Vawser

“There is a blueprint being birthed in Australia with the DNA of heaven for the new move of God that will spread to nations awakening them and empowering them, unlocking them to their destiny and the blueprint for that nation of what God is going to do.”

He has a dream of transformational blueprints being birthed and released from Australia, and unlocking entire nations to their destinies. He doesn't dream small dreams!

Soak Time

He asks us today to declare His dreams over Australia. Don't speak dry bones over our nation – ask the Lord what He wants YOU to declare over Australia.



Day Two: Australia

Here is a poem that Holy Spirit whispered to one of His daughters about our land. May this be your declaration, as you rise up for Australia:

Australia

I love Australia my nation, all bathed in golden light.
Beauty diverse and rugged, we gaze with awestruck delight.
A wide brown land overshadowed, by mountain and surrounding sea.
Rivers and rainforest and desert, there is no place like Australia for me.

A land as vast as her peoples, her cities and towns are adorned,
From the world all over, but in them one nation is born.
Into her heart she will draw them, with welcome and love and life.
And all those finding the Spirit of Australia, with one heart, we do unite.

Forging this great Aussie nation, upwards and onwards to grow.
Built upon courage and mateship, this great big land of fair go.
There is something about us Australia, it comes from deep within.
A heart beat that burns in our nation and from that we all begin.

Come, rise up, you her peoples, It's not only our soldiers who must fight.
To protect the essence of Australia, Her heartbeat, her freedom, her might.
This is a battle for all ages, from young to old in this land.
Arm our men, our women, our children, Come together for our country, we stand.

Australia you've never been conquered, our soldiers are world renowned.
Under the great Southern Cross they bought freedom, and now we must help hold the ground.
The price for our peace and uniqueness, bought in blood from beginning to end.
Australians take up your position, we have a message to send.



Keep Australia, Australian, bold, and unfettered, no one's clone
For if we lose our intense Aussie spirit, we become something no longer our
own.

Blue seas still surround golden shores, however we're not really free.
Come let us not drop the baton, lift the flag, fly it high, catch the breeze.

Australia belonging to Australians, we pray you forever will be.

Soak Time

What did the Lord speak to you, through this poem? Take a moment to pray
for Australia.



Day Three: It Start With a Remnant

Does it take every person in Australia declaring God's dream over Australia for us to see it come to pass? No, 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that *'if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land'* (NIV).

Those who are called by His Name are His bride. They may or may not be those who are sitting in the pews of church buildings every Sunday morning, but there is a remnant of people in this nation who are called by His Name.

I remember when the Lord gave me a vision a number of years ago, of what He wanted to do in our town and our nation, and at that point, I didn't know anyone else who could see or was excited about that vision. I'd shared it with my pastor, who had not 'seen it' at all and had completely discouraged me, and I came back to the Lord and asked what I was to do. He said, *"You'll never have to talk anyone into this. Pray that those whose hearts are already burning with transformation will arise, recognise each other and come together. It will be a remnant and from this I will grow."*

When I looked up what the word 'remnant' meant, it means 'root', as in the root of a tree. It's from the root that a tree grows and expands. The Lord showed me example after example in the Bible and in the world today where a remnant – just a small group – have been used by Him to change the world. For example, the disciples were a remnant and they turned the world upside down.

The remnant that the Lord is preparing is His bride. She is the one who looks into His face adoringly ("called by His Name") and who knows and honours His voice, not the voices of man. When I was seeking the Lord about what the upcoming retreat would look like, He showed me James Nesbit's prophetic art of the warring bride:

<http://jnesbit.com/products/warring-bride>

This is an image of His bride, and she's got her boots on and she's ready to wield the sword of the spirit, to declare and decree the dream of God on this earth. Will you put on your boots and become part of this remnant – this courageous bride - who is changing the world?



Soak Time

When you see this poster, what does Holy Spirit speak to your heart? Can you see yourself in this image? Why or why not?



Day Four: Jesus Prayed for the Remnant

God always accomplishes His purpose through a remnant. In reality, Jesus was a remnant. The disciples were a remnant. Look at how there is a different spirit in the remnant, to that of the world:

1 Corinthians 1:12 (TPT) *For we did not receive the spirit of this world system but the Spirit of God...*

Those who are called as His remnant in our nation and the nations are one with the Spirit of God within them. It doesn't matter how small or large the group is. The Lord knows that He just needs some people to come alive – and it will impact the whole world. Look at how Jesus prayed before He left the earth.

John 17:9 (NTL) *My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given Me, because they belong to you.*

Jesus prayed for those God had given Him – not the world. Judas had asked Him why He was revealing Himself only to them and not to the world at large. In other words, why was He leaving when the whole world was not yet saved?

John 14:22 (NLT) *Judas... said to him, "Lord why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"*

Jesus didn't pray for the world. He prayed for the remnant, those who had come alive. This is the only prayer we really need to pray.

WHEN THE CHURCH COMES ALIVE, THE WORLD COMES ALIVE.

When the church lives in and from the revival life that is ever and continuously available, the whole world will be revived. This is the remnant principle at its finest.

When the Lord first called me to ministry, I was 'arguing' with Him. I was in business and interacting with those who didn't know Him, but the Lord wanted me to minister to the body. He said to me so clearly, I heard it in my spirit, word for word:

"The most wasted resources in the world is the Body of Christ. You build my body."



Why? Because if His body can come alive – if He can work within a remnant, it will continue to grow and the fullness of His purposes will be inevitable. What He needs are some people who will come alive in His life and have the courage to go forward first. The remnant doesn't wait in the shadows, watching and hoping that someone else will go. They are on the forefront, pioneering for the Lord, going with Him where His Spirit leads, when He says, "Go!"

He led the Israelites in the same manner. He assured them:

Deuteronomy 31:3 (AMP) *The Lord your God will Himself go over before you, and He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them...*

In the same way, the kingdom of darkness has been destroyed through Christ Jesus, yet it's our call to dispossess them – to strip them of their 'possessions' – the people and places that they hold captive.

Deuteronomy 7:17 (AMP) *If you say in your [minds and] hearts, these nations are greater than we are, how can we dispossess them?*

It may look impossible – a small number to change a whole nation – but it's not impossible. If there's a remnant who is truly alive, it's inevitable! His Life cannot be stifled – it will only awaken others to life. The Lord says to us the same thing that He said to Joshua:

Be strong, courageous, and firm; fear not nor in terror before them, for it is the Lord your God Who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you.

Go forward, my remnant!



Do you believe that the remnant is God's solution for our nation?



Day Five: The Remnant for Australia

We'll finish this devotional series with a quote from Johnny Enlow. It's not just a quote – it's an invitation:

"The time of the Gideons is upon us now. God is going to use a very small, courageous and hope-filled minority, even while the bulk of His church is either asleep, fighting on wrong battle fronts, or defending ridiculous doctrines and positions. These Gideons will soon have the enemy in so much flight that the rest of the church army will adjust and join in. Even as in Gideon's day, when the majority saw that just 300 were chasing hundreds of thousands and decided that victory was possible, so too will we set that today.

The 300 are those who run now to the beat of another drum. They are immune to fear, immune to hopeless reports, immune to reasonable caution, immune to influential religious voices- of doubt, they are all in on a Pollyanna narrative that sees things entirely different than anyone else. These 300 are driven by crazy, radical hope. They have committed to seeing either the greatest victorious days in their lives or being crushed in their "foolish" attempt to make that happen. These 300 who are "all in" are running with God's great renaissance narrative for today. The invitation is for many to follow this crazy trumpet sound- and if you could but see our side- you wouldn't hesitate but you would arise and exterminate the fear."

Johnny Enlow

Who will see with the eyes of heaven? Who will run to the beat of a different drum? The Gideons are the pioneers and the invitation is yours to accept or decline.

Soak Time

If this resonates in your heart, stand up now and tell the Lord, **"I will be one of the Gideons for Australia! I will be your remnant!"**

